STOCKLAND PC

Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 24th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

1) **Recap on conduct of meetings as per the Standing Orders of this Parish council and other regulations**
Cllr Switzer (Chair) reminded cllrs and members of the public about the regulations governing when people can speak and how all questions need to be made via the Chair.

2) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f); 2 members of the Public were present but did not want to speak.

3) **Reports from;** Police, EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and Chubb
EDDC:
Strategic Planning Committee met on 20th and 23rd September and will reconvene next week. They are considering where to build 926 houses per year over the next 5 years (target set by the new UK government). Stockland remains categorised as an 'unsustainable village' and is not included in the building program.

DCC:
Devolution will take place and DCC and Torbay Council will merge; Plymouth Council might also be included but this is still being discussed. A new Neighbourhood Highways officer (NHO) has been appointed in North Devon. He might be able to cover for our local NHO when he is absent. The local NHO will be coming to Stockland in late October to visit the worst road spots in the list compiled by Stockland PC (see item 9 below).

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

5) **To record those Present:** Cllrs Switzer (chair), Bright, Derryman, Drew, Durrant, Parris, Trott; in attendance Cllrs Chubb, Brown and Levine and D Clay (clerk).
Apologies: Cllrs Pearse, Smith and Thompkins. The Chair reminded the meeting the of regulation NALC 5E article 28 (absence from meetings for more than 6 consecutive months).

6) **Declarations of Interest**: None.

7) **Council Meeting Minutes** - the following minutes were reviewed:
30th July 2024 as amended - the minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair;
27th August 2024 as amended - the minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair.

8) **Defibrillator**
The council can reclaim £750 towards the cost of the new defibrillator. Cllr Chubb suggested Stockland PC apply for this funding now, and there is no need to wait until it is purchased and no need for a receipt.

9) **Highways / Ditches and Footpaths** – the following updates were received:
   a) **Footpaths**
   The 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) remains uprooted. **Cllr Pearse has previously offered to try to reinstate the sign at the August meeting.**

   b) **Highways, footways and drainage; any potholes reported**
   Cllrs previously drew up a list of highways 'hotspots' in the Parish for discussion with the NHO in late October:

   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.

Cllr Switzer walked around most of the above prior to the meeting and reported the delamination of the roads at Temple Bar and Millhayes. No work on the above problems will take place until the NHO visits Stockland.

The Hayes Lane traffic restriction has been extended until 30/4/2025 - large sinkhole in road.

Cllr Chub advised that there are digital maps available from DCC to report water and drainage issues as well as road surface issues. **The clerk will investigate use of these to report the various road issues within the parish.**

c) **Maintenance of village signs**
Cllr Trott updated the meeting: There are 4 signs on roads into Stockland of which the one on the Chard Road is in OK condition. A parishioner has volunteered to wash down the other 3 and another contact then assess if they can be repaired or if a full replacement is needed.

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

a) **Japanese Knotweed**
The 1st treatment by Southwest Knotweed took place on 12th September. Due to 2 treatments having been paid for for this year, and only 1 has taken place, Cllr Trott has arranged that the council will only pay for a single treatment in 2025 of the 2 treatments scheduled to take place then. **The clerk will fill in and submit the first claim form for this work under BH175.**

b) **Fence replacement**
3 quotes have been received:
1) RSPB quote £1550.00 for the kennels enclosure at Quantock to make the boundary fit for stock grazing this autumn.
2) A second party quoted £1950.00 for the same work/area.
3) A third party quoted £1910.00 for the same work/area
The council resolved to go with the RSPB quote because it is cheaper and the main contact with RSPB is very familiar with the area and has carried out work in the past.

Cllr Derryman is still awaiting a quote from a local contractor for the fence work scheduled for Bucehayes and would speak to Blackdown Consulting to see if they know of any other contractors who might be interested in the work.

c) **Other Updates**
Ponies on both Bucehayes and Short Moor appeared to be in good condition. The meeting was reminded that parishioners are allowed to take fallen wood from the turbaries as long as they do not use it to make a profit. A parishioner has asked to take some of the oak from a fallen tree at Shore Bottom turbary to make into a lintel, and the council agreed with this request.

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

a) **Insurance requirements for evening marquees etc. for events**
The Chair of the Village Hall Committee will provide a written waiver to the PC regarding insurance requirement.

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

No updates. **Cllr Switzer will contact local contractors for quotes.**

c) **General updates**
Water is not draining from the side of the Village Hall field that borders The Knoll. **Cllr Derryman will attempt to correct the problem with the help of a local volunteer.**

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

a) **Signatories**
The bank has sent a formal note to the PC for signature to officially authorise the bank to implement the requested changes. This note was signed at the meeting. **Cllr Switzer to return the signed paper to Lloyds Bank.**

13) **Stockland Village website**
A member of the public has indicated that they are willing to curate the village side of a proposed merger of data from the old village website onto the PC website.

The PC website is fully maintained and backed up by Parish Council Websites. **The clerk will speak to Parish Council Websites regarding migrating information from the village website onto the PC website, and whether the parishioner in question would be able to change the village data once it has been migrated.**

14) **Planning**

a) 24/1667/AGR Broadhayes Farm Stockland EX14 9EL.
Council discussed this application and decided that they needed more information prior to coming to a decision. **The clerk will write to EDDC with the points raised.**

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

27/8/2024	D Clay McAfee AntiVirus 1 year subscription	£19.99
02/9/2024	D Clay SLCC The Clerks' Manual	£52.90
17/9/2024	Stockland V Hall Invoice 1026; August 2024	£33.75
27/8/2024	Hiscox / AJ Gallagher	£584.66

The following expenditures were withdrawn:

17/9/2024	Devon Communities Together Annual subscription	£50.00

The council decided that Stockland was not benefitting from this subscription, so they have decided to discontinue it.

16) **Items of future business for the next agenda:**
Cllrs would like to see the latest bank balance and the balance for the same month in 2023.
Use of the projector for looking at planning applications **(Cllr Trott to drop this off to the clerk).**
The clerk to provide a link to the EDDC planning site for each item of planning on the agenda.
Parking congestion on Chard Road.
Priorities for spending/next year's budget.

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

Meeting closed at 9:40pm

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)	Complete
27/8/24	8(a)	Cllr Pearse 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	Complete
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	The clerk will speak to Parish Council Websites regarding migrating information from the village website onto the PC website and allowing access to the village data to a volunteer from the public	Open
24/9/24	9(b)	The clerk will investigate use of DCC's digital mapping facility to report the various road issues within the parish	Open
24/9/24	10(a)	The clerk will fill in and submit the first claim form for Japanese Knotweed control under BH175	Open
24/9/24	11(c)	Cllr Derryman will attempt to correct the drainage problem in the Village Hall field with the help of a local volunteer	Open
24/9/24	14(a)	24/1667/AGR The clerk will write to EDDC with the points raised	Complete

Note that items marked as 'Complete' will remain on the above table until after the next meeting of the council, and will then be dropped.