

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 13th January 2026 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr D Meaden.

1. To declare any declarations of Interest: None Received.
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
 - Co-option of Cllr: The PC approved and co-opted Scott Norman onto the Parish Council. Cllr Norman signed his acceptance of Office. Scott is to act as the liaison officer between the PC and the Village Hall Committee.
4. **The Democratic Period:**
 - It was reported that there is still a trailer parked at the entrance to the footpath at Bottom Rd, PC to contact Land Registry to establish who has ownership of the land.
 - DC had confirmed that the recent fly tipping was on private land therefore they could not remove it. The Chairman to see if there is anyone living in the caravan situated there.
5. **Dorset Council Officer Report**
 - The C13, Shaftesbury Road is closed for 1 year for subsidence work to be completed at Dinah's Hollow. Speed restrictions have been implemented at Stepleton Bends. Cllr Jespersen will be monitoring the impact that this closure will have on surrounding roads and regular meetings will be held to discuss this. A dedicated email address has been assigned for comments to be made regarding the impact of this closure: Dinahs.hollow@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. Cllr Jespersen requested that she is made aware of any damage to Durweston Bridge during this period.
 - The DC proposed budget will be put before the full council in February. Council tax will be increasing by 4.9%.
 - DC gritters have been out gritting the road and will continue to do so during any cold snaps.
 - Cllr Jespersen urged everyone to report any new potholes that may appear on the DC website.
 - The A350 was resurfaced recently but appears to be breaking up in some areas in Stourpaine.
6. **Officers Reports:**
 - a. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
 - The Neighbourhood watch has a new strategy taking it through to 2030, 2025 National Crime Survey indicated that 43% of respondents felt that crime levels had increased.
 - Police contact points are to be held Friday 16th January at M&S Blandford 10-11am
 - The Corn Exchange, 27th January 10am-12pm, in conjunction with the Wellness Clinic.
 - Grit Bins, SPC wished to express their thanks to John Bletcher for checking the grit bins, 2 in Hod view were low and one on Manor Rd and Shaston Rd need replenishing. DC Highways said they were not aware of the bin on Shaston Rd, as it is on an unadopted road they would not be refilling the bin. SPC will pay for this bin to be filled.
 - b. **Village Hall:**
 - The VH Committee has changed since the recent AGM, they are looking at funds as the current income levels are not covering the required repairs and maintenance costs.
 - The new Committee will be meeting before the end of the month to discuss fund raising initiatives. There is a lot of work needed to be done to the VH as well as the pavilion, Cllr Norman will report back with further information at the next meeting.

c. **Highways:**

-SPC had requested that DC repaint the Road Markings in Manor Rd, the response received stated that the road markings are not currently within intervention levels and they would monitor the situation.

-The Chairman had met with Peter Mole who is a Councillor for Fontmell Magna PC and also a member of the speed watch group. He was concerned with speeding on the A350 through FM, FMPC had applied for a 20mph speed limit. The Chairman confirmed that our 20mph application had not included the A350, as we had been advised that this would not be accepted. We will follow FM's application progress with interest.

d. **To consider development control matters:**

-P/FUL/2022/02944: Land at Bottom Road: Erect 9 affordable dwellings with parking. Form vehicular access and carry out Highways works. This application is still under consideration by DC planning officers, DC Highways have not raised objections, but alongside ours, the Cranborne Chase National Landscapes, Natural England have raised objections or requested further information.

-P/HOU/2025/06389 & P/LBC/2025/06390: The Old Thatch Havelins: This application was approved on 9th January after negotiations with DC Conservation officer regarding the cladding. Permission has been granted subject to further information regarding the windows, doors, cladding and render. It has been confirmed that the excavations in the garden were to improve drainage.

-Building work has started behind 3 Hod View, to build a 2 bedroomed detached property, there will be a driveway and parking for 2 cars.

e. **Trailway and Rights of Way:**

-Inform the Rangers the kissing gate that comes from the trailway onto the bushes Rd below the allotments path has rotted, a villager has made a temporary fix and tied it. The Clerk to contact the DC Ranger.

f. **-Play Areas:**

-The recent Play Inspection at the Grace Upward play area identified a fault in the crossbeam on the climbing frame Cllr Farwell had a look contacted Hags play, took pictures serial number HAGS have a gang which carries out repairs, they said that they would quote for it but this has not been received. Another possibility would be for us to purchase a pole and have it professionally fit it.

-Had an inspection by Sovereign, when we purchased equipment, with it was an inspection of the play equipment we believed it was to check their work. 11 December they conducted the inspection and the other equipment, Play equipment all good.

-Grace Upward equipment is getting covered by algae caused by the trees and needs to be cleaned, next meeting Cllr Farwell bring photos, it was suggested that the height of the hedge be lowered and cut back to allow more sunlight onto the equipment. To be added to the February Agenda.

g **-Flood Prevention:** The Flood Warden Rick Pearse had submitted a draft letter to the PC, which was proposing to send to the Environment Agency. The content was discussed and it was decided that it needed to be reconsidered, some of the content would not be relevant to the EA and that it needed to be considered at a more local level. The Chairman to discuss further with Mr Pearse.

7. **Finance:**

The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for December 2025.

The following payments were approved by SPC.

-Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, Bank Charges £4.25, Viking Printer Ink £113.98 /Bus stop Clean £87.50/Land Registry £60.00

-The Clerk has proposed the budget remains at £17,660.00. SPC Voted and approved the budget for 26-27, the Clerk to send the precept form to DC.

-The VH Committee to obtain quotes for the white lining of the VH car park/ Sit on mower/
new signage for the rules and regulations. Cllr Norman to advise when costings for these
matters are received with a view to the PC assisting with funding.

8. Any other business:

-Congratulations to Cllr Scott Norman for being awarded the British Empire Medal.

Date of next meeting: 10th February 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm

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Chairman, Stourpaine Parish Council.