

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 14th April 2026 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllr P Partridge, (Chairman), G Cowie, D Meaden, Norman, A Woodland.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 1 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Cllr Farwell, Cllr J Jakes.

1. To declare any declarations of Interest: None Received.
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2026: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters arising:**
4. **The Democratic Period:**
 - A resident raised concerns that more houses being built in the village will put more pressure on the already struggling drainage system, he stated that Wessex Water are coming out regularly to pump out the drains as they are already over capacity. The Chairman said there is a drop-in session arranged on 23rd April at Pimperne Village Hall, at this session Wessex Water the Environment Agency and DC will have stands set up and any member of the public can attend to ask these agencies any questions. Also a representative from Wessex Water has agreed to attend our June meeting.
 - It was also raised that people coming off the trailway on bikes straight into often speeding traffic, the Chairman stated that we now have some of the results from the speed survey that was carried out in the village, these results will now go forward to Highways and if approved we will put on the waiting list to have the new speed limit implemented.
5. **Dorset Councillor Report:** No current update.
6. **Planning Development Matters:**
 - P/HOU/2026/01372: Dairy House, Manor Rd: Dismantle and rebuild chimney: SPC no objection.
 - The Old Thatch in Havelins: Planning Enforcement had stated that the shipping container could remain in situ as permitted development whilst the building works were being carried out at the property.
7. **Officers Reports:**
 - a. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
 - Dorset Police are holding a Community Contact Point at M&S 10am-11am 17th April.
 - Blandford Police Station front counter will be closed from 14th to 28th April after work has been completed, Gillingham front desk would be the nearest available open counter.
 - b. **Highways:**
 - The results of the recent traffic survey it was deemed 95% of traffic was doing less than 21.1 miles per hour, this is good news as it helps to make the 20mph speed limit official.
 - c. **Flood Prevention and Protection:**
 - The Chairman will attend the next Flood Prevention Meeting on the 28th May 2026.
 - d. **Trailway and Rights of Way:**
 - It was suggested that it may be a good idea to take back the hedge a bit at the end of the t railway towards the village hall to improve vision for pedestrians and cyclists approaching the road. This matter would need to be raised with the VH Committee.
 - e. **-Play Areas:**
 - The play areas have been enjoyed by the children in the recent warm spring weather.
 - Cllr Farwell has ordered the beam for the repair to the play equipment, he awaits delivery.
 - f. **-Village Hall:**
 - The Village Hall Committee requested a grant white lining the parking spaces in the car park, They had received a quotation for £1813.00. SPC approved the grant.
 - The VH Committee were making plans for a Village Summer Fete, SPC approved a grant for £500.00 towards this event.
7. **-Finance:** The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for March 2026.

The following payments were approved by SPC. Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, Bank Charges £4.25, T Thorne Bus stop cleaning £87.50, Village Hall Hire £44.00

-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.

-The Clerk confirmed that she had applied for the vat reclaim for 2025-2026.

-The Clerk confirmed that the books were now with the internal auditor, and due to the expenditure, this year on the new play equipment we would also require an external audit.

8. Approval and Adoption of new and Updated policies:

SPC approved the following policies which will be placed on the website.

Data Protection Policy

IT Policy

Standing Orders

9. Any other business:

-Litter Pick: All villagers are welcome to join us for the annual litter pick to be held on Saturday 18th April, meet outside the Whitehorse, 10am. Litter pick sticks will be supplied.

Date of next meeting: 12th May 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm

Chairman: Stourpaine Parish Council:

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