



## Minutes of Stratton Parish Council Full Council Meeting

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 24 starting at 7:00 pm in Stratton Village Hall**

### **Present:**

Cllrs Matt Garner, Brad Pimm, Gill Slade, and Ali Tong

5 members of the public, Dorset Council Councillor David Taylor

### **25.49 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Joslin apologised that he may be late (arrived at 20:31)

### **25.50 Declarations of pecuniary and other interests**

Cllr Garner declared an interest in item 18, as an allotment member.

### **25.51 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

These were approved as a true and accurate record of the record with one minor amendment at item 25.44.

### **25.52 Parish Council matters arising**

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

### **25.53 Update from the Chair and correspondence**

The Chair wished to thank you Beth Cooke for her excellent contributions whilst on the Parish Council.

Thanks, were also extended to the group of volunteers that are restoring the phone box – which is looking in great shape.

And gratitude to Rolls Landscaping for the purchase of the unknown Tommy's that are standing guard on the Village Green.

### **25.54 Parish Councillor updates and task tracker**

It was agreed to close down the bug hotel item as not going forward.

It was agreed to close down reallocation of Councillor roles once ratified at agenda item 16.

It was agreed to close down the plaque for jubilee canopy as item completed.

Cllr Garner would purchase paint for the goalposts.

IT provisions would be discussed later under agenda item 14.

The Clerk would commence a review of all Parish Council policies with a view to ratification at the next Annual General Meeting.

Members also agreed that an additional dog poo bag dispenser could be purchased.

### **25.55 To receive a report from the Dorset Council**

Cllr Taylor confirmed the project to connect cycle ways and pathways was still under way.

Dorset Council had established a task force to deal with any emergencies during the forthcoming winter. They had also produced a contacts list for who the public can call or email in the event of personal difficulties and documentation package for information.



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

This was to be distributed very soon.

The remainder of the update is covered off under agenda item 11.

## **25.56 Public participation period**

It was asked if the light in the telephone box would be connected up.

Cllr Garner confirmed that it would be.

## **25.57 Planning**

### **a. P/HOU/2024/05781**

**18 Dorchester Road Grimstone DT2 9NA**

**Erect two storey front extension with dormer window to side elevation, convert loft to form two bedrooms with large dormer window to rear elevation and external alterations.**

The Parish Council supported this application.

## **25.58 Financial update**

### **a. Payments for authorisation**

There were **7** items (**PV's 10-16**), totalling **£ 351.91**, that were approved and authorised for payment.

This includes a refund of cheque 1134 (£50.00), which had expired.

These funds were added to grant pot funding (see agenda item 18).

### **b. Lloyds Bank charges**

It was confirmed that Parish Council accounts were now to be deemed business accounts and not charity accounts.

To that end a monthly charge of £4.25 would be billed. There were no questions.

### **c. Bonds, reserves and budget update**

It was confirmed that Bond 1 was worth £ 21041.91 and was due to mature in Feb 25.

Bond 2 was worth £ 20762.29 and was due to mature in Mar 25.

The General Reserve was sitting at £ 17784.58, which was above guidance.

Cash in hand sat at a cumulative £ 61499.19.

The annual budget spend was 17.28 % (66.67%).

## **25.59 Further updates on A37 concerns**

The Parish Council have received an update from Dorset Council Highways which had been distributed. Members were not satisfied with this reply and will seek clarification on what Dorset Council are considering as a feasibility design.

It was agreed to meet the Highways team again and seek more robust answers.

The Chair had contacted the local MP.

It had been acknowledged by Dorset Council, but no feedback had been received.

Cllr Taylor would nudge both the MP and DC on this matter.

It was further noted that no mention was made of discussions with farmers and / or landowners as to regards run off.

Cllr Taylor would follow this up.



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

## **25.60 Initial discussion on a permanent Christmas Tree for the Village Green**

This was supported in principle as a good idea, subject to location, electrics, access and maintenance.

## **25.61 Stratton in bloom**

Councillors were happy to proceed with this as it would benefit the whole village.

It was also noted the troughs / planters did not belong to the Parish Council but were maintained by volunteers.

## **25.62 Next steps on IT provisions**

Members agreed to proceed with Hugo Fox, at a cost of £9.99 per month for hosting, £12.99 per month for emails. The Clerk was happy to set up the website (during contracted hours) and transferred over relevant documents.

## **26.63 Councillor's responsibilities**

The new draft was approved by all.

A contact list with these roles will be public via all platforms.

## **26.64 Levels of lead Councillor responsibilities expenditure levels**

Councillors agreed that up to £100.00 per item could be spent on matters relating to the nominated area of responsibility of the lead Councillor.

## **26.65 Extension of grass cutting contract**

Members agreed to cost from Dorset Council (cumulative £ 3219.56), for the year 25/26, with a view to a full procurement from 26/27 onwards.

## **26.66 S137 grant awards**

The following groups were awarded a grant of £110.00 each:

Pop In

Chalk Stream Drivers

St Marys Church – contribution towards the maintenance of the clock

St Marys School, Charminster

Stratton Allotments Association

## **26.67 Capital projects for 25/26**

Councillors were asked for ideas for this.

Replacement of the children's multi play and new bollards around the village green were mentioned.

It was suggested that this would be good to out to the public and ask for suggestions.

## **26.68 Initial budget report for 25/26**

The finance officer briefed on initial thoughts for next year.

A provisional budget of £ 13200.00 was produced.

The final version would be ratified in Jan 25.

## **26.69 Community discussion**

There were no further comments from the public.

# STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

## **26.70 Items and date for next meeting**

A37 matters

Precept setting

Capital projects

Future on bonds

**Meeting closed at 20:34**

Matt Garner

Chair

Signature

---