

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday 25th November 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 Connor.
Cllr Brown stated that the local government reorganisation (LGR) proposals would be sent to central government on 26th November. There are 5 proposals going in due to the fact that the various Town/City/District/County level councils have not found agreement on a common strategy. The result will be delivered by central government in spring 2026.

Cllr Connor reported that the smart phone ban in schools is going through at the moment; the 20's Plenty motion has also been passed, and it will be easier for smaller authorities to enable this in their area (the requirement to have to have had 3 road accident deaths in the area has been removed). The LGR decision will be taken next year, and whatever arrangements are put in place the elections to the new entity will take place in 2027, and the current Cllrs will step down in 2028. Cllr Connor had not received any of the 3 emails sent to her by Cllr Bernhardt re the state of the roads in the parish. The Locality budget for the current year has been spent/allocated.
- 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].
Not required
- 4) **To record those Present and Apologies for absence;** and to consider whether to approve any dispensations.
Stockland Cllrs present were Cllrs Bernhardt, Bright, Derryman, Durrant, Parris, Pearse, Smith, Switzer (Chair), Trott; also attending was Cllr Brown (EDDC); and Cllr Connor (DCC)
1 member of the public was present.
Apologies were received from Cllrs Drew and Smith (SPC) and Cllr Levine (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).
None
- 6) **Council Meeting Minutes:** To confirm and sign the draft minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 28th October 2025. The minutes were approved by the PC and signed by the Chair.
- 7) **Planning:**
Elevations and more detail received for Court Place Farm:

[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](#)

and a new application for another new building on the farm:

[25/2406/AGR | A dual pitch portal framed agricultural building | Court Place Farm Wilmington Devon EX14 9LA](#)

Stockland PC has no objections to the above two proposals.

8) Highways, Ditches and Footpaths

- a) Footpaths update. None
- b) Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported; follow-up on overhanging hedges. The Short Moor Cottage hedge opposite Bears Farm needs cutting. **The Clerk is to draft a letter to the owners and circulate to Cllrs for approval.** Cllr Parris noted that the drains at White Lane/Churchstyle Lane were running and 'doing their job'. It is the volume of water they are trying to remove that is the problem. This is likely to be an ongoing problem due to the changing climate.
- c) Update on highways 'hotspots' in the Parish:
 - i) Castlewell stretch of road from Short Moor cross to Millhayes. It was noted that a Dragon Patcher had been seen working on the road down from Short Moor Cross. Unfortunately the wet weather has already started to degrade the work.
 - 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 report on outcome of his email to Cllr Connor.

9) Stockland Victory Hall, Carpark and Grounds:

- a) Tree and shrub clearance by roadside edge of grounds, update. The contractor engaged for this work will not be invoicing the PC for the work already carried out – a very community spirited gesture for which the PC is very grateful. **Cllr Derryman to speak to this contractor about commencing Phase 2 of this work.**
- b) Resolve whether to approve the proposed Marquee Waiver form developed by the Village Hall Committee following meeting between Cllr Bernhardt and Hall Committee Chair. Not resolved, more work needed on this form.
- c) Resolve whether to allow camping to take place in the grounds. The PC and the Village Hall Committee agree that this is not a viable use of the grounds as we do not have external water supply or toilets. **The Clerk to email the member of the public who requested this with the PC's decision.**
- d) Two members of the public have written about the state of some of the play area equipment. PC to resolve how to respond and what remedial actions are required. **The play area gate will be padlocked by the Chair on Wednesday 26th November, and the area will be closed to the public until further notice; the Chair to contact ROSPA regarding an urgent inspection and to make recommendations; an additional PC meeting will be required to resolve how/when the recommendations can be addressed.**

- 10) **Lengthsperson:** Update on ditch clearing at Whitehayes from Cllr Pearse; Update on proposed camera inspection of drains (Cllr Parris); any other updates. The Drains Camera company do not want to inspect Devon CC drains due to insurance complications. Another contractor spoken to by Cllr Trott cannot carry out the work at Whitehayes/Castlewell.

11) Turbaries Update:

- a) General update on Turbaries activities (Cllr Derryman). The ponies have all gone back to RSPB for the winter. **The PC resolved to reward the 4 volunteer lookers who have cared for the ponies with a token present each to the value of £25 per person max. Cllr Derryman to organise this on behalf of SPC.**
- b) Response to email from Amanda Thompkins dated 19th November. The PC discussed the email content. **The Clerk to draft a response on behalf of SPC and circulate to Cllrs for approval; the Clerk to draft a letter to the Cotley Harriers and circulate to Cllrs for**

approval.

12) **Stockland Parish Lands (General) Charity:** This body owns land adjacent to the Primary Academy and rents it to the Academy for a peppercorn rent. This land is enclosed by a hedge facing the road and walls on the other three sides. This is quite neglected due to the lack of funds held by the charity. A request has been received by SPC to tidy up the hedge. **SPC resolved to subsidise the work propose that is carried out by the same contractor who is being engaged to carry out Phase 2 of the village hall groundworks (refer to item 9(a) above.**

13) **Resolve to Agree the Meetings Calendar for 2026.** The calendar prepared by the Clerk was approved.

14) **Finances:**

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

Stockland Victory Hall invoice 1100 dated 2/09/2025 (two separate payments of £37.50 have been made)	£75.00
Stockland Victory Hall invoice 1120 dates 7/11/2025	£69.75

The above payments were approved.

b) **To resolve to agree the budget for 2026-27 – item deferred to January.**

15) **Information Technology;**

a) Website. Cllr Bernhardt reported on a recent informal meeting held between various members of the public to discuss the websites of Stockland Community Pub Limited, the Stockland Fair Committee, Stockland Victory Hall Committee and Stockland PC. Topics discussed included:

- links between the various websites
- modernising them
- automating certain functions (such as bookings)
- linking in local businesses supplying e.g. accommodation
- possibility of having one website for multiple purposes.

b) Compliance with new Assertion 10 for the 2025/26 AGAR. Any new website would need to comply with the latest Practitioners Guide – The Clerk emailed this to Cllr Bernhardt.

16) **Recruitment:** Update. There are 3 candidates, none of whom live in Stockland parish

17) **Japanese Knotweed:** Update. None

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

- budget/precept setting

19) **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

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.



R. Switzer; Chair, Stockland Parish Council, 27/11/2026