

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2024 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Jakes (Vice Chairman), G Cowie, M Farwell, J Jakes, D Meaden, K Yarwood.

IN ATTENDANCE: J Fairman (Clerk), Dorset Cllr Sherry Jespersen, 0 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr P Partridge.

Democratic Period:

- 1. Declarations of Interest:** None received.
- 2. To consider matters arising from the November Minutes:** None raised.
- 3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th November were approved and signed.
- 4. To consider development control matters:**
 - It was reported that Stourpaine Lodge, (The Old Vicarage) has been sold and will be converted into 6 flats.
- 5. Democratic period:**
 - No matters were raised in person at the meeting.
 - There had been correspondence received from a parishioner regarding Wessex Internet carrying out work in Bottom Road and blocking access. Clerk to write to Wessex Internet.
- 6. Dorset Councillor Report:**
 - Cllr Jespersen reported DC budget for 2024-2025 will now be published and go through the scrutinization process. The spend next year will be £376 million, an increase of 8% on this year, which will result in a 5% increase in Council Tax.
 - Cllr Jespersen assured the PC that front line services will be protected.
 - Cllr Jespersen requested that any potholes arising from the recent weather condition to be reported on the DC website.
 - There had been staff shortages during the Christmas Period which meant that Dorset Waste Partnership had not collected all bins at the same time but will catch up over the next week.
 - From the 01/01/24 – there will no longer be a charge for household depositing DIY rubbish at the dump, there will only be 4 loads permitted per household per month, and a time slot will need to be booked so that this may be monitored.
- 7. Reports:**
 - a) Neighbourhood Watch:** -No current update.
 - b) Flood Prevention:**

The following report had been received from Derek Gardiner:

 - The flood "rescue" equipment was checked over in October 2023 and all found to be in good working order.
 - The annual review of the Stourpaine Flood Risk Assessment was completed in mid-December 2023.
 - So far this winter, six flood warnings have been issued covering the rivers Stour and Iwerne at Stourpaine

-In comparison with previous years, this is the highest number of warnings that we have had since 2015 (15/16 - 3, 16/17 - 1, 17/18 - 0, 18/19 - 1, 19/20 - 1, 20/21 - 0, 21/22-2).

-Since 2013, we have not recorded the Iwerne reaching a level where it has topped the bridge at Havelins. Local observers are of the opinion that the work done to replace the old Victorian brick culverts with concrete culverts at the Durweston "causeway" has enabled the Stour to flow more rapidly through these culverts which has reduced the risk of flooding in Havelins.

-Throughout this winter, the level of the Iwerne at Havelins "bridge", has been monitored often throughout the night. This has enabled records of the height of the Stour at Hammoon and the Iwerne at Havelins to be kept which helps to assess the risk of flooding when flood warnings have been issued.

-The Hydro-Logic monitor battery ran out in December 2022. The EA agreed to move the monitor at Manor Road to replace the Hydro-Logic monitor at Havelins which will enable accurate monitoring of the river Iwerne level to be undertaken. Despite regular prompting, the work has still to be done - staff shortages being the reason for the delay!

-A small number of groundwater warnings have been issued over the years which mainly affect the Hod Hill end of Manor Road. Since Mr Teversham cleared part of the Iwerne running through his fields, the impact on Manor Road has been negligible.

e) Highways: No current update.

d) Rights of Way/Footpaths/ Trailway:

-The Stile at the bottom of Rolands Road has been replaced with a gate.

e) Play Areas:

-The recent play area report highlighted areas that need attention.

-Safety and cleaning issues were reported – SPC looking into getting a quote for some of the more urgent matters to be carried out. Also, to look at getting a working party together to clean and maintain the equipment a couple of times per year.

f) Village Hall:

-Clerk to contact the Village Hall Committee to request to receive a copy of the Minutes from their meetings to be sent to SPC.

8. Finances:

The following payments were approved: Clerks wage/PAYE at agreed rate/Village Hall £22.00/ T Thorne Bus stop cleaning £87.50, Cheap Printing new Banner for Playing Field £48.00 (reimburse Cllr Partridge, Replacement defibrillator Pads £228.00.

-SPC to make enquiries to establish who will take over Auditing the PC books in April.

9. Other Matters:

-SPC to discuss with other groups in the village regarding putting a flyer out looking for volunteers.

-SPC will be looking to fill 2 spaces on the Parish Council in May. Any villagers interested should email the Clerk: clerk@stourpaine.gov.uk further information will be placed on notice boards.

10. Item for the next Agenda.

Election:

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Date:

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Chairman of the Parish Council.