# STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Stockland Victory Hall.**

Present: Cllr R Switzer (Chair), J. Durrant, C. Bernhardt, A. Trott, A. Smith, R. Pearse, B, Drew and R. Parris (quorate).

Also present: Cllr Levine.

In Attendance: Danielle Gilpin (Clerk)

There were 4 members of the public present

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| **7.33pm** | **The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.** |
| **AM/26/001** | **Election of Chair**<br>a) Invite nominations and elect a Chair for the year.<br>Cllr Switzer was nominated by Cllr Drew and seconded by Cllr Pearse. All approved.<br>b) Receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Chair.<br>Cllr Switzer signed the Declaration. |
| **AM/26/002** | **Election of Vice Chair**<br>Cllr Durrant was nominated by Cllr Parris and seconded by Cllr Trott. Cllr Bernhardt proposed but declined to be considered. All approved Cllr Durrant. Cllr Durrant signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Offer. |
| **AM/26/003** | **Confirm appointment of signatories for authorising bank payments.**<br>The following were approved:<br>Cllr Richard Switzer<br>Cllr James Durrant<br>Cllr Peter Derryman<br>Damian Clay – request to remove has been initiated<br>RFO Danielle Gilpin – request to become key contact and admin initiated<br><br>Resolved to remove Damian Clay (already in process), and make RFO Danielle Gilpin key contact and admin for the bank accounts.<br><br>**Propose to move to Unity Trust Bank**<br>Resolved for the Clerk to apply for a new bank account with Unity Trust. |
| **AM/26/004** | **Appointment to Committees and election of Chairs;**<br>a) Finance and Staff Committee<br>Cllr Durrant proposed by Cllr Trott and seconded by Cllr Bernhardt, all approved, for the position of Chair. Resolved for same Cllr's as last year to remain on committee.<br>b) Turbaries Management Committee<br>Cllr Derryman proposed by Cllr Trott and seconded by Cllr Smith, all approved, for the position of Chair. Resolved for same Cllr's as last year to remain on committee. |

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| **AM/26/005** | **Appointments to Honorary Roles**<br>a) DALC Representative<br>Cllr Switzer was nominated by Cllr Durrant and seconded by Cllr Parris, all approved.<br>b) Honorary P3 Footpath Warden<br>Clerk to write to current role holder to ask if they are happy to continue.<br>c) Honorary Tree Warden<br>Turbary Committee members to be asked if there is any interest in holding this role.<br>d) Honorary Parish Naturalist<br>Turbary Committee members to be asked if there is any interest in holding this role. |
| **AM/26/006 i)** | **To note members of the Parish Council in attendance:**<br>As listed above. |
| **AM/26/006 ii)** | **To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1))**<br>Apologies received from Cllr Derryman. |
| **AM/26/006 iii)** | **To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence:**<br>No communication from Cllr Bright. |
| **AM/26/007** | **Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:**<br>There were no declarations of interest at this time.<br>Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent. |
| | **Public Forum**<br>i) No Police report received.<br>ii) No P3 (footpath) report received.<br>iii) Cllr Levine apologised on behalf of Cllr Brown. Cllr Levine reported that work continues on the Local Government Reorganisation but no one really knows what this means. The 2 MP's that were running this have resigned from post so it is all up in the air with everyone feeling frustrated.<br>iv) There were 4 members of the public present.<br>1 member of the public stated that if more parishioners reported pot holes that there would be more chance of these holes being filled in, as suggested by Cllr Cathy Connor. Cllr Smith has advised that duplicating pot hole reports just increases the admin for Devon County Council. Need to ask people to see if the pot hole has already been reported and add to this report rather than duplicate. Advise on this along with a link to be put in the Stockland Tree. |
| **8.01pm** | **Cllr Levine left the meeting.** |

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| **AM/26/008** | **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:**<br>None. |
| **AM/26/009** | **To review minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held 27th May 2025 as approved and adopted on 24th June 2026.**<br><br>Minutes reviewed. |
| **AM/26/010** | **To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held on 28th April 2026:**<br><br>Approved. |
| **AM/26/011** | **To consider payment of Chair's allowance for financial year 2026/27**<br><br>Unanimously resolved that the Chair would not claim any allowance for 2026/27. |
| **AM/26/012** | **To consider payments of Member's Allowances for financial year 2026/27**<br><br>Unanimously resolved that Councillors would not claim Member's Allowance for the financial year 2026/27. |
| **AM/26/012** | **To consider the Internal Audit report received**<br><br>Reviewed. |
| **AM/26/013** | **To consider the date for publication of the Notice Period for Exercise of Public Rights for financial period 2025/26**<br><br>Dates agreed as Monday 29th June to 7th August 2026 inclusive. |
| **AM/26/014** | **Annual Review and Adoption of Chardstock Parish Council Policies and Procedures:**<br><br>a) Standing Orders<br>Resolved to re-adopt the current Standing Orders with 1 minor amendment – remove the word "model".<br>b) Financial Regulations<br>Resolved to re-adopt the current Financial Regulations with no amendments.<br>c) To adopt Council's Code of Conduct Policy for 2026/27<br>Resolved to adopt the Council's Code of Conduct Policy with no amendments from last year.<br>d) To adopt Council's IT Policy for 2026/27<br>Reviewed and resolved to adopt the Council's IT Policy and adopt effective today. |

