

STANDISH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7pm

All written reports referred to in these minutes are available on the Standish Village website.

Present: Cllr Sue Hartley (Chair), Cllr Alison Widgery, Cllr Oliver Kirkham, Cllr Andreas Biermann.

In attendance: Elizabeth Oakley (Clerk). District Cllr Mark Ryder, District Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes, and County Cllr Nick Housden attended part of the meeting.

25.01.To receive apologies. Cllr Sardar Khan, Cllr John Parker.

25.02.To receive any declarations of interest. There were no declarations.

25.03.To receive any representations or questions from members of the public (15 minutes)
There were no representations.

25.04.To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Housden gave a verbal summary of some implications and options from the Government's white paper on local government restructuring featuring unitary authorities and the removal or closure of district and borough councils. Parish and town councils may possibly have more importance and new responsibilities under the proposed changes. Cllr Housden would raise the following day with Highways long-standing issues in Standish Lane of collapsed railings by the brook and drainage issues. A written report had been received from Cllr Ryder and circulated. He added verbal updates: additional collections for batteries and vapes through the district; recycling small electricals later in the year; the question of how canal side A38 development would be managed in future. Whilst two CIL bids had been awarded in Cam, CIL monies overall were underspent and carried forward; there had been less Planning workload and fewer receipts possibly due to elections and local government changes. A replacement is sought for the head of planning leaving next month. It is to be hoped the initiatives started in Stroud district will continue through the local government changes transition.

25.05 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2024 and receive any updates The minutes of 11th December Meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair (Cllr Kirkham) for that meeting.

25.06 To consider any planning applications, including the following: -

S.24/2228/DISCON, site of Former Standish Hospital Beatrice Webb Lane Standish, Discharge condition 7 (Play area) from S.22/1317/VAR – council considered the design was not very suited to its woodland setting and questioned whether there would be grass underneath. Council considered the previously identified set of play equipment more suitable with a number of pieces of equipment for a variety of age groups and fitting to the setting with easy maintenance.

S.24/2229/DISCON, site of Former Standish Hospital Beatrice Webb Lane Standish, Discharge of Conditions 6 (i) (Homeowner Information Pack - Recreation and Amenities) & (ii) (Interpretation boards) from S.22/1317/VAR, BOARDS 1 – 10, Interpretation Board Positions – council noted its previous concern about reflecting light being taken into account in the position of the boards.

The council had copies of the noticeboard display contents. The clerk to upload to parish council website.

Action points: *The Clerk to upload copies of the noticeboard (contents) to the website.*

S. 24/2284/DISCON Site of Former Standish Hospital Beatrice Webb Lane Standish, Discharge of Condition 2 -Verification Report of remediation works from S.22/1317/VAR – the council made no comment.

S.24/2286/HHOLD The Leaze, Oxlynch Lane Standish, Removal of domestic garage & Erection of two storey side extension to dwelling to form annexe – the council expressed a hope that swift bricks would be installed.

25.07. To receive an update on the Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan and agree actions
Council agreed to accept the report circulated.

25.08. To receive an update on the Multi-User Path project (Horsemarling roundabout to Crowcumpill) and agree actions

Council agreed to accept the report circulated.

25.09. To receive clerk's update and agree actions

Council agreed to accept the report circulated. The Clerk confirmed: current council balances, current tax base had been received from Stroud District Council, the bank had notified of slightly reduced savings interest rates, and a wayleave cheque for £26.34 had been received from National Grid. The Clerk had set up the employer's account with NEST pensions and requested initial payroll costings for monthly pension calculations. The Clerk to progress arrangements for pension deductions.

Action points: *The Clerk to finalise arrangements for pension deductions.*

25.10. To receive report on Community Liaison Group meeting and agree actions

Cllr Kirkham to attend the next meeting and ensure he is on the circulation list.

Action points: *Cllr Kirkham to elicit date of next meeting.*

25.11. To receive a report on matters relating to Green Walk and agree actions

Cllr Biermann advised of few recent developments. The poor surface of Horsemarling Lane was a continuing issue for pedestrians whilst there was no indication when work on the Lane would be started. Cllr Kirkham to raise planning compliance issues. The new parish council noticeboard was due for delivery within the next few weeks. Cllr Biermann would notify developer of its expected arrival. A defibrillator has been installed, but it has no contact number listed. Cllr Biermann to check if this has been added and inform Cllr Hartley, in case she needs to contact the developer. Council agreed a need to set up training for use of defibs as well as first aid.

Action points: *Cllr Biermann to inform developer of forthcoming arrival of new noticeboard. Cllr Kirkham to raise issues of planning compliance. Cllr Biermann to check whether Green Walk defib had been given a reference number. Cllr Hartley to raise issue with developer if necessary.*

25.12. To receive a report on Standish Lane road issues and agree actions

Council agreed to accept the report circulated. Issues had been raised with Cllr Housden (item 25.04). Cllr Widgery commented that there was noticeably more traffic in the mornings and more if there was a problem on the M5. The handyperson had inserted a stake to show the drain location to aid speed of repairs. There was also a lot of mud coming down from fields. Cllr Kirkham is investigating a replacement fingerpost for the triangle at the B4008 end of Standish Lane.

