

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 29th July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

Present: Cllr. S. Logan (Chairman); Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. H. Fullerton; Cllr. T. Rudd; District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
One member of the public.

- 1 **Apologies.**
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Hanrahan.
- 2 **Declaration of Interests.**
- 2.1 **Updates to the Register of Interests.**
There were no updates to the register of interests.
- 2.2 **Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**
There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.
- 3 **Approval of minutes of the SDPC meetings.**
- 3.1 **Annual Meeting on 20th May 2025.**
Minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- 3.2 **Extra Ordinary Meeting on 24th June 2025.**
Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 24th June 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- 4 **Review of Corporate Documents.**
The updated Standing Orders and new Financial Regulations were approved; these are in line with the NALC templates.
The Code of Conduct from the LGA was approved.
The Risk Assessment for SDPC was considered and approved.
- 4.1 **Asset Register.**
It was suggested and agreed that it be noted on the Asset Register that the Club Room was gifted to the parish.
- 5 **Planning.**
- 5.1 **Planning Applications on which WBC has consulted SDPC:**
SDPC has not been consulted on any planning applications since the last meeting.
- 5.2 **Planning Decisions made by WBC:**
- 5.2.1 **25/00956/HOUSE – Bramble Cottage.**
Proposed single storey bay window extension to dwelling and single storey extension to double garage to create a workshop.
SDPC had **no objection** to this application which was **approved** by WBC.
- 6 **District Councillor's Report.**
Black bins will be collected on a three-weekly basis from September. There was a general discussion about this and the reasons why WBC is pursuing this, generally, unpopular decision.
The NE Thatcham development in the new Local Plan is based around three centres, each containing some shops and community facilities. It is proposed that the development will include two new primary schools, a sixth form and a new doctor's surgery which will replace the existing Burdwood Surgery.
Unwanted IT equipment (laptops, tablets and phones etc) can now be taken to Padworth recycling centre, from where they will be passed to the Green Machine Computers who recycle them.
There is no longer automatic renewal of postal votes; they must be applied for every 3 years.

- 7 Highways.**
- 7.1 Safety on Jennets Hill.**
Cllr. Hanrahan has met with Gareth Dowding (WBC) and discussed options to make Jennets Hill safer. Safety barriers were not considered appropriate. Painting of white lines along the edge of the road were suggested.
- 7.2 Ways to make Stanford Dingley's roads safer.**
Since the last meeting there have been a number of discussions about the area which might be covered by a 20mph speed limit zone.
It was generally agreed that vegetation needs to be trimmed back around signage and signs need to be cleaned.
The garden wall, opposite the Garden House was hit by a tractor. The resulting loose bricks fell into the road, where they remain. Walls which are thought to be unsafe can be reported to the WBC Public Protection Team.
- 8 The Club Room.**
Cllr. Rudd needs to complete the installation of the flue on the generator.
It was noted that the shed is suffering from subsidence.
- 9 The Village Green.**
The Village Green is currently cordoned off for mole treatment.
- 10 The Village Field.**
- 10.1 Orchard.**
The trees in the orchard were very stressed. The situation was improved by Cllr. Logan strimming round the trees and Cllr. Fullerton watering them well on five separate occasions.
- 10.2 Cutting the Grass.**
Thanks were extended to a parishioner for cutting the grass in the Village Field, and for other work he has carried out around the village.
- 11 Reports.**
- 11.1 Events Committee.**
Two events have been held in the Club Room; a pet first aid talk, and a basic life support and defibrillator training session. Both were very well attended.
Cllr. Rudd will be organising walks on the 31st August and the 28th December, both starting outside St. Deny's Church and ending at one of the pubs.
The monthly village social will be held in The Bull on Friday 29th August.
An archive open day in the Club Room is being planned for the Autumn.
- 11.2 Dredge Gang.**
There was a litter pick on the 25th June.
Thanks were extended to a parishioner for reporting a manhole cover which was noisy when vehicles drove over it.
- 12 Clerk's Report.**
- 12.1 Finances.**
- 12.1.1 Expenditure against budget to the 30th June 2025.**
The Clerk circulated an expenditure against budget to the 30th June (the first quarter of the year) prior to the meeting.
- 12.1.2 Financial Statement dated 29th July 2025.**
The Clerk reported a balance of £4,503.68 in the Community Account once all cheques and lodgements have cleared. This was reconciled to the bank statements on the 30th June 2025 when the Community account had a balance of £5,837.91 and the Community Instant Access account a balance of £6,653.20.
- 12.1.3 Authorisation of Payments.**
The following payments have been made since the last SDPC meeting:
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| Zurich Municipal (Insurance) | £488.14 |
| Bibby Financial Services Ltd (May, June & July bins) | £44.70 |

April Skies (Internal Audit)	£250.00
Salaries, HMRC (1/1/25 – 30/6/25)	£774.65
C. B. Heslop (Payroll)	£21.60
Club Room window cleaning	£20.00
Corona energy (1/5/25 to 30/6/25)	£121.07
Bank charges (10/4/25 to 9/6/25)	£12.50

12.1.4 To appoint April Skies as the Internal Auditor for 2025/26.

It was agreed to appoint April Skies as the internal auditor for FY25/26. The cost will be £265 which includes an interim audit.

13 Round Table Comments.

13.1 The Old Boot.

Cllr. Bucknell reported that, under the current management, The Old Boot will be closing on Sunday. It is anticipated that a new tenant has been found to take over.

Meeting Closure.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date of next SDPC meeting: Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

Signed:

Date: