

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 15th September 2026 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 0 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr J Jakes, Cllr M Farwell.

1. **Declarations of Interest:** None received.
2. To Approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2026: The PC approved the minutes which were signed by the Chairman.
3. To consider any matters arising from the July Minutes. None raised.
4. **-Dorset Councillor Ward Report:**
 - DC Highways are having new software installed between 14th and 22nd September -they will not be able to accept non-urgent enquiries during those dates.
 - Boundary review: The Boundary Commission (who are an independent body to DC), are reviewing ward boundaries to ensure that there are the correct number of Cllrs for each ward. The proposed new wards have been proposed to include Stourpaine parish in a ward entitled Pimperne and the Tarrants. This groups Stourpaine with Pimperne, Durweston and the Tarrants all the way to Tarrant Crawford. This proposal is under consultation until 9th November.
 - The PC agreed to respond to the consultation, the view was that this was a good group for Stourpaine. None of the ward changes will come into effect until after the 2029 elections.
 - Cllr Jespersen had held a Planning meeting in Pimperne on the 5th September highlighting changes to the Planning process and the NPPF. Cllr Jespersen again highlighted that the fact that smaller planning applications would no longer be referred to Planning Committee, meaning that any objections made by the PC would need to be detailed as there will no longer be the opportunity for the PC to make further objections, and the decisions will be made by Planning Officers rather than the Planning Committee.
 - Dinah's Hollow: the work being carried out here is still on target.
 - The new waste centre is due to open next Easter.
5. -Democratic Period – Nothing raised
6. -Planning and development matters: None raised.
7. **-Reports:**
 - Neighbourhood Watch:** There will be a police community contact session held between 9am-11am, Friday 18th September.
 - The police have warned that there is scammers are currently contacting people, claiming to be from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), attempting to attain bank details, residents are advised to state that they will call the department back should they be contacted on 0800 7310469 which a direct line to the service.
 - Highways:** No current update.
 - Flood Prevention and Protection:**
 - Flood warden Rick Pearce had composed a letter to Wessex Water which was sent on behalf of the PC. The response came from their Director of Operations Manager – which stated that there were currently no planned improvements to be made as the Stourpaine water capacity was working and flowing and that there were not any non-compliance issues or overloading.
 - We also received communication from Alex Jones being a principal consultant for a sustainable water management company who have been employed by DC to carry out flood investigations across sites in Dorset, which will include Stourpaine. They are looking to meet with Rick Pearce and the Chairman in the near future, Cllr Jespersen requested that she be included in this meeting.

-Trailway and Rights of Way: No current update.

-Play Areas:

-The grass has been mown, and both areas are looking tidy, there is some vegetation that needs to be cut back close to the entrance to the Grace Upward play area.

-The Clerk is chasing HAGS for a repair date to the Typhoon play equipment in Kidzone.

-Village Hall:

-Cllr Norman has requested that representatives attend the November PC meeting with a business plan for fund raising for the repairs and maintenance that is required for the VH.

-SPC agreed that potentially they would grant funds towards the grass cutting at Drapers Field.

8. **-Finance:**

- The Clerk had issued the Financial Statement for August 2026.

The following payments were approved by SPC. Clerks wage/ PAYE at agreed rate, Bank Charges £4.25, Village Hall Hire £22.00, PPC Summer scheme £350.00/Grant Village Fete £500.00/ Grant Gardening Club £350.00/ T Thorne Bus stop clean £87.50/ BDO LLP External Audit £252.00/ Vision ICT £263.23.

9. **-Any other business:**

-The footpath from the Whitehorse towards Blandford is overgrown making it difficult for pedestrians to walk along the pavement – Clerk to write to DC.

-Also the pavement from Hod View towards Ash Farm needs vegetation to be cut back – Clerk to report.

Date of next meeting: 15th October 2026, 7pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

Chairman: Stourpaine Parish Council:

.....