

# STANTON LACY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Lacy Parish Council on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Present:** Cllrs Phil Parker (Vice Chair – chaired this meeting), Jenna Hossbach, Phil Jones, Corin Redman and Peter Williams. **In Attendance:** H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Emma Gatehouse and Robin Gatehouse. Cllr M Finch advised that he would be late. Cllr Cecilia 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 Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024:**

**RESOLVED:** to accept the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the chair of the meeting.

### 5. Reports From Representatives:

- 5.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Cecilia Motley has sent her apologies.
- 5.2. Stanton Lacy Village Hall – Cllr Phil Jones had not been able to attend the committee meetings due to a family illness. Cllr Hossbach reported that there is a lack of support from local residents and the committee need residents to organise events. The Rogues band are playing on Saturday and there is a Christmas Dinner, Open Mike Night and a Carol Service in December. The new website will be up and running soon and members of the public will be able to book the hall via the site. There will be a link between the Parish Council and Village Hall website.

**Cllr Martin Finch (Chair) joined the meeting.**

6. **Update on the Use of the Neighbourhood Fund for Highway Signs – Village Hall and Titterhill:** The Place Plan team have stated that Shropshire Council are discussing ways of using the Neighbourhood Fund and will inform the Parish Council of any changes.
7. **Update on the Letter to Stuart Anderson MP re Condition of the Highways Including the Closed Road at Cuckoopen:** A letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 from Stuart Anderson had been received. It enclosed a letter from the Assistant Director of Highways and Transport which stated that no additional funding was made available to Shropshire Council (SC) as a result of Storm Babet in 2023. Cuckoopen Road has been put forward to be considered in the future capital works programme alongside other roads across the county. Due to current budget restrictions and the general condition of the highway network across the county, SC cannot currently commit to a date for when these works may be implemented.  
**RESOLVED:** to write to both Stuart Anderson MP and the Assistant Director of Highways and Transport to ask that repairs are made to Cuckoopen Road to make it passable, in at least in one direction, whilst further funding is sought to do more major repairs.
8. **Renew the Clerks Employment Contract, Review the Pay Grade and Working at Home Costs:** The Clerk has been paid at point SCP5 since 2015. The working from home costs have remained at £64 per annum since 2015.  
**RESOLVED:** to sign the new contract as of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024. From April 2025 the Clerk will move to point SCP6 and the working from home costs will increase to £100 per annum.
9. **Finance:**
  - 9.1. Consider Changing the Bank Account Due to Lloyds Charging a Monthly Fee:  
**RESOLVED:** to keep the present Lloyds Bank account with a monthly fee of £4.25 and report savings account options to the January 2025 meeting.

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9.2. Authorise Payments: D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv 657 £112.50, H Coonick (Clerk) reimbursement for stationery & training £42.96.

**RESOLVED:** to make the above payments.

9.3. Consider the Draft Budget: The budget is based on the government forecast of an inflation rate of 2.2% for 2025. It is not clear how much, if any, grant for Environmental Maintenance will be received for the year 2025-26. The training budget for 2025-26 is raised to accommodate the needs of any new councillors elected in May 2025. A contested election will deplete the reserves so the general reserve needs to be boosted in 2025-26 and 2026-27. The ringfenced Neighbourhood Fund of £309 needs to be spend in the year 2025-26. The ring-fenced reserve entitled 'First Aid in the Community' was discussed with a possibility of spending some of this on Bleed Kits.

**RESOLVED:** As the 'First Aid in the Community' money was raised by members of the parish the council will ask for suggestions with how it is to be spent. The budget will be reviewed and the precept set at the January 2025 meeting.

9.4. Appoint the Auditor for 2025-2026:

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Mr Kevin Adams as internal auditor.

**10. Agenda Items for the next meeting:** a. Environment Agency Report on Lagoon at Lower Hayton. b. Plan for the Elections in May 2025 c. Agree the budget and set the precept.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm.**

Signed:

(Chair)

Date:

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

[www.stantonlacyparish.org](http://www.stantonlacyparish.org) email: [stantonlacypc@gmail.com](mailto:stantonlacypc@gmail.com) Tel: 07817607355