



## Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

### Meeting No 730

Present: Cllrs Leroy St Louis (Chair), Judy Law (Vice Chair), Richard Alexander, John Govett, Lorna St Louis.  
P van Delft (clerk)

Meeting opened 7.32pm

1. The chair welcomed all those present and wished them a happy New Year
2. Apologies: Cllr Chris Edmonds (WDBC)
3. Dispensations & declarations of interest. None
4. Members of the public open forum. No one present
5. Minutes of previous meeting 729 were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.  
Proposed Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour.
6. Table Tennis – Council initiative to help with health & fitness. Purchase of equipment. The Parish Council has received a kind donation of a table from a parishioner. The council had received a £150 W.D.B.C. grant for a second table tennis table, the chair informed that he was unsuccessful in bidding for a table but would continue to review availability for a suitable used table. The p.c. is now looking for someone who will lead the table tennis sessions, anyone interested to contact the chair or the clerk.
7. Finance –
  - 7.1 Payments were approved for P van Delft – clerk salary (Nov/Dec) £388.73  
HMRC – PAYE for clerk £ 25.40  
Cllr L. St Louis – refund electricity cost for meeting £ 6.00  
Proposed Cllr Alexander, seconded Cllr Law, all in favour.
  - 7.2 R.F.O. Reported a credit balance of £5220.51 after approved payments, proposed Cllr Govett, seconded Cllr Leroy St Louis, all in favour
  - 7.3 Bank change – Hinckley & Rugby Building Society application and resolution. The R.F.O. informed that the H&R BS provided free banking. After due consideration, it was resolved to approve the proposal from the Hinkley & Rugby Building Society, the Resolution was signed by current authorised signatories who have all agreed to continue. Motion proposed Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour.
  - 7.4 Budget 2025-26 + Precept 2025-26 - The R.F.O. provided two draft budgets for consideration, It was resolved to approve a balanced budget of £3740. A precept of £3740 to be requested from W.D.B.C. Motion proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour.
  - 7.5 Grant applications processing and determination – It was resolved to approve the following grant applications; Lewdown Residents Association (Newslink) £200, Stowford St John – graveyard maintenance grant £200, Portgate Methodist graveyard – Graveyard maintenance grant £100. Payments to be made after approval at the next meeting. Motion proposed Cllr Govett, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour.
8. Reports from Cllr Edmonds of WDBC – The chair received a report provided by Cllr Edmonds. Patrols have been conducted weekly except during the Christmas period. An instance of a dog off lead was identified on 28<sup>th</sup> November, Further patrols will continue to monitor the situation.

9. Nuisance dog off lead – update including Mobile Liaison Officer response. The chair reiterated that patrols from the M.L.O. were still taking place. The chair confirmed that Cllr Edmonds and the clerk would continue to be updated with issues arising. The meeting went into Part 2, 8.16pm and finished 8.18pm, no members of the public were present.
10. Reports from Councillors – Cllr Govett suggested that should the Governments proposed devolution white paper become law then local councils may have to think differently, this could also have impacts on how grant aid is considered for interested bodies.
11. Parish Councillors vacancies – The chair reported that an individual maybe interested, also Cllr Law confirmed that a local parishioner may also be interested, both councillors will report back at the next meeting. Cllr Leroy St Louis reported that a complaint of speeding vehicles was received, the councillor did mention that the issue of speeding vehicles was raised at a meeting in 2024 but no interest from parishioners was received on that matter at that meeting.
12. Parish Questionnaire – draft questions and reply box. After much discussion it was resolved that the chair would prepare a new draft questionnaire. Questionnaire to be hand delivered by councillors, copies also to be made available at the coffee mornings and quiz nights (by agreement) Responses can be dropped in at the Parish Hall letter box, all other responses to be collected from parishioners after 14 days of postal by councillors. Questionnaire to include what the pc has recently done for the community, suggestions what could be done and what parishioners would like done, how new grants can be of use to new set up groups and organisations.
13. Grit bins – storage and stock – Cllr Alexander reported that all the grit bins were full except for one. A dumpy bag of grit to be supplied at a central location so that distribution of the grit can take place to all the grit bins when required.
14. Highways – Road sign damage. Cllr Law reported that two signs were missing for Stowford, Cllr Law to report missing signs to Devon Highways.
15. Correspondence – The clerk reported that a concerned parishioner had reported a potential breach of planning was taking place and also a request for work to be carried out by the National Grid on his property. The clerk informed that requests for permission to undertake work on private property by the National Grid was not something that the parish council could help with. The clerk also informed the parishioner that the work appeared to be on renovating the existing property and that to the best of his knowledge the property was not listed.

Meeting closed 9.25pm.

Date time and place of next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 7.30pm at Stowford Parish Hall