

## STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

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

**PRESENT:** Cllr P Partridge, (Chairman), G Cowie, S Norman, J Jakes, A Woodland.

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr D Meaden, Cllr M Farwell.

1. To declare any declarations of Interest: None Received.
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
4. **The Democratic Period:**
  - It was raised that there were plans to clear the railings by the football pitch which would leave holes that needed to be filled. Cllr Norman responded that this was something being discussed by the VH Committee and was at the early stages therefore we could not comment on this matter.
  - The resident whose Planning Application: P/HOU/2026/00693: was on this evenings agenda had come to the meeting to ensure that the PC were clear about their plans for the property. The proposed single storey rear extension would be built in keeping with the surrounding area, it is a small extension creating a bedroom, shower room and dining area. It will not affect the neighbour's right of way. SPC thanked the resident for attending the meeting: No objection was raised for this application.
5. **Dorset Councillor Report: Cllr Jespersen:**
  - Cllr Jespersen had visited the Dinah's Hollow site were works were being carried out to stabilise the banks. She reported that a lot of ecological work had been completed to ensure the wildlife is not disturbed. The top layer of the bank has been stripped away, exposing the fragility of the remaining bank which will be stabilised. The work is on schedule.
  - There will be overnight road closures from Fiddleford to Durweston on the A357, between 28<sup>th</sup> April and the 8<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm and 6pm.
  - Cllr Jespersen requested that any new potholes be reported via the DC website.
  - Cllr Jespersen mentioned that following the recent flooding events in the county, the Environment Agency would be looking to recast the flood zones sometime in the future. The Chairman stressed to Cllr Jespersen that the PC were disappointed with how Wessex Water had managed the sewerage pits along the railway as they were at 100% capacity. SPC had written to Wessex Water and a representative from there would be attending the June meeting, Cllr Jespersen offered to contact Simon Hoare MP to request that he also attend this meeting.
6. **Planning Development Matters**
  - P/HOU/2026/00693:** Proposal: Erect single storey rear extension: Location 4 South Holme.
  - Materials will be sympathetic to the existing style of the cottage, small extension, bedroom and study and W.C. SPC have no objection to this application.
  - P/HOU/2026/00574:** Proposal: Demolish existing dwelling and erect new dwelling: Hollywood
  - to the west of the existing footprint: SPC have no objection to this application.
7. **Officers Report:**
  - a. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
    - The Police are advertising a new Fraud Protection Service online, the telephone number to call should you have concerns around fraud issues is: 01202 144688.
  - b. **Highways:**
    - Due to the recent flooding, the Speed Indicator Device has missed a rotation of being moved to the other end of the village. It currently is not working which has been reported to DC, when it is moved maintenance will be carried out to ensure the battery and plugs are alright.

- c. **Flood Prevention and Protection:**
  - The Flood Team will be meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, they are in active contact with the EA and DC regarding regular drain clearing and seeking permission to close the road during a flooding event.
- d. **Trailway and Rights of Way:**
  - SPC has received complaints regarding the bridle way in Bottom Rd being blocked, either by a horsebox or by a 4x4 vehicle. Chairman has written to DC Ranger.
  - Cllr Norman reported that there are many potholes on the trailway from the entrance to Drapers Field to the bridge:
- e. **-Play Areas:**
  - Cllr Farwell was getting quotes for the hedge in the Grace Upward play area to be cut back, this work cannot be carried out until October 1<sup>st</sup>, after the bird nesting season.
  - Cllr Farwell had received a quote to repair the cross beam for the climbing frame, to clean and revarnish, plus to clean all the algae from the play equipment. To quote for £668.00 was approved by the PC.
  - SPC had paid a tree surgeon to remove dangerous, detached hanging branches caught approx. 40ft up in the Kidzone play area. This has now been made safe.
  - The Chairman and Cllr Norman to move the commemorative bench in Kidzone back to it's usual position as it had moved during the recent flooding.
- f. **-Village Hall:**
  - Cllr Norman had attended a VH Committee meeting. The new committee are looking at ideas to generate revenue. It was suggested that they need to make a plan expenditure for repairs and maintenance to the carpark, the VH and the Pavilion.
  - An assessment of the decking at the VH needs to be carried out as the foundations are rotting.
- 7. **-Finance:** The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for February 2026. The following payments were approved by SPC. Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, Bank Charges £4.25, £160 Mike Peat.
  - The Clerk proposed that the Allotment bank account be closed and the funds set aside in the main bank account as ringfenced funds. SPC approved.
  - SPC approved the Clerk to approach John Paul to carry out the Internal Audit.
  - Cllr Jakes to obtain a quote to replace the signage on the side of the pavilion.
- 8. **Any other business:** -Village Litter Pick – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 10am meet at the White Horse.
  - Annual Parish Meeting May 12<sup>th</sup>
  - The Chairman and the Clerk had updated the Asset Regsiter.

**Date of next meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.**  
**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm**

Chairman: Stourpaine Parish Council: .....