

# Stowford Parish Council



## Minutes of Ordinary meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

These minutes are provisional until they are signed by the chair at the next meeting of the parish council.

### Meeting No 724

Present:- Cllrs Leroy St Louis (Chair), Alexander, Law (Vice chair), Govett, Lorna St Louis, Cllr Chris Edmonds (WDBC), Cllr Lois Samuel (DCC), Peter van Delft (clerk),

Meeting opened 7.32pm

1. The chair welcomed all those present.
2. Apologies – all present
3. Members of the public open forum – One parishioner – The parishioner reported that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March a medical emergency incident occurred in her vicinity, however parked cars opposite the entrance seriously hindered the services resulting in additional police assistance being required to help with the patient and the medical service's needs. Had a fire taken place then that service would also have been severely hindered. The parishioner requested if some form of parking restrictions could be applied in the near vicinity in Stoney Lane, Lewdown. Cllr Samuel reported that Cllr Mott of WDBC had already contacted her on the issue, however she requested if the clerk could also write in to her so that a more substantive approach to resolve the issue could take place. Clerk to action.
4. Reports from Councillors. Cllr Samuel (DCC) reported on the latest devolution proposals for Devon and Torbay, including proposals for various funding opportunities. Public encouragement to report 'Pot-holes' and other highways issues on the Devon Highways website. Cllr Leroy St Louis reported that the D.H. website worked well, in particular for the Pot-Holes and flooding related issues. Cllr Govett asked Cllr Samuel what were the long-term plans and support for rural villages including the existing policy to phase out oil and gas heating systems in the future, in response Cllr Samuel said that current funding was secure. Cllr Govett reported that conflicting correspondence from Airband was cause for concern especially regarding the role out of the broadband service, however Cllr Samuel was informed that the service would be live from March. Cllr Alexander reported that WDBC planning dept. had improved the processing of applications, also he reported that he attended a 'Planning' training event hosted by C.P.R.E. Cllr Govett asked Cllr Edmonds what changes if any may take place in the Local Development Plan, in response Cllr Edmonds said that the plan is being reviewed at regular intervals and that no major amendments are taking place, all existing policies remain in place. Cllr Edmonds (WDBC) reported that the council had now approved the doubling of Council Tax for holiday and second homes from April 2025, this measure would potentially yield and extra £171k in receipts. Also, Cllr Edmonds reported that in response to the housing crisis, WDBC have purchased 8 properties using funding from the Governments Local Authority Housing Fund with 5 being used to house Ukrainian and Afghanistan families and 3 used as temporary accommodation to support homeless west devon residents.
5. Dispensations & declarations of interest - none
6. Minutes of previous meeting 723 were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr Law, seconded Cllr Lorna St Louis, motion carried.
7. Finance -
  - 7.1 Payments were approved for – Peter van Delft – clerk salary (Jan- Feb) £334.25, HMRC – PAYE for clerk £9.00, P van Delft – Admin expenses £47.82, Stowford Parish Hall – Hall hire Oct-March £40.00. Proposed Cllr Law, seconded Cllr Alexander, motion carried
  - 7.2 R.F.O. reported a credit balance after payment of £4,316.65, proposed Cllr Govett, seconded Cllr Lorna St Louis, motion carried.

8. Planning – App. 0472/24/FUL – Change of use of land for siting of a Shepherds hut & pod as holiday lets. Spry Farm, Spry Lane, Lifton, PL16 0AZ  
Council decision – Support – Proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, motion carried.  
Planning – App. 0690/24/HHO – Householder application for proposed extension and alterations including erection of a double garage. Gingerbread Cottage, Lifton, PL16 0AT  
Council decision – Support, Proposed Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Law, motion carried.
  9. Bus shelter request – After much discussion it was resolved that a public consultation/survey would take place at the Annual Parish Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Govett to produce a survey/consultation proposal that includes a bus shelter amongst other initiatives from which the community as a whole could benefit from. Cllr Edmonds informed that grant funding for some capital improvements were available from WDBC, D.C.C and U.K Property Fund.
  10. Councillor vacancies – two councillor seats are still vacant.
  11. Broadband update. The executive PA of Airband had informed that their service will become available from March.
  12. ‘Newslink’ support – Cllr Leroy St Louis reported that he attended a meeting held by L.R.A, discussion took place over the future of the magazine including an improved layout and content. A plan to address the future funding of the magazine included an annual subscription, details are in the current edition. Cllr Leroy St Louis wished to convey the Parish Councils continued support for the magazine and the importance of it for all the communities in the local parishes.
  13. The next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting, a presentation by Tamar Energy Community and a consultation/survey on the Parish community improvements.
- Meeting closed 9.37 (and extension to continue was supported by the council, proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Govett)

Date time and place of next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> April – 7.30pm at Stowford Parish Hall