

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 27th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

- 1) **To elect a Chair of the Council for the current year:** Cllr R Switzer was proposed and seconded, and the Cllrs present resolved to accept him as Chair. The new Chair then read the acceptance of office statement which was duly signed by him and witnessed by the Clerk.
- 2) **To elect a Vice-chair of the Council for the current year:** Cllr J Durrant was proposed, and seconded, and the Cllrs present resolved to accept him as Vice-Chair.
- 3) **Appointments to Committees and election of Chairs:**
 - i. Finance & Staff Committee: The Cllrs present proposed, seconded and resolved to appoint Cllrs Bernhard, Durrant, Parris, Pearse, Smith and Switzer to the Committee. The Cllrs present proposed, seconded and resolved to appoint Cllr Durrant as the Chair of this Committee. It was noted that Cllr Pearse was absent from the meeting so may not wish to be appointed.
 - ii. Turbaries Management Committee 4 PC members, Chair election, at least three residents of Stockland Parish, two consultants: Toby Taylor (RSPB) and Gemma Sparks (Blackdown Consulting). The Cllrs present proposed, seconded and resolved to appoint Cllrs Drew, Derryman, Switzer and Trott to this Committee. The Cllrs present proposed, seconded and resolved to appoint Cllr Derryman as the Chair of this Committee.

The Clerk is to update the ToR for the two committees as these are currently out of date.

- 4) **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. No members of the public were present.
- 5) **Reports from;** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine (EDDC) and Connor (DCC). No Cllrs or police reps were present at this point.
- 6) **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 were required.
- 7) **To record those Present and Apologies for absence;** to consider whether to approve any dispensations:
Stockland Cllrs present were Cllrs Derryman, Drew, Durrant, Parris, Smith and Switzer (Chair). Apologies were received from Cllr Bernhard (SPC), Levine (EDDC) and Connor (DCC). Cllr Brown (EDDC) arrived just after item 12 on the Agenda having been delayed at a previous meeting.
Absent were Cllrs Bright and Pearse (SPC).
- 8) **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). No declarations were made.

- 9) **Council Meeting Minutes** to confirm and sign the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 29th April 2025.
The minutes were duly confirmed and signed.
- 10) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 part 1:**
To resolve to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year and for the Chair and Clerk to sign page 4 of the document at this meeting.
The Clerk read the AGAR Statement and the Cllrs present resolved to accept it. The Chair and the Clerk signed the document and noted the meeting date and minute on the paper.
- 11) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 part 2:**
To resolve to agree the Accounting Statements for the year which have been prepared and signed by the Clerk prior to this meeting. To be approved by the Council and for page 5 to be signed by the Chair at this meeting.
Cllrs present resolved to accept Accounting Statements. The Chair signed the document and noted the meeting date and minute on the paper.
- 12) **Planning**
To review the following planning applications:

[25/0967/FUL | Create new oak framed porch over front door | Beaumont Farm Heathstock Stockland Devon EX14 9EU](#)

[25/1053/AGR | Roofing to cover existing silage clamp and yards | Rakehill Farm Stockland Devon EX14 9EQ](#)

SPC have no objections to either of the above two planning applications.

At this point Cllr Levine (EDDC) arrived, having been delayed by a prior meeting. He read out some of the points raised in his Annual report:

- annual free parking days have had the free time reduced to 4 hours.
- new toilets in Honiton have a 40p charge.
- new local Plan is a work in progress
- EDDC are planning to set up a new company to deal with refuse collection.
- EDDC will disappear when a new Unity Council comes into being. A paper on this is due to be published on 28 November 2025.

Cllr Levine answered some questions and then left the meeting.

- 13) **Highways, ditches and footpaths:**
- a) Footpaths update. The **Cllrs present resolved to invite the Footpaths Team to a future meeting to report on current state of the footpaths.**
 - b) Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported. Cllr Trott confirmed that the plant growing in the verge in Churchstyle Lane is indeed Japanese Knotweed. **Cllr Trott to contact DCC and report it.**
A member of the public reported a dead tree at the Annual Parish meeting. **Cllr Parris has volunteered to remove it.**
 - c) Update on highways 'hotspots' in the Parish:
 - i) Castlewell stretch of road from Short Moor cross to Millhayes; there is severe deterioration of the road in the first hundred yards down from Shortmoor Cross. This is much bigger than a pothole, a large continuous patch is required. Further patches and fixes are needed down the road to Millhayes Cross.
 - ii) Road to Ham from Rose Farm where a blocked culvert has caused flooding and a large hole is blocking the road;

iii) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property). The recent patch close to the corner of Cawleys Lane does not correct the problems there.

iv) Royal Oak Cross junction; potholes also just past the exit from the cross roads to the Stockland Road.

