



Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Stowe Village Hall on Wednesday 10 September 2025 at Stowe by Chartley Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Coote (Chair); Adler; Byrne; Finney; Harnett; Rayson; Tilston

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk); 1 member of the public

160/25 Apologies

None

161/25 Declaration of personal and prejudicial interests

Solar Farms – all councillors

162/25 To receive applications for Dispensation under the Localism Act 2011

None

163/25 Chair to close the meeting for public session

No issues raised

164/25 Chair re-opened the meeting

165/26 Minutes of the last meeting

Proposed: Cllr Finney; Seconded: Cllr Adler

Agreed that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 20 August 2025 be signed as a true and correct record

166/25 Matters arising from the minutes

- **Quality Council Mark** - the Quality Council Mark scheme was discontinued about 3 years ago and has been replaced by the Council Awards. The deadline for this was the first week in September.
- **Website Update** - the clerk requested for this to be carried forward to the next meeting
- **Cloudy IT Update** – there is a shared area which the council is not using fully. Cloudy IT can offer training for all councillors. The contract is an annual one due for renewal on 13 October 2025
Generally there is concern about the contract and the cost, although it is acknowledged they have provided support in other areas.
Cllrs Tilston and Byrne are both experiencing problems with not all emails getting through and Cllr Harnett has WS and it just takes over.
Agreed the clerk will send a test email with a read receipt to all councillors to see how many emails are working
Cllr Rayson pointed out that the potential of Microsfot 365 is huge.

The clerk has a business premium licence whilst the councillors all have business basic licences. Perhaps the council should look at Business Professional for multi users.

The clerk will contact Cloudy IT re the various issues she has, along with the intermittent email service to councillors

Agreed to defer decision on training option and renewal to the next meeting

167/25 Finance

- **On line banking update** – the clerk explained that everyone was now set up and to access councillors either needed to log on uses the details they already have or contact Unity Bank to reset their logins. (Details have already been circulated to all councillors)
- **Clerk's Pay Award** – this was issued in July and back dated to 1 April 2025. In the last two payments to Mrs Gibson, the updated pay scale was implemented as she informed the payroll provider that the council had been notified.
Proposed: Cllr Finney; Seconded: Cllr Byrne
Agreed to implement the pay award for clerks with effect from 1 April 20025 for both the current and previous clerk
- **Budget Monitoring Report** – the clerk presented the report showing budget for the year, spend to date, predicted spend to end of March. The council went through the budget line by line and there is a projected overspend of £535 this financial year with the amendments discussed
Agreed that the clerk will rework the figures for the next meeting, based on the discussions this evening and also note the council reserves
- **Budget Considerations for 2026/27 financial year** – the clerk reminded councillors that if they had any projects they wish to be costed up prior to the discussion of the budget, for possible inclusion next year, they needed to forward these to her as soon as possible. Items earmarked to date are new laptop for the clerk, possibly a new printer and the clerk had requested a small filing cabinet
- **Authorisation of payments**
Proposed: Cllr Finney; Seconded: Cllr Coote
Agreed that the following payments be authorised:-

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Refs</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Admin Staffing	338/341/	Salaries/PAYE/Pension part Jul/Aug & Sep 25	£1,781.47
Admin Expenses	47/348	Ink cartridges, work from home, paper, post	£358.64
Stowe Village Hall	339	Room hire	£360.00
Cloudy IT	340	2 months IT support	£214.56
TGM	342	Grasscutting	£515.40
Viking Direct	343	Stationery	£76.00
Wicksteed	344	Play equipment	£180.00
Blaze Printing	345	Printing for solar farm	£76.80
Cancelled	346	Spoilt	£0.00

168/25 Working Party Solar Farms

- **To receive the notes of the Working Party Meeting held on 27 August 2025**
Noted
- **To receive report from the Working Party** – presented by Cllr Finney
Noted

- **Public Meeting – Thursday 16 October 2025** – The speakers will be Gavin Williamson MP, Cllr Andrew Mynors (SCC) and Cllr Tom Marshall (LDC and Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council). It was noted that Cllr Karine Aspin had declared a pecuniary interest so would not be able to speak at the public meeting
- **Go Fund Me Page** – Unity Trust has set up a separate account for the Solar Farm Campaign.
Proposed: Cllr Finney; Seconded: Cllr Tilston
Agreed Geoff and Jane Harnett will front the Solar Farm Go Fund Me Campaign.

