

STANTON LACY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stanton Lacy Parish Council on Thursday 20th March 2025

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

1. **Apologies for Absence and Acceptance of Apologies:** None
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None
3. **Public involvement session.** Two members of the public were in attendance. Member of the public (MP1) asked what action the council was taking regarding the damage to the verges. The Chair responded that the Clerk will report the issues to Shropshire Council and raise it with the new Shropshire Councillor for the Corvedale. MP2 asked about action to alleviate flooding at the bottom of Titterhill. The Clerk will report it on Fix My Street as it is Shropshire Council's responsibility.
4. **Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 16th January 2025:**
RESOLVED: that the minutes were correct and were signed by the chair.
5. **Reports From Representatives:**
 - 5.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Cecilia Motley reported that the Council had now entered the pre-election period. Cllr Motley will not be standing again at the election. The Council have balanced the books but there will be financial pressures in the coming year. The Care Quality Commission have awarded the Council a 'Good' rating. At the last Economy Scrutiny Committee the council is encouraging Town and Parish Councils to get more involved in flood prevention and have a better relationship with the highways team. The government has been encouraging councils to get involved in devolution deals with other councils but Shropshire Unitary Council are struggling to find a partner. She is encouraging Parish Councils to work collaboratively wherever possible. Cllr Finch thanked Cllr Motley for her years of service as the Councillor for the Corvedale Division.
 - 5.2. Stanton Lacy Village Hall – Cllr Hossbach reported that there was ongoing maintenance. They are also looking at the installation of solar panels. There is a band booked for the 17th May. The hall is thirty years old this year so suggestions for a special event are welcome.
 - 5.3. Louisa Powell Almshouses – Cllr Peter Williams reported that he had attended a meeting of the committee. They are struggling to attract trustees. There are concerns about the transfer from copper to digital telephone lines and the effects this will have on emergency call services. They are refurbishing several properties.
 - 5.4. South Shropshire Area Committee – Cllr Robin Gatehouse reported that the issue of fly-tipping was raised but as the booking system for the Recycling Centre had been halted it is likely that incidents of fly-tipping will reduce.
6. **Planning**
 - 6.1. Planning Conditions on the Track to the Lagoon at Lower Hayton: the council had received notification from the agent that the track entrance had now been tarmacked. The Clerk has asked for the plan for hedgerow replacement.
 - 6.2. Response from the MP Regarding Permitted Development and Lagoon Covers: The MP had sent a response from Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government. The Council did not consider that the response answered the questions the council had put forward.
RESOLVED: that the Clerk respond to the MP that it is not satisfied with the response from Baroness Taylor and that he requests that the original questions regarding permitted development, agricultural development and covers for lagoons containing other than water are answered.

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7. Highways:

- 7.1. Update on Repairs to the Closed Road at Cuckoopen: Shropshire Council's Highway Maintenance Engineer has reported that those roads damaged by storms are being assessed to quantify the cost of works and it is highly likely that there will be more works than they have budget for but he is aware of the situation at Cuckoopen and sees this site as high on the list of priorities for funding but is not in a position to offer a start date for the work.
- 7.2. Agree the Environmental Maintenance Grant Application & Hourly Rate for 2025-26: Shropshire Council hopes to retain the budget it had previously to pay for mechanical ditch digging. There would not be sufficient in this year's parish council budget to add mechanical ditch digging to the environmental maintenance grant application, which needs to be match funded from the Parish Precept.
RESOLVED: to apply for a grant of £800 and increase the Environmental Maintenance Contractors Hourly rate to £19. To reconsider adding ditch digging to next years budget if Shropshire Council have not been able to continue to provide this service.
- 7.3. Update on Highway Signs at Village Hall Crossroads and Titterhill: Shropshire Council are in preliminary planning stages to install two pedestrian signs to the north and south of the village hall crossroads in recognition of the school bus stop at the village hall and a sign towards the top of Titterhill to warn large vehicles that the road is unsuitable.

8. To Review the Grants and Donations Policy:

RESOLVED: to adopt the policy.

9. Update on the Parish Council Elections in May 2025: nomination papers to stand at the election for the Parish Council on the 1st May need to be submitted to Shropshire Council by the 2nd April.

RESOLVED: to ask SALC to debate the difficulty of completing the nomination papers and time taken to submit the papers which is counterproductive to encouraging people to stand as councillors.

10. Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May 2025:

RESOLVED: to add Parish Boundaries to the agenda.

11. Agree the Policing Priorities for West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:

RESOLVED: to nominate Thefts (Farms), Speeding and Wildlife Crime (which includes hare coursing).

12. Update on the Nomination to the Shropshire Garden Party: the person who litter picked in the parish has been identified and a nomination made.

13. Consider Transferring to a .gov.uk Domain for the Parish Council Website:

RESOLVED: to apply for a .gov.uk domain which will provide greater security. This is provided for free by the present website host.

14. Consider Using .gov.uk Email Addresses for Councillors and the Clerk: to have 10 .gov.uk email accounts would cost £17.49 per month.

RESOLVED: to ensure that all councillors have specific Parish Council email accounts but the cost of .gov.uk emails was considered too high.

15. Response from Connecting Shropshire re: Broadband Coverage: Connecting Shropshire have met with Voneous who are taking steps to identify and address issues their customers are experiencing. If further problems with Voneous's service arise and they are not rectified by Voneous, customers can contact Connecting Shropshire but they advised that they do not have a contractual relationship with Voneous.

16. Response from the Ambulance Service and the Integrated Care Board re Delays to 999 Calls in the Winter: the Patient Liaison Service have asked for more information on the specific calls so that the Ambulance Service can identify the issues involved.

RESOLVED: the clerk will ask the parishioners concerned if they are willing for their personal details to be shared with the Ambulance Service and will submit that information.

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17. Finance:

17.1. Authorise Payments:

17.1.1. Clerks pay April-March £2,338.70, office expenses £100 and travel expenses £47.25.

17.1.2. D Lewis Environmental Maintenance Invs 701 £126 and 717 £81

17.1.3. Contribution Towards the Cost of Work on Tory Lane Bridleway £84 paid from the Parish Paths Partnership Grant. Cllr Jones was thanked for carrying out the work to ensure that the bridleway would remain open.

RESOLVED: to make the above payments

18. Agenda Items for the next meeting: a. Letter to MP re Permitted Development, Agricultural Development and Lagoon Covers b. Response from the Ambulance Service.

Cllr Emma Gatehouse wanted to thank those involved in running the Winter Warmers. People have given their time and food to make the events so successful. The councillors wanted to thank Mrs Jeanette Arnold, Cllrs Robin Gatehouse, Mrs Sheila Gatehouse, Cllr Jenna Hossbach, Miss Sue Parker, Mrs Eileen Pritchard, Mrs Sarah Thomas and Mrs Dot Williams and everyone else who has helped over the Winter.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

Copies of the agenda and minutes are available from the Clerk, Heather Coonick:
www.stantonlacyparish.org email: stantonlacypc@gmail.com Tel: 07817607355

Signed:

(Chair)

Date:

Initial: