

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday 24th Febr 2026 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. Member of the public reported that for the 4th consecutive week, their recycling and general rubbish had not been collected. Reported that it affected several residents and was felt that it was linked to the road closures and diversions currently in place due to the water works. However, it was felt that they were not trying hard enough to access these properties as the residents were able to find alternative routes to their properties. An email has been sent but if no response, Cllr Levine has advised that if he is emailed the details, he will escalate accordingly.

Member of the public reported that the road surface from Short Moor Cross to Venns Cottage was in a terrible condition. They stated that this used to be a hot spot for the Parish Council but had been removed. It was confirmed that prior it was a hot spot but had been removed as it had been repaired. All agreed that it had been repaired but that the repair had washed away in the recent bad weather and as a result was now worse than previous. An email from Cllr Bernhardt to Cllr Connor that was sent on 17th February was read out. Not aware of any response to this email yet. It was advised that there are other locations in worse condition. Will be discussed further in the meeting during agenda point 8.

- 2) **Reports from:** Police; EDDC/ DDC Cllrs Brown, Levine and Connor.

Cllr Levine's report:

Apologised for not attending last month's meeting.

He confirmed that local government are in limbo whilst awaiting the decision of the Local Government Reorganisation. With the proposed amalgamation of the councils, they are working on harmonising the computer systems. The decision on LGR is due in July.

Cllr Levine advised that the government have introduced the Fairer Funding Revenue which has taken money from the local districts into London. EDDC will use reserves to plug the holes, but these reserves need to last for a few years. EDDC will be increasing council tax by the maximum amount of 2.99%. The other financial issue to be aware of is the change in the distribution of business rates. Used to get 50% but this will be reducing so balancing the budget is getting harder.

The planning department is the only department fully functioning as they are pushing to get the 2nd consultation through. Have had to plan locations for 21,000 new homes and if it doesn't go through, locations for a further 5,000 new homes will have to be found. In our plan we have to have 5 years of new home locations planned but we currently only have 3.5 years worth as the numbers are increasing annually. This is being exploited by developers as if we don't have the plan in place then we have to approve their requests as we are not allowed to refuse.

Cllr Trott asked about the infrastructure for these new homes. Advised that EDDC commissioned a water cycle review which looked at sewerage and water supply. This confirmed that currently 50% of plants are either working at capacity or above. This has allowed conditions to be placed on planning as the infrastructure is not there to support all the new builds. The current reservoirs will not have enough fresh water in 5 years. A new reservoir is being built but will not be effective for 10 years.

- 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].
None required.
- 4) **To record those Present and Apologies for absence;** and to consider whether to approve any dispensations.
Stockland Cllrs present were Cllrs Derryman, Durrant, Parris, Switzer (Chair), Trott, Drew;
3 members of the public were present.
Apologies were received from Cllrs Bright, Pearse, Bernhardt and Smith (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).
Cllr Parris advised that 1 of the planning applications on the agenda to discuss was his.
- 6) **Council Meeting Minutes:** To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 27th January 2026.
The minutes were approved by the PC and signed by the Chair.
- 7) **Planning:**
Proposed conversion of former kennels/barn into ancillary accommodation; works to include a two storey side and rear extension and alteration to fenestration – Quantock, Stockland.

<https://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T9L3T2GHK2I00>

Parish Council are in support of this application with the exception of the zinc roof. It is not felt that the zinc roof is in keeping with the Blackdown Hills Neighbourhood Plan.

Proposal to reinstate historic barn with extension to form 1no dwelling, with associated works – land to the west of Stockland CofE School, Stockland.

<https://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=T7J15RGHIV400>

Parish Council will be abstaining on this application, which is a resubmission of a previous refused application. Previous concerns were raised on this application which it is not felt the applicants have addressed, including the visual impact on the churchyard caused by the glazed aspect of the house. Previous concerns will be raised again on this application.

8) **Highways, Ditches and Footpaths**

a) Footpaths update.

Juliet advised that she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She confirmed that they are walking the paths for the annual audit but have been hindered by the recent storms, and that they have been doing this as per the new guidance and anything significant has been reporting directly to DCC. DG to invite them to next month's meeting.

b) Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported; follow-up on overhanging hedges. DG contacted DP who confirmed that the letter had not been drafted or sent. Cllr Derryman to support DG with the address and information needed for her to issue the letter to the residents of the property.

Follow up emails received from the member of the public who contacted the Parish Council previously regarding the deteriorating roads outside their property due to potholes

and the status of their repairs. Initially, they had no response from David Ashford. However, yesterday they had a Devon Road Inspector out who confirmed that the worst of the potholes will be filled within a week but that some holes would not be repaired even though they were aware of the road's overall condition.

