

## STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

### Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 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.

1 member of the public was present who wanted to know what the PC was doing about the Castlewell stretch of road. This has been a problem for a year, and he recently had a £500 shock absorber replacement bill. He requested that the PC lobby DCC for a schedule of road works so that at least he would know something was in the pipeline. He mentioned that two potholes had been filled at Royal Oak Cross but that the main area of damage remains a problem.

- 2) **Reports from;** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine (EDDC) and Connor (DCC). Cllr Levine was present but had nothing to report as EDDC seems to be in a state of limbo because of the uncertainty around devolution. There was an emergency meeting to deal with the recent Seaton Hole erosion problem.
- 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;** to consider whether to approve any dispensations:  
Stockland Cllrs present were Cllrs Bernhardt, Drew, Durrant, Parris, Smith and Switzer (Chair). Apologies were received from Cllr Derryman, Pearse, and Trott (SPC), 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 (SPC) and Brown (EDDC).
- 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).  
No declarations were made.
- 6) **Council Meeting Minutes** to confirm and sign the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 27<sup>h</sup> May 2025.  
The minutes were duly confirmed and signed.
- 7) **Planning:**  
No new planning applications have been received since the May agenda was published..
- 8) **Insurance Renewal:**  
The PC resolved that Cllrs Bernhardt and Drew would assist the Clerk in response to the Questionnaire received from the agents. The PC resolved that the best way forward was to hold on the property currently owned by the PC including those items situated on the Turbaries

9) **New Statutory Documents:**

**a) The PC resolved to adopt the latest versions of the following documents based on the templates received from the Internal Auditor:**

- i) Model Standing Orders 2025 Update (England).
- ii) Risk Assessment Policy 2025 – a new Policy.
- iii) Publication Scheme 2025 – a new policy to comply with the PC's FOI obligations.
- iv) Asset Register Policy 2025 – a new policy.

The PC **did not** resolve to adopt the Model Financial regulations 2025 (England) as time constraints meant members did not have enough time to fully understand this.

**b) Policy Documents that remain to be adopted in order for the PC to comply with its statutory requirements):**

- i) Model Financial Regulations 2025 (England).
- ii) Reserves Policy.
- iii) Training and Development Policy (for staff and Cllrs).
- iv) IT Policy – this is a new requirement for Assertion 10 of the revised AGAR form.

**c) Annual Review of Members' Register of Interests:**

Thank you to those members who have completed and returned the form.

**Will all Cllrs who have not done so this month, kindly return a completed form to the Clerk before/at the next full meeting of the PC (29<sup>th</sup> July 2025).**

10) **New Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Finance and Staff Committee and Turbaries Committee:**

The PC resolved to postpone these two documents until the next meeting of the Full Council.

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

- a) **Footpaths update.** The Clerk read the email from the Footpaths Team leader (refer to Appendix A). Another member of the Footpaths Team reported that he had checked Footpath 11 after Cllr Drew raised an issue and has reported in on the DCC PROW tool used to record incidents/problems.
- b) **Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported:** Cllrs believe that the recent repairs to the area of road from Road End Cottage to Lower Lye are not enough and that flooding remains an issue. A new drain is necessary beneath a gate to a field there (refer to item 17 below).
- c) **Update on highways 'hotspots' in the Parish:**
  - a) 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 in places down the road to Millhayes Cross.
  - b) Road to Ham from Rose Farm where a blocked culvert has now been renewed/replaced **but the road surface over it has not been renewed, so vehicles are free to drive over the concrete top of the culvert.**
  - c) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property); recently a large milk tanker came off the road going downhill towards Horseplot; a large recovery vehicle needed to rescue the tanker; further damage to the road ensued.
  - d) Royal Oak Cross junction; potholes and a large scrape in the road just past the exit from the crossroads to the main road into Stockland (vehicles from Honiton, the A35 and

A303). Two small patches have been filled but the main problem remains outstanding.

**The PC resolved that the Clerk should revise the proposed letter to Cllr Connor at DCC and send it as a matter of urgency. [ The clerk sent a final version the day after this meeting took place].**

**d) The PC resolved to form a Roads Committee:**

Cllrs. Cllrs Bernhardt, Drew, and Durrant agreed to joint this committee – **Other Cllrs who were not at the meeting should speak to the Chair and/or the Clerk.**

Outline TOR:

- Minimum quorum will be 3 Cllrs.
- Establish a line of comms with DCC.
- Reinforce/reemphasis the road priorities for the parish
- Feed back progress or lack of the same to the full council and to parishioners.

