

# MINUTES OF STANFORD DINGLEY ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

## HELD ON

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley**

**Present:** Cllr. Edward Hanrahan (Chairman);  
Cllr. Ash Bucknell;  
Cllr. Harry Fullerton;  
Cllr. Stuart Logan;  
Cllr. Tim Rudd;  
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk);  
Approximately 28 Parishioners.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies of absence were received from District Cllr. Read.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Assembly held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

The minutes of assembly on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Reports.**

Cllr. Hanrahan reported that lots has happened during the year and that there was a lot more change in the village in 2023 than in 2022. There are a number of new people and families in the village and more volunteers; all were welcomed.

In 2023, the orchard and wildflower patch have been planted in the Village field. This was following by wassailing of the trees. Hopefully the Village field will be more appealing and become better used.

St. Deny's church is well used by villagers and outsiders. Parking needs to be sorted out. The parish needs to accommodate more families and provide areas for play. There are four planning applications which are expected, making properties more suitable for modern living.

The two pubs have changed over the last year and will result in them being more family friendly.

**The Boot.**

The last day of trading for the current landlord will be on Sunday. New landlords; two friends, one a parishioner and the other a Michelin star chef, will be taking over. They are planning to fully utilise the teepee space.

The current landlord thanked the community for their support and friendship over the six years they have been there. Cllr. Hanrahan thanked them for all they have done for the community.

It was noted that people from outside the village need to be encouraged in, in order to support two pubs.

**The Bull.**

The landlord at the Bull commented that they don't want to be in competition with The Boot, but that two pubs and a choice can be nothing but good for the village. They have had an exciting year and found the community very welcoming. They are keen to work with the community. They are hoping to brighten up the front of the pub. There will BBQs on the bank holiday Mondays.

They will be submitting a new planning application for the teepee and the trailer, the original application having been refused.

### **St. Deny's Church.**

The Revd. Steve Newbold, the new Rector is now in place, covering Bradfield, Bucklebury and Stanford Dingley. It is hoped that someone else will be appointed for Bradfield. They have recently organised a Snowdrop Saturday, and will be taking part in the Ride and Stride event in September.

They are happy to support events on the Village Field with use of their toilets etc as much as possible and hope to be supporting a thriving community.

### **Farming.**

With the new barns at Severals Farm, there are less tractors going through the village, which is very positive.

Currently, it is lambing season and dog owners were asked to keep dogs on leads.

### **Planning.**

Ideally, the parish needs a good mix of housing stock. Currently there are no really young people and there is a lack of accessible properties. There are a number of planning applications expected over the next 3-6 months.

The Village Design Statement is considered as planning guidance by WBC. The revised version was submitted to WBC in October '23. Before they can approve it, a consultation process has to be completed.

It was noted that developers would likely want to build 5/6 bedroom houses rather than 2 bedroom smaller properties in the parish, should a site become available. Stanford Dingley is quite a remote community with no public transport, meaning that everyone has to drive. As a result, it doesn't meet the green agenda. New properties in Thatcham have the advantage that people can easily walk and cycle to access services.

It was noted that the rental model currently works well in Bradfield Farm with smaller units.

People who move to Stanford Dingley, tend to stay for about forty years and there are currently more younger people than there have been in the recent past.

### **Speed.**

The Liberal Democrat WBC Council are giving more support to 20mph zones. It was questioned whether this initiative between Meadowside and the top of Jennets Hill would make the village roads safer. It was also noted that some saw the introduction of the 30mph zone as giving permission to do 30.

SDPC has been engaging with the "20 is plenty" group as a first step.

Horse and children warning signs were also suggested.

### **3. Security.**

The PCSO hosted a "Have your say" session at St. Deny's Church. It was questioned whether a Police officer might be able to come to the village. More "Neighbourhood Watch" signs are clearly visible in the village. It was questioned what can be done to make Stanford Dingley less friendly to criminals.

### **6. Stanford Dingley Events Team.**

An amazing Big Lunch was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in McCurdy's barn to celebrate the King's Coronation. The beautiful barn was decked out in bunting and rows of tables in red, white and blue.

Other events included:

- Walking the parish boundary on the late bank holiday Monday.
- The annual cabbage walking stick competition.
- The children's Christmas party with a visit from Father Christmas.
- The Stanford Dingley and Tutts Clump Christmas Party in the Old Boot teepee.
- Wine Tasting by Laithwaites
- Children's Easter egg hunt at Roman Way.

On the last Friday of each month there is a "Meet and Greet" alternating between the two pubs, with the intention of helping new residents to integrate into the community.

This coming year, the Party in the Paddock will be taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> June to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Attendees are encouraged to dress in period style. There will be a beacon at 9.15pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> June on land adjacent to the Bull. The Event Team works hard organising all these events and are grateful for all the help and support from the community.

**7. Questions and Comments from the floor.**

**7.1 Village Walk Pamphlets.**

A Village Walk pamphlet was discovered, and it was asked whether copies could be put in the pubs for visitors as well as going on the noticeboard.

It was noted that the definitive footpath map can be found on the WBC website.

**7.2 Old Photographs.**

Whilst sorting out the attic at the Bull, a number of old photographs were found. These will be shared with the custodian of the village archive.

**8. A big thank you was extended to all those who had joined the meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.