

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday 25th February 2025 at 7.30pm.

- 1) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f): 15 minutes in length with each person to speak once only, for no longer than 3 minutes, or shorter, at the discretion of the chairperson.

Two members of the public wanted to speak on a planning matter and asked if they could await the arrival of Cllr Drew who they had discussed this with. The Chair agreed to this request.

- 2) **Reports from:** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and Chubb.

Cllr Chubb gave an update around the changes to local government due to devolution. There would be DCC elections in May, so there should be a County council for 4 years but there is a lot of uncertainty as to how the process of change will evolve and what the final outcome will be.

- 3) **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 [Public Bodies(Admission to Meetings Act) 1960].

No exclusions required.

- 4) **To record those Present and Apologies for absence;** and to consider whether to approve any dispensations.

Stockland Cllrs present: Cllrs T. Bright, B. Drew (Arrived late see item 9 below), J. Durrant, N. Parris, A. Smith, R. Switzer (Chair). Absent were Cllrs: P. Derryman, R. Pearce, A Trott. Cllr I.Chubb of DCC was present; Cllrs Brown and Levine were absent. Three members of the public attended.

- 5) **Declarations of Interest:** Members to declare any interests they have in agenda items that accord with any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (s31 & 33 of the Localism Act 2011) or Personal/ Prejudicial Interests (Code of Conduct, 2012).

Cllrs A. Smith and N. Parris each have a personal interest in one of the planning applications discussed below under item 9, respectively.

- 6) **Council Meeting Minutes:** To confirm and sign the draft minutes of the following meetings of the Council and the Finance and Staff Committee:
13th January (Agree Precept); 28th January (both are Full Council Meetings);
24th October; 7th November; 7th January (all are Finance and Staff Committee Meetings).

The above minutes were duly signed.

- 7) **Co-opting a new member of the Parish Council.** Resolve to appoint a new Cllr from amongst the candidates for co-option.

The person in question was still working and could not attend, so item is postponed.

8) Highways/Ditches and Footpaths:

- a) Footpaths update.
Clerk to follow up with EDDC regarding the Footpaths report previously submitted.
- b) Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported.
Clerk to follow up with EDDC regarding payment's for improving footpaths.
- c) Update on Highways 'hotspots' in the Parish:
 - a) Castlewell stretch of road from Short Moor cross to Millhayes; there is an issue with the water running down the road from Shortmoor Cross to Mill Hayes flowing down the concrete entrance to the property called Whitehayes.
The Chair has met with the owners of Whitehayes to discuss this. The solution will be a 'sleeping policeman' adjacent to the road, and/or an Aquadrain system to divert the flow of water towards the turbary land rather than towards the house.
Councillor Switzer is to follow up with the owners of Whitehayes.
 - b) Road to Ham from Rose Farm where a blocked culvert has caused flooding and a large hole is blocking the road;
 - c) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property).
 - d) Royal Oak Cross junction; potholes also just past the exit from the cross roads to the Stockland Road.

No work has commenced on the above three areas. Cllrs asked the Clerk to send a regular (monthly) email to the Neighbour Highways Officer at DCC.

9) Planning

To review the following planning applications (all were viewed with the aid of a projector so details could be commented on):

[25/0039/FUL | Proposal to reinstate historic barn with extension to form 1 no dwelling, with associated works | Land Adjoining Stockland C Of E Primary Academy Stockland EX14 9EF](#)

Cllr Drew arrived during the discussions held on this planning item. This led to two members of the public making statements regarding it. Cllr Parris, as the applicant, answered various queries from the public and the other Cllrs, then left the room as per Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. The merits of the application were then discussed at length, and whilst the Cllrs noted the positive aspects there were concerns around the impact on the conservation area, especially the Church, the apparent lack of any mention of the Neighbourhood Plan and Blackdown Hills Design Guide for Houses, the amount of glass in the wall facing the churchyard and the privacy of mourners in the Church graveyard.

[25/0178/FUL | Construction of Timber orangery on the East elevation. | Shorehead Cottage Shorebottom Stockland Honiton EX14 9DQ](#)

After answering some questions on the design aspects, Cllr Smith, as the applicant, left the room as per Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. Cllrs had no objections to this application

[25/0188/LBC | Repairs to the rear roof slope; rethatching | Ford House Stockland Honiton EX14 9EH](#)

The above Listed Building Consent application is included for information only (the Parish Council do not comment on these applications).

[25/0322/TRE | Ova: Ash - leaning over neighbour's property threatening house. Reduce to stump. Rectangle: Alder - leaning over neighbours property. Reduce to stump. Triangle: Alder - single limb leaning over neighbour's property. Remove. Diamond: Alder - limbs from neighbours overhanging property to be reduced. Replanting - some willow has already been planted along the riverbank. Propose further willow whips to be planted, natural regeneration through stump regrowth and growth of existing small trees. | Lower Corry Farm Dalwood EX13 7HJ](#)

No objections raised to the above.

[24/2519/FUL | Demolition and replacement of single dwelling with associated works | Castlewell Stockland Honiton EX14 9DB](#)

Stockland Parish Council supports the redevelopment of this site, but not in the current form proposed in this application. The proposal is not in keeping with the Neighbourhood Plan and Blackdown Hills Design Guide for Houses and therefore the Council opposes this application.

10) **Stockland Victory Hall, Carpark and Grounds:** Update:

The hidden drain has been uncovered by a local contractor working alongside Cllrs Derryman and Drew. This revealed the yellow piped French drain leading to a main exit drain. There is concern that the exit drain and/or the French drain are blocked, and that tree roots may have interfered with the old drain. Cllr Derryman is going to follow up with the local contractor to unblock these drain pipes.