**12) Stockland Village Hall, Carpark, Play Area and Grounds:** Cllr Switzer met with a contractor regarding repairs to the play area and erecting a barrier to prevent cars from entering the field. The contractor will estimate costs for two removeable posts set in sleeves at 5 ft apart, to hold a chain when needed. He also spoke regarding the wooden train in the play area which appears to be coming to the end of its useful life.

There is no update on progress to install the Herringbone ditches.

**Cllr Drew to contact the contractor about this work.**

**13) Devolution Proposals:** No Update.

**14) Turbaries Update:** None. .

**15) Finances:**

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

01/05/2025	SW Knotweed Year 2 Treatment Plan Part 1	£279.00 inc VAT
03/06/2025	Stockland Victory Hall Hire Invoice 1079	£112.50

Continued.....

**b) Bank Transactions and Reconciliation 1<sup>st</sup> April – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 1700hrs**

**31/03/2025 Closing/Opening Balance £57,576.20**

<b>Transaction Date</b>	<b>Transaction Description</b>	<b>Debit Amount</b>	<b>Credit Amount</b>	<b>Balance</b>
01/04/2025	EDDC PRECEPT PART 1		£8,992.20	£66,568.40
04/04/2025	HMRC - PAYE	£103.80		£65,781.20
04/04/2025	STAFF SALARY	£414.96		£65,885.00
04/04/2025	DALC - CLERK TRAINING	£42.00		£66,299.96
	CLLR EXPENSES AND DIGGER			
04/04/2025	USE	£226.44		£66,341.96
07/04/2025	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25		£65,776.95
28/04/2025	RSPB GRAZING 2024-25	£1,234.20		£65,003.76
28/04/2025	DCC TURBARIES TOOLS GRANT		£461.01	£66,237.96
06/05/2025	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25		£64,747.51
06/05/2025	PKF EXT AUDIT	£252.00		£64,751.76
21/05/2025	STOCKLAND V HALL 1072	£75.00		£63,711.46
21/05/2025	STOCKLAND V HALL 1062	£82.50		£63,786.46
21/05/2025	HMRC - PAYE	£115.60		£63,868.96
21/05/2025	PRINTER INK	£39.99		£63,984.56
21/05/2025	STAFF SALARY	£462.56		£64,024.55
	WEBSITE HOSTING AND			
21/05/2025	SUPPORT	£260.40		£64,487.11
29/05/2025	GIFT FOR RETIRING TURBARIES	£50.00		£61,914.47
29/05/2025	TURBARIES PONY NUTS	£44.10		£61,964.47
29/05/2025	INTERNAL AUDITOR BILL	£155.10		£62,008.57
29/05/2025	GRASS CUTTING	£700.00		£62,163.67
29/05/2025	VILLAGE ROAD SIGNS	£558.00		£62,863.67
29/05/2025	DALC ANNUAL FEES	£289.79		£63,421.67
30/05/2025	CLLR MILEAGE EXPENSES	£27.00		£61,887.47
03/06/2025	HMRC - PAYE	£120.40		£61,285.55
03/06/2025	STAFF SALARY	£481.52		£61,405.95
06/06/2025	BANK CHARGES	£4.25		£61,281.30
	<b>Totals to Date Debits /Credits</b>			
<b>19/06/2025</b>	<b>reconciliation</b>	<b>£5,748.11</b>	<b>£9,453.21</b>	<b>£61,281.30</b>

**The above is a true reconciliation of Stockland Parish Councils bank account as of 1700 hours on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Signed: Damian Clay (RFO) .....

Signed Richard Switzer (Chair).....

16) **Village Website – Migration of Data to the PC website:**

No update: **The Clerk to speak to the parishioner who holds the data.**

17) **Lengthsperson Issue:**

**The PC resolved to approach a local preferred contractor to engage him to look at the following as priorities:**

- Ditch from Short Moor Cross down to opposite Whitehayes on Turbary land (funding to come from the Turbaries income).
- road from Road End Cottage to Lower Lei, specifically beneath a gateway there requiring a new pipe to carry water beneath the gate.
- Blocked ditch at Golden Square
- Northfield Lane / Lark Rise – water spurting out onto the main road into the village and depositing stones.
- Chard Road from mannerings up to Road End Cottage.
- Park Hayes

**Cllr drew to meet with the preferred contractor next week.**

18) **Ragwort in Parish:** No update

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

- Turbaries
- Ragwort
- Reserves in the current account
- Lengthsperson
- TOR for Finance and Staff and Turbaries Committies.

20) **Confidential items:**

None.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
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
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**Meeting Closed 9.45 pm**

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