STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 30th July at 7.30pm.

1) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f); 3 members of the Public were present. A member of the Footpath Wardens Team was also present.

   A member of the public reported that the road surface near Castlewell opposite Shortmoor is in bad condition. It had been reported to DCC but no timeframe was given when it will be addressed. It was felt that this is not satisfactory. In its current state is it considered to be dangerous for cars to drive this section of road. The council agreed with this assessment. The DCC enquiry number for Castlewell is W241767309. **Cllr Switzer to forward to Cllr Chubb for raising with DCC's Neighbourhood Officer.** Cllr Chubb also agreed to raise the issue of Cawley's Lane with the Neighbourhood Officer. **Cllr Drew to pass on DCC's enquiry number to Cllr Switzer.**

2) **Reports from;** Police, EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and Chubb
   EDDC:
   One meeting held since general election. A housing review board meeting is scheduled for the 1st August. Cllrs are asked to approve £12.5M which will be allocated to different subjects. EDDC is dealing with a lot of historical housing problems.

   DCC:
   Devolution is progressing again following a temporary stop due to the general election.
   Connecting Devon & Somerset – residents can apply for a grant to strengthen their indoor mobile phone signal.
   Cllr Chubb has a locality fund which the PCs in his area can apply for and receive between £500 and £750 of funding.

3) **Resolve to exclude members of the press and public**. No items identified as confidential items [Public Bodies(Admission to Meetings Act) 1960].

4) **To record those Present:** Cllrs Switzer (chair), Bright, Derryman, Drew, Durrant, Parris, Pearse, Smith, Trott; in attendance Cllrs Chubb, Brown and Levine
   Apologies: Cllr Thompkins

5) **Declarations of Interest**: Cllr Durrant declared an interest in item 16, as he has booked his wedding reception at this location.

6) **Council Meeting Minutes** - the following minutes were reviewed:
   25th June 2024 - the minutes require an amendment to item 7a iv. FIPL will pay 100% of the Japanese knotweed treatment cost in year 1. The PC is required to pay the cost in year 2.

7) **Defibrillator**
   Phil Cordon (the local Paramedic) reported about the condition of the current defibrillator. It is around 14 years old and down to 40% battery power and cannot be used in an emergency due to the risk of failing during a long resuscitation. It needs a new battery at the cost of £357. Additionally next year new leads are required for £100. A replacement defibrillator costs £1250 which includes a 5 year guarantee on battery and leads. Following a vote it was approved to purchase a new defibrillator. **Cllr Parris to enquire whether the village hall would like the current defibrillator if the Village Hall Committee agrees to purchase a new battery and leads.** Phil will get an updated quote for the new defibrillator and send to the PC.

8) **Highways / Ditches and Footpaths** – the following updates were received
   a) **Footpaths** – the following update was received from the Footpath Warden
      The Footpath Wardens undertake an annual check of all the paths.
      No response was received regarding funding from Jon Boyd, the DCC co-ordinator, however he might have emailed the Clerk directly.

Missing way markers have been replaced.
An article was placed in the Stockland Tree regarding reporting footpath issues.
One concern regarding a path near Cotleigh was reported to DCC.
New footpath maps were received from DCC.
The Contractor has started maintenance works.
Path 41 is in Stockland PC although it looks close to Dalwood PC on the map. Might need to be cleared, as it is overgrown.
A footpath sign has been ripped out and hardcore dumped on the footpath from Shore Bottom to Millhayes. Need to establish land ownership before taking this further.
It was agreed for the Wardens to attend PC meetings as & when required. The PC is to be copied into any correspondence between DCC and the Wardens.

b) **Highways, footways and drainage; any potholes reported**
Cllr Drew reported that he had received an email from DCC Highways stating that 5 routes into the village had their defects treated.
'Unsuitable' signs are no longer being replaced / put up, as these push traffic onto other unsuitable roads.
Several potholes were reported near Lake Farm. The road condition from Shortmoor Cross to Whitehayes was also reported.

c) **Maintenance of village signs**
Some village signs are in bad condition which is to be reported to DCC. **Cllr Parris to email Cllr Chubb with photos of the signs. Cllr Durrant will send a photo of another village sign in bad condition.**

9) **AGAR**
A glitch in the software in section 2, item 8 for year ending 31 March 2023 inserted the incorrect figure. Instead of 35,074 this should read 39,565.
The AGAR return has been sent to the internal auditors and was approved by vote.
Cllr Switzer will send to the external auditors tomorrow.

