STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Matt Garner Clerk Wayne Lewin

Minutes of Stratton Parish Council Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 08th September 2026 starting at 7:30 pm in Stratton Village Hall

Present:
Cllrs Gill Slade, Rosie Barfoot, and Jane Dearling
4 members of the public

Due to the Chair and Vice Chair being absent, Cllr Gill Slade was elected to Chair the meeting.

FULL COUNCIL

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr's Garner and Tong sent apologies, along with Cllr Taylor (Dorset Council).

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests
No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2026
These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Parish Council matters arising
The Clerk provided an update from the previous minutes. There were no concerns whilst outstanding matters on the agenda.

5. Update from the Chair and correspondence
Cllr Garner wished to thank the residents and then Dorset Council Highways for the prompt and efficient clearance of the fallen tree by the Village Green.

Cllr Slade also thanked Jan Grocott and Julia Bowman for the wonderful displays in the planters around the village.

6. Parish Councillor updates and motions
Cllr Dearling had completed a survey of waste bins in the village.
It was suggested that a new bin be located on the track towards Stratton Diary, as this was a well-used walking area and not covered by a bin.
Members unanimously agreed, with an emptying period of every two weeks to align with the bin on the Village Green.

Cllr Barfoot spoke on some routine maintenance for the tennis court.
A quote of £ 180.00 for a power sweep and £ 165.00 for white lining was discussed.
Members fully supported this proposal (see note on Summer Fayre later in this item).

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Cllr Barfoot had also started the process of establishing how many user groups were in the village (>18). It was agreed to contact them closer to the Annual Village Meeting with a view to them providing more information on their activities.
Cllr Slade informed the Parish Council of the allocation of funds from the profits of the Summer Fayre.
It was confirmed that £100 had been reserved for the Parish Council with a view to a basketball hoop / court on the playing field.
It was felt that this was not something the Parish Council wished to pursue at this time but agreed that the Clerk could write to the Summer Fayre committee and request the reserved funds be allocated to offset the refurbishment of the tennis court (see notes above).

7. To receive a report from the Dorset Council

There was no report from the Ward Councillor.

8. Public participation period (items on the agenda)

There were no points at this time.

9. Planning

a. P/FUL/2026/01263
Crown Point Phases 3 and 4 Poundbury
Erection of 57no. dwellings, public open space & associated infrastructure

Members agreed that this did not affect Stratton directly but noted the creep of housing in the area.

The Clerk updated on the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the effect of this on the Dorset Local Plan.
The major changes were that to get to committee, the bar for objections had been raised considerably and that smaller plots (less than 10% of current village size) were being encouraged to fill the housing allocation for Dorset. This may include sites outside any defined development boundary.

10. Financial update

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **10** payments **(PV's 25-33),** totalling **£ 1670.61,** that were approved and authorised for payment. This included a refund of £234.00 on the defibrillator.

11. A37 update and follow up actions

Cllr Slade was delighted to say that the fencing on the A37 has now been repaired. Patching work and jetting had also been completed with some vegetation cleared.
The water proofing under the bridge was moving slowly and out to consultation, as the first plan involved removing more of the carriageway than originally thought.

There had been no reply to the request to reduce the speed limits.

In more good news, Dorset Council had proposed a plethora of improvements at the School Lane / A37 junction. Much of this came from lobbying by cycling groups.
The details included:

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Removing the pedestrian barriers and vegetation in the central reservation and resurfacing it with bitumen macadam. This will make it easier for people to cross and will reduce maintenance.

Realigning this crossing and installing tactile paving.

Widening the footways on either side of the above crossing.

Removing raised kerbs within the footway outside Higher Wrackleford Farmhouse and Cherry Close Cottage and levelling out the footway.

Tightening the geometry of the School Lane/A37 junction to reduce vehicle entry speeds and the crossing distance for pedestrians and cyclists. Sightlines will also be improved for those wanting to cross the road.

The footway will be widened between the School Lane/A37 Junction westwards to towards the bus stop.

The carriageway will also be resurfaced and road markings refreshed in the vicinity of the scheme. Signage will be replaced in the vicinity of the scheme.

Cllr Slade was happy to remain the point of contact.

12. 20mph speed limit on Dorchester Road

Concerns continued to be raised as to the perception of speeding through the village.
Cllrs aligned that the first course of action would be to obtain and then analyse the data via speed wires supplied by Dorset Council.
It was agreed to pay for two sites, with Cllr Dearling to liaise with Dorset Council as to the locations.

13. Trees works quotation

Members agreed that the quote of £500 for continued maintenance on the bank above the playing field was good value for money and approved the works and cost.

14. Hedge and Ditch works quotation

Members thought that both quotes were overpriced and requested the Clerk go to Rolls Landscaping and review the costs for both, a one times clear up and annual costs from there on.
It was also agreed to get a second quote from another contractor.

It was also asked if other overgrown areas by the grit bins could be cut back.
The Clerk would try and establish the owners first.

15. Green Spaces Management Plan

Members liked this idea but were more content to discuss at the next meeting once costings had been established.

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16. New Parish Council noticeboard for the Village Hall

Members liked the design but were minded for a free-standing noticeboard on the Village Green. The Clerk would obtain quotes for both for the next meeting.

17. Installation costs for defibrillator housing unit

The quote was accepted.
The Clerk was requested to liaise with the THOOC and the contractor.
It was also suggested that the Clerk spoke to the THOOC to ask for some additional funds for this project, as the cost was more than was in the defibrillator reserve fund.

18. Grant request for children's Christmas party

Members agreed to a donation of £100.00 to the Children's Christmas Party.

19. Signage design and quotation

It was agreed to move this to the next agenda.

20. External Audit Report

Members were content that the audit(s) for 2025/26 were now complete.

21. Community discussion (not for resolution)

It was asked if the Village Sign at the east end of the Village could be replaced as it was perceived to be rusted through.

It was asked if the Village sign at the west end of the village could be cleared and the branches cut back.

It was asked when the Tommy's were likely to be deployed.

22. Items and date for next meeting **10th November 2026**

There being no further business **Meeting closed at 21.06**

Matt Garner
Chair
Signature _____

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