

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 14th January 2025 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs P Partridge (Chairman), G Cowie, M Farwell, J Jakes, D Meaden. A Woodland.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, 3 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

1. Declarations of Interest: None received

2. To consider matters arising from the November Minutes. None raised.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2024. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Democratic Period:

Scott Norman and Blu, reported on the flood team in general and the recent floods we have had. The village experienced serious flooding approx..10 years ago and also 2 years after. The Fire brigade was unable to assist as we did not have a boat. There is a high risk of falling or tripping on displaced manhole covers should you walk along flooded areas. With this information in mind a Village flood team was formed. Derek Gardiner has recently left the village, so he handed over the reigns of the flood team to Scott Norman, who is assisted by Blu and more recently have been joined by Rick Pearce.

With flood warnings being received before Christmas the flood team had carried out exercises and knocked on all the doors in Havelins to check that they had installed the airtight panel to the doors that had been issued, all installed these panels in anticipation of flooding apart from 2 houses which sadly were most affected by the recent flooding with damage to their property and furniture.

The gauge which monitors the water has been relocated and positioned before you get into Drapers Field. Scott expressed his thanks to SPC for the 2 new flood warning signs that had been purchased.

The recent snowfall had highlighted the fact that there currently is not a designated snow warden in the village. Scott Norman and Blu had gritted the bottom end of the village. John Bletcher had conducted an audit of the grit bins and had advised Cllr Jakes of the bins that needed to be restocked. It came to light that 2 of the bins are not included on DC website. The Clerk and Cllr Jakes had reported this to DC. It was agreed that Cllr Jakes will audit the grit bins in August to ensure that they are refilled in time for winter. Cllr Jespersen suggested that DC could send an officer to the village to discuss setting up a Community Resilience Plan, this will be looked at in the future, however the Chairman did stress that such a plan would be reliant on volunteers coming forward and we are currently struggling to find volunteers.

5. Matters arising: None raised.

6. Dorset Councillor Report:

Cllr Jespersen reported that DC budget setting process is being finalised, many government grants have been discontinued, including the Rural Services Grant. This along with the increase in the living wage and the change in NI contributions for employers will mean that DC will have to look at restructuring and making some redundancies over the coming years. Also will be using AI and Bots to streamline online services.

-Council tax will increase to 5%

-In future all councils will become unitary, new authorities will be formed as a layer above the current councils and will be made up of areas of over 100,000 residents and will be headed by a mayor. This new layer of council will be strategic authorities making decisions such as rail network links/economic development, it is proposed that our authority will cover Wiltshire/Dorset and Somerset. Cllr Jespersen stressed that this is not a merger of councils, DC will remain as it is.

7. To consider development control matters:

-P/FUL/2022/06325 Planning Appeal- Decision: Appeal Dismissed: There were 2 main issues considered, one being location for housing having particular regard to local planning policies and the accessibility of services and facilities as it is outside of the defined development boundary and that local needs have not been demonstrated. Secondly the effect of the proposed development on the significance of archaeological remains in the area as a non-designated heritage asset given its proximity to the Hillforts of Hod Hill and Hambledon Hill.

8. Reports:

a. Neighbourhood Watch:

-Policing Team are holding an open forum at the Co-op in Shillingstone on 17/01/2025.

-Policing Team will be holding an open forum on 6th March between 10-11 am in the Village Hall, residents are invited to come along and ask any questions they may have.

b. Village Hall:

-Warm hub in the Village Hall on a Tuesday have raised over £400, this is regularly attended weekly by 8-10 people and runs in line with the outreach post office. Residents are encouraged to use the post office facility in the VH as is under threat of being discontinued when the contract comes up for renewal in April.

c. Rights of Way/Footpaths/ Trailway: No current update.

d. Play Areas: Both play areas are looking good.

-The Annual Play Inspection report showed that both play areas are considered low-risk. Some minor issues were highlighted which will be addressed over the next few months.

-The hedging at the Grace Upward play area needs to be cut back and brambles removed, the Chairman to approach to Iwerne Valley Lawn to see if they will carry out this work.

-The wooden trail play equipment and the swing set in Kidszone are nearing the end of their life. The Chairman to obtain quotes from Playdale, Sovereign and Sutcliffe with a view to replacing these items.

e. Highways:

-The fingerpost ref: 1271835 is broken and has been reported to DC.

-There are several bad potholes particularly towards Durweston, all were reminded to report any potholes on the DC website.

f, Flood: See Democratic Period Item 4. above.

9. Finance:

a. SPC agreed to make following payments:

-The finance report has been circulated to Cllrs and all payments were approved.

-Clerk (at agreed rate), HMRC Clerk's PAYE, T Thorne Bus stop clean £87.50, DC Election charges £50.00

The Clerk informed that Mr G Gilding will no longer be carrying out the SID deployment. Dorset Council will be taking over the deployment of the SID as well as carrying out regular maintenance.

All payments were unanimously approved.

10. Other Matters:

-Clerk to update the contact information on the Noticeboard.

Date of next meeting: 11th February 2025.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Date:

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Chairman, Stourpaine Parish Council.