

STOCKLAND PC

Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 27th August at 7.30pm.

- 1) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f); 5 members of the Public were present
 - a) A member of the public wanted an update regarding the road surface near Castlewell opposite Shortmoor (DCC enquiry W241767309). **Cllr Switzer to forward details to Cllr Chubb for raising with DCC's Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO).**
 - b) The residents of Church Cottage informed the council that they are having problems with water running down the lane against their cottage. They said that they approached DCC and were told that the lane does not fall under DCC's remit. There does not appear to be any agency willing to take responsibility for maintaining the lane. They will now seek advice from their solicitor and the Land Registry regarding who actually owns the lane. They appear to have a right of way down the lane but the title of it is uncertain. A DCC sign can be seen on the lane and yet DCC say they are not responsible.
- 2) **Reports from;** Police, EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and Chubb
 EDDC:
 One planning meeting held and nothing to report until 4 weeks' time.

 DCC:
 Cllr Chubb has been to Upottery to discuss ditching issues and has issued a Division Members Report for August covering waiting lists at Royal Devon hospital, pothole repairing and extra support for young children.
- 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), Derryman, Drew, Durrant, Parris, Pearce, Smith, Trott; in attendance Cllrs Chubb, Brown and Levine and D Clay (clerk)
Apologies: Cllrs Bright, Thompsons
- 5) **Declarations of Interest:** None
- 6) **Council Meeting Minutes** - the following minutes were reviewed:
 25th June 2024 as amended- the minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair
 30th July 2024 require an amendment to item 4 – Cllr Bright was not an apology – he attended the meeting but was late. Also to amend item 8a where the footpath is stated to run from Rodway to Millhayes but it actually runs from Shore Bottom to Millhayes.
- 7) **Defibrillator**
 The council can reclaim £750 towards the cost of the new defibrillator. Cllr Durrant has information regarding the insurance requirements which he will forward to the clerk. Cllr Parris reported that the Village Hall Committee did not want to take on the old defibrillator. For the record, this item was discussed after item 8 of the agenda.
- 8) **Highways / Ditches and Footpaths** – the following updates were received:
 - a) **Footpaths**
 There is an uprooted sign for the footpath which starts from the unclassified county road at Millhayes and proceeds in a southerly direction to the unclassified county road north of Horseplot Cottage (Footpath Nbr 12). Cllr Pearce has offered to try to reinstate the sign.
 - b) **Highways, footways and drainage; any potholes reported**
 Cllr Drew reported that the Yarcombe road to Lower Lye has a dangerous pothole that is

not viewable when driving due to water running off a field. The water is passing over a blocked culvert. If the drainage can be sorted out, then the pothole can be filled. Cllrs Drew and Bright are liaising over the water issue in the field.

Cllr Durrant stated that DCC need to send somebody to Stockland to look at multiple issues with the roads and what are the criteria for repairing these. Cllr Chubb stated that the NHO was the contact, but he does not work in the evenings and could only come to Stockland during the day. He would not be available for 2 – 3 weeks.

Cllr Switzer said he would forward some information regarding the roads to DCC to try to set up a meeting. These problems need to be sorted before winter.

Work on the road from Royal Oak cross to Northcote Hill is still ongoing.

The road from Battens to Yarty View is scheduled to be closed for 18 days from 2nd September 2024.

The road opposite Stockland Hill mast is also closed.

c) **Maintenance of village signs**

DCC are not responsible for maintenance of village signs, it is down to the PC. **Cllr Trott will check with a local artist and a graphic designer who might take on this task.**

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

a) **Japanese Knotweed**

The PC entered a 5-year agreement with Southwest Knotweed Ltd for two treatments to be made each year. The invoice for two treatments this year has been paid in full (£550). However, the contractor will only make one treatment this year which is scheduled to take place on 12th September. **Cllr Trott is to liaise with Southwest Knotweed Ltd to ask them to agree that the PC will only be charged for one treatment next year.**

b) **Repair of ditches and drains on Turbary land**

Cllrs Pearce and Drew put in two large pipes at the bottom of Whitecroft Drive, which crosses over Turbary land. These replace the smaller pipes that were not adequate to take the ditch water on the road up to Shortmoor Cross from Millhayes. Cllr Pearce also dug a ditch on turbary land from Whitecroft to the existing ditch beside the road.

c) **Fence replacement**

It is proving difficult to get fencing contractors to bid for the work due to the difficult nature of the land, and poor access for materials and machinery required to carry out the work. There is a local builder/handyman who might be able to do the work and he has indicated 16 days of work coming in at slightly more than £10,000 (work and materials). The PC will need to contribute around £500 on top of the grant money to do this.

RSPB should quote for the work at the kennels enclosure (Quantock).

d) **Other Updates**

Ponies have been moved from Quantock to Short Moor. Vlad, the main RSPB pony man, is retiring and RSPB do not have funding to employ a replacement. This leaves the future of RSPB involvement with ponies looking doubtful so alternative sources of grazing animals, or some other form of maintenance, will need to be considered.

