



Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 8th July 2025

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

Meeting No 735

Present:- Cllrs Leroy St Louis (Chair), Law (Vice chair), Alexander, Chick, Lorna St Louis, Terry.

Cllr Chris Edmonds (WDBC), Peter van Delft (clerk),

Meeting opened 7.43pm

Apologies – Cllr Govett

1. Members of the public open forum – no members present
2. Dispensations & declarations of interest - none
3. Minutes of previous meeting 734 were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
Proposed Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, all in favour
4. Finance –

4.1 Authorisation and to pay the following invoices

Vision ICT – Email account	£ 16.00
Peter van Delft – clerk salary (May- June)	£341.60
HMRC – PAYE for clerk	£ 17.40
I.C.O. – Annual renewal fee (D/D)	£ 47.00

Proposed Cllr Alexander, seconded Cllr Leroy St Louis, all in favour.

4.2 New bank account update – The R.F.O. informed that a new Commercial Instant Access acc. has been opened with Lloyds Bank, the sum of £3000 being transferred from treasurers acc.

4.3 R.F.O. reported a combined credit balance of £4,573.90 after authorised payments. Proposed Cllr Law, seconded Cllr Terry, all in favour.

5. Cllr Edmonds of WDBC reported that he wished to comment on item 12.
6. Planning app. 1767/25/FUL – Retrospective application to regularise installation of a permeable farm track.

Sunnybrook Farm, Portgate, Lewdown, EX20 4PZ

Council decision – Object – Proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Lorna St Louis, three councillors supported the application, three councillors objected, the chair having casting vote, voted to object.

7. Reports from Councillors – Cllr Alexander reported that the defibrillator had been used recently, however, he informed that the battery did not appear to be fully charged. **The clerk to inform the Stowford Parish Hall committee.** Cllr Alexander also informed that a Mabrak meeting had taken place last month, he informed that the proposed changes could have serious ramifications for the parish if a response to the proposal was not thoroughly considered. It was resolved to include the Mabrak proposal at the next meeting. Cllr Chick received an enquiry regarding a planning proposal in the village. The chair informed that W.D.B.C. planning department had a telephone service (chargeable) that could help out with providing the initial guidance but planning advice would still need to be sought by the appropriate authorities. Cllr Terry informed that tree saplings had started to grow in and around the church triangle. The clerk informed that this was a matter for Stowford PCC.
8. Table Tennis – promotion and organisation. The chair reported that he spoke with some parishioners that expressed an interest in helping to run a group. **The chair to follow up.**
9. Replacement bench located at Stowford Cross Bus stop. The clerk informed that the bench was due to be delivered at the end of July.

Councillors: Leroy St Louis (chair), Judy Law (vice chair), Richard Alexander, Allana Chick,
John Govett, Lorna St Louis, Nigel Terry

Clerk: P van Delft - Tel: 01566 783023 Email: clerk@stowfordparishcouncil.org.uk www.stowfordparishcouncil.org.uk

10. Parish Questionnaire – draft questions and reply box – A reply box has been erected in the porch of the Stowford Parish Hall. The chair provided a first draft of a questionnaire informing that it was hoped to be of a more engaging but less formal document. The main points being how the community could be better engaged within the parish including community connection, participation and inclusion, fun and fellowship, imagination and future vision. **Cllrs to respond to the draft by 16th July.**
11. Highways reports – Cllr Leroy St Louis reported that he reported pot-holes on the D.H. website and that the problem was repaired within three days. Cllr Chick reported that a parishioner had complained about an overgrown hedge in the village, Cllr Leroy St Louis also had received a complaint about the same hedge. The chair informed how the complaint could be reported on the W.D.B.C. website or on the Devon Highways website. Cllr Leroy St Louis suggested that councillors and parishioners could ‘self-serve’ for quicker and accurate reporting, however the parish council was still there to help. The chair suggested that the appropriate procedure to self-serve could be posted on the facebook page and Newslink.
12. Dog fouling, nuisance dog(s), dog(s) of leads – Mobile Liaison Officer report and update. The chair informed that the item is to be discussed under ‘Part 2’ guidelines.
13. Mobile phone training – Training programme for parishioners. The chair informed that he approached ‘Learn Devon’ if training was available. Free training was available for a minimum of 6 parishioners, details to follow and promotion to be arranged. It was resolved that the hall costs to be initially paid by the parish council and that it may then be recovered by L.D, proposed Cllr Law, seconded Cllr Terry, motion carried. **The chair to make arrangements.**
14. Clerk contact details – contact & new email account. The clerk informed that the parish councils new email account had been set up and that he was working on making it fully available by September. The clerk informed that his digital telephone land line service was not being renewed and enquired if the p.c. wanted a telephone service then it would need to provide a means to do so. It was resolved that a “virtual” telephone service would be provide by the council, motion proposed Cllr Law, seconded Cllr Terry, all in favour. **The chair to make arrangements.**
15. V.E. Day 75yr commemoration tree – Replacement of existing dead tree. The clerk informed that the second Oak tree had died. An alternative genus would be required to successfully grow. It was resolved that alternatives are provided for the next meeting. **The clerk to enquire.**
16. Standing Orders – Review & adoption to include new regulations – It was resolved to adopt the new Standing Orders, proposed Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Law, all in favour.
17. Correspondence - The chair informed that he received a complaint regarding a highway’s obstruction in Portgate, Cllr Edmonds informed that he was also in contact with the complainant. After much discussion it was considered that the problem was better dealt with by Devon Highways. **Cllrs Leroy St Louis and Edmonds to follow up.**

Meeting closed 9.42

Part 2

Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the public will be excluded from the meeting at this point.

Meeting opened 9.43pm

Present – Cllrs Leroy St Louis (Chair), Cllr Law (vice chair), Chick, Lorna St Louis, Terry.
Cllr Edmonds (WDBC). P van Delft (clerk).

Item 12 – Dog fouling, nuisance dog(s), dog(s) of leads

Meeting closed 9.46pm

Date, time, place of next meeting; 2nd September 7.30pm at Stowford Parish Hall.

Councillors: Leroy St Louis (chair), Judy Law (vice chair), Richard Alexander, Allana Chick,
John Govett, Lorna St Louis, Nigel Terry

Clerk: P van Delft - Tel: 01566 783023 Email: clerk@stowfordparishcouncil.org.uk www.stowfordparishcouncil.org.uk