

Stowford Parish Council



Minutes Ordinary meeting held on 3rd September 2024

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

Meeting No 727

Present:- Cllrs Leroy St Louis (Chair), Law (vice chair) Alexander, Govett and Lorna St Louis,
Cllr Edmonds (WDBC), P van Delft (clerk),

Meeting opened 7.33pm

1. The chair welcomed all those present
 2. Apologies – all present
 3. Dispensations & declarations of interest - none
 4. Members of the public open forum – Two members present. Both members expressed their appreciation for the parishioner who freely cuts and maintains the hedges in the village. Further discussion took place as to who's responsibility it is to maintain a hedge adjacent to public highways. Cllr Edmonds suggested that in a case of an overgrown hedge that may be of public concern to safety, that it can be reported on the D.C.C. website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport> where the council will look into the matter.
 5. Minutes of previous meeting 726 were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded by Cllr Alexander, all in favour.
 6. Finance –
 - 6.1 Payments were approved for – P van Delft – clerk salary (July August) £331.85
HMRC – PAYE for clerk £ 11.40
Clerk – admin expenses £ 80.98Proposed Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour
 - 6.2 Vat refund of £141.87 has been claimed for the period 1.4.23 – 31.3.24
 - 6.3 R.F.O. Reported a credit balance of £4,348.64 after approved payments, proposed Cllr Law, seconded Cllr Govett, all in favour.
 - 6.4 Bank signatory update- removal and additions have now been completed.
 - 6.5 Bank Statements – all statements will now be paperless from 1st September
 - 6.6 Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy – The policy was adopted. Proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Lorna St Louis, all in favour.
7. Planning app. 2702/24/TCA – T1: English Oak - crown raise descending tertiary branches to create 5m clearance from the road. Reduce overextend limb over out building via thinning up to 2m, causing vehicle obstruction and rubbing the roof. T2: Small leaved Maple - full crown reduction via thinning up to 3m in height and 2m from lateral branches, to reduce the subsequent re growth, and proximity to house, risk of subsidence. Hayne Barton, Stowford Lewdown, EX20 4BZ
Mr Brian Wilkinson the parish councils tree warden had viewed the tree and had no objection to the proposed work. Council decision – Support, proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour.
 8. Cllr Edmonds of WDBC reported that the government intend to review the planning system and housing targets are also being reviewed.
 9. Reports from Councillors – Cllr Govett reported that Openreach are looking to bring fibre broadband to the Lewdown/Stowford area, Cllr Govett further suggested that it would be beneficial to secure a speedy installation into the area that if interested, parishioners visit the Openreach website, for more information <https://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity> If parishioners have any questions regarding the proposed service contact Gemma Bristow of the 'Active Travel & Digital Connectivity'

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lead at West Devon Borough Council 01803 861383. Cllr Leroy St Louis has highlighted the Openreach pledge request on the Stowford Village Facebook page.

10. Councillor vacancies – two vacancies still available.
11. Parish Questionnaire – After much discussion on the content of the questionnaire it was resolved that the draft questionnaire would be reviewed by the chairman. Options for the distribution of the questionnaire were considered, including hand delivery, responses could be posted or hand delivered to a letter box at the parish hall. Permission is required from the Parish Hall Committee to locate a letter box on the premises, the cost of the letter box to be borne from the parish council.
12. Table Tennis – Council initiative to help with health & fitness. The clerk reported that a parishioner was interested to lead a new group so that sessions could be arranged at Stowford Parish Hall. It was also reported that Cllr Chris Edmonds would support the initiative with a grant of £150 from his West Devon Borough Council Localities Fund to help towards the cost of the table tennis equipment, the clerk also reported that the council could also contribute up to £150 towards the costs of the equipment. It was resolved to support a grant application upon which the purchase of the equipment could be arranged.
13. Correspondence – Stowford Parish Hall – Hire agreement. It was resolved that the chairman sign the S.P.H. Hire agreement, proposed Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour.
Tree exemption notice – works to existing tree. 2309/24/TEX had been received.
14. Stowford Parish Hall – Completion of lease registration. The clerk reported that the Lease agreement with Stowford Parish Hall Committee has now finally been registered with Land Registry. The council thanked Cllrs Leroy and Lorna St Louis for all the work they done that enabled the registration of hall and the lease agreement.

Meeting closed 9.03pm

Date time and place of next meeting – 12th November 2024 – 7.30pm at Stowford Parish Hall