10) **Turbaries** - the following updates were received:

a) **Japanese Knotweed**
An invoice for £550 was received to complete 2 treatments of the Japanese Knotweed in year 1. The treatment cost is the same for year 2 and is due on 1st May 2025. Treatment costs are reducing year on year to £255 in year 5.
The expenditure was approved.

b) **Repair of ditches and drains on Turbary land**
Mr White forwarded the Gigaclear maps but the attachments could not be opened. Can Mr White send these again. **Cllr Durrant to email Gigaclear to get the line disconnected to allow ditch works near Blue Ball Lodge, preferably in August.**

c) **Fence replacement**
Waiting for Dan Strawbridge to assess the fence.
The ponies on Bucehayes have moved from south to north.
Ragwort on Bucehayes requires pulling and bagging up. Bracken also needs cutting.
A Turbary parcel of land which is not used to claim is to be assessed.
Aiming to get 3 quotes for fencing for the next PC meeting.

d) **Election of new committee members**
Two new committee members, Barbara Dunkley and Joanna Uffendell were elected in line with the terms of reference as community members. Joanna is the volunteer coordinator.

e) **The need for an update of the Turbaries Committee's Terms of Reference document**
To be reviewed at the next Turbaries meeting.

f) **Other updates**

Tree cutting is up to date.
Query regarding insurance for volunteers. **Cllr Switzer agreed to look into this.**

11) **Play Area, Car Park and Victory Hall**

a) **Insurance requirements for evening marquees etc. for events**
The Village Hall Committee would like permission to allow others to erect marquees, provided the erector has adequate insurance. If agreed the Village Hall Committee needs a waiver from the PC.

The Forest Church does not require any tents.

b) **Repair of play gate area, fence and certain play equipment**
The play area fence needs significant replacement (gate, post and possibly part of the fence). **Cllr Switzer to ask Cllr Bright to contact Ian Doble or other contractors to get a quote for the works.**
The woodwork back of the play train is rotten and needs repairing following obtaining of quotes.

c) **General updates**
Nothing raised

12) **Bank account** - the following updates were received:

a) **Signatories**
The bank signatories have been changed. Cllrs Switzer and Derryman are new signatories. Ian Morgan and Ken Pearson have been removed. Barbara Durrant and Tom Patch are to be removed. The new Clerk will need to be added when appointed.

b) **Bank account insurance**
The letter from Lloyds Bank that the PC is not covered by the Financial Services Authority might be a mistake. Dorset Association of Councils have advised one of their members accordingly. The PC needs to confirm to Lloyds that we are a small local authority. **Cllr Durrant to hand information over to the new Clerk to pick up this issue when the new Clerk is in post.**

13) **Membership of Devon Association of Local Councils**
Membership of DALC for 2024 / 25 is overdue. It was approved to renew the membership.

14) **Stockland Village website**
SJ Productions is the current web hoster but is under new management. The village website has crashed and was rebooted. Some information might have been lost. Claire Holgate is still waiting for details from the web hoster about what is available to establish how much work is needed.

15) **Staffing and recruitment**
The interview process for the new Clerk has commenced. Potential salary will need to be looked into. DALC are also to be contacted. Hopefully the new Clerk will be in post by the next PC meeting.

16) **Planning**
The note Cllr Thompkins received regarding 21/0139/FUL was read out. The name of the sender was not made public. Due to the note being without a sender's address it was agreed to write a friendly letter to the property owners informing them of the note and reminding them of their obligation to comply with planning regulations.

17) **Finances** – the following expenditures were approved:

1/7/24	Victory Hall	Inv 1016; June 2024	£86.25
5/7/24	T Coombe	Tree-felling on Turbaries	£900.00
9/7/24	N Copp	Grass cutting 2024	£650.00
15/7/24	SW Knotweed	Knotweed control	£558.00
20/7/24	I Doble	Installation of goalposts and basketball net	£474.00
30/7/24	DALC	Membership 2024-2025	£235.00

18) **Items of future business for the next agenda** – no items identified

19) **Confidential items** – no items identified

Meeting closed at 9:45pm

Signed……..Chair Date / /2024