The pipe bringing water from the meter to the Hall is leaking significantly, which is causing damage to the tarmac of the car park. Cllr Switzer attended the previous Victory Hall Committee meeting and suggested that the Hall Committee be the protagonists in getting the problem fixed (including tarmac repair) and the invoice to be sent to the Parish Council for payment. This was approved by Council. The Clerk is to liaise with the Hall committee treasurer. It was noted that this was the second leak in a short period of time and probably results from the pipe being a thin copper one. It was suggested that a third leak in the future would be a trigger to replace the entire pipe, but it was noted that this would incur a very significant capital expense.

Regarding a barrier to keep cars from encroaching onto the playing field, Cllr Bright has come up with a viable solution involving removeable 4 x 4 posts that can be sited in purpose lined square holes in the ground as and when required. Some suitable rope could then be hung between the posts. **Cllr Bright to obtain quotes for materials and forward these to the Clerk.**

11) **Devolution Proposals:** Update; None

12) **Turbaries Update;** Cllr Derryman. Due to the Cllr being absent, the Clerk read a brief report from him:

a) Woodland Management Plan work is due to be completed by the RSPB team by the end of March at a cost of Approximately £1,000.

b) Cllrs Derryman and Trott accompanied Simon Richardson (Natural England), Gemma Sparks (Blackdown Hills Consulting) and Dr David Allen (Turbaries Committee) on a tour of Quantock Turbary. Simon confirmed that Quantock is 1 of only 100 sites nationwide to be selected for consideration for Higher Level Stewardship grants in the new financial year.

c) Farming In a Protected Landscape (FiPL) grant work: The fencing work at Bucehayes North and South, and at Shortmoor turbaries has been completed, and work on Quantock is due to start imminently.

d) Items for the next Turbaries Committee meeting on 4th March include scrub clearance at the North end of Bucehayes and 1 day of Woodland and Heathland Management work in March.

13) Finances; to review and resolve to approve expenditure for the following:

18/10/2024 EDDC Dog Bin Emptying	£190.94
31/12/2024 Ian Doble repairs to village hall play area	£395.45

The above transactions were approved

Bank Transactions From 23 January to 19 February 2025:

DATE	DESCRIPTION	Credit	Debit	Balance
29/01/2025	CHARLIES ANVIL LOPPER x 2	£65.97		£49,357.93
30/01/2025	POWER TOOLS DIRECT FOLDING SAW x 2	£71.18		£49,172.01
30/01/2025	PRIMETOOLS BOW SAWS x 4	£62.88		£49,243.19
30/01/2025	SAFETYSUPPL PAIRS SAFETY GLOVES x 6	£30.18		£49,306.07
30/01/2025	MSTORE LTD PAIRS GRIP GLOVES x 6	£21.68		£49,336.25
30/01/2025	PRIMETOOLS CD 2312	£31.44		£49,357.93
30/01/2025	PRIMETOOLS CD 2312		£31.44	£49,389.37
31/01/2025	MR THOMAS PURLIN BUCEHAYES - PART 2	£1,550.00		£47,622.01
03/02/2025	MR J CARTER	£750.00		£46,124.33
03/02/2025	HMRC - PAYE	£107.60		£46,874.33
03/02/2025	CLERK SALARY FOR JANUARY	£430.96		£46,981.93
03/02/2025	THE SERENITY SHOP RATCHET LOPPERS x 2	£63.97		£47,412.89
03/02/2025	TOOLCHIMP RAKES/FORKS/BRUSH HOOK ALL x 2	£145.15		£47,476.86
06/02/2025	RSPB INV/00043097	£1,860.00		£44,264.33
07/02/2025	ICO ANNUAL SUBS	£35.00		£44,229.33
17/02/2025	MRT PURLING SHORTMOOR	£740.00		£43,489.33
		£5,966.01	£31.44	

The above transactions were approved.

14) **Village Road Signs:** Update regarding the cost - £465.00 plus VAT

15) **Village Website – Migration of Data to the PC Website:** Update: Clerk still awaiting a meeting with the custodian of the Stockland village data.

16) **Lengthsperson Issue:** Update: None

17) **Annual Parish Meeting:** Resolve to agree date in May and suggest items for the agenda:

Tuesday 20th May was agreed for the date. Agenda items to be determined.

18) **Items of Future Business for the next Agenda:**

Local Charities Update (Cllr Drew)

19) **Confidential Items:** Matters identified under item 3 (above).

None.

20) **Review Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings:**

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	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	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	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
26/11/24	7(d)	Cllr Parris has a contact who might be interested in the lengthsperson role, and will speak to him	Open
26/11/24	7(d)	Cllr Smith to forward links to information on the DCC website covering how the management of verges, ditches and minor road repairs can be undertaken at a parish level	Open
26/11/24	7(d)	The Clerk is to seek advice from DALC regarding how other parishes are tackling the issues of maintenance of verges and minor road repairs.	Open
28/01/2025	9(b)	Proposed grit bin Shortmoor to Millhayes road. Cllr Trott to send a link to Cllr Bright who will follow up	Open
28/01/2025	11(b)	French drain in playing field; Cllr Derryman to arrange meeting with contractor and Clerk on site	Open
28/01/2025	11©	Clerk to contact Stockland Primary Academy regarding keeping cars off the playing field during events	Open

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.

No time to review the above items.

Meeting Closed 10.30 PM

R Switzer; Chair, Stockland Parish Council, / / 2025