

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 9th June 2026 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 6 Members of the public.

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

1. Declarations of Interest: None received.
2. To Approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2026: The PC approved the minutes which were signed by the Chairman.
3. To consider any matters arising from the May Minutes. None raised.
4. Q&A with Representative from Wessex Water: Danny Bradbury:

The Chairman read out a letter received from Wessex Internet stating their intention to install 2 new sealed manholes next to the pumping station, they also were carrying out a domestic engagement campaign and had recently been knocking on doors in the village and handing out leaflets, WW will also be carrying out an assessment of the pumping station.

Danny Bradbury from WW explained that they have started an assessment with camera surveys in the village looking for any underlying issues, such as misconnected gullies, blockages etc. these surveys will collect data and look at possible solutions, such as lining pipes or using silt jets to clear them out. They are also surveying Durweston to minimise any issues coming over from their drainage system.

-A resident pointed out that, the issues had been reported before the recent flooding and nothing had been done, sewage was already coming up and the pumping station was working to its full capacity. There previously had been a tanker frequently coming to assist with this, but this stopped before Christmas. Danny explained that the pumping station was to have a full MOT and if they need to be the pumps would be replaced. Once the surveys have been completed a report will be issued to WW usually around 60 days.

-A resident raised concerns that further housing development in the village would result in further strain on the existing struggling system, Danny stated that new developments would be referred to the modelling team, any new connections need to be approved and actioned by an approved contractor. Each site is investigated before it is signed off to ensure that rainwater has not been directed into the foul water.

Danny explained that another thing that is being looked at is one-way valves installed on the systems and additional storage, and a turbo tanker to suck out to check how much additional storage is required.

Q: Is it an automated system whereby when it reaches capacity a tanker will automatically be sent out? There are limited tankers, but WW have weekly meetings to establish needs.

Q: The letter had stated that 3 properties were to be helped, the PC requested further information regarding this, also more information regarding the areas for the non-return valves.

-A resident remarked that there was a smell of sewage along the road close to the pumping station, the WW representative said that he would go along and check after the meeting.

-Rick Pearce volunteered to draft a letter for the PC to sign and send to WW to confirm points raised and action to be taken.

-It was raised that the sensor on the bridge was not in the correct position, and that there seems to be a disconnect between WW, the EA and DC. Danny confirmed that this year was the first year that they have been working closely together, which should improve matters.

-The Chairman confirmed that Dc had agreed to clear the drains twice a year in the village, but also to encourage resident to report any blocked drains on the DC website.

5. Dorset Councillor Ward Report: No current report.

6. Planning and Development matters:

-P/FUL/2026/02663: Furzeland Barn, Freedom House, Ash Farm – Change of Use: Converting the Barn to residential accommodation, building a garage and a car port. The PC agreed that the scheme is quite attractive and that they had no objection to this application.

-P/FUL/2026/02001: 5 No. Bungalows. Bottom Road: Comments close on 16th June –

The alteration to this application concerns widening the access to accommodate large vehicles and has not addressed the width of Bottom Road, although the paperwork states that DC Highways are looking at further details regarding parking. Apart from the access issues the PC does not object to this application in principle.

7. Reports:

- Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: No current update.
- Highways: No current update.
- Flood Prevention and Protection: See item 4 above.
- Trailway and Rights of Way: The trainway is quite overgrown, Clerk to contact DC Rangers.
- Play Areas:
 - The play areas are being well used. The strops on the Typhoon play equipment need to be inspected by HAGS who installed it, they have quoted £200.00 to inspect it. PC have signed an agreement to pay the fee.
 - Grace Upward – Repairs to the play equipment will be made in the next week or so, the trees will be cut back in the autumn after the bird nesting season.
 - -Grace Upward: Clerk to request that the grass is cut.
- Village Hall: The VH Committee have agreed to put together a business plan before the autumn.
- Plans for the Village Fete are going ahead, this will be held on the 11th July, 12-4 pm.
- The grass on Drapers field will be cut and taken away by the beginning of July.
- The White lining of the VH Car park will take place overnight before July and will be ready for use the following day.

8. **Finance:** The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for May 2026. The following payments were approved by SPC. Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, Bank Charges £4.25, Village Hall Hire £22.00

-**Annual Governance and Accounting Return, (AGAR):** The PC approved the AGAR and it was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

9. **Any other business:**

-The hedge is overgrown and the SID is barely visible.

Date of next meeting: 14th July 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm

Chairman: Stourpaine Parish Council:

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