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

Cllr Trott reported that ragwort was a problem throughout the parish. Volunteers from the public and the Cllrs have pulled a lot of it and the brash has been burned. It is a prolific spreading plant and one specimen can disperse up to 200,000 seeds close to it. Therefore, it is hard to eradicate and only spraying will achieve this goal. Although it has attractive yellow flowers that attract bees, it is harmful to horses and cattle as it contains a toxin harmful to their livers.

For next year, the council needs to seek volunteers in spring. **This should be added as a calendar item for June 2025, and messages put out on both the Stockland tree and the PC's Website.** The ragwort can be pulled if the picker takes out the roots, or it can be sprayed. The brash should be burned to dispose of it.

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

a) **Insurance requirements for evening marquees etc. for events**

The Village Hall Committee sometime gets requests to have a marquee at an event. The land around the hall belongs to the PC. The Village Hall Committee needs to provide a written document to the PC stating that the PC has no responsibility for any insurance, damage injuries or any other claims.

b) **Repair of play gate area, fence and certain play equipment**

The play area fence had needed significant replacement (gate, post and possibly part of the fence). A local contractor has been identified and has carried out repairs. The woodwork at the back of the play train is rotten and needs repairing following obtaining of quotes. **Cllr Switzer will contact local contractors for quotes.**

c) **General updates**

Nothing raised.

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

a) **Signatories**

Cllr Drew indicated that he no longer wished to be a signatory and PC resolved to remove his name from the list.

The PC resolved to add the clerk and Cllr J Durrant to the list of signatories and remove Tom Patch and Barbara Durrant from the list.

On completion of the amendments the authorised signatories will be Cllrs Switzer, J Durrant, Derryman, Thompkins and the clerk.

Cllr Switzer will contact Lloyds Bank to action these changes.

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 has passed information to the Clerk to action this issue once he has received access to the bank account.**

13) **Stockland Village website**

The village website is now back up after it crashed and was rebooted, but some information has been lost. The IT support for this website is on long term sick leave and is not contactable. The PC has previously agreed to be responsible for paying for the maintenance of the village website, including the Turbaries information, in addition to the Parish Council website. The PC resolved to investigate the migration of information from the village website to the PC website and closing the village website.

The PC website is fully maintained and backed up by Parish Council Websites. **Cllr Switzer and the clerk will speak to Parish Council Websites regarding migrating information from the village website onto the PC website.**

14) **Planning**

- a) Update on the note Cllr Thompkins received regarding 21/0139/FUL: Cllr Switzer has written to the property owners recommending that, should they need to, it would be worthwhile for them to double check that all is in order with their historical planning application.

b) 24/1293/FUL Ridge Cottage Stockland EX14 9EN Status: Withdrawn.

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

14/8/24	Victory Hall	Invoice 1020; July 2024	£135.00
21/8/24	D Clay	Laptop/software/stationery	£549.36

16) **Items of future business for the next agenda:**

Cllrs drew up a list of highways 'hotspots' in the Parish for discussion with the NHO:

- a) Castlewell stretch of road from Short Moor cross to Millhayes;
- b) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane;
- c) Yarcombe Road – Lower Lye;
- d) Main road from Royal Oak Cross to Stockland, near to Huntshayes;
- e) Royal Oak Cross junction;
- f) Rising Sun;
- g) Lower Rodway to Temple Bar;
- h) Wytch Lane;
- i) Husseys Cross

17) **Confidential items** – no items identified

Meeting closed at 9:45pm

Signed.....Chair

Date / /2024

Addendum – Agreed Actions from these/previous minutes

Date	Item	Action	Status
27/8/24	1(a)	Cllr Switzer to forward details to Cllr Chubb for raising with DCC's Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO)	Open
27/8/24	8(a)	Cllr Pearce has offered to try to reinstate the sign which has been ripped out and left by the entrance	Open
27/8/24	8(b)	Cllr Switzer said he would forward some information regarding the roads to DCC to try to set up a meeting.	Open
27/8/24	8(c)	Cllr Trott will check with a local artist and a graphic designer who might take on this task (village signs)	Open
27/8/24	9(a)	Cllr Trott is to liaise with Southwest Knotweed Ltd to ask them to agree that the PC will only be charged for one treatment next year	Open
27/8/24	10	Ragwort - This should be added as a calendar item for June 2025, and messages put out on both the Stockland tree and the PC's Website asking for volunteers	Open
27/8/24	11(a)	Marquees insurance - The Village Hall Committee needs to provide a written document to the PC stating that the PC has no responsibility for any insurance, damage injuries or any other claims	Open
27/8/24	11(b)	Repair to play train in playground - Cllr Switzer will contact local contractors for quotes	Open
27/8/24	12(a)	Bank signatories changes - Cllr Switzer will contact Lloyds Bank to action these changes	Open
27/8/24	12(b)	Bank acct insurance - Clerk to action this issue once he has received access to the bank account	Open

27/8/24	13	Cllr Switzer and the clerk will speak to Parish Council Websites regarding migrating information from the village website onto the PC website	Open
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