

# STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Stockland Victory Hall.

Present: Cllrs R. Switzer (Chair), J. Durrant, A. Trott, C. Bernhardt, T. Bright, P. Derryman, B. Drew, N. Parris and A. Smith (quorate).

Also present: Cllr Brown and Cllr Connor

In Attendance: Danielle Gilpin (Clerk)

There were 2 members of the public present

7.30pm	<b>The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.</b>
	<p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) No Police report received.</li><li>ii) No P3 (footpath) report received.</li><li>iii) a) Cllr. Cathy Connor’s report received in advance and read out as Cllr Connor had not yet arrived at the meeting. Copy attached to minutes.  Cllr Bernhardt advised that he had not received any contact from Cllr Connor. Now has a contact but is not allowed to visit the office. This contact has managed to contact the Highways Management Team. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) has the previous Clerk’s details for contact. Cllr Bernhardt is happy to be the point of contact for the highways. Cllr Bernhardt has confirmed that he has previously walked the roads with Cllr Connor but this has not been overly productive as she doesn’t have control. Feels like the questions asked are not being answered. Essential to build a relationship with the NHO.</li><li>b) Cllr Levine sent his apologies.</li><li>c) Cllr Brown advised that the discussion due to take place last week did not take place as Marlcombe had not been selected. He advised that support was needed. Cllr Brown confirmed that a discussion of strategic planning on Tuesday. Confirmed that the Unitary Council plans are still in the background but will not start until end of June so there will only be 10 months to plan. It is very likely that there will be elections in May next year.. There are no local elections this May.</li><li>iv) There were 2 members of the public present.</li></ul> <p>Cllr Connor arrived at 7.51pm and was asked if she would like to report anything. Cllr Connor confirmed that they had received 20,000 – 25,000 responses for the library consultation and these responses are being reviewed. Currently it is believed that no libraries will close but that they need to be used more so they are looking into making them a Community Hub. Cllr Connor advised that there is a fostering campaign in place. She advised that this is a hard job but very rewarding.</p>

Initial:

	<p>Cllr Connor to look at adding herself to the Stockland Tree distribution so that she can share further information on this.</p> <p>Cllr Trott asked Cllr Connor if there was any progress with sorting the drainage issues out along with improving the condition of the roads, particularly with the pot holes. Cllr Connor advised that most ditches were not council owned as they had in recent years been handed over to the landowners. This was agreed but stated that the ditches had been handed over in poor condition.. The landowners are now responsible for maintaining the ditches. It was advised that landowners are struggling with this as they are not able to reach the ditches from their land and are not allowed to work on the roads whilst they clear the ditches. It was advised that a document was being issued today to all Cllr's and then cascading out which should cover all aspects and explain all potential situations. Cllr Switzer asked if there will be clarity on how they prioritise the work? Cllr Connor asked if there is a road warden which was confirmed that we don't. Cllr Connor confirmed that the road workers were frustrated with the repairs as the weather impacted upon their ability to complete these effectively but the choice was either wait for the rain to stop, approximately 2 months of solid rain, or attempt a temporary fix. Cllr Drew advised that there is no seal on the pot hole repairs and that they are below surface level which is resulting in repeat fixed. Cllr Connor has requested that details of repeatedly fixed pot holes are shared with her directly.</p> <p><b>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 8.09pm.</b></p>
<b>8.09pm</b>	<b>Cllr's Brown and Connor left.</b>
<b>8.10pm</b>	<b>Meeting commences</b>
<b>26/001 i)</b>	<b>To note members of the Parish Council in attendance:</b> As listed above.
<b>26/001 ii)</b>	<b>To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received:</b> <b>(LGA 1972 s.85(1))</b> No apologies received.
<b>26/001 iii)</b>	<b>To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence:</b> No communication from Cllr Pearse.
<b>26/002</b>	<b>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</b> There were no declarations of interest at this time. Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.
<b>26/003</b>	<b>To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960:</b> None.

26/004	<p><b>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026:</b></p> <p>Resolved to approve.</p>
26/005	<p><b>To consider and, if so agreed, approve the minutes of the Finance &amp; Staffing Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026:</b></p> <p>Resolved to approve.</p>
26/006	<p><b>Planning matters to be considered:</b></p> <p><b>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:</b></p> <p>None received.</p> <p><b>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members:</b></p> <p>None received.</p> <p><b>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>c) Tree Matters:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>d) Appeals lodged / in progress:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>e) Planning correspondence received:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p> <p><b>f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p>
26/007	<p><b>Financial Matters to be considered:</b></p> <p><b>a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for March 2026:</b></p> <p>Resolved that Council payments for March 2026 (£6,430.44) to be approved.</p> <p><b>b) To receive and note RFO report for March 2026:</b></p> <p>Clerk reported March 2026.</p> <p><b>c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports:</b></p> <p>None.</p>

Initial:

