



Minutes of Stratton Parish Council Full Council Meeting Tuesday 11th March 2025 starting at 7:00 pm in Stratton Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Matt Garner, Simon Joslin, Gill Slade, and Ali Tong
7 members of the public,
Dorset Council Councillor David Taylor
Dorset Council Highways Officer Neil Turner

FULL COUNCIL

25.88 Apologies for absence

Cllr Pimm sent apologies.

25.89 Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

No declarations were made at this time.

25.90 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2025

These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

25.91 Parish Council matters arising

Cllr Slade confirmed that she attended the latest Village Hall meeting as the Parish Council representative. There was lots of great work going on by the committee members. Cllr Joslin was pleased to announce that the new goal nets had been put up. Cllr Joslin also was delighted to say that the quiz team had funded a new bench at the play park, and this had also been installed. Cllr Tong would update on play park matters under capital projects.

25.92 Update from the Chair

Cllr Garner was saddened to announce the resignation of Cllr Pimm from the Parish Council. Brad was thanked for all his time and efforts whilst on the Parish Council. He will stay in post until after the Annual Village meeting. The Chair stipulated again, the need for more Councillors, as the burden on the remaining members was becoming larger.

The Chair thanked Cllr Joslin for completing the works on the goal nets and new bench and thanked the quiz team for funding the replacement bench on the Green. Thanks, were also given to the Summer Fayre committee for the match funding towards the goal nets.

25.93 Parish Councillor reports

No further updates were given at this time.

25.94 To receive a report from the Dorset Council

Cllr Taylor made everyone aware of the Planning Reform Act that was going through government, which could mean up to 35K more new homes being built in Dorset.



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

He had met with the local MP (Edward Morello), to primarily discuss mutual services between Dorset Council and the MP, which included the consolidation of bus routes.

It was also stated that that the proposed Mayoral region of Wessex was very unlikely to move ahead, especially in the short term.

It was also confirmed that the proposal to offload some services from Dorset Council to Towns and Parishes was still being discussed, but no definitive list had been produced.

25.95 Public participation period

It was asked if any commemorations for VE DAY 80 had been mentioned.

It was confirmed that no proposal had come forward, but the Parish Council would put some funds aside if requested.

Concerns were raised as to the continued poor condition of the site at Penn Hill after the tree works.
The Chair would again write to the parties involved to request this area was tidied up.

The subject of thoughtless and inconsiderate parking on pavements was once again brought up.
The Chair agreed this was a regular issue and requested the Clerk contact the PCSO.

The removal of the Air Ambulance clothing recycling container had raised concerns, and it was asked who the landowner was.

Mr Turner (Dorset Council Highways) would find out.

It was asked what was happening to the Bonds.

The Clerk confirmed that both bonds were to be cashed in with a view to allocating funding to any Capital projects as per discussions later in the meeting.

The Chair also confirmed that consideration for any funds left over would be made to reinvest in a new bond.

25.96 Planning

There were no new applications to discuss.

25.97 Finances

a. Payments for authorisation

There were 9 payments (PV's 27-35), totalling £5242.37, that were approved and authorised for payment.

25.98 Further updates on A37 concerns

Mr Neil Turner from Dorset Council (Highways Team) updated members and the public on the following matters:

1. Improvement to pedestrian safety on the A37 had been allocated £80K funding for the next financial and was in the design phase.
2. Cycleway improvements were in the design phase and funding had been allocated.
3. Flood alleviation schemes were in the feasibility design stage.
This included flood, drainage and land surveys.



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

4. Funding had been allocation for an intermediate scheme for sealing works on the bridge.

5. An emergency traffic regulation order had been applied for which would last for 18 months and commence around October 25. This would reduce the speed limit on the A37 past Stratton to 30mph during this time.

Q&A It was requested that a sign be placed prior to Stratton turning on the A37 to warn drivers on the main road that there a question.

Mr Turner agreed to look into this.

It was asked if Mr Turner could thank the Community Highways Officer (Corinne) for all her hard work.

Mr Turner would happily pass this on.

25.99 Capital projects for 25/26

Cllr Tong had conducted extensive research as what equipment could be procured and for how much. These designs where shown to the public and already distributed to Council.

All were very impressed with what could be achieved and were all very keen for upgraded safety surfacing to be included.

To that end a budget of £25K was allocated to this project, and Cllr Tong detailed to produced three quotes for the May meeting, with a view to procurement.

It was asked what had happened to the skate park. It was confirmed it had been removed for H&S reasons many years ago.

No other formal projects had come forward, but it was to allocate provisional funding to the following:

Village Green	£5K
Playing Field	£5K
VE Day 80	£250

25.100 Permanent Christmas tree for the Village Green

Members were in agreement that a permanent tree would in the long term, create less work and effort and save on funding.

However, as a suitable location had not been found, it was agreed to bring this back to Council once this had been sourced.

25.101 Funding for Remembrance Sunday 2025

It was agreed that was an excellent idea, and the sum of £200 per year would be set aside for this event.

25.102 Initial discussions on transfer of banking facilities

Councillors were very happy to move banking facilities from Lloyds.

The Chair and Clerk would start this process with immediate effect.

Unity Trust Bank were the preferred provider.

25.103 Provisional end of year accounts

The following was agreed by all.

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Wayne Lewin

1. 35 payments totalling £ 12635.49
2. 5 receipts totalling £ 14041.63
3. Budget spend of 74.88%
4. Agreement of reserves which included bonds of £ 42805.60
5. Total banking funds at end of year of £ 55260.40

25.104 Community discussion

It was asked if the Bus Shelter could be painted. This was agreed.
It was confirmed that Britain in Bloom would move to next year.

25.105 Items and date for next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as **13th May 2025**
This will include

Annual Village Meeting
Full Council
Annual General Meeting

There being no further business,

Meeting closed at 20:45

Matt Garner

Chair

Signature _____