

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 26th August 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.

No members of the public were present, but a written statement was received from the owners of Hideaway, and this was read out by the Chair when Planning was discussed (refer to item 7 below).

- 2) **Reports from;** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine (EDDC) and Connor (DCC). Cllr Brown was present and reported that discussions around a new Unitary Council which would take in East Devon are still ongoing. An elected mayor is required to secure funding from central government for the new entity. Central government have given the existing authorities until November to propose the make-up of the Unitary Council, if no proposal is forthcoming then a solution will be imposed from above.

EDDC winter parking charges are likely to be 50% of the summer charges, but this is still being discussed.

- 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].

Item 13c on the Agenda is a confidential item.

- 4) **To record those Present and Apologies for absence;** to consider whether to approve any dispensations:
Stockland Cllrs present were Cllrs Bernhardt, Derryman, Durrant, Parris, Smith, Switzer (Chair), Trott.
Apologies were received from Cllr Drew who is ill (SPC); Cllr Levine (EDDC) and Cllr Connor (DCC) are both on holiday.
Absent: Cllrs Bright and Pearse (SPC).

- 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 Council held on the 24th June 2025; 29th July 2025; Extraordinary meeting held on 5th August 2025. The minutes of 24th June were previously confirmed on 29th July and were signed at the current meeting. The minutes from 29th July were confirmed and signed. The minutes from the Extraordinary meeting of 5th August were neither confirmed or signed and need to be amended.

- 7) **Planning:**

[25/1602/FUL | Demolition of existing dwelling; construction of replacement dwelling and associated works | Hideaway Stockland Honiton EX14 9BY](#)

The statement from the owners (which had been previously circulated to all Cllrs by the Clerk), was read out by the Chair.

The PC has no objections to the above application.

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

- a) **Footpaths update.** None. **Clerk to ask Footpath Warden to either come to the next meeting or submit a report.**
- b) **Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported:** Cllr Smith clarified the difference between a Footway and a Footpath. A Footway is a pavement next to a road, and a Footpath is a recognised right of way usually across land outside of a built up area. Footways in the village are hard to use due to overhanging vegetation from adjacent gardens. The need to inform parishioners of their duties to maintain their hedges and verges was discussed.
- c) **Update on highways 'hotspots' in the Parish:**
 - i) Castlewell stretch of road from Short Moor cross to Millhayes; a large patch has been applied to the road, but this does not address the full problem. Cllr Bernhardt reported water is emerging through the road surface adjacent to the new patch. **Cllrs Bernhardt and Durrant to meet and inspect this road.**
 - ii) Road to Ham from Rose Farm. The culvert has been replaced and the road repaired. This item will be removed from the next Agenda.
 - iii) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property); no work has been carried out except for a small inadequate patch on the corner by Horse Plot cottage and to repair the place where a milk tanker came off the road (the later patch is already eroding).
 - iv) Royal Oak Cross junction; this has been repaired, and road markings repainted, so will be dropped from the next Agenda.

9) **Stockland Village Hall, Carpark, Play Area and Grounds:**

- a) Air Ambulance Lights (Cllr Switzer): There are two poles carrying the lights, with each pole having 3 light bulbs. One pole is completely dead, so the landing area is currently designated as a temporary dark site, meaning helicopters may not use the site at night. **The PC resolved to engage an electrician to examine the defunct light to establish if the problem is with the bulbs or with the electrical system.**
- b) Cllr Switzer reported that work is progressing on the repairs to the playground train.
- c) The proposed work on tidying up the edge of the grounds facing the road was discussed. Cllrs had previously met with a contractor who advised that at least 2 trees were under preservation orders. The fact that the boundary is along the edge of the Conservation Area is problematic and EDDC will only visit the site if a planning application is put in. **The PC resolved to engage a contractor to quote for clearing the scrub beneath the trees as a first step (Cllr Derryman to organise).**

10) **Lengthsperson:**

- a) The PC resolved to engage a local preferred contractor to carry out work on the Castlewell are of Turbary land which would be paid for out of Turbary funding. **Cllrs Drew, Trott and either Derryman or Switzer to organise.**
- b) **The PC resolved that Cllr Parris will contact the Luppitt contractor to arrange for an initial day of survey/work on the known major drains servicing the village and to suggest a work schedule for addressing outstanding items.**

11) **Turbaries Update:**

- a) **The PC resolved to accept the revised ToR document which had already been reviewed by the Turbaries Committee who had no comments on the new version.**
- b) **The PC resolved to engage a local preferred contractor to carry out two days work clearing trees and ditches on two areas of Shore Bottom Turbary.** (Cllr Trott has already walked these areas with the contractor and the cost of the work will be £575 per day for 2 days).
- c) Cllr Derryman reported that a quote is being prepared for the proposed boardwalk at Quantock. Also that flailing work has been carried out on Horner Hill by a local with the appropriate tractor and equipment for this terrain.

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

EDDC Dog Bin Emptying Invoice 40070481 10/07/2025	£249.60
Stockland Victory Hall Invoice 1097 05/08/2025	£37.50
Taunton County Court Fee 06/08/2025 (Paid with Clerk's PC Debit Card)	£70.00
McAfee Antivirus Subscription 11/08/2025 (Paid)	£79.99
McAfee PC Optimizer Subscription 11/08/2025 (Paid)	£49.99
Microsoft 365 Subscription (Paid)	£84.99
Gallagher Insurance Premium (including IPT and all fees) for the year from 08/09/2025	£592.43

13) **Correspondence:**

- a) The DCC response to Cllr Trott re Japanese Knotweed growing in Churchstyle Lane was less than helpful, so the PC resolved to engage a contractor themselves. **The Clerk to speak to Southwest Knotweed as they are already dealing with this weed on Turbary land.**
- b) Letter from HMRC dated 4th August containing a 'statement of liabilities' for SPC of £717.19. The Clerk has had 3 telephone conversations with 3 separate departments (Debt Management, PAYE helpline, PAYE Basic Software Tools helpline). None of these departments were able to resolve the situation. **The Clerk to compose a further letter to HMRC and circulate it to the PC prior to sending it to HMRC.**
- c) Update on case 583MC231 from Taunton County Court. A brief procedural hearing will be held on 27th August scheduled to be half an hour via MS Teams. **Cllr Switzer and the Clerk to dial in to the meeting.**
- d) Community Renewals Insurance Policy documents – **the PC resolved to accept the quote and papers received and pay the insurance invoice from Gallagher** (refer to item 12 above).
- e) The Clerk has received an email from the Clerk of Dalwood PC seeking to meet/discuss whether both PC's could collaborate on 'highways issues and related matters'. **The Clerk to make contact on 3rd September.**
- f) PKF Notice of Conclusion of Audit. There are certain pages which need to be published before 30th September. In the past, PCs were instructed to allow the public 14 days to comment on the Conclusion documents, but new legislation allows councils to choose their own time limit. Bearing in mind that the documents will be published on the Website anyway, **the PC resolved to allow comments for 28 days during the month of September.**

14) **Items of Future Business for the Next Agenda:**

- Priorities for next year's budget

15) **Confidential items:**

- Item 13c above.

16) **Review of Outstanding items from Previous Meetings:**

Date	Item	Action	Status
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	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 10.10pm

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