



Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Stowe Village Hall on Wednesday 12 November 2025 at Stowe by Chartley Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Coote (Chair); Adler; Byrne; Rayson

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk); 4 members of the public

195/25 Apologies

Cllrs Finney, Harnett and Tilston

Cllr Finney will be joining the meeting by zoom but will not be recorded as present or have any voting rights

196/25 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest on any item on the agenda

Cllr Rayson - Highways

197/25 To receive applications for dispensation under the Localism Act 2011

None

198/25 Chair to close the meeting for public session

No issues raised

Agreed to take item 203/25 Solar Farms next and to allow that members of the public be allowed to join in the discussion

199/25 Solar Farms

- **Notes of the working party meeting held on 29 October 2025** – the notes of this meeting were noted
- **Public Meeting 16 October 2025** – the meeting was discussed and the following points made:-
 - The invited speakers – Gavin Williamson was very supportive and Cllr Tom Marshall was excellent;
 - The attendance was not as high as expected and included some from outside the parish; the landowner was present;
 - Cllr Finney has spoken to Cllr Beatty who will chase SBC this week about the meeting to be held between the parish council and SBC.
 - The passing places were discussed
- **Response from Borough Council** – it's felt that it contains some valid points but also expresses blame on others – Fire and Rescue Service, Planning Inspectorate and Parish Council;
 - The borough council doesn't demonstrate a full awareness of H&S;
 - SBC suggests the working party takes the issue up with the Planning Inspector and the Secretary of State;

The borough council response includes many points to which a response can be made;

The cost implications to local authorities of any retraction of planning permission are very high, irrespective of who actually decides on the refusal;

Claims about ignorance about items such as gypsum miles and sink holes, is no defence;

- **Actions to take/matters in progress**

Respond to SBC

Write to the Planning Inspectorate

Write to H&S Executive

Meeting with SBC re: planning

Meeting with SCC re: battery storage

Promise of second meeting with SCC re: roads

- **Communication** – discussion on ensuring it is effective

200/25 Chair to re-open the meeting

The chair re-opened the parish council meeting

201/25 Solar Farms continued

- **Notes of the Working Party meeting held on 29 October 2025**

Noted

- **Public meeting follow up**

Proposed: Cllr Adler; Seconded: Cllr Byrne

Agreed that letters be sent as follows:-

Respond to SBC

Write to the Planning Inspectorate

Write to H&S Executive

Agreed to carry the discussion on the GoFund me page to the next meeting

202/25 Minutes of the previous meetings

Full Council Meeting – 8 October 2025

Proposed: Cllr Byrne; Seconded: Cllr Adler

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025 be signed as a true and correct record

203/25 Matters Arising

- **Website update** - the clerk will speak to Mark Millmore and this will be included on the next agenda
- **Cloudy IT update on emails** – the clerk reported that Cloudy IT would not allow a six month contract for support, so this had been renewed for a year

204/25 Finance

- **On line banking update** – it was confirmed that four councillors had now managed to logon to the bank account and the two remaining councillors will logon before the next meeting

- Budget monitoring report** – the clerk presented a budget monitoring report to the end of October 2025 along with a bank reconciliation, showing a discrepancy of £6.02, which the clerk will investigate,
 The council had reserves of £17,413 at the beginning of the current year, and of this amount £7,399 is provisionally earmarked but not formally minuted, leaving a general reserve of £10,013.
 During the year there has been expenditure against reserves of £1,557 on BKV and elections
 Additionally £2,043 was identified to be added to reserves during the year but not minuted or included as a payment to leave the precept
 Due to staffing changes, the current year's budget is expected to overspend by about £2,274
 Finally there was an underspend of unallocated precept of £1,643.
 This will give an estimated reserve of £15,225 at March 2026
 (£17,413 - £1,557 - £2,274 + £1,643)

- Budget 2026/27**

The clerk has reduced the number of headings on the budget and presented a detailed recommendation for the council to consider. Councillors discussed the budget which would see an increase of approximately £3000 in the precept

