

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOURTON WITH GASPER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2023, At Stourton Memorial Hall
(www.stourton.org.uk)**

The meeting was opened at 6 pm

PRESENT: Cllrs C Spencer (Chairman), R Higgs, P Niemand, N Hoare, J Joyce, , C Fearon,
Mrs F Hill (Clerk)

Cllr George Jeans Wiltshire Council

Cllr Bridget Wayman – Wiltshire Council gave a report in her capacity on the [ANOB](#).

PUBLIC SESSION

4 members of the public were present.

3 members of the public spoke. One asked if Councillors wanted a mobile signal.

One asked if Council knew why the roadworks in Bells Lane were not carried out.

One asked for his comments in a letter to the Chairman to be noted.

SGPC 23/28 TO RECEIVE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr A Gray. This was approved.

5 – 1 - 0

SGPC 23/29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (i) To consider any written requests for dispensations by the clerk.
The clerk had had a request for dispensation in respect of Stourhead (Western) Estates, so that employees or tenants have the same dispensation as National Trust employees or tenants, which had expired. The clerk granted dispensation for a period of 18 months until the May 2025 elections when it will be reviewed and renewed, for employees and tenants of both landowners on the grounds that *without the dispensation the number of persons unable to participate in the transaction of business would be so great as to impede the transaction of the business*
- (ii) To receive any declarations of interest –
Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Stourton and Gasper Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

SGPC 23/30

- (i) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 6 September 2023 with the addendum to item SGPC 23/24
Proposed Cllr Spencer, seconded Cllr Fearon
Resolved 4 – 2 – 0
[for-against-abstain]
- (ii) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the pre-planning consultation on 31 October 2023 as a true record.
Proposed Cllr Fearon, seconded Cllr Higgs
Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

SGPC 23/30 ACTIONS (not covered by other agenda items)

- (i) Council **RESOLVED** that following the sending of the letter relating to item SGPC 23/24 an extraordinary meeting was no longer deemed necessary.
Proposed Cllr Fearon, seconded Cllr Niemand
Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

SGPC 23/31 FINANCE MATTERS

- (i) Council **NOTED** the balance of the account. £12,144.23.61 as at 31/10/23
(ii) The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to pay the following.

Mrs F Hill	Salary 17/8/23 -31/10/23 50 hours @ £12.06 £603.00 Home Working @£6.25pm Sept- Nov £18.75 Expenses No NI or Tax payable	£621.75 TBC	
Carer Support		£200	
Citizens Advice Central Dorset		£200	
Mrs R Corbin	Wreath	£19.99	
Mere Link		£50	
St Peters Church		£250	
SLCC	Renewal ½ share with Zeals	£52.50	

(iii) Council is asked to **NOTE** payments paid out under delegated powers.

Jimmy Flynn Web Services	Website Design £280 Domain, Hosting and maintenance for the first year £165	£445.00	
-----------------------------	---	---------	--

Proposed Cllr Hoare, seconded Cllr Niemand

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

(iv) Council **RESOLVED** to agree the budget for 2024/5 with the inclusion of an additional £500 to cover contingencies that may arise from LHFIFG projects.

Proposed Cllr Higgs, seconded Cllr Niemand

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

(v) Council **RESOLVED** to request a precept of £5419.00 which includes for the additional £500 added to the budget. Cllr Spencer offered a vote of thanks to the Clerk for all her hard work preparing the budget and the explanatory notes.

Proposed Cllr Joyce , seconded Cllr Hoare

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

(vi) Council **RESOLVED** to increase the clerk's pay to £13.06 per hour in line with the NALC Pay scales from 1 April 2023. The back pay will be paid at the March meeting.

Proposed Cllr Fearon , seconded Cllr Niemand

Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

SGPC 23/32 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) Council is asked to Consider Planning Applications: including any that come in after the agenda is sent out.

PL/2023/08788	Rock Arch Cottage Stourton with Gasper Installation of retaining wall to sloping rear ground. Installation of french drain to property. Replacement of existing oil storage tank in new position.	No objection Proposed Cllr Joyce seconded Cllr Hoare Resolved 6 – 0 – 0
PL/2023/09895	Land adjacent Garden Lake Dam above China Road and Turners Lake, Stourhead Gardens, Beach Tree crown reduction	No objection

		Proposed Cllr Spencer seconded Cllr Fearon Resolved 6 – 0 - 0
--	--	---

(ii) Council NOTED the Planning Applications considered/determined since last meeting:

Planning Application		Parish Response	Planning Authority
PL/2023/07038	Temp use of land for Christmas at Stourhead	No Objection	Approve with Conditions
PL/2023/07182	Proposed works to 42 trees within the conservation area.	Support	No Objections
PL/2023/07415	Proposed building that will securely house the National Trust Stourhead mobility equipment and access aids and accommodate the associated personnel to staff and administer the mobility equipment demonstration and free hire.	No Objection	Approve with Conditions

SGPC 23/33 CLERKS REPORT

The clerk reported on her recent training with the SLCC and her FILCA (Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration). She had been at a meeting with Highways recently and explained why much of their work is delayed currently.

SGPC 23/34 RECORDING

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the recording policy presented to them with minor amendments to allow the Parish Council meetings to be recorded. The Clerk will look at systems to convert speech to text that can be used on the laptop.

Proposed Cllr Fearon, seconded Cllr Niemand
Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

SGPC 23/35 STOURTON LANE

Cllr Fearon UPDATED Council on the recent discussions with Wiltshire Council regarding the Stourton Lane: C55 Speed Limit Assessment Report. The decision is still with the Cabinet Minister who has said she wishes to take more account of local opinions. It was noted that she currently has a lot of cases outstanding.

SGPC 23/36 STANDING ORDERS

1.12 Council was asked to RESOLVE to amend the standing orders from Existing text:

The minute of the meeting will be kept by the Clerk or other nominated person in the Clerk's absence. The minutes which are circulated will be draft minutes until they are approved by the Parish Council at their next meeting and signed by the person presiding at that meeting.

to Proposed text:

1.12 A minute of the meeting will be kept by the Clerk or other nominated person in the Clerk's absence. The minutes which are circulated will be draft minutes until they are approved by the Parish Council. *Any challenges to the text will be debated at the next Parish council meeting and once agreed signed by the person presiding at that meeting.*

Discussion took place and it was **RESOLVED** to leave the wording as it is and revisit the discussion at the next meeting.

Proposed Cllr Fearon, seconded Cllr Niemand
Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

SGPC 23/37 WINTER PREPARATIONS

- (i) Cllr Fearon has asked for an additional grit box. She will need to purchase one so will go ahead with this together with two shovels. Cllr Hoare has agreed to place the box at the top of Gasper Street and has already liaised with the Parish Steward as to the best location.
- (ii) Cllr Higgs will organise WhatsApp Gritting Group. He has the offer of help from one youngster and one resident has contacted him. He will consider some flyers to encourage others to join.

SGPC 23/38 CORRESPONDENCE

Council noted the correspondence received.

- (i) Emails from resident dated 11/10, 12/10, 17/10, 19/10 re mast previously circulated.

SGPC 23/39 DEFIBRILLATOR

Council NOTED the new pad is now in the defibrillator, thanks to Erik Ruane for arranging this. It was noted that there is no record of the whereabouts of this defib on the national database. **Erik** has a contact within Community Heartbeat that he can ask about this. The **Clerk** will add a note about where defibs can be found to the report in the Upper Stour Magazine

SGPC 23/40 REPLACEMENT TREE

Council **RESOLVED** to replace the Ash that had to be cut down. The tree had been planted in 1994 to celebrate 100 years of the Local Government Act to create Parish Councils. Cllr Niemand offered that the National Trust would pay for a tree. **Cllr Higgs and Cllr Niemand** will work together to source a suitable tree. Offers of trees were given to them from people present.

Proposed Cllr Joyce, seconded Cllr Spencer
Resolved 6 – 0 – 0

SGPC 23/41 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- (i) Dog Poo Bags – Cllr Gray
- (ii) Emergency Contacts
- (iii) Standing orders

SGPC 23/42 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6 March 2024

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the matters above in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

The meeting finished at 7.35.

Addendum to the minutes of 6 September 2023

‘To add a correction to the statement made in the minutes of the meeting that the PC still has ‘no objection’ to the Forestry Commission’s grant of the Bonham Plain Scheme. The correction is that the PC has never been properly consulted and it was referring to the minutes of the 29th August 2019 :
It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would send a letter to Nick Hoare of Stourhead Western Estates thanking him for asking the Parish Council to comment on his draft plans and advising that in principle there were no objections. However, they would ask that throughout the consultation full consideration be given to all of the comments, concerns and suggestions that the residents of Stourton and Gasper parish make known to him.

DRAFT