169/25 Village Amenities, Highways and Other Parish Issues

- **Traffic lights at junction of A518 and Station road** – Cllr Adler reported that there were still issues with the insurers but this should be resolved soon
- **Drointon Lane – traffic issues** – problems of when bus meets tractors and pictures and would like 30 mph extending. Grass verges have recovered, but the one opposite the thatched cottage is still quite a mess. This needs to be reported through the SCC App
- **Tree on parish field – Scots Pine** – this was inspected last year
- **Grasscutting** – an extra cut of the field had been done at the request of Mr Bramwell for which the council has been billed. It is felt that the council need to look at the mowing regime to determine the schedule going forward and give consideration to keeping the edges of the field long.
Agreed that Cllr Coote will speak to Mr Bramwell on the new year
- **Bulb planting** – Cllr Harnett is looking for volunteers in October/November
- **Stowe 39 footpath maintenance – from Bridge Lane towards Weston**
Agreed that Cllr Coote will attend to this in the spring
- **Inspection of play equipment** – the report was discussed and no action required at present
- **SID** – there has been no progress to date with the PC funding SID. Cllr Rayson has passed this onto the Lichfield Highways Office, who cover Stowe and he will get an update for the next meeting

170/25 Planning

- **Planning Applications Received**
25/40775/FUL Leafields Farm, Uttoxeter Rd, Grindley
Retention of alterations and extension to existing dwelling and continued use of part of property for mixed animal (dog) boarding and day care and domestic purposes
Noted that the deadline had passed
25/41027/ANX Keepers Cottage, Uttoxeter Rd, Chartley
Conversion of existing building to form ancillary accommodation including extensions and alterations (in conjunction with 25/41112/LBC)
- **SBC Consultation on Planning Application Validation Criteria** – deadline 17.10.25 – already circulated to councillors. Councillors noted the great detail of the document and many references to various Acts of Parliament
- **Hixon Incinerator** – request for support

171/25 Clerk's Report

- **Correspondence**

- SBC – Survey on Local Govt Reorganisation – deadline already passed
- SBC – information on Business Support and Grant Funding
- BKV Competition – notified that the village has been shortlisted – Geoff and Jane Harnett will be attending
- Training - various training opportunities circulated
Proposed: Cllr Finney; Seconded: Cllr Coote
Agreed that the clerk will attend the Starting out in AI course run by the SPCA at a cost of £40
- SPCA/SCC – conduction a survey re: car parking and EV charging throughout the county. Stowe by Chartley has none
- Various notifications about ordering defibrillator suppliers
Agreed this should be on the next agenda
- SPCA – Council News – information on Employment Rights Legislation and Councils
- SPCA – Notification of AGM and new format – 24.11.25
- SPCA – Details of free training on Marryn’s Law and Community Safety for Parish Councils
- Assorted notifications from Staffs Police and Smart Alert
Agreed the clerk will forward relevant notifications to councillors
- **Work in Progress at handover between clerks**
 - Correspondence with Innova and an agreement re: funds from development at Lower Farm, asking for contact address
 - Contact with users of Hixon Industrial Estate – HGVs
 - Requests to TGM for quote for hedgecutting, which they are unable to undertake due to an employee needing surgery
 - Contact from Brendon McKeown of Hixon PC, re: discussion on the Hixon Neighbourhood Plan before SBC review their Local Plan

172/25 Items for Future Meetings

- Previous clerk’s memory stick
- Poachers Cottage – complaint re: further development

173/25 Date of Next Meeting

Agreed that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 October, 2025 at 7.00pm at Stowe by Chartley Village Hall

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm