STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 29th October 2024 at 7.30pm.

1) **To elect a Chair** of the Council for the current year: Cllr Switzer was proposed, seconded and duly elected as Chair.

2) **To elect a Vice-chair** of the Council for the current year: Cllr Durrant was proposed, seconded and duly elected as Vice-chair.

3) **Co-options;** resolve whether to co-opt one Cllr to fill the vacancy following resignation of Cllr Thompkins; if PC decides in favour of co-opting, the Clerk will refer to Monitoring Officer for guidance: Cllr Bright joined the meeting at this point. The council resolved to co-opt another Cllr, subject to the ruling of the Monitoring Officer of EDDC. **Action for the clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer for guidance.**

4) **Appointments to Committees and election of Chairs;**

a) **Finance & Staff** (4 members), Chair election: The quorum for this committee is 4, but there are no rules governing the number of members allowed on the committee. Cllr Smith has been accepted onto the committee and joins Cllrs Durrant, Parris, Pearse and Switzer who remain in place. **The Terms of Reference for this committee state that they shall elect a Chair at their first meeting after the Annual Parish Council Meeting (i.e. this meeting).**

b) **Turbaries Management Committee** 4 PC members, Chair election, at least three residents of Stockland Parish, a representative of the Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society (DBWPS); two consultants: Toby Taylor (RSPB) and Gemma Sparks (Blackdown Consulting): Cllrs Derryman, Drew, Switzer and Trott remain as the PC representatives on this committee. The non-voting members of this committee remain the same as before. **The Terms of Reference for this committee state that they shall elect a Chair at their first meeting after the Annual Parish Council Meeting (i.e. this meeting).**

5) **Public Participation Time:** One Stockland resident wished to present some material downloaded from DCC regarding responsibility for maintenance of the verges adjacent to properties. The diagram from DCC clearly shows that maintenance of the verge is the responsibility of the Highways Authority. The resident asked for this to be included in the Agenda for the next meeting, as they believe that such maintenance is not happening.

6) **Reports from;** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and I Chubb. Cllr Chubb stated that he has emailed his October report to the clerk. The NHO did not have time to visit Stockland but the clerk can contact him directly. **Action for the clerk to distribute the October report and to contact the NHO to try and get some movement on the road 'hotspots' in item 13(d).**

7) **Resolve to exclude members of the press and public**: To agree any items to be dealt with after the public and press have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. None identified.

8) **To record those Present and Apologies for absence;** to consider whether to approve any dispensations. Cllrs Brown and Levine from EDDC were absent due to attending an all-day planning committee meeting at EDDC. Nobody representing the police attended.

9) **Declarations of Interest**: Members to declare any interests they have in agenda items that accord with any Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal/ Prejudicial Interests: **Cllr Drew has a pecuniary/personal interest in item 13 (b) Chard Road so took no part in that discussion.**

10) **Council Meeting Minutes**-to confirm and sign the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 24th September. **The minutes were duly approved and signed.**

11) **Review priorities for spending/next year's budget:** Cllrs identified the following areas:
a) Provision of a Linesperson (possibly with the aid of a grant/match funding).
b) Provision/maintenance/replacement of village signposts.
c) Possibility of removing the trees on the Village Hall land opposite the road through Stockland.
d) Upgrade/replacement of items in the playground.
e) Clearing overhanging trees/branches/foliage from the edge of the roads in the parish that border Turbary land.

12) **Agree Calendar of council meetings for next year:** Council discussed the dates for the next calendar year. **Action for the clerk to draft a calendar for 2025 and circulate to the PC for approval.**

13) **Highways, ditches and footpaths:**

a) **Footpaths:** The footpath sign for the path from Millhayes to Horseplot cottage has been re-erected but has been placed opposite to where it was. PC consider this to be an adequate solution. No further action required.

b) **Highways, Footways and Drainage; any pot-holes reported; Cllr Parris update on congestion on Chard Road**: Cllr Trott reported erosion of the surface of the road from the bottom of Cawleys Lane by Horseplot , towards Hillcrest (road through to Broadhayes). Cllr Trott also stated that at the side of this road large cables had been exposed.
Action for clerk to add this to the 'hotspots' identified in item 13(d).
Action for Cllr Trott to provide the PC with the What3Words location of the exposed cables.
Action for the clerk to contact the NHO with details of the exposed cable and its What3Words location.