The Chair read an email from a resident regarding the blocked road at Ham. This is from a farmer who needs access to a field to harvest his wheat in August and cannot get his combined harvester along this road, and the vehicle is too large to use the diverted routes to get around this. The farmer opposite the hole is continuing to lobby Cllr Trott about the disappearance of 'road closed' signs, and the number of vehicles he is forced to tow out of the hole.

SPC resolved to write to the following representatives of the people to try and get some movement on dealing with these problems:

Cllrs Brazil, Connor and Dan Thomas (DDC); copy to Richard Foorde MP: **The Clerk to draft a letter and circulate it to Cllrs for review/approval; Cllr Switzer to ask for permission to publicise the email he received.**

The Clerk to speak to DALC about how other PCs are dealing with the roads issue.

14) Turbaries:

Update: Cllr Derryman: There are currently 4 ponies grazing Bucehayes, 4 on Quantock and 3 at the Kennels enclosure. There is some woodland pasture work and tree felling scheduled for Quantock.

15) Stockland Village Hall, Carpark, Play Area and Grounds: Cllr Switzer is planning to meet with a contractor regarding repairs to the play area and erecting a barrier to prevent cars from entering the field. The Herringbone ditches can now be put in place, and Cllr Pearse has an aerator which may also be used on the field.

16) Stockland Village website: No Update.

17) Correspondence received:

Cllr Switzer read the email regarding the harvesting problem due to the Ham road closure. A parishioner reported the Japanese Knotweed and dead willow mentioned above.

18) Finances:

a) To review and resolve to approve expenditure for the following:

03/04/2025	DALC Membership Fee	£289.79
20/05/2025	Cathy Derryman Turbaries Photo Album	£50.00
16/05/2025	N Copp Grass Cutting Village Hall Field	£700.00
10/05/2025	P Clapham Internal Auditor	£155.10
22/05/2025	J Burton Signs (village road signs)	£558.00
27/05/2025	C Trott Pony feed (Turbaries)	£44.10
27/05/2025	C Trott Mileage for collecting village signs	£27.00

Continued.....

b) Bank Transactions and Reconciliation 1st April – 25th May 2025 1700hrs

Opening Balance 1st April 2025				£57,576.20
Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance
01/04/2025	EAST DEVON DC PRECEPT PART 1		£8,992.20	£66,568.40
04/04/2025	CLLR EXPENSES AND DIGGER USE	£226.44		£66,341.96
04/04/2025	DALC - CLERK TRAINING	£42.00		£66,299.96
04/04/2025	CLERK SALARY	£414.96		£65,885.00
04/04/2025	HMRC - PAYE	£103.80		£65,781.20
07/04/2025	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25		£65,776.95
	DEVON CC TURBARIES TOOLS			
28/04/2025	GRANT		£461.01	£66,237.96
28/04/2025	RSPB GRAZING	£1,234.20		£65,003.76
06/05/2025	PKF EXT AUDIT	£252.00		£64,751.76
06/05/2025	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25		£64,747.51
Total Debits / Credits		£2,281.90	£9,453.21	
Closing Balance 21st May 2025				£64,747.51
Reconciliation - Opening Balance plus credits minus debits				£64,747.51

c) Cllr Parris report back from meeting Village Hall Treasurer re possible refund for leak repairs: Cllr Parris spoke to the VH Treasurer and the Treasurer has already claimed this, so the bill received was after the deduction had taken place.

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

- Establishment of a Committee or Sub-Committee for Roads
- Lengthsman update
- Dealing with Ragwort in the parish (Turbaries volunteers/public education)

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

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21) 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	Closed
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	Closed
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

Meeting Closed 10.00pm

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