

## STOURPAIN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr P Partridge, (Chairman), D Meaden, S Norman, M Farwell, J Jakes, A Woodland.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 7 Members of the public.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Cllr G Cowie.

1. To declare any declarations of Interest: None Received.
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
  - Kissing gate bottom of the slope from Bushes Road down onto the trailway.
4. **The Democratic Period:**
  - A resident asked whether anything could be done about the mess on the grounds of the property in Bottom Road near the bridleway/footpath. The Chairman responded DC had been contacted about this but could not act on this as it was on private land.
  - It was also raised that a trailer was partially blocking the entrance to the trailway making it difficult for walkers to pass, it was also reported that there had been livestock from this property wandering around. The Chairman to write a letter to the householder.
  - A resident expressed her disappointment that having reported blockages in the drains days before the flooding that nothing was done about it resulting in flooding at her property including sewerage.
  - Another resident stated that he had met with a manager from Wessex Water who reported that the pumping station was working as it should be but is working at its capacity 24/7.
  - Further concerns were raised for wildlife as sewerage was in the fields, and horses had to be moved away, and reports of sewerage coming out of the manholes in the road, and also on the trailway.
  - It was requested that a meeting be held with DC, the EA and WW to look at solutions to these problems to prevent any reoccurrence. Cllr Norman confirmed that the Flood team are meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February and are hoping to organise a meeting with Wessex Water and DC.
  - Cllr Jakes to send photos of the issues to the Clerk, so that she can write to DC.

#### 4. Dorset Council Officer Report: Cllr Jespersen:

**Flooding** continues to be a serious concern. There is a Yellow Alert for further heavy rain later today which is expected to cause the rivers to overflow their banks once again. Given with the high groundwater levels and the saturation we may see further serious disruption from flooding over the coming days. The forecast is not offering any certainty as to when the rain will end. I know that Stourpaine is accustomed to dealing with flooding and has good measures in place. DC and the emergency services are triaging calls and responding first to dangerous situations or risks to homes.

There will be a backlog of repairs to roads once the flooding subsides, so I suggest that you book your CHO for a walkthrough to get all your potholes onto the list.

**Dinah's Hollow and A350.** I received the first monthly briefing from the project team at the end of January. They were able to report that, despite the weather, the project was on schedule. Initial "teething" problems with the various mitigation measures have now settled down. Some traffic lights and crossings have been changed, and the location of the temporary 30 mph signs are under review. It seems many of the early problems were caused by drivers ignoring the temporary traffic lights and going through on red.

As expected, local traffic is finding its own preferred ways round the closure which should help to dilute the impact on the A350. Traffic on the A350 is being monitored and during January, the increase was less than predicted. However, it was not a typical month so we will see. It is too soon to say for sure that HGVs will stick to the one-way diversion, but this will be monitored.

In the meantime, if you become aware of any issues do report them or let me know.

**Dorset Council Annual Budget.** DC has put together a "balanced" budget as required by law. However, I am not confident that there are sufficient measures in place to prevent the same overspend as in this current year. The funding for services in the Place directorate, specifically highways, greenspace and waste has been cut which will inevitably impact on services. I will continue to argue for sufficient funding for these services, not least in the light of the current flooding crisis. Council Tax will rise by 4.99% as expected.

**5. Planning Development Matters:**

-P/FUL/2026/00262: Bushes Farm, Stourpaine, Erect stables. SPC have no objection to this application.

-Concerns were raised that a large shipping container had been placed just inside of the hedge at The Old Thatch in Havelins, which is in the conservation area, requested that the Clerk make enquiries whether planning permission had been granted.

-Update on Planning Application for 9 houses, Bottom Road: There has been a request from the DC Natural Environment Team for a new survey be carried out on dormouse.

**6. Officers Report:**

a. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

-Cllr Jakes warned of companies scamming people re drain surveys and clearance.

b. **Village Hall:**

-Cllr Norman had obtained a quote for the line marking to be repainted in the VH car park, the PC confirmed that they would assist with the payment of this work to be completed as the car park is not only used by VH attendees but also trailway users.

-Cllr Norman had met with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, who stated that they are currently reviewing where expenditure will be utilised as the canopy for the decking area needs repair. The pavilion has been empty for some time and they are exploring commercial use for the building but would need to make a formal application for change of use to DC if they chose to do this.

c. **Highways:**

-DC Speed team had sent the results of the survey in Havelins, however the survey in Manor Road will need to be carried out again as some of the data was tainted and could not be downloaded. The survey in Havelins had shown the average speeds as quite low which should be helpful in attaining the desired 20mph limit.

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

-the area from Drapers field to the bridge will need attention once the flood waters have cleared Cllr Norman to contact DC Ranger to report this.

f. **-Play Areas:**

-Cllr Farwell had obtained a quote to fix a bar to a piece of equipment, the quote for the wood was £128.00 for the post and £150.00 for delivery. Cllr Farwell was looking at alternatives.

-Cllr Farwell reported that the hedge at the Grace Upward play area needs to be cut, he will obtain a quote and enquire if this can be done before the bird nesting season.

-The Chairman reported that there was a loose branch quite high up in one of the trees in Kidzone, he will obtain a quote to have this removed.

g. **-Flood Prevention:** See democratic period, item 4.

7. **Finance:** The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for January 2026.

The following payments were approved by SPC. Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, Bank Charges £4.25.

8. **Any other business:** -Village Litter Pick – to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 10am, meet at the White Horse, all welcome to come along and assist.

**Date of next meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.**

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27 pm**

Chairman: Stourpaine Parish Council:

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