- c) Update on highways 'hotspots' in the Parish:
- i) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property) – Temple Bar Lane is now virtually impassable. Residents will be trapped soon and there is a concern that emergency vehicles would be unable to attend these properties. There are several roads that are in these conditions including Yarcombe Road and Longbridge. Cllr Connor to be contacted.
 - ii) Ditch clearance opposite Whitehayes. Resident had contacted the Parish Clerk regarding this. Cllr Trott has visited and confirmed the course of action that is being taken. Contractor will be coming out with his digger to clear. However, this route is currently being used as the diversion route whilst other roads are closed due to the water works that is being undertaken. South West Water have advised that they are currently 3 weeks behind schedule. This work will be undertaken once the road is no longer the diversion route.
 - iii) Ditch and drain between Church Cottage and Churchstyle; also stream drainage by churchyard gate. Stones that was potentially blocking the drain have been moved and it appears better. Some debris has now washed away. However, there is still further debris to be cleared. Cllr Durrant and Cllr Switzer will clear at the weekend. Requires a digger to clear the ditch which Cllr Parris will arrange.

Email received from a parishioner checking if a drainage discharge work was correct. DG to email back to advise that this would be a question for environmental health at EDDC.

The following have been identified as the current 'hotspots':

- Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane
- Venns Cottage to Short Moor (referred to as Blue Bull Street on old maps)
- Whitehayes
- Church Cottage and Churchstyle

9) **Coordination with South West Water and Devon County Council regarding diversion routes.**

Cllr Switzer to take photos of Wytch Lane and Groundhead Road to send to DG to enable her to follow up with correspondence.

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

a) Tree and shrub clearance by roadside edge of grounds, update. Cllr Pearse to provide fencing quotes at the next meeting.

There was an incident in the Parish field which will be repaired. The 3 people involved have individually sent an email apology asking how they can make the situation right. Agreed that an email will be sent to each of them accepting their apologies but requesting their help, on a date to be confirmed, with some tree/hedge clearance activities.

b) Play park update. Urgent inspection has been requested. No date yet confirmed. DG to progress.

11) **Lengthsperson:** Update on ditch clearing; any other updates. DG confirmed that the new Chardstock lengthsperson has agreed to also take on Stockland Parish. DG will email the job description to the councillors for their perusal and invite him to attend the next Parish Council meeting in March.

12) Turbaries Update:

- a) General update on Turbaries activities (Cllr Derryman).
 Next turbary meeting will be held on 4th March 2026.
 Boardwalk at the Quantock Turbaries will be finished this week.
 Feathertail end to be discussed at next weeks' meeting to see if it can be made less muddy.

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

Clerk (DC) January wages	£274.55
Clerk (DG) January wages	£268.18 (gross paid not net so needs to be adjusted in February payment)
Clerk (DG) January expenses	£26.00

2 further invoices had been submitted prior to the meeting:

Cllr Derryman expenses	£97.65
TW Purling invoice	£4999.00

The above payments were approved.

14) Information Technology;

- a) Website. Cllr Bernhardt not present to provide an update.
 b) Compliance with new Assertion 10 for the 2025/26 AGAR. DG believes that we are compliant but is attending a webinar in March which provides a full overview.#

15) Japanese Knotweed: Update. This has been handed over to DG. No updates this month.**16) Landmark tree from Devon Wildlife Trust.**

Tree has been requested. They believe that they have 2 left which includes the Bird Cherry but will confirm on Friday. Need to understand size so that collection can be arranged.

17) Charities commission registration

DG to send a letter to request guidance on how to terminate membership as this is historical and no longer required.

18) Arrange a meeting to discuss further trees

Meeting arranged for Sunday 1st March at 11am at the site.

19) Grit bins

New grit bin required for outside Primrose Cottage. DG to obtain a quote for a new bin which will then need to be agreed at the next meeting.

20) Honiton RFC Youth Section training at the Stockland Hall field:

Agreed in principle but require further information to make a final decision.

21) Items of Future Business for the next Agenda:

- Emergency plan

22) Review Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings:

Date	Item	Action	Status
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.

Cllr Trott advised that she has been contacted regarding a noise complaint. Agreed that she would advise that they need to contact the Environmental Health Officer and provide the contact details.

DG read out an email from Daniel Lazar regarding the Blackdown Hills Parish Network and their request for £25 from each Parish Council to help support this. DG to email to request attendance at the next meeting so that the Parish Council can understand what support this network offers.

Meeting closed at 10.23pm.

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