

STANTON LACY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stanton Lacy Parish Council on Thursday 16th January 2025

Present: Cllrs M Finch (Chair), M Davis, E Gatehouse, R Gatehouse, J Hossbach, P Jones, C Redman, P Williams. **In Attendance:** Cllr C Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence and Acceptance of Apologies:** Cllr P Parker
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None
3. **Public involvement session:** Three members of the public were in attendance.
4. **Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 21st November 2024:**
Cllr Davis was included in the apologies.
RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the chair.
5. **Reports From Representatives:**
 - 5.1. Shropshire Council – Deferred to the next meeting.
 - 5.2. Stanton Lacy Village Hall – Cllr Hossbach reported that November and December had gone well with sixty people attending the Christmas dinner. Wednesday pub evenings are going well but the community market has been quieter. The Winter Warmers have gone well with thirty-five people attending the December session. Shropshire Health Hub provided health checks to ten people at the November session and they plan to be there at the next sessions. There is a quiz and bingo in February and the hall will be open for the Six Nations Rugby and there are two big weddings booked in. They intend to resurface the floor, revamp the stage and replace the windows.
 - 5.3. South Shropshire Area Committee – The Clerk read the minutes from the meeting. Juan Hernandez from Shropshire Council's (SC) StreetScene explained that they are improving FixMyStreet to make it easier for the public to report issues. They are working closely with the police regarding fly tipping and encourage people to report dog fouling. Chris Mellings has replaced Dianne Dorrell as Chief Officer of SALC and he plans to refresh the website and build relationships with MP's. Cllr Mills reported concerns over the apathy amongst parishioners regarding the effectiveness of Parish Councils. Cllr Archer asked for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor to be permitted to work on the B roads, Mr Mellings will raise this with SC. Cllr Holman noted that Shropshire is at the bottom of most policing performance measures within West Mercia. PCC John Champion will be invited to the next meeting to discuss policing performance. Cllr Davis asked if the amount of fly tipping had increased since the changes to the recycling centres? The clerk responded that it was not mentioned in the minutes but she would request that it is suggested for the next SSAC meeting agenda.
6. **Planning:** [24/04804/FUL](#) Siting of a temporary agricultural dwelling (static caravan), installation of a sewage treatment plant and formation of an access track. LOCATION: - Temporary Agricultural Dwelling at Sutton Hill Farm, Sutton , Stanton Lacy SY8 2AN. It was noted that the track is in Stanton Lacy Parish Council area and the caravan would be sited in Diddlebury Parish Council area, very close to the boundary with Stanton Lacy Parish area. It was also noted that the track is already in place. There were concerns that this land already had an agricultural workers dwelling attached to it but the owner had sold the land off separately to the applicant and had retained the dwelling. There were concerns that the site plan did not identify the proposed track and therefore should not have passed verification by Shropshire Planning Team.
RESOLVED: to support the application for the static caravan for a period of 5 years to allow the applicant to evidence their need for a permanent agricultural workers dwelling and submit a planning application. To inform the Planning Team of the concerns about verifiers not identifying issues with planning applications.

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- 7. Consider Action Regarding Broadband and Mobile Telephone Coverage:** residents are experiencing considerable difficulties with their broadband service from Voneous and as the mobile signal in the area is also poor this compounds the problems.

RESOLVED: to write to Ben Walker, Connecting Shropshire expressing concerns about the service of both broadband and mobile coverage in the parish.

- 8. Consider Action Regarding Delays in Ambulance Attendance at 999 Calls:** there has been several incidents in the last month of ambulance responses being over 5 hours.

RESOLVED: to write a letter of complaint to West Midlands Ambulance Service and Simon Whitehouse, Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board.

9. Lagoon at Lower Hayton

9.1. Review the Environment Agency Report on the Bio-digestate Lagoon Excavated at Lower Hayton, Ludlow SY8 2AQ: Matthew Weston, Customer Engagement Officer from the Environment Agency reported that 'An officer inspected the digestate lagoon with the landowner on the 25th October 2024. The location of the manhole (which housed a drainage valve which can be closed) was seen as was the outfall of the land drain into the ditch. The ditch course was flowing with clean surface water. The lagoon was not in use at the time of the inspection and only contained clean rainwater. The officer had no concerns about the design of the digestate lagoon however, we cannot comment on how it had been engineered.' A member of the public was concerned about the damage to the road at the entrance to the site, the ditch at the entrance also needed clearing as it was not allowing water to drain away from the road surface and there was frequently mud on the road left by tractors using the site. The council noted that the planning determination for the track stated that: 'Within three months of the date of this permission there shall be submitted to the local planning authority for its written approval details of a scheme for resurfacing of the access apron (i.e. the first five metres of the track measured back from the edge of the highway carriageway) in a bound material, and its drainage such that surface water run-off is directed away from the highway carriageway and any highway drains. The approved scheme of works shall be fully implemented within a further three months from the date of their written approval and thereafter maintained in good working order for the lifetime of the development.'

RESOLVED: to contact the agent to ask a. the timescale of the scheme to resurface the access apron and deal with the surface water runoff. b. to request that the Highways Act 1980 Section 148 is adhered to ensuring that any mud deposited on the road is cleared up.

9.2. Update on the Request to Stuart Anderson MP to Make Changes to Planning Regulations for Permitted Development and Lagoons: This has now been raised by Mr Anderson as a formal MP Enquiry with Mr Matthew Pennycook MP, who is the Minister for Housing and Planning. The Clerk has not had an outcome yet.

10. Agree the Policing Priorities:

RESOLVED: to ask the Safer Neighbourhood Team to prioritise 1. Speeding 2. Thefts (livestock) 3. Wildlife Crime. To write to John Campion (Police and Crime Commissioner) to ask why the Police Station in Ludlow is not open and whether the asset should be replaced by a more cost-effective office base if there are no plans to open the station in future.

- 11. Update on the Use of Parish Council Funds to Pay for Highway Signs – Village Hall and Titterhill:** due to staffing changes Shropshire Council are not yet in a position to decide about this. As it is unlikely that SC will be in a position to pay for the signs to be installed the Parish Council will attempt to crowdfund if they are given permission to fund the signs from Parish Council funds.

- 12. Update on the Letter to Stuart Anderson MP re Condition of the Highways Including the Closed Road at Cuckoopen:** Andy Wilde, Assistant Director of

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Infrastructure for Shropshire Council informed the council on the 9th January 2025 that 'the road has been highlighted as a maintenance priority and we are waiting to hear what the 2025/26 budget will look like. If there is sufficient budget available, it should be addressed in 2025/26.'

13. Update on the Parish Council Elections in May 2025: the elections will take place on the 1st May, with nomination papers being available for candidates in March.

14. Review and Adopt the Sickness and Absence Policy:

RESOLVED: to adopt the Policy.

15. Consider Nominations to the Lord-Lieutenant's Shropshire Garden Party:

RESOLVED: to not make a nomination this year.

16. To Finance:

16.1. Review the Finance Report, Expenditure Against Budget and Bank Reconciliation: the expenditure was within budget except for the slight overspend on the subscription to Shropshire Association of Local Councils. As of the 29th November 2024 the bank account held £10,348.55 which reconciled with the cash book.

RESOLVED: to accept the report and sign the bank reconciliation as correct.

16.2. Note Income: P3 (Footpath Maintenance Grant from Shropshire Council) £150: noted.

16.3. Authorise Payments:

D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv 681 £265.50, MedUK Defibrillator Pads x 2 £128.28, 3 x Defibrillator Batteries When Required up to £750. Also Inv 688 for D Lewis for £103.50

RESOLVED: to make the above payments.

16.4. Adopt the Budget and Set the Precept: the council noted the need to increase the reserves to cover the potential cost of the elections in 2025 and training for new councillors.

RESOLVED: to adopt the budget and set the precept at £5171.00 for 2025-26 which is an increase of 4.9% on last year or £1.38 extra per year for a band D property. To mitigate the cost of the banking fees £5,000 will be placed in the Lloyds Savings account which attracts a small level of interest.

16.5. Agree for the Clerk to be Paid Quarterly from April 2025:

RESOLVED: that the Clerk be paid quarterly from April 2025

17. Agenda Items for the next meeting: a. Update on the Request to Stuart Anderson MP to Make Changes to Planning Regulations for Permitted Development and Lagoons b. Update on the Use of Parish Council Funds to Pay for Highway Signs – Village Hall and Titterhill

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 20th March 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: