

STANTON LACY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Lacy Parish Council on 19th March, 2024

Members Present: Cllrs M Finch (Chair), M Davis, R Gatehouse, J Hossbach, P Jones, P Parker, C Redman and P Williams. **In Attendance:** H Coonick (Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer).

1. **Apologies for Absence and Acceptance of Apologies:** Cllr E Gatehouse. Cllr C Motley (Shropshire Council).

2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None

3. **Public involvement session.** No members of the public were in attendance.

4. **Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings on the 18th January 2023:**

RESOLVED: for the Chair to sign the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. **Reports From Representatives:**

5.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Cecilia Motley sent a report: You will have heard of Shropshire Council's budgetary difficulties. The Council worked so hard last year to produce £42m of savings only to be presented with a potential deficit budget for the next financial year of £62m. It is a revenue deficit, so the capital schemes in Shrewsbury– the Smithfield Riverside rebuild and the North West Relief Road (to be funded in full by the Government) are not part of this. The revenue deficit is mainly caused by pressure in 4 areas: adult and children's social care and SEND; school transport, particularly for children with Special Educational Needs and temporary housing for homeless people. All these service areas are statutory responsibilities – we have to provide resource for them. This means that some of the 'discretionary' spend, such as libraries, leisure centres, museums, sports grounds, the theatre and arts, will be badly squeezed. The Council has been lobbying Central Government for a rural premium in recognition of the costs of delivering services in rural areas. My area, adult social care and public health are due to have a Care Quality Commission assessment. Providing care for both adults and children is the most expensive service, absorbing 77% of the Council's overall budget. Shropshire Council has been developing technological solutions to help our elderly population stay supported in their own homes. You may have heard that Shropshire is proposing to close its housing list for 12 months. There is a growing need for housing nationally and the number of people to whom the council have a statutory duty is also increasing. Below is an explanation from Laura Fisher, our Housing Officer: " We need to make sure people the council have a duty to are prioritised. The number of people the Council has a duty to accommodate is growing and currently the number in temporary accommodation is increasing. We have temporary accommodation schemes in the pipeline, some of which will come online over the next 12 months. By closing the register for a short period we can focus on those the Council has a duty to house. We will still allow those to whom we owe a statutory housing duty to join the register and there will be some other groups who can too, e.g., those fleeing domestic abuse but who do not want to make a homeless application, or those care leavers who have not yet reached 18 and so cannot make a homeless application. Those to whom we do not owe any duty will not be able to join for a while. We will not remove anyone from the register who is already on it." Finally, health checks for farmers delivered by our Health/Wellbeing van at the livestock markets is been extended and we are very pleased at the uptake.

5.2. Stanton Lacy Village Hall – Cllr Phil Jones and Cllr Jenna Hossbach reported that they have received quotes for changes to the toilets and drainage and hope work will start in June. David Lock is standing in as Secretary. More volunteers are needed to cover the bar. The electricity bills are high and the committee are investing the cause for this.

5.3. Louisa Powell Almshouses – Cllr Peter Williams reported that there is a proposed amalgamation of the 4 charities involved in providing Almshouses in Ludlow but each will retain its governing documents. The financial accounts are in good order.

Copies of the agenda and minutes are available from the Clerk, Heather Coonick:

www.stantonlacyparish.org email: stantonlacypc@gmail.com Tel: 07817607355

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5.4. South Shropshire Area Committee – Heather Coonick (Clerk) reported that there was a presentation at the meeting by the Planning Enforcement Team.

6. Make Final Decisions on the Parish Boundary Review: Proposal a. Lydehole Farm and Mill Cottage on Mulberry Lane to transfer from Diddlebury to Stanton Lacy. b. Whitbatch Cottage, Whitbatch Farm and Whitbatch Gatehouse to transfer from Bromfield to Stanton Lacy, c. 1,2,3,4,5 and Yew Tree Cottage Vernolds Common to transfer from Stanton Lacy to Culmington and d. Upper House Farm at Hopton Cangeford to transfer from Stanton Lacy to Hopton Cangeford and Stoke St Milborough. Changes proposed will not be considered by Shropshire Council before 2025 when there will be a public consultation.

RESOLVED: to propose to Shropshire Council Parish Boundary Review Team all of the above changes

7. Update on the Telephone Box at Vernolds Common: Despite further representations to BT they will not retain the telephone box. The option of adoption was considered.

RESOLVED: to not adopt the telephone box due to the ongoing financial risk to the parish council.

8. Update on the Parish Path Partnership (P3) Grant Application: Cllr Emma Gatehouse has agreed to oversee the organisation of a P3 group.

RESOLVED: The council will apply for a start up grant from Shropshire Council and hold the funds in its bank account.

9. Prepare an Emergency Plan: Cllrs Robin Gatehouse, Jenna Hossbach and the Clerk will meet to prepare an Emergency Plan for consideration at the May meeting.

10. Review and Adopt the Data Protection and Privacy Policy, Privacy Notice and Delegation Policy.

RESOLVED: To adopt the above policies.

11. Decide on the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting in May: The new Parish Path Partnership, the Emergency Plan and the Place Plan will be added to the agenda.

12. Agree the Environmental Maintenance Grant Application and New Contract: The new contract includes a statement that pesticides will not be used by the contractor. The grant application is for matched funding of £800 for 2024-2025

RESOLVED: to agree the application and the new contract.

13. Consider Adopting a .gov Domain and Council Specific Email Addresses:

RESOLVED: That councillors can let the Clerk have new email addresses. A .gov domain will not be used due to the high cost.

14. Finance:

14.1. Review the Finance Report, Expenditure Against Budget and Bank Reconciliation: As of the 29th February 2024 the bank account holds £9,270.28. Expenditure is within the budget except for the village hall fee which was for 2 years.

RESOLVED: To accept the report and Cllrs Redman and Hossbach signed the bank reconciliation.

14.2. Consider Donations:

RESOLVED: to not make any donations in this financial year.

14.3. Authorise Payments: D Lewis (payment made Inv 474 £80.75) and inv 488 £80.75, Clerk Pay, home office, travel expenses £2,212.07 and reimbursement for stationery £54.97. Expected payments for Hugo Fox website (set up as a direct debit from April 2024 and 123 Domain Name.

15. Agenda Items for the next meeting: a. Emergency Plan b. Parish Paths Partnership

**The Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings will be held
on 23rd May 2024 at 7.30pm.**

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: