

Minutes of Stockton Parish Council Meeting held at Stockton Church on 25th September 2025

Present

Zoe Hallett (ZH), Charlie Beales (CB), Adrian Leng (AL), Sammy Langford-Holt (SLH)
(plus 1 villager).

- 1) **Apologies:** None required as all the Councillors were present.
- 2) **Points raised in Public Participation / Open Forum**
 - a) The villager suggested that the recent Parish Council Election was undemocratic because it was not made public.
POST MEETING NOTE:We have photographic evidence that the official Wiltshire Council A4 size "Notice of Election" form (which was dated 14th May 2025) was clearly displayed on the village noticeboard on 14th May. It remained displayed there right up to the closing date for applicants which was midnight on 3rd June. So the official Notice was made public and displayed there for the full 3 weeks. Sadly no other applications for the position were received by Wiltshire Council.
 - b) The villager was also confused about the number of councillors required to make the quorum. It is 3. We are allowed a maximum of 5 councillors. We now have 4 councillors. SLH was thanked for applying and was recently co-opted on 11th August 2025. The villager present was asked if he wanted to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor but declined. We stressed we would obviously like to get up to 5 councillors eventually.
 - c) The villager raised an issue about parts of Public Footpath STOC1 being overgrown / possibly planted with juniper. We thanked the villager for drawing this to our attention and said we would look into this. The villager also claimed that the Parish Council was responsible for maintaining Public Footpaths.
POST MEETING NOTE: We have since received written confirmation from Wiltshire Council that it is in fact their responsibility to maintain Public Rights of Way so we will be contacting Wiltshire Council about the issues raised at STOC1 Public Footpath so they can resolve them.
 - d) The villager also raised a number of general concerns about road safety in Stockton. We stated that we are in the process of asking Wiltshire Council if they can do an assessment of road safety options in the village.
 - e) The villager also brought up the subject of a Parish Meeting.
- 3) **Points to follow up from previous meeting**
 - a) Dog Poo Bin: AL to make contact with Wiltshire Council about the possibility of a dog poo bin by the kissing gate at entrance to the footpath across field by Stockton House (or other suitable location).
 - b) 20 Mph speed limit: AL to contact Highways to see what is involved and what the costs are etc.
 - c) Traffic: AL to contact Josh Stratton about traffic management plans for the fireworks display due to be held on Stockton Cricket Pitch field.
 - d) Flowers: ZH & SL-H to liaise over flowers in the village.

- 4) Website. Plans are underway to try and improve the website (SLH to lead with support from the other members) where we can post dates of future meetings, minutes, accounts, councillor vacancies, and also ask villagers to email with any issues they might want to be raised at the next meeting etc. We would also aim to have a QR code as a link to the website which could be displayed on the notice board.
- 5) Communications. Apart from trying to improve the website, we agreed to look at other ways we could improve communication of information to the village.
- 6) Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Date of Next meeting to be confirmed.