	<p><b>d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority: (Financial Regulations May 20215.4.1 and Delegation Appendix).</b></p> <p>None.</p> <p><b>e) To receive and note RFO report for FY2024/25:</b></p> <p>Clerk reported year end figures.</p> <p><b>f) To review actual income and expenditure vs budgeted:</b></p> <p>Overspend reviewed by category.</p> <p><b>g) To approve and sign sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR form 3 for submission:</b></p> <p>Resolved to approve.</p> <p>Clerk read out the internal audit report (copy attached) and it was agreed that the Clerk is to look into a new bank account with a separate savings account along with a potential separate account for turbarry income and expenditure.</p> <p><b>h) To consider renewal of membership to DALC (Devon Association of Local Councils) £299.05</b></p> <p>Resolved to renew membership.</p>
	<p><b>Stockland Parish Council Business to be considered:</b></p>
<p>26/008</p>	<p><b>“Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair”</b></p> <p><b>a) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters</b></p> <p>i) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property)</p> <p>Clerk to send a follow up letter to the cottage with the overhanging hedge as this has not yet been addressed by the owners.</p> <p>ii) Ditch clearance opposite Whitehayes</p> <p>Owners of Whitehayes happier with the ditch clearance that has been completed. Need to review to see if sandbags, rubble, etc. can be removed as now finished.</p> <p>iii) Ditch and drain between Church Cottage and Churchstyle; also stream drainage by churchyard gate</p> <p>Completed so to be removed from the agenda.</p> <p>v) Venns Cottage to Short Moor (referred to as Blue Ball Street on old maps)</p> <p>No update this month. Have been advised that this is a low priority.</p> <p>b) Update on the coordination with South West Water and Devon County Council regarding diversion routes</p>

Initial:

Clerk advised that she is struggling to get updates. However, has been advised that the work should be finished in the next 2 weeks.

- c) To consider Stockland Victory Hall, car park and grounds; tree and shrub clearance by roadside edge of grounds, the proposed bird cherry tree, utilities building app and fencing options

Clearance has taken place in the last month. Cllr Parris has agreed to move any remaining wood the week before the fayre takes place.

Cllr Trott advised that the Bird Cherry tree will be a 30 litre and will cost £135.00 + VAT. Resolved to purchase.

Advised that a parishioner has raised an issue with her dog trailing grass into their house as when the grass is cut the mower does not pick up the grass. Unfortunately, this cannot be addressed by the Parish Council.

Email received from a parishioner raising a concern about the pot holes in the car park ahead of the fayre. Cllr Bright has offered to fill these holes in with concrete as a temporary fix for the event.

The utilities building will not be addressed currently. To be reviewed if any complaints received.

Grass has been seeded by 2 of the youths that caused damage to the field previously.

The Parish Council thanked all those involved in the clearing process.

Agreed to remove the old fencing before the fayre at the pre-fayre clear up. Need to ensure that the boundary is marked so that a new fence can be installed correctly.

Cllr Pearse to provide an update at the next meeting on the fencing options.

- d) To update on Japanese Knotweed

Confirmed that an invoice has been received for the work completed.

- e) To update on the Charities Commission registration situation

No update this month.

- f) To update on the grit bins

Email received from a parishioner requesting another grit bin location. Email read out to the Parish Council. Resolved to approve. Clerk to order 2 new grit bins which will be delivered to Cllr Durrant's property.

- g) To consider Honiton RFC Youth section training at the Stockland Hall field

Cllr Parris advised that he believed the training would be fortnightly. Need to make them aware that the field is used for dog walking. It is believed that the training would be on a Sunday morning. Cllr Parris to get further details.

- h) To consider a potential Motor Cross event at Rakehill Farm

	<p>Cllr Parris has been approached by a parishioner who is considering a motor cross event on his land and would like to know the Parish Council thoughts. It would be a 1 day event at a weekend, likely August or September and would become an annual event. Approximately 50 motor cross bikes. There are concerns regarding the potential noise and additional traffic. Cllr Parris to invite them to the next meeting to discuss.</p> <p>i) To consider the parishes Emergency Plan</p> <p>No update this month.</p> <p>j) To discuss Stockland playpark</p> <p>Contractor is currently working on this and it is due to be finished in the morning. Cllr Switzer will review the work and open the park by the weekend latest.</p> <p>k) To consider supporting of the “Message in a Bottle” scheme</p> <p>This item is to be removed from the agenda and raised again if interest increases.</p> <p>l) To consider the Annual Meeting for the Community</p> <p>Resolved to hold bi-annually.</p> <p>m) To discuss the current Parish Council website and the proposed upgrade</p> <p>Clerk advised that she believed that the Parish Council website was appropriate for use, that it just needed a refresh and an update, which the Clerk is happy to complete. Cllr Switzer would like to have photos of each councillor. All Parish Council Councillors to review the current website prior to the next meeting so that changes can be agreed.</p>
	<p><b>Cllr Bernhardt left the meeting at 9.30pm</b>  <b>1 member of the public left at 9.39pm</b></p>
<p><b>26/009</b></p>	<p><b>Turbaries update</b></p> <p>Cllr Switzer advised that there had been a meeting 10 days ago with South West Water and then involved others. This is regarding a pipe that is running through Shorebottom Turbary. A hole needs to be dug to relay pipes underground but they need permission to complete. Local residents have been spoken to.</p> <p>Cllr Derryman confirmed that the next Turbary meeting was next Tuesday. He advised that a map was needed which Gemma Sparks, Toby Taylor and David Allen were working on.</p> <p>Resolved to set up a Mole Avon account to make purchases easier. Cllr Trott to initiate.</p> <p>A ditch needs to be sorted at Shorebottom. Road also needs levelling so contractor to be asked to review and sort where possible.</p> <p>Netting is required for 2 sleepers at Featherlake.</p>
<p><b>26/010</b></p>	<p><b>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only:</b></p> <p>None.</p>

Initial:

26/011	<p><b>Items of future business for the next agenda</b></p> <p>Footpaths not being passable in the Shorebottom area with gates being tied up. P3 grant money</p>
26/012	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>The next Meeting of Stockland Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm. This will also be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.</p>
26/013	<p><b>"It is proposed by the Chair that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Local Government Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Members to agree upon matters to be discussed in confidential session, as per agenda item 26/003 above."</b></p> <p>RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.</p>
26/014	<p><b>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:</b></p> <p>None advised.</p>
	<p><b>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.57pm</b></p>

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Stockland Victory Hall.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

(Chair)

Initial: