

## STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

### Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm.

#### DRAFT MINUTES

- 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.  
A member of the public asked whether there was any update on the Churchstyle Lane Japanese Knotweed problem. Apparently around two weeks ago two officials from Devon County Council (DCC) were seen looking at it. SPC has not received any notification from DCC about this.
- 2) **Reports from:** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and Connor. Cllr Brown informed the meeting that on 26/11/25 there will be a unitary meeting of EDDC only (there appears to be no common strategy between EDDC/DCC/Exeter City Council as to how the local reorganisation needs to be handled. Exeter City want to take over the Airport, Cranbrook, Exmouth and other larger settlements, DCC want all of Devon. 28/11/25 is the date when any submissions have to be in. Central Government will have the final say, and this will be handed down in late May 2026. Winter parking charges start next week.
- 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 were required.
- 4) **To record those Present and Apologies for absence;** and to consider whether to approve any dispensations.  
Stockland Cllrs present were Cllrs Bernhardt, Derryman, Drew, Durrant, Pearse, Smith, Switzer (Chair), Trott; also attending was Cllr Brown (EDDC);  
3 members of the public were present.  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Bright and Parris (SPC); Cllr Levine (EDDC) and Cllr Connor (DCC) who sent a written report to 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:** The draft minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were approved on the understanding that some extraneous notes be removed from the draft – the revised Draft 3 version will be signed at the next meeting. The Draft Minutes of the July meeting of the Finance and Staff Committee were previously approved by the Full Council on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Durrant (Chair of the Committee ) duly signed the minutes.
- 7) **Planning:**

[25/1980/FUL | Replacement of two existing storage / garage and workshop units on site, with a similar footprint to that of the existing. | Sandpitts Stockland Honiton EX14 9EX](#)

SPC has no objections to this application.

**[25/2098/AGR | A dual pitch portal framed agricultural building with a 1.4m overhang to the east elevation. | Court Place Farm Wilmington Honiton EX14 9LA](#)**

SPC cannot comment on this application because there is no detail. **Action** – Clerk to contact Planning Team East regarding lack of detail.

**8) Highways, Ditches and Footpaths**

- a) Footpaths update. None
- b) Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported; follow-up on overhanging hedges. – Groundhead Road and Mill Lane potholes - Cllr Pearse to report them to DCC. Re hedges, Cllr Derryman spoke to one of the property owners in Shore Bottom with a hedge that needs cutting back. Cllr Bernhardt to follow this up with the owner. The Yarcombe Road has significant potholes towards Lower Lye - Cllr Bright and the Chair to follow up.
- c) Update on highways 'hotspots' in the Parish:
  - a) Castlewell stretch of road from Short Moor cross to Millhayes; a large patch has been repaired to part of the road below the crossroads. What further work is required here? Cllr Durrant took photos and will follow up with Cllr Bernhardt.
  - ii) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property) – remains outstanding; Cllr Bernhardt has contacted Cllr Connor (DCC) but not heard back.

**9) Stockland Victory Hall, Carpark and Grounds:**

- a) Air Ambulance lights, update (Cllr Switzer). Cllr Switzer met the electrician, and a new unit is now in place. The electrician will invoice SPC in due course.
- b) Shrub clearance by roadside edge of Village Hall grounds: Cllrs Derryman, Bright, Switzer, Parris and Pearse assisted with the clearance, spending at least a half day helping the contractor. Now decisions need to be taken regarding removal of any trees from the cleared area.
- c) The Council resolved to approve the proposed Marquee Waiver form developed by the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Bernhardt to meet the Chair of the Village Hall Committee to follow up.

- 10) Lengthsperson:** Update on ditch clearing at Whitehayes from Cllr Pearse (no update yet); Update on proposed camera inspection of drains (Cllr Parris) – Cllr Parris was not at the meeting. Cllrs discussed this at length and decided that there are two separate issues here, one being the drains that carry the water within the village, and the other being the water run-off from fields. The run-off issue is mainly impacting the areas around Lark Rise and the Yarcombe Road. Cllr Switzer to engage Axminster Drainage to get a camera inspection of the drains in the village.

Cllrs Derryman and Trott to engage another contractor to dig out the drain from Castlewell going downhill. This contractor has a cable sensor so will hopefully be able to avoid the Gigaclear cables/conduits.

- 11) Turbaries Update:** (Cllr Derryman) There is a Turbaries meeting scheduled for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. HLS application should be finalised after that.

**12) Finances:**

- a) **To review and approve the following expenditure items:**

Parish Council Websites revised invoice 3469 paid on 20/10/2025	£2.40
Grass Topping on Horner Hill invoice 925001 paid on 13/10/2025	£240.00
Stockland Victory Hall invoice 1111 dated 7/10/2025	£67.50

**b) To decide the priorities of activities ahead of budgeting for 2026-27:**

Any further updates including possible use of Cllr Connor's Locality Budget; include Clerk and Cllr training budget for next financial year (as recommended by Internal auditor).

**13) Information Technology;**

a) Website update – Parish Council Websites have indicated that they will update the PC Website free of charge in time for the AGAR submission to comply with the new Assertion 10 Clause.

b) As part of the compliance criteria SPC must have a written IT Policy in place. The Clerk has obtained a template document to modify.

**14) Neighbourhood Watch;** resolve whether to establish/revive a formal Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Stockland.

The council did not consider this to be a Parish Council responsibility but have no objections to a local volunteer group initiating it.

**15) Correspondence:**

a) Request for Overnight Family Camping at Village Hall Field – Wedding on 30th May 2026 (email to Clerk 16/10/2025). Resolve whether to allow this or not. This item has been pushed back until the November meeting – Cllr Bernhardt to discuss with Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

b) Resolve how to respond to offer of a Cyber Security Toolkit (email received from NCSC on 17/10/2025). Cllr Durrant will respond to this item.

c) Resolve how to respond to the email from finding-fitness.co.uk regarding help with funding a Climbing Track for the play area. Cllrs discussed the issue, but it is clear from the specification provided by the vendor that the equipment footprint is too large for the limited space available in the play area.

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

Camping in village field

Recruitment

Japanese Knotweed

Website

Calendar for 2026

Further progress clearing shrubs and trees from side of road next to hall grounds.

**17) Review Outstanding Actions 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	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
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**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 at 10.30 pm**

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