

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 8th July 2025 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 2 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr M Farwell.

1. To declare any declarations of Interest: None Received.
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2025: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. To consider any matters arising from the June minutes: None raised
4. The Democratic Period:
 - A resident reported that a horsebox is blocking the Jubilee Way at the bottom of Bottom Road this is to be reported on the DC website.
 - The Parsons and Joyce development next to Tranquil Cottage: The Environment Agency have been digging trenches which have now been reinstated, Cllr Jespersen stated that this could be investigations before a planning application is put in, however until there is an application there is nothing to be done.
 - Following the recent Housing Needs Survey, which was delivered to every house in the Village, the PC had requested that Cllr Jespersen clarify whether this survey was conducted with DC Planning Department's knowledge as it was asking personal questions, and the format and quality of the design of the document was not of the expected standard that would be produced by DC. In addition the document stated that replies could be sent to Creative Contracts, who are a developing company which an interest to build in the village. SPC wanted to establish who would have access to the data supplied. Cllr Jespersen had spoken with DC who had confirmed that they were aware of the survey and its contents and had allowed Creative Contracts to host the survey, which is why the appearance of the document was not to the usual DC standard.
 - SPS stated that they wished Cllr Jespersen to go back to DC and express their disappointment in how poorly this survey had been handled, the probing questions on the survey did not match an enquiry into housing needs and many villagers have expressed that they were uncomfortable with it. SPC did not feel that the details of the planning application should have been attached to the survey. Cllr Jespersen confirmed that she would write again to DC Planning and convey the depth of feeling the PC has about the lack of transparency and clarity of the survey.
5. Dorset Councillor Report:
 - Cllr Jespersen reported that the plans to introduce a booking system for the household recycling centre in Blandford, has been put on hold after a public outcry due to concerns that fly tipping would increase. DC have now decided that they hold a public consultation At present they still will be installing the booking system at Shaftesbury.
 - DC have decided not to close the Blandford Day Care Centre – but will review its future use.
 - The funding for Neighbourhood Plans has been withdrawn by the Department for Housing and Local Government, their view is that in future the sector should fund these themselves. This is not feasible for small villages and DC does not have the funds to assist with this.
 - Consultation for the draft Dorset Local Plan is due to start on 18th August, the initial consultation will be looking at proposed local sites and site that have been put forward by landowners. Any objections can only be made on planning grounds, Cllr Jespersen expressed that it is important for SPC to engage with this consultation.
6. Officers Reports:
 - a. Neighbourhood Watch: No current update.
 - b. Village Hall: The Chairman had spoken with Peter and Christy Winchcombe who are actively involved with the VH and said they would keep SPC up to date with events.

- c. Development Control Matters: None raised.
- d. Trailway and Rights of Way: No current update.
- e. Play Areas: New play equipment being installed in KidZone on 10/07/2025, Sovereign have delivered Heras fencing and a container, they have been given access to water from the VH for the duration of the work, which is anticipated to take a week.
 - The Grace Upward play area is looking good the grass has been cut and is being well maintained
- f. -Flood prevention: The Chairman had a met with Rick Pearce who will be writing to DC asking what their maintenance policy is for the drains and gullies in Havelins. Plus they wish to enquire about the legality of them closing the roads when there is a flood. Cllr Jespersen request that she is copied into the correspondence.
- g. Highways:
 - There is a planned road closure 16th-22nd July between 9am-4pm, from Durweston Bridge towards Stourpaine up to Bushes Road.
- 7. Finance:
 - The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for June 2025.
 - The following payments were approved by SPC.
 - Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, (July and August).
 - Bank Charges £4.25 (x2) July and August.
 - Summer scheme £300
 - Bus stop clean T Thorne £87.50
 - Vision ICT |Website hosting £24.00
 - Defibrillator pads £108.00 Refund to the Chairman
 - * The installation of the new play equipment in Kidzone will be completed before the September meeting, before which the balance will be due. On completion of the work the balance to be paid, £15,932.50 will be paid via BACS. SPC approve this payment.
- 8. Any other business
 - 20mph scheme – Clerk to speak to speed team and stress that we want us to go ahead and with all roads except the A350. The speed team will carry out surveys in the village.

Date of next meeting: 2nd September 2025, 7pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm

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Chairman, Stourpaine Parish Council.