



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

Minutes of Stratton Parish Council Full Council Meeting Tuesday 14th January 2025 starting at 7:00 pm in Stratton Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Matt Garner, Simon Joslin, Gill Slade, and Ali Tong
7 members of the public, Dorset Council Councillor David Taylor

25.71 Apologies for absence

Cllr Pimm sent apologies.

25.72 Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

No declarations were made.

25.73 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th November 2024

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

25.74 Parish Council matters arising

There were no matters that were not on the agenda.

25.75 Update from the Chair and correspondence

The Chair wished to thank the 'telephone box crew', as both the Christmas and New Year displays were fantastic. Also, to Tom Fuller for connecting the lighting.

More thank you to David and the Christmas Tree Team – it was noted it was very well decorated. Next to the group who inserted and painted the goal posts. These included Simon (Cllr Joslin), Charlie Sharpe, Nathan-John Snell, Mark Clothier & Paul Hornby.

The Chair wished to encourage the filling of the two casual vacancies on the Parish Council as well as looking for a new Vice Chair at the annual general meeting in May.

He also apologised to the local community groups who had not received their s137 grants. The Parish Council were still experiencing difficulties with the online banking.

25.76 Parish Councillor updates and task tracker

Cllr Tong confirmed that all grit bins had been checked. Only one was relatively low.

The Clerk confirmed that all task trackers items had now been completed.

The question was asked when the Parish Council would like to transition from the old website to the new one.

It was agreed to pay the new website fees at the earliest opportunity, then run both websites concurrently – with a changeover date of 01 April 2025.

Cllr Slade wished to thank the Community Highways Officer for the very prompt delivery of a new ice warning sign for the village.

25.77 To receive a report from the Dorset Council

An update on the A37 can be found under minute 25.81.

It was confirmed that the gritting schedule was not part of the Severe Winter Weather: Dorset Council Preparation and Response document. This could be found on the Dorset Council website.



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Cllr Taylor confirmed that the Dorset Council budget was not good and that the 4.99% increase was likely to be formalised.

There were discussions to move assets from Dorset Council to Towns and Parishes, although there was no detail as to what these might be.

The devolution process including an all-encompassing Mayor was in full progress. Dorset were likely to be merged with Wiltshire and South Somerset.

It has been stated that Dorset would likely have to supply 30,000 houses under new legislation from Central Government. Talks of a new town in North Dorset has been mooted.

25.78 Public participation period

There were no matters from the public at this point.

25.79 Planning

There were no new applications to discuss.

25.80 Financial update

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **12** payments (**PV's 17-28**), totalling, **£ 2399.47** that were approved and authorised for payment.

b. Q3 budget report

It was confirmed that the budget spend at the end of Q3 was **37.41%**.

However, the Clerk noted that the two largest expenditure items, that of grass cutting for the Village Green and Playing Field had yet to arrive.

Notwithstanding this, the Finance Officer was confident that expenditure would come in below budget.

25.81 Further updates on A37 concerns

The Chair noted that an email was received at 17:09 on the day of the meeting.

It was felt that nothing over the past two months had moved on.

An outline of the email is below.

PVMS: Actioned

Temporary Speed Limit Reduction: Limits to be agreed, propose to discuss/agree at meeting of 24th Jan.

Pedestrian Protection: Highway Improvements design team have a gateway meeting on Thursday 15th Jan to review options and costings. This should result in selection of final option to take forward.

Flooding: Additional drainage survey to establish system condition will be undertaken in spring. The site is being monitored. I go home. I understand that a proposed scheme of work and cost estimate has been completed (subject to condition survey), which needs to be agreed, funded and programmed.

A meeting had been scheduled for the 24 Jan, but Cllr Garner could not make this.

It was agreed to reschedule in order to remain consistent with personalities.

Cllr Garner would reply to Dorset Council, sounding out the displeasure of the Parish Council and residents and request to rearrange the meeting.



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No further updates had been received from the local MP despite noting he had been in contact. It was suggested that everybody should write to the MP. This was agreed.

25.82 Purchase of football nets

It was agreed to purchase the nets.

The Clerk would look at options including Dorchester Town Council and Dorchester Football Club.

25.83 Capital projects for 25/26

Tying in with minutes 25.84 and 25.85, the following ideas were discussed.

Replace wooden posts on Village Green

Replace the children play frame

To have a hard cut back of all hedges and vegetation

To review with a thought to replace noticeboards

To review with a thought to replace benches

To purchase more troughs with a view to Britain in Bloom

It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain indicative costs for the next meeting with a view to discuss which capital projects (if any) should be brought forward to the next Council year.

25.84 Initial discussion on the future of bonds

Members agreed the time was right to cash in the bonds that were due to mature in February and March. For completeness, Cllr Garner would discuss with Cllr Pimm (finance lead) & confirm agreement.

This will enable Councillors to allocate funding to the capital projects as listed above.

However, if funds are not allocated or needed then a new bond could be established.

25.85 Setting the Precept for 25/26

A precept of **£13200.00** was agreed. This is an increase from **£12600.00** the previous year, which equates to **£1.41 per year** based on a band D property.

25.86 Community discussion

It was mentioned that the EV charging point was still an ongoing matter.

25.87 Items and date for next meeting

Further updates on A37 concerns

Capital projects updates for 25/26

Permanent Christmas Tree proposal

Funding for Remembrance Service

Meeting closed at 20:24

Matt Garner

Chair

Signature