

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Stours Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th May 2015 in Stour Provost Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs R Cowan (Chairman), Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, P Brown, Mrs B Edwards, G Gilding, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, J Nalty, Mrs L Newton, Miss H O'Sullivan, J Parker, Mrs P Sealy, Lady Stagg, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins.

Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox and NDDCllrs Charles Dowden and Mrs Jane Westbrook and 2 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everybody present. He introduced and congratulated our new Ward members for The Stours and Marnhull, District Councillors Jane Westbrook and Charles Dowden. Cllr Dowden is the Vice-Chairman of the Development Management Committee. He did say that he would be happy to attend any site meetings for planning applications that we are consulted on. However he is unable to make comments. Should we make any comments on applications, he asked that he and Jane be copied in when we respond. Cllr Mrs Westbrook will be on the Policies Committee. Both our Ward Councillors are on the Scrutiny Committee. Also Mr Steve Howard, Traffic Management, DCC sometimes attends these meetings so any highway issues could be brought up if need be.

The Chairman had spoken to Cllr Dowden about the 'Public Spaces Protection Orders' Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act introduced in 2014. The criteria are very cleverly written. The un-authorised encampment by the Travellers at Todber lay-by fits the criteria, however unauthorised encampment on the Millennium Green would not.

Reports, Pre-business matters items and Public participation

DCC MEMBER REPORT – No report received.

NDDC MEMBERS REPORT – At present there is nothing to report as there has not been a meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION – none.

Footpath and Tree Liaison Officers' report

Mr Martin Hibbert said that the footpaths in the four parishes are in a reasonable state, however everything grows at this time of year. Tony Woods from Stour Row and Mr Hibbert continue their weekly maintenance of the footpaths. Mr Hibbert said if there are any issues to let him know. At present there are two issues:- Church Close, Todber DCC will provide the stone as a grant contribution and volunteers will lay the stone. Lyde Hill Farm, the proposal for a permissive footpath through the farmyard, the landowner has now decided not to sign the agreement. The alternative option is to enforce the legal path.

There have been discussions about valuing the countryside and there is a proposal to try and initiate it within the Blackmore Vale with a set of footpaths in Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton and surrounding villages identifying special places of interests e.g. viewpoints, churches. It will be known as 'The White Hart Link'.

Item 2015/70 formal notice of diversion of footpath 6, Udder Farm Shop has been received. Just awaiting a couple of gates to be installed.

Mr Hibbert was thanked for all the hard work he does with the footpaths and is much appreciated by the council members.

Transport: Cllr Mrs Newton said that she has attended a meeting. Gillingham Town Team are looking to upgrade the railway station. The next Transport meeting is 21st July.

Flood Warden – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that there is nothing to report. The Chairman said that there have been some flash floods along the B3092 near Red Lane due to gullies being blocked. He has reported this to DCC.

BUSINESS AGENDA

2015/54 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr R Cowan was proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr T Jones and agreed by all. Elected unopposed. Cllr Cowan thanked Cllr Mrs Watkins for being Vice-Chairman for the past year and Chairman the previous two years and Vice-Chairman before that. The Chairman duly signed 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'.

2015/55 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Miss H O'Sullivan was proposed by Cllr Mrs Sealy, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

2015/56 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

The Chairman thanked the retiring councillors, Mr Michael Ratcliffe, Mrs Doris Chard, Mr John Claughton, Mr Maurice and Mrs Margaret Rymill for their services to the parish council. Councillors Mrs Ruth Blacklock, Mr Paul Bowe, Mr Guy Gilding, Mr James Nalty and Mr Philip Brown introduced themselves to the members present and were made welcome. All the councillors duly signed 'Acceptance of Office' before the start of the meeting.

Cllr Mrs Edwards said that she was not happy with the correspondence that took place before the May 7th Elections and does not wish it to happen again.

2015/57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Mrs T Bagnall, G Herring, P Gould and Mrs E Scott.