The discussion around Chard Road congestion was inconclusive. Cllr Chubb offered to meet with PC at the site to help them come up with a proposal to put to residents. Clearly there is a problem for farm traffic, ambulances and fire engines negotiating this bottleneck.
Action for Cllr Parris to put together a note to be put out to residents via the Stockland Tree newsletter.
Action for Cllr Chubb to consult with the NHO to see if there are any historical/model communications which can aid Cllr Parris.
Action for Cllr Chubb to follow up with a meeting with the PC on site if the matter cannot be resolved within the parish alone.

c) Maintenance of village signs. Cllr Trott presented a quote with a photograph from a contractor for replacing 3 signs (those at/near the road from Royal Oak Cross, Aller Farm and Coker's Elm). The quote is £375 plus VAT.
PC resolved to accept this quote.

d) Highways 'hotspots' in the Parish for discussion with the NHO update:

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 (Cllr Drew reported that this work has been completed;
e) Royal Oak Cross junction;
f) Rising Sun;
g) Lower Rodway to Temple Bar;
h) Wytch Lane;
i) Husseys Cross.

14) **Turbaries:**
a) BH175 update; Cllr Derryman to update the PC regarding a quote from a local contractor to carry out fencing work at Shortmoor, Quantock and Bucehayes Turbaries, especially regarding how much will be covered by grant funding and how much by the Precept. PC to resolve whether to accept the quote; if the quote is accepted, to resolve whether to agree to the staged payments requested by the contractor: Cllr Derryman could not obtain three quotes as no other contractor he contracted would consider the work due to the difficulties in getting equipment, materials and people onto the sites. The local contractor who has quoted has come up with numbers within the grant available for three of the areas and above the amount in one of the areas as summarised here:

Turbary	Allowance	Quote	Shortfall	Comments
Bucehayes North	£5525.80	£5950.00	-£434.20	Shortfall to come from Precept?
Bucehayes South	£3170.00	£1905.00		
Quantock North	£2409.20			RSPB responsible for this area, PC awaiting invoice
Quantock South	£6080.40	£5275.00		
Shortmoor	£1711.80	£1195.00		

The PC resolved to accept the quote, and the staged payments requested by the contractor.

Action for Cllr Derryman to contact the representative of Blackdown Hills National Landscape who administer the grant, and Blackdown Consulting to discuss whether the shortfall identified at Bucehayes North can be made up from e.g. Bucehayes South.

b) **Other updates:** Of 7 ponies on Quantock South, 3 ponies have been taken back to the RSPB. The other 4 were moved first to Quantock North and have since been returned to the RSPB.
Cllr Derryman stated that the Turbaries are only sustainable thanks to the enormous efforts of local volunteers as well as the 4 Cllrs on the committee. He wants to acknowledge the members of the public who help, and this will be bought up at the next meeting of the Turbaries Committee on 12th November.

15) **Play area, car-park and Victory Hall**: A bill for the PC for the costs of fixing the water leak in the car park is expected in the near future.

16) **Bank account:** Updates to signatories. **PC resolved to remove ex-Cllr Thompkins as a signature as he has resigned.**

17) **Stockland Village website:** No update. **Action for the clerk to email the website hosts to obtain quotes for moving all remaining files on the Google Drive so that they are accessible to users of the website; and to create a separate area of the PC website for Stockland Parish in general.**

18) **Planning applications to consider and review:**
23/1578/FUL (approval with conditions) 23/1578/FUL | Raising of existing garage roof and change of use to an annexe. | Greenhayes Ham Stockland EX13 7HL (eastdevon.gov.uk)
No comments.

24/1667/AGR Broadhayes Farm Stockland EX14 9EL (decision 3rd October 'planning permission required' 24/1667/AGR | Steel framed shed with corrugated steel cladding to provide cover over existing feed silos | Broadhayes Farm Stockland Devon EX14 9EL (eastdevon.gov.uk)
No comments, awaiting full planning application.

