



Minutes of Stratton Parish Council Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 24th September starting at 7:00 pm in Stratton Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Matt Garner, Simon Joslin, Brad Pimm, Gill Slade, and Beth Cooke

5 members of the public, Dorset Council Councillor David Taylor

25.29 Apologies

Cllr Ali Tong sent apologies.

25.30 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No declarations were made.

25.31 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair wished to thank all the organisers of the Summer Fayre. It was pleasing to see the Village Green being used as a community space.

Cllr Garner very pleased to see the Jubilee Tree sign up.

And also, a big thank you to Tom Fuller for completing the electrical check at the phone box.

25.32 Public Participation

It was asked if the Tommy's were likely to be purchased for Remembrance Day. It was confirmed that it was agreed at the last meeting that this was not a Parish Council project.

A local businessman had offered to purchase but nothing had recently been heard.

25.33 Ratification of Clerk's Appointment

Mr Wayne Lewin was officially appointed as the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for Stratton Parish Council as a permanent employee.

The terms and conditions would be agreed at the next meeting.

25.34 Approval of minutes of meeting held on 9 July 2024

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

25.35 Update on A37 concerns following meeting with Highways on 28 August

Cllr Garner and Cllr Taylor (DC) met with the Highways team in August.

The email from Highways (received that afternoon), regarding an update from the meeting was not particularly satisfactory.

However, another meeting had been arranged and all were in agreement that Cllr Garner should robustly respond to the email on behalf of the Parish Council.



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

25.36 Discuss & agree next steps on website & IT provision

Members agreed to receive another proposal from Hugo Fox, prior to agreeing which provider to move to.

25.37 Banking & bonds update – signing mandates etc.

Lloyds Bank had not confirmed the new signatories.

For resolution, the signatories going forward would be:

Matt Garner
Simon Joslin
Brad Pimm
Wayne Lewin

All others to be removed.

It was also agreed that Brad Pimm and Wayne Lewin were to be added to the Unity Bank bond mandate.

25.38 Christmas tree for Village Green

Members agreed to pay for the Christmas Tree by return of invoice.

Discussions for a permanent tree would be discussed at the next meeting.

25.39 Arrangements for Remembrance

It was agreed to buy a wreath, which would be laid on behalf of the Parish.

Various options would be discussed.

25.40 Planning

P/HOU/2024/04879

14 Ash Hill Stratton DT2 9RS

Erect two storey rear extension. Form drop kerb to allow off street parking to front garden

The Parish Council supported this application

25.41 Phone box – discuss proposals for purpose & maintenance requirements

Cllr Cooke confirmed that that the plan was to create an art emporium, with seasonal themes, the history of the phone box and for it to become an information hub.

The traditional red paint was being sourced and a naming plate would be inserted.

25.42 S137 awards – process & timing

It was agreed to send out a standardised application form, with a cut off of 31st October, with a view to awarded grants at the November meeting.

25.43 Grounds maintenance contract

It was agreed to ask Dorset Council to extend the current Service Level Agreement by one year under the current terms and conditions (and cost).



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

25.44 Action Log Items including refresh of Councillor's responsibilities

Cllr Joslin would ask for the Summer Fayre committee would like to donate funds towards the bug hotel.

Cllr Slade would look at all polies with the Clerk.

A review of leads for areas would be conducted via email and ratified at the next meeting.

25.45 Finance report

There were 2 payments totalling **£ 382.78**, that were approved and authorised for payment.

The Clerk confirmed that the current account had a balance of **£ 14114.90**.

The bonds totalled **£ 41804.20 and** were due to mature in Feb / Mar 25.

25.46 Correspondence

The Parish Council were consulted by Dorset Council on the removal of trees at Penn Hill View.

Members were in agreement with the proposal to remove them and replace with a smaller option.

The Parish Council were consulted on the installation of an EV charging point, to be located in the parking bays opposite the pub.

The Parish Council were in total support; however, the project had hit an issue with the signing of a wayleave between the Village Hall and the installation provider.

It was agreed to forward the PCSO crime report to Stratton Active, with a future view that those residents interested could then access the information directly.

It had been requested if the Parish Council would consider asking people to look after the areas outside their properties.

Although it was agreed that it would be nice for the village to look cleaner and tidier, it was felt that the Parish Council should not be a 'Nanny State' especially in an area that fell to Dorset Council to administer.

It was suggested awareness be made of the issue.

25.47 Agree items for next meeting & confirm dates of future meetings

The next meeting was agreed for **12th November 2024**.

Items on the agenda include:

Further updates on A37 concerns

Initial discussion on a permanent Christmas Tree for the Village Green

Next steps on IT provisions

Councillor's responsibilities

Extension of grass cutting contract

S137 grant awards

Initial budget report for 25/26



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

25.48 Public participation

It was asked who was responsible for the grass by the bus stop.
It was confirmed it was Dorset Council.

It was mentioned that the wooden bench between the Village Hall and Play Park was in a poor state of repairs.
Cllr's Joslin and Pimm would review with the option of removal if deemed a health and safety issue.

The idea of a ride on mower for the Village Green was suggested.
It was mentioned that this had been discussed before but relied too heavy on volunteers and the associated insurance and storage issues.

It was noted that Village Hall no longer needed the shrubbery cut as part of the grass cutting contract.

Meeting closed at 20:32

Matt Garner

Chair

Signature