2015/58 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are reminded that if they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) on their register relating to any item on this agenda, they may not take part in the debate and may not vote. If they have a DPI on any item that is not on their register they must declare that interest, take no part in the debate or vote and register such interest within 28 days.

2015/59 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2015/60 APPOINTMENT TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEES.

Stour Provost, Stour Row, East Stour - deferred to next meeting

2015/61 TO CONFIRM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of Parish Meetings. Proposed by Cllr Parker. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

2015/62 TO CONFIRM PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEES FOR EAST STOUR AND STOUR PROVOST.

East Stour – to be agreed at the next meeting. Stour Provost – All the Stour Provost Councillors, plus one representative from the football club and one representative from the cricket club. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

2015/63 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE PARISH FOR DAPTC, CPRE, NDDC, DCC TRANSPORT, FLOODWARDEN, CRIME AND HOMEWATCH

DAPTC – Cllr J Parker. There is a vacancy for another representative should anybody be interested. Cllr Parker gave a brief résumé of the DAPTC meetings. He said that after the next meeting he would arrange for NDDC reports to be circulated.

CPRE – Cllr Lady Stagg.

NDDC & DCC – Cllr R Cowan.

Transport – Cllr Mrs E Newton.

Crime and Homewatch – Cllr J Parker.

Flood Warden – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins.

All the above were proposed '*en-bloc*' by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

2015/64 TO CONFIRM FOOTPATH AND TREE LIAISON OFFICERS.

Mr M Hibbert has agreed to continue the post of footpath liaison officer for all four parishes. Tree liaison officers. Todber – Mr P Matcham (in an unofficial capacity). West Stour- Mr M Hibbert, East Stour – Cllr Mrs B Edwards, Stour Provost – Cllr Lady Stagg. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

2015/65 RESOLUTIONS BY STATUTE.

The list of deeds and trusts held by Lloyds Bank PLC were read out by the Clerk. Items held are the same as last year.

Trustees for the National Savings Investment Bank Account – Cllrs Miss O'Sullivan, J Parker and Mrs J Watkins. Any two of the three named to sign. Clerk to advise NSI of change of signatories. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Newton, seconded by Cllr Lady Stagg and agreed by all.

2015/66 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the parish council meeting of 12th March 2015, previously circulated. One amendment under 2015/047 Community Speedwatch, to delete “has had a brief training session”. Then the Minutes were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed. Proposed Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded Cllr Jones.

2015/67 MATTERS ARISING

The Millennium Green, Todber currently is semi-protected with a line of wooden posts. Following the problems with illegal encampments of Travellers, the Local Police Commander recommended that steps be taken to improve security by concreting the posts in and drop posts by the footway at each end. If the posts are removed this would be classed as criminal physical damage. Three quotes have been obtained as new posts are needed to replace the existing rotten ones. The cost will be £995 and funding has been identified so there will not be a requirement to call on the precept/council tax. DCC has no objections, the installation is allowed under permitted development per Development Control, NDDC. The work has been put in hand.

2015/68 PLANNING MATTERS

- Outline Consent and Premises Approval for Child Okeford Surgery. This was sent as there are patients on their list from Stour Row.
- Applications received and granted since last meeting.
See attached appendix for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting.
- Concerns were raised about extra traffic along Hunger Hill with applications for Lilac Cottage and Primrose Farm being submitted for more houses along Hunger Hill.

2015/69 CORRESPONDENCE

North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Council for the generous donation of £500. They are very grateful for this help which will continue to provide help and advice to the people of the Stours and will be used to improve their services in Gillingham and Shaftesbury.

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance acknowledging receipt of £500. They also pass on their thanks to the Council for the generous donation and support.

Read Easy Gillingham and Shaftesbury thanking the Parish Council for their generosity of £200 towards the scheme.

2015/70 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Electoral Review of Dorset, draft recommendations. The draft recommendations can be viewed at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/3824>. The consultation closes 6th July. (Circulated).