24/1419/AGR Court Place Farm EX14 9LA (received by email from EDDC on 2nd October) 24/1419/AGR | A steel portal frame dual pitch covered fodder storage building | Court Place Farm Wilmington Devon EX14 9LA (eastdevon.gov.uk)
No comments.

24/2084/FUL Single storey side extension to incorporate new garage | Greenhayes Ham Axminster EX13 7HL 24/2084/FUL | Single storey side extension to incorporate new garage | Greenhayes Ham Axminster EX13 7HL (eastdevon.gov.uk)
No comments.

24/2122/FUL Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding to form annexe. Popehayne Farm Stockland EX14 9ET 24/2122/FUL | Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding to form annexe. | Popehayne Farm Stockland EX14 9ET (eastdevon.gov.uk)
PC supports this application as it is keeping with Neighbourhood Plan.

24/2227/AGR Agricultural Storage Building Parkway EX14 9JA – prior notification application for consultation sent direct by EDDC planners by email 24/2227/AGR | Agricultural storage building | Parkway Cotleigh Honiton EX14 9JA
PC has reservations about the exact location of this building.

19) **Correspondence received:**
The Countryside Charity (CPRE) Cllr Trott:
Resolve to continue the Council's membership from December 2024 or not. If council resolves to renew, then the level of annual membership/funding needs to be resolved:
a) Current (£36);
b) Recommended for organisations (£60);
c) Other (refer to letter scanned and emailed to all Cllrs on 17th October).
PC resolved to renew membership at £60 per year.
Action for clerk to return the forms filled in as per the resolution.

20) **Finances: To review and resolve to approve expenditure for the following:**

08/10/2024	Stockland Victory Hall hire invoice 1031	£33.75
16/10/2024	Royal Mail redirection revised from 3 months to 1 year	£627.00

PC resolved to agree to both of the above payments.

21) **Items of Future Business for the next Agenda:**
a) To consider whether to reinstate a Planning Committee or Sub-Committee.
b) To consider whether to establish some sort of safe repository for historic parish documents and artefacts e.g. the historic maps that formed part of the exhibition held earlier in the year at the church.
c) Maintenance of the verges within the parish.

22) **Confidential items:** Matters identified under item 7 above: None identified.

R Switzer; Chair, Stockland Parish Council, / / 2024

Addendum – Agreed Actions from these/previous minutes

Date	Item	Action	Status
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(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	10(a)	The clerk will fill in and submit the first claim form for Japanese Knotweed control under BH175	Open
29/10/24	3	Clerk to contact EDDC Monitoring Officer regarding co-opting a new Cllr	Open
29/10/24	6	Clerk to distribute Cllr Chubb's October Report	Complete
29/10/24	6	Clerk to contact the NHO to try to get movement on the road hotspots for repairs detailed in 13(d)	Open
29/10/24	12	Clerk to draft a calendar for the PC for 2025	Complete
29/10/24	13(b)	Clerk to add the road from Horseplot Cottage towards Hillcrest to the list of hotspots in 13(d)	Open
29/10/24	13(b)	Cllt Trott to provide PC with the W3W location of exposed cable on the road	Complete

29/10/24	13(b)	Clerk to contact NHO with details of the exposed cable and its location	Open
29/10/24	13(b)	Cllr Parris to put out a message on the Stockland Tree regarding parking/congestion in Stockland	Complete
29/10/24	13(b)	Cllr Chubb to follow up the congestion/parking issue with the NHO if cannot be resolved within the parish	Open
29/10/24	14(a)	Cllr Derryman to contact the BH175 administrator at BHNL regarding how to make up the Shortfall in the agreement for Bucehayes North	Complete
29/10/24	17	Clerk to contact PC website hosts for quotes to resolve the Google Drive files that remain and migrating data from the Stockland Vilage Website to the PC one	Open
29/10/24	19	Clerk to return CPRE forms to renew membership at the £60 rate	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.