Proposed: Cllr Coote; Seconded: Cllr Alder

Agreed that the following changes be made to the draft presented to the meeting

Newsletter – add £100 taking it to £300 in total

Election – leave at £500

Solar – set a budget of £500

Chair's allowance – remove

Parish Meeting – set a budget of £100

Contingency – set budget of £500

As the tax base figures from SBC were not available, it was agreed to carry the budget discussions forward to the December meeting

- Authorisation of Payments**

Proposed: Cllr Rayson; Seconded: Cllr Alder

Agreed that the following payments be authorised to be signed off by Cllrs Coote and Harnett

S Buxton	Travel and admin expenses	FP	95.17
Blaze Printing	Solar printing and cancelled chq	FP	106.80
Cumbria Clock	Service church clock	FP	£234.00
SPCA	Course Fee – Intro to AI – Clerk	FP	£48.00
TGM	Grounds maintenance	FP	£64.20
Cloudy IT	Addit RAM for Clerk's PC	FP	£170.10
S Buxton/HMRC/LGPS	Salary, PAYE, Pension	FP	£1,695.87

205/25 Village Amenities, Highways and Other Parish Issues

- State of roads in parish, speed, weight issues** – Cllr Adler drew the council's attention to the fact that some parishioners are feeling a little disillusioned about the lack of action re: condition of the roads, speed and

weight issues. Why can't a 30mph be introduced in Stowe by Chartley. The village of Longdon Green has some particularly good signage

Proposed: Cllr Alder; Seconded: Cllr Byrne

Agreed that the council write to Cllr Andrew Mynors to ask him to raise this with the local officer

206/25 Planning

- **Applications received**

None

207/25 Clerk's report

- **SCC request for information re: grasscutting contractor**

The clerk reported that this had been sent

- **Signing of document re: Lower Farm to receive funds**

Agreed that this needs to be looked at by a solicitor and the clerk would seek advice from SPCA

- **Distribution of leaflets etc around parish**

The clerk now has a copy of the latest electoral roll. Cllr Alder will liaise with the clerk to ensure the distribution list is up to date and there are no omissions

- **Village Fete**

This will be held on Sunday 23 August 2026

- **Clerk's Memory Stick**

Proposed: Cllr Byrne; Seconded: Cllr Coote

Cllr Finney will contact the previous clerk and give her 7 days to return the memory stick and ask to sign a disclaimer. Failure to achieve this means the council will need to consider legal action

- **SPCA AGM 24 November 2025**

Cllr Alder will attend as the council's voting member

- **Correspondence**

- *SPCA – information about experience with cheaper Speed Indicator Devices*
- *SPCA – information of free tree giveaway*
- *SPCA – details of free training session on 12 November re: AGAR and changes this year. I am unable to attend due to a pre booked appointment but am hoping to get a recording of it. This is open to any councillor with an interest in Finance*
- *Sparse.gov.uk – information about the digital switchover by January 2027 – there have been webinars and I have asked if there will be any future ones*
- *SBC – report on Local Government Reorganisation which will be discussed on 11.11.25*
- *3/11/25 – NALC Legal bulletin covering Remote meetings, councils making loans and councils buying gifts to recognise achievements of local people*
- *14/10/25 – Enquiry from TV producer – Jarlath Mulvaney, wanting to base program at Chartley Castle re: How the Tudors Lost their heads, and asking for contact details – Cllr Alder has already dealt with this*

- 6/11/25 – *Enquiry from Staffs Angling Club based in Stone, seeking Stillwater within 20 miles of stone for general coarse fishing – there is no still water within the parish*

208/25 Items for future meetings

- 26/27 budget
- Report from TVCG meeting with SBC Planners 18.11.25

209/25 Date of next meeting

Agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 7.00pm at Stowe by Chartley Village Hall

There being no other business the chair declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm