

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 4 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr G Cowie

1. To declare any declarations of Interest: None Received.
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2025: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. To consider any matters arising from the September minutes:

The Dorset Local Plan Consultation – PC liaised after having attended the meeting by Cllr Sherry Jespersen. The main issue for Stourpaine was that they had been listed as a Tier 3 village, this was challenged in our response to the consultation as Stourpaine does not meet the criteria to be classified as a Tier 3 village as it does not have a shop, school, and employment opportunities. The Clerk has submitted the PC's response. Dorset Council has now extended the deadline to respond to 31st October, as there has been a great number of responses which has slowed down the website. SPC urges all villagers to respond to the Dorset Local Plan Consultation on DC's website and search for Dorset is Changing.

-Following the pop-up café in the village hall raising funds for Cancer Research, there have been further donations taking the amount raised to over £1,000.

4. The Democratic Period:

-A couple of new residents were present who had purchased land on the trailway which had been auctioned in July this year, they wanted to explain what they were doing with the land as they had been approached by some residents. They have been carrying out some forestry work as there had been some Ash trees removed, due to Ash Die Back, and brambles removed before tree thinning could be carried out, the Ash trees will be replaced. The Health and Safety signage had been removed a couple of times, and the gate has been locked as there are two ponies being kept there, one of which is tame, the other is a rescue pony and is becoming tamer as time goes on. The new landowners had concerns about flooding and how stable the riverbank is, they wanted the contact details of the Flood Officer Rick Pearse, which the Chairman gave them, and thanked them for attending the meeting to keep the PC informed.

-Update on the drains, they have been done, not 100% one of the pipes dropped. Decided to put a return valve on the end of the pipe.

-Another resident advised that some work had been carried out by DC on the drainage in Havelins and had installed a return valve on the end of the pipes, we await to see if this has been effective.

-A resident requested an update on the 20mph scheme, the PC confirmed that they had instructed DC to carry out the necessary surveys in the village.

-No further information had been received regarding the planning application at Bottom Road.

5. Dorset Council Officer Report

-Cllr Jespersen encouraged everyone to respond to the consultation and the Transport consultation as the deadline had been extended.

-Cllr Jespersen reported that work at Dinah's Hollow would commence early next year, which would mean that the C13 would be closed for 7 months. Independent advice acquired by DC had confirmed that if the work is not carried out there would be a danger to life.

There has been opposition to the closure of the C13 as will mean that all traffic will be displaced mostly to the A350. There is a meeting to be held on 20th October 11am Melbury Abbas

Village Hall for Parish Councillors, at which there will be a presentation by DC Highways showing what the plans are and asking where the problem areas might be. There will be a considerable amount of displaced traffic, some of which will find short cuts through villages, which will be difficult to avoid. Cllr Jespersen raised her concern that Stepleton Bends may be a particular area for concern potentially, with HGVs attempting to pass each other. Cllr Jakes mentioned that there is also a pinch point at junction with Shaston Road, which would create difficulties, and enquired whether new signage would be erected to warn drivers that there may be delays? Cllr Jespersen stated that there would be a meeting held after the road had been closed 3-4 months to discuss any issues and requested that the PC monitor the verges/ collision points along their stretch of the A350 during the road closure. The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending the meeting on the 20th at Melbury Abbas VH.

6. To discuss any development control matters: None raised.
7. **Officers Reports:**
 - a. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
 - We have been advised that the Police front counter services at Poole, Bridport, Sherborne and Gillingham, the public can now access three alternative locations, Bournemouth, Blandford and Weymouth, opening times can be found on the Dorset Police website. Always call 999 if there is a danger to life or there is a crime in progress, otherwise a form on their website can be filled in or you can call 101 in non-urgent situations.
 - b. **Village Hall:** The white lining in the car park needs to be repainted, Clerk to contact DC Highways.
 - c. **Highways:** Clerk to contact DC Highways to remind them that the white lining in Havelins, the junction at junction at Manor Road/ Trailway and car park need to be repainted.
 - d. **To consider development control matters:** None raised.
 - e. **Trailway and Rights of Way:**
 - The PC had received an email from Bushes Farm raising concerns for the safety of Horse riders and cyclist attempting to access the trailway. There is a safety issue with riders using Bushes road to access the trailway, and even if they came along Bottom Road, they would have to cross the busy A350. The matter of riders accessing the trailway via Bushes Road had been raised previously by the PC, and DC Rangers had confirmed that they could not make this route any safer. The PC suggested that it would be safer to access the trailway along the Jubilee stretch of the trailway and through Manor France Farm, however this pathway is currently a permitted path with no horses allowed. The PC suggested that the resident concerned raise this issue directly with the landowner and request a change of use of the permitted path to a bridleway, this is not something that the PC could do.
 - Cllr Jakes reported that despite previously being reported to DC, the horsebox/ trailer is still blocking the footpath to the trailway. This matter to be reported again to DC, with photographs.
 - f. **-Play Areas:**
 - The Chairman reported that the contractor who cuts the grass in Kidzone and Grace Upward play areas has complained that dogs are being taken into the play areas and fouling. SPC wish to remind all residents that dogs are not permitted in the play areas. Clerk to make a poster.
 - e. **-Flood prevention:**
 - We have 2 vacancies for the flood Warden – Rick Pearse looking into this.

7. **Finance:**

The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for September 2025.

The following payments were approved by SPC.

- Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, (September)
- Bank Charges £4.25/ Iwerne Grass Cutting £348.00/ T Thorne Bus stop Clean £87.50/Village Hall Hire £49.00/Royal British Legion Wreath £20.00
- The Chairman is to purchase some paediatric defibrillator pads.

-The Clerk reminded the PC that the budget process is about to commence and requested that the PC advise her of any projects that will need to be included in the 2026-2027 budget.

8. Any other business

- The Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Tommy Memorial on 11th November, Scott Norman to deliver the Ode of Remembrance, Mike Warren to deliver the list of names and Judith Jakes to deliver the prayer. We request that those wishing to attend meet at the Tommy Memorial at 10.45am.
- The Gardening Club will be carrying out a tidy up around the Tommy Memorial prior to the Remembrance service.
- The Remembrance Church Service will be held on Sunday 9th November at 6.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 11th November 2025, 7pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.24pm

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Chairman, Stourpaine Parish Council.