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| **AM/26/015** | **Planning matters to be considered:**<br><br>**a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:**<br><br>None received.<br><br>**a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members:**<br><br>None advised.<br><br>**b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA:**<br><br>None advised.<br><br>**c) Tree Matters:**<br><br>None received.<br><br>**d) Appeals lodged / in progress:**<br><br>None advised.<br><br>**e) Planning correspondence received:**<br><br>None advised.<br><br>**f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC:**<br><br>None advised. |
| **AM/26/016** | **Financial Matters to be considered:**<br><br>**a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for April 2026:**<br><br>Resolved that Council payments for April 2026 (£2,724.54) to be approved.<br><br>**b) To receive and note RFO report for April 2026:**<br><br>Clerk reported April 2026 figures.<br><br>**c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports:**<br><br>HMRC payment issue due to non-payment of employer national insurance over a period of time. All approved to clear this outstanding amount.<br><br>**d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority: (Financial Regulations May 20215.4.1 and Delegation Appendix).**<br><br>None. |

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| | **e) Resolution: That Stockland Parish Council has fulfilled, and met, the requirements as required under the Transparency Code regulations for smaller local authorities.**<br><br>Resolved unanimously.<br><br>**f) Resolution: That Stockland Parish Council will continue to publish all information as required under the relevant regulations for smaller local authorities**<br>**Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015**<br><br>Resolved unanimously. |
| | **Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:** |
| **M/26/017** | **"Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair"**<br><br>**a) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters:**<br><br>Still some bad pot holes that need to be addressed.<br><br>i) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property):<br><br>No updates.<br><br>ii) Ditch clearance opposite Whitehayes:<br><br>Complete so action can be removed from the agenda.<br><br>Cllr Trott to ask about pipework as the road is quite restricted as a result, and ask for sandbags, etc. to be removed.<br><br>iii) Venns Cottage to Short Moor (referred to as Blue Ball Street on old maps):<br><br>No updates.<br><br>iv) Shorebottom paths not being passable and gates being tied up:<br><br>Cllr Pearse to address this week.<br><br>Member of the public raised an issue regarding a pathway being blocked by a vehicle and barbed wire. |
| **8.35pm** | **1 member of the public left the meeting** |
| | **b) Update on the coordination with South West Water and Devon County Council regarding diversion routes:**<br><br>Clerk to chase Cllr Connor for the document regarding pot hole definition, etc. |

**c) To consider Stockland Victory Hall, car park and grounds; the proposed bird cherry tree and fencing options:**

Cllr Bright put concrete in pot holes in the car park in advance of the fair. Need to understand where the pipes under the car park go. Cllr Switzer to get quotes for sorting out the pipework and Cllr Smith to get quotes for tarmacking and concrete options for the car park. Request for quote forms to be used to ensure that all contractors are quoting on the same work. Cllr Drew to provide details of previously used contractors.

Bird cherry tree has been ordered but delivery to be changed to Cllr Trott's property. The tree stump to be removed, Cllr Parris to arrange for it to be dug out and once the soil acidity has been checked, the bird cherry tree is to be planted. Cllr Trott requested a water bag to be purchased by the council to support with ensuring the bird cherry tree establishes itself. All approved.

3 quotes have been requested for the fencing. Materials are to be supplied by the council at approximately £380 plus VAT. Quotes for labour are:

1 - £750.00
2 - £1500.00
3 – Declined to quote

Cllr Pearse to progress with quote 1.

**d) To update on Japanese knotweed:**

We are on a 5 year plan and it is looking good at the moment.

An email has been received by a member of the public regarding a patch of Japanese knotweed on Churchstyle Lane. It is believed that this is on Devon County Council land but they have contested it stating that it is on private land. Cllr Smith will contact the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) supplying what three words so that we can identify ownership as if not dealt with effectively and promptly it will spread. Parish council action to be determined at the next meeting.

**e) To update on the Charities Commission registration situation:**

No update.

**f) To update on the grit bins:**

Agreed to place the order in the Autumn.

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

Advised that it would be an a rotational basis over the winter period. They would stop training if there was damage to the pitch. It would be a mid-week evening 6-7pm, once a week and they would bring their own flood lights. They are identifying 5 sites to ensure rotation. Their insurance covers this. There would be a maximum of 60 children playing and advised that children do not churn up the field in the same way that adults do. No clubhouse

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| | facilities would be needed. They would be able to provide notice of dates and times to share with parishioners if approved. It would be starting in September 2027. All approved.<br><br>**h) To consider a potential Motor Cross event at Rakehill Farm:**<br><br>Organiser was invited but, unfortunately, was unable to attend due to work. Parish Council have determined that this is outside of their remit. Cllr Trott will comment on the Facebook post and advise that the Parish Council cannot do anything prior to the event and if there is an issue at the time, it would be appropriate for Environmental Health to be contacted.<br><br>**i) To consider the parishes Emergency Plan:**<br><br>No update.<br><br>**j) To discuss Stockland play park:**<br><br>The gate needs fixing.<br><br>**k) To approve the New Clerks' Finance training for the Parish Clerk:**<br><br>Approved.<br><br>**l) To discuss the current Parish Council website and the proposed upgrade:**<br><br>Agreed to let the Clerk update the website and review going forward. |
| **9.11pm** | **1 member of the public left the meeting** |
| **AM/26/018** | **Turbaries Update:**<br><br>Ponies are due imminently. Contractor has not had time to look at the track yet. Fencing being checked and ragwork being completed by a group of volunteers. |
| **9.18pm** | **2 members of the public left the meeting** |
| **AM/26/019** | **Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only:**<br><br>None. |
| **AM/26/020** | **Date of next meeting:**<br>The next Meeting of Stockland Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 7.30pm. |
| **AM/26/021** | **"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** |

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| | **upon matters to be discussed in confidential session, as per agenda item AM/26/008 above.".**<br>RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items. |
| **AM/26/022** | **Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:**<br>None advised. |
| | **With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm** |

**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Stockland Victory Hall.**

Signed: Richard Smith Date: ~~10th~~ 23rd June 2026 (Chair)

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