25.13. To receive a report on local and national climate change initiatives and agree actions

Council agreed to accept the report circulated. Cllr Widgery had sent a tactful message to the Police Family Liaison Officer expressing local concerns raised about New Year fireworks. She has discussed with the farmer, whose field was used, the possibility that the field gate could be closed next New Year's Eve and on the sad anniversary of the death of the young motorcyclist.

25.14. To receive a report on the Village Hall Management Group and agree actions

Council agreed to accept the report circulated. A possible grant is being researched for shed roof work. The bid for the cycle rack scheme had been successful.

25.15. To receive a report on village events and agree actions

No village events had taken place in the last month and none were currently planned.

25.16. To approve new financial regulations policy and agree actions

The Clerk had added a Review Date of December 2025 to the final policy document circulated. The policy retained fidelity clause cover for loss of money or property from fraud or dishonesty by an employee following advice from the insurance company. The council approved the policy. The Clerk to upload policy to council website in due course.

Action points: *Clerk to upload approved policy to council website.*

25.17. To conclude budget setting process for 2025/26 and agree actions

The Clerk had prior circulated updated draft budget, current tax base, cashbook up to December 2024 with bank reconciliations, and handyperson's contract. The budget included new costings for employer national insurance and Clerk's pension. Clerk would also add a budget heading for Clerk's travel and mileage and a new line for a road sign on the traffic island at £1,200. Council agreed to increase the handyperson's hourly

rate to £23 per hour from the expiry of his current contract in April 2025 and to increase monthly hours by two hours. The increased hourly rate would also apply to handyperson's grass cutting fee. The tax base showed a numerical increase of 7.31 households over the previous year (=2.92% increase). The council agreed to raise the precept for 2025-26 only to reflect the increase in household numbers (to £16,326), thus, retaining the same £63.42 cost per household.

Action points: *the Clerk to draft the new handyperson contract, finalise the agreed budget document, and submit the precept request form.*

25.18. To consider potential improvements to MST48 to make feasible as all-weather path

Cllr Biermann requested this path be investigated to make it suitable for all-weather purposes. It was an obvious Active Travel point. Council agreed to liaise with Stonehouse Town Council as the path is in its area. For E26, Arlebrook to Ivy Cross Farm section, there was no sign posting at Ivy Cross Farm and no signposting at gate at barn. The Private Road sign had been removed.

Action points: *Cllr Biermann to draft correspondence for the Clerk to send to Stonehouse Town Council. Cllr Biermann to refer issues concerning E26 to PROW officer.*

25.19. To consider road safety issues and agree actions

Cllr Kirkham advised of a head-on crash at the bridge. There was a need for speed warning signs approaching both sides, rather than just one side, of the bridge.

Action points: *Cllr Kirkham to write to Highways Manager requesting new signage.*

25.20. To progress plaques for Elizabeth II's Coronation and Jubilee trees and agree actions

Cllr Widgery and Clerk agreed to collate three quotations for the February meeting including the quotation from a previous supplier which Cllr Widgery confirmed still traded in Stonehouse.

Action points: *Cllr Widgery and Clerk to collate three comparable quotations for February meeting.*

25.21. To receive the Handyperson's report and agree actions

Council agreed to accept the report circulated. The council wished to express a note of thanks in these minutes for all the handyperson's work on its behalf.

25.22. To progress newsletter preparation and agree actions

Councillors agreed headings for articles for the next newsletter including: council tax and budget setting, local government re-organisation, climate issues, reports on memorial concert, harvest supper, Neighbourhood Development Plan, multi-user path, Green Walk, Standish Lane, and memorial plaques.

Action points: *councillors to write agreed articles.*

25.23. To note payments and receipts and agree payment of invoices

Payments approved

- Handyperson monthly invoice: £160
- Clerk's wages; £475.10
- HMRC: £58.60
- PATA Payroll services: Oct, Nov, Dec 2024 and pay award arrears calculation: £46.05
- Web Juggler.com (*Jake Palmer*): annual renewal of email domain name and hosting: £60.00

Payments approved at December meeting

- Handyperson's monthly invoice: £160.00
- Clerk's wages: (To include pay award arrears): £581.00
- HMRC PAYE: £85.00
- GAPTC, training, Climate session, 26th November: £45.00

Payments agreed and pending –

Receipts – Receipt pending –

25. 24. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of the Council The next meeting of the parish council will take place on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7.00 pm at Standish village hall.

*All written reports submitted for monthly council meetings are available on the
Standish Parish Council website*