

Minutes of Stanley & District Community Council held on 25th August 2025 in Stanley Village Hall

AI used in the generation of this report taken from a transcript of the meeting.

Meeting Overview and Attendance

The meeting began with informal discussions about attendance and previous meetings, noting that the prior month's meeting was cancelled and emphasizing the voluntary nature of monthly meetings. It was mentioned that the summer months are typically taken off, and the next scheduled break would be the last Monday of December due to New Year's Eve festivities

Planning and Development Updates

Phone Mast and Landowner Issues

An update was provided on a phone mast project, which is currently delayed because the landowner has not released the land required for development.

Active Travel Routes and Traffic

Discussions on active travel routes, particularly cycle paths, are ongoing with no recent updates. A professional fundraiser linked to a community hub was mentioned but without specific details

Poultry Farm Planning Application

The poultry farm planning application is progressing with no decision yet. There have been 64 public comments and objections totalling 50, mostly brief and related to traffic concerns. The application will proceed through the standard committee process

Other Planning Matters

Other planning applications include changes to a church property involving garages, and a proposal to demolish an old building near the railway to build a new house. No public comments were received on these. An extension to a dwelling house was recently approved

Community and Social Activities

Wellbeing and Family Day

The wellbeing project has a new coordinator and recently held a successful family day trip to Crayton, funded by PKC and a local men's group, allowing families to attend free of charge. This event was well received, especially by families from Stanley

Collaboration with Stanley Mills

There is ongoing collaboration with Stanley Mills to organize activities for children.

Notice Boards and Community Information

Following the closure of a local commercial premises, notice boards have been removed. The council discussed purchasing a new freestanding notice board in a central village location, which would require planning permission. There is consideration of having the local men's shed construct the board to save costs. The council is exploring options to waive planning fees due to the community benefit

Roads, Traffic, and Safety

Traffic and Parking Issues

Road safety concerns include problems caused by parked cars obstructing traffic flow, with no immediate resolution until restrictions or markings can be implemented. A wish list of traffic improvements was submitted to the traffic department awaiting a response.

Speed Limits and Emergency Vehicle Access

There is controversy over the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in some areas. Concerns were raised about the impact on emergency vehicles such as ambulances, which may face difficulties navigating at lower speeds and through traffic congestion

Bertha Park Link Road Construction

Construction has begun on the Bertha Park link road, involving significant tree removal and soil movement. Opinions vary on whether this will alleviate traffic issues, especially for trucks, with some expecting it to shift congestion to other areas rather than resolve it

Roadworks and Water Infrastructure

Ongoing and planned roadworks include closures and traffic light installations on local roads. There was mention of delayed major works on a water reservoir access road, with some water tankers currently in use for supply.

Emergency Planning and Public Safety

An emergency plan risk workshop is scheduled, with a reminder that missing children or vulnerable adults should be reported to the police immediately rather than waiting 24 hours. A recent incident involving missing children was resolved safely¹.

Financial Update

The council's financial year runs from September 1 to August 31, with a budget increase from approximately £700 to £1,000 to cover meeting costs, printing, and activities. The increased budget offers opportunities for virtual meeting subscriptions and alternative meeting venues to enhance community engagement

Community Council Elections

Elections for community councillors are scheduled, with the nomination period from August 28 to September 25. Currently, seven candidates are standing, with a minimum of four and a maximum of eight councillors allowed. The election results will be announced on November 7, and the current office bearers will remain until then. Plans are in place to hold an extraordinary general meeting soon after to appoint new office bearers

Other Community Matters

- The Stanley to Ballathie railway line project has lost funding due to lack of landowner cooperation but might be revisited in the future.
- The local Time Bank initiative continues efforts to regain momentum.
- Updates and notices will be posted on social media and the community website to keep residents informed of developments and events

The next community council meeting is scheduled for the last Monday of September.

Actions

1. **Notice Boards:** The council discussed purchasing a new freestanding notice board in a central village location, which would require planning permission. They are considering having the local men's shed construct the board to save costs ¹.
2. **Emergency Planning:** An emergency plan risk workshop is to be scheduled.
3. **Missing children or vulnerable adults** should be reported to the police immediately ¹.
4. **Community Council Elections:** Elections for community councillors are scheduled, with the nomination period from August 28 to September 25 ¹.