

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday 25th March 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.
None

- 2) **Reports from:** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and Chubb.
Cllr Levine gave an update around the changes to local government due to devolution. There is considerable confusion as to how things will end up and EDDC is at odds with Exeter City Council re the way forward. The new Unitary Council should be in place in 3 years' time. A member of the public wanted to know why the PC Precept had increased by 12.9% when the EDDC Council Tax only went up by 5%. Cllr Brown (EDDC) explained that the Stockland increase is very conservative compared to many PCs in the district where 50% increases have been known this year.

- 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 P. Derryman, B. Drew, J. Durrant, N. Parris, R. Pearce, A. Smith, R. Switzer (Chair), A Trott; Cllr T Bright of Stockland was absent.
Cllrs Brown and Levine (EDDC) were present. Cllr I Chubb (DCC) was absent.
One member 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).

None.

- 6) **Council Meeting Minutes:** To confirm and sign the draft minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 25th February 2025.

The 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.

This item was moved to allow item 9 (planning applications) to be considered earlier to release the EDDC Cllrs from the meeting. Mr Craig Bernhardt described his background and business experience and was asked to step outside along with the member of the public whilst Cllrs

deliberated. Mr Bernhardt was unanimously co-opted onto the PC with immediate effect and sat as a Cllr from this point in the meeting.

8) **Planning:**

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

[25/0497/AGR | A steel portal framed agricultural building for the storage of straw | Cooksmoor Farm Stockland Honiton EX14 9NH](#)

The above property is not actually within the parish so was not commented on.

[25/0270/FUL | Erection of Agricultural Shed \(East\) on concrete farmyard | Broadhayes Farm Stockland EX14 9EL](#)

[25/0269/FUL | Erection of Agricultural Shed \(West\) over existing yard and northern extension of existing agricultural shed | Broadhayes Farm Stockland Honiton EX14 9EL](#)

[25/0268/FUL | Erection of Agricultural Shed over existing Silos and provision of monopitch enclosed agricultural walkway | Broadhayes Farm Stockland Devon EX14 9EL](#)

The above three applications were considered together and the PC were supportive of them as they showed that positive environmental steps were proposed as part of the development and the materials to be used were in keeping with the existing materials.

9) **Preparing for AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return):**

a) Line 9 of the AGAR form should be taken directly from the Asset Register and the amount contained therein appears to be the same amount carried forward each year (£28,093).

b) Internal Financial Controls/Risk Mitigation. Stockland PC has a Statement of Internal Control published on the PC Website which should be reviewed Annually. The PC resolved to instruct the Finance and Staff Committee to conduct the review and recommend any changes at their next meeting.

c) The PC resolved to instruct the Finance and staff Committee to carry out preparations for the Internal Audit at their next meeting,

The next Finance and Staff Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8th April.

10) **Highways/Ditches and Footpaths:**

a) Footpaths update. None

- b) Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported. Hayne Lane has a Devon Highways permanent sign saying the road is blocked still, but Cllr Drew stated that he has driven down the lane and it is now clear.
- 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. **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; people appear to be moving the barriers placed here.
 - 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 Neighbourhood Highways Officer at DCC.

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

The leak under the carpark to the front of the hall appears to have been fixed.

Cllr Derryman reported that the French drain appears to be working but could be enhanced by the addition of a herringbone arrangement to help dry out the area. Cllr Derryman is going to follow up with obtaining an initial quote from the local contractor who is familiar with the site. The Council voted to accept that only one quotes will be required (instead of three), since this action is time-sensitive and now considered an emergency action.

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.**

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

13) **Turbaries Update;** Cllr Derryman.

- a) The turbaries fencing project is now complete. The total amount of grant funding received under Farming In a Protected Landscape (FiPL) agreement BH 175 was £22,686.23.
- b) Proposed new projects for which the PC may be eligible for further grant funding are to build boardwalks on the boggiest parts of the permissive path at Quantock turbary, and also on the boggiest parts of the path from the style to the bird hide there.

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

05/02/2025 Victory Hall Hire	£90.00
21/03/2025 DALC (Clerk training for Year End)	£42.00
Undated invoice Cllr Pearse expenses for turbary work	£226.44

The above transactions were approved

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Bank Transactions From 20 February to 19 March 2025:

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
21/02/2025	Turbaries fencing	£ 1,525.00		£ 41,964.33
03/03/2025	Turbaries fencing	£ 1,800.00		£ 39,530.73
03/03/2025	PAYE	£ 126.80		£ 41,330.73
03/03/2025	Clerk Salary	£ 506.80		£ 41,457.53
10/03/2025	Bank Service Charges	£ 6.09		£ 39,524.64
11/03/2025	Village Hall hire	£ 37.50		£ 36,815.85
11/03/2025	Turbaries fencing	£ 2,085.00		£ 36,853.35
11/03/2025	New gate/gate posts	£ 395.45		£ 38,938.35
11/03/2025	EDDC Dog poo bin	£ 190.84		£ 39,333.80
14/03/2025	Turbaries fencing	£ 590.28		£ 34,979.97
14/03/2025	Village Hall leak	£ 1,245.60		£ 35,570.25
	Total	£ 8,509.36		

All 'Turbaries fencing' amounts are recoverable under FiPL BH175 funding agreement.

- 15) **Village Road Signs:** Update regarding the cost - £465.00 plus VAT for all 4 signs. **Cllrs voted unanimously for the new signs.**
- 16) **Village Website – Migration of Data to the PC Website:** Update: Clerk still awaiting a meeting with the custodian of the Stockland village data.
- 17) **Lengthsperson Issue:** Update: Andrew Tucker charges approximately £1,000 per day, which includes all his machinery, depending upon requirements. **Cllr Parris to set up a meeting with Andrew Tucker, for all available/interested councillors to attend.** The purpose of this meeting is to ascertain what activities might be deemed necessary / possible in Stockland. There will need to be 3 quotes obtained for actions relating to lengthsperson duties, in accordance with Financial Regulations.
- 18) **Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 20th May:** Resolve to agree items for the agenda. The following items were suggested:
- Roads/Potholes;
 - Cllr Switzer to discuss having a 'Sustainability' item from a speaker living in the parish;
 - Possible BHNL/RSPB guest speaker;
 - Parish Council report for the year;
 - Cllr Derryman to liaise with Toby Taylor of the RSPB to invite him to make a brief presentation.**
 - Cllr Switzer offered to compile a potential agenda for circulation before our next meeting.**
- 19) **Update on local Charities** (Cllr Drew); postponed until the next meeting.
- 20) **Items of Future Business for the next Agenda:**
- Local Charities Update (Cllr Drew)
 - Annual Meeting of the council – statutory items
 - 80th anniversary of VE Day

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

None.

22) **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	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
29/10/24	6	Clerk to contact the NHO to try to get movement on the road hotspots for repairs	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 Village Website to the PC one	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.

Meeting Closed 9.55 PM

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