

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held in Stockland Victory Hall on Tuesday 24th March 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 raised road resurfacing concerns and wanted to query whether the matter was on the agenda. Cllr Bernhardt has emailed Cllr Connor, who hoped to attend but could not guarantee her attendance. Highways have been contacted regarding wider road condition concerns. Three days of works were completed; cost unknown, and these works are considered ineffective. Request for a face to face meeting was refused, but workshops may be offered in the future. Email forwarded to Devon Highways; awaiting response and road re-evaluation. Frustration expressed regarding lack of visible improvement despite increased pothole funding. Will continue to hold Cllr Connor accountable. She is the conduit to Devon Highways and this the route we have been advised to follow. Reports of tyre damage (£400), vehicles using verges, and ongoing water run-off. Concern raised about lack of response from Cllr Connor.

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

Cllr Brown's report:

Marlcombe town will be discussed at the next full meeting and an update will be provided at the next meeting. Development of approx. 10,000 homes planned with work expected to start in 2030. Development will be on both sides of the A30. Concerns raised about the efficiency of EDDC planning following the delays and outstanding decisions.

Cllr Levine's report:

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is taking significant time with no decision expected until end of July. Doubts have been expressed regarding its implementation and that the May elections likely to proceed. LGR has been passed on and there is no longer the same passion for this to be implemented. There are a multitude of issues arising from amalgamation of councils.

- 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), Bernhardt, Pearse;

1 member of the public was present.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Trott, Bright, Drew 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).

None advised.

- 6) **Council Meeting Minutes:** To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 24th February 2026.
The minutes were approved by the PC and signed by the Chair.
To confirm and sign the minutes of the Turbary Committee held on 3rd March 2026.
Agreed that these minutes should be approved and signed at the next Turbary Committee meeting.
- 7) **Planning:**
Proposed conversion of former kennels/barn into ancillary accommodation; works to include a None advised.
- 8) **Highways, Ditches and Footpaths**
- a) No update received.
 - b) Highways, Footways and Drainage; any potholes reported; follow-up on overhanging hedges.
Email received from owners of Castlewell apologising for completing works at their property without written permission. Advised that the ditch has been cleared to the left of the property and the question was raised as to why the right side of the property was not cleared. Contractor was looking for a culvert but was unable to locate one. A pipe could be seen from the left but is probably blocked as ditch needs to be cleared. However, this is not Parish land. Cllr Pearse will attempt to clear the ditch. Clerk to be sent an email to acknowledge and thank them for their correspondence.
 - 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) – no updates.
 - ii) Ditch clearance opposite Whitehayes – this has been completed.
 - iii) Ditch and drain between Church Cottage and Churchstyle; also stream drainage by churchyard gate – Cllr's have looked under the road but couldn't see anything significant. Cllr Parris has cleared what he was able but there could be a build-up where it is less accessible.
 - iv) Venns Cottage to Short Moor (referred to as Blue Bull Street on old maps) – this was spoken about in the public participation time.
- 9) **Coordination with South West Water and Devon County Council regarding diversion routes.**
Ambulance couldn't get through so had to turn around. There is lots of confusion being caused by the number of diversions in place. All current work has been delayed. Cllr Drew is concerned about the road closures due to a party that has been scheduled on Saturday night. The situation has escalated due to the additional works that are being undertaken due to water leaks. Stockland Tree to be updated with the expected road closures. Clerk to contact SWW and Kier for a schedule of work and road closures whilst highlighting the issue with the ambulance and stuck lorry.
Cllr Switzer still needs to take photos of Wytch Lane and Groundhead Road to send to the clerk 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.
Cllr Pearse has obtained quotations. Contractor 1 quoted £750.00 for post and rail in square wood. Contractor 2 has quoted £800 for material but requires a site visit to quote for labour. No response from Contractor 3. Advised that chestnut fencing rots quickly. Purpose of the fence is to mark boundary and is for aesthetic purposes.
The utilities building needs to be made more aesthetically pleasing and a number of suggestions were made and this is to be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

Top soil is required to level the field. Cllr Parris will provide this if the PC will provide the labour. Cllr Durrant to arrange for volunteers.

b) Play park update. Urgent inspection has been completed. Report shared with the PC. Cllr Switzer to contact the contractor to source remedial works and repairs.

11) **Lengthsperson:** Update on ditch clearing; any other updates. Clerk to arrange attendance at next meeting or arrange a meeting with Cllr's Durant and Parris at a mutually agreeable time.

12) a) General update on Turbaries activities (Cllr Derryman).

Map needs to be created for scrub clearance for Gemma Sparks – David Allen and Toby Taylor to create. Health and safety signs required to state enter at own risk. Occasional directional signs would be helpful.

13) **Finances:**

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

Clerk (DG) February wages	£763.88
Clerk (DG) February expenses	£26.00
HMRC payment January	£135.80
Stockland Victory Hall	£85.25
Stockland Victory Hall	£139.50
Service Charges February	£4.67
ICO annual payment	£47.00
Simon Meers	£528.16
Service Charges March	£4.25

The above payments were approved.

Clerk provided an update on her access to Lloyds Bank.

Previous Clerk's final hours approved and these are to be paid before the end of the financial year. Thank you card and gift to be sent.

The following additional invoices were also approved:

Stockland Victory Hall	£31.00
Stockland Victory Hall	£116.25
Parish Council Websites	£248.40
RSPB	£917.60
ROSPA	£504.00

Internal audit has been scheduled for 22nd April 2026.

PKJ Littlejohn have been appointed for the AGAR audit.

14) **Information Technology;**

a) Website. Cllr Bernhardt has had a meeting with a website designer and he advises that it would cost more than the amount in the budget. Looking at a new website that is an overview of Stockland with links to all the relevant websites. Ease of navigation is key. All Cllr's to review local Parish websites ready for discussion at the next meeting.

b) Compliance with new Assertion 10 for the 2025/26 AGAR. Clerk will share IT policy for adoption at ACM, needs to ensure that it covers WhatsApp usage.

15) **Japanese Knotweed:** Update. No update.

- 16) **Landmark tree from Devon Wildlife Trust.**
Advised that the trees left are a small leaved lime and a birch tree. Decided that we would kindly decline the offer and purchase a bird cherry tree.
- 17) **Charities commission registration**
Clerk has sent a letter to request guidance on how to terminate membership as this is historical and no longer required. No response received yet.
- 18) **Police Advocate Meeting update**
Cllr Bernhardt attended and advised that there was representation of 18 Parish Councils and that it was a very informative meeting. Advised that the current focus of theft is roof top pots, roof box tents and shed contents. These crimes are committed by organised crime groups and by the time the intel is received, they have already moved on. Cllr Bernhardt will be a member of the group and will receive regular updates from Honiton Police Station.
- 19) **Grit bins**
A 200 litre yellow grit bin has been proposed by Cllr Durrant and seconded by Cllr Pearse with all in agreement for purchase and installation at Primrose Cottage location. Cllr Durrant is happy for his address to be used for delivery.
There may be further location requests but these need to be received in writing and will be discussed and agreed based on requirement.
- 20) **Honiton RFC Youth Section training at the Stockland Hall field:**
Cllr Parris to provide an update at the next meeting.
- 21) **Proposed change to agenda and meeting minute document structures**
Clerk shared proposed agenda and meeting minute documents and these were approved for use in the next financial year.
- 22) **Items of Future Business for the next Agenda:**
- Emergency plan
 - Message in a bottle (this is a system for assisting medical teams in an emergency)
 - Annual meeting for the community
- 23) **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

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 9.53pm.