2015/71 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

The issue of the North Dorset Local Plan was brought up as it will restrict development in the countryside, however affordable housing development could go ahead. Approved development will be allowed in the four market towns. Neighbourhood Plans are not really viable in villages

It was agreed to hold a meeting to explain the North Dorset Local Plan in depth. NDDCllrs Dowden & Mrs Westbrook will give a short presentation either 9th July or 10th September.

2015/72 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- East Stour Crossroads – “Slow” markings have been painted on the 4 approaches to the crossroads.
- Sandilands Close, East Stour Cllr Jones said that he hasn't seen any unknown vehicles parked along the road.

- Todber – a number of highway issues (Edge lining to be placed along the B3092 in between the Todber signs for the entire length. Erect Side road warning signs with SLOW painted on carriageway alongside. Enhance the Todber signs and consider moving the Todber sign currently placed opposite Red Lane. Place SLOW marking just before Hambledon Close from the western side. Place SLOW markings on B3092 towards the bend with Red Lane in a southerly direction), have been agreed by Traffic Management, DCC which should be put in place within the next few weeks.
- Highbridge, Lotmoor, East Stour is being investigated by Sam Paulley, Traffic Management, DCC.

2015/73 SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Stour Row, West Stour and some of Todber have superfast fibre connection. If you go the BT Openreach website and type in your post code you can find out if the service is available. The quality of the service is dependent on the length of the telephone line to the green box. A map is available on the Superfast Dorset website showing proposed availability by location.

It was approved in principle to upgrade the Parish Council's broadband provider depending on the costs.

2015/74 ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STOUR ROW

Church of England Draft Pastoral Building Scheme. A notice about the closure of public worship has been posted on the Church and Village Hall notice boards. Any representations for or against the draft scheme need to be made by the 22nd June 2015. If no representations received the closure of the church will go ahead. If representations are received they need to provide a good reason why the church should remain open. The future of the graveyard will be discussed at Stour Provost Annual parish meeting. The use of the church, if closed, will be discussed at a later date.

2015/75 NEW WAR MEMORIAL EAST STOUR

Deferred until the next meeting after their annual parish meeting has been held.

2015/76 EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD PROPOSED PATH

Deferred until the next meeting after their annual parish meeting has been held.

2015/77 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The scheme has been successful. Speeds of 36mph plus have been recorded and there have been some interesting figures. Also one motorist was caught having no insurance.

2015/78 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT TODBER B3092 LAY-BY

On the 12th April the Travellers left Todber and have now camped at Five Bridges, West Stour. The Chairman said he has spoken to Simon Hoare MP on behalf of the Council to explain the history of the illegal encampment and has acquainted him with the commitment made by Brandon Lewis MP. The Chairman said he would like to convene a meeting with Simon Hoare MP, DCCllr A Cattaway, NDDCllrs Charles Dowden and Jane Westbrook to discuss these unlawful encampments and Anti-Social Public Spaces Protection Order, 2014. There are powers available for DCC to use but instead have chosen to use the civil procedure route. The Government is concerned that some County Councils are not using the powers available to them and are consulting colleagues to see what can be done. DCC use tolerance and civil procedure as they know there is a lack of authorised sites for the Travellers to go. Not until 2017 will there be any more authorised sites. Consultations are in process to identify suitable sites.

It was agreed that the Chairman arrange a meeting with the parties mentioned, also to invite Cllr Anthony Jenner (Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council).

2015/79 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT FIVE BRIDGES LAY-BY

This was covered under the above 2015/78. The same process as the eviction from Todber will be followed by DCC to evict the Travellers, which takes time.

2015/80 ADOPT A KIOSK

Communication from BT to adopt a kiosk for as little as £1. BT has informed us that the five kiosks within the Stours have not been used. The Parish Council can adopt these for £1 each. If we are in agreement BT would need to carry out a 90 day consultation with NDDC, who would need to approve the removal of telephony (an Ofcom requirement). West Stour Parish agreed to adopt theirs at their parish meeting. The others have yet to be discussed at their parish meetings. Cllr Miss O'Sullivan did say that there would be opposition to the

adoption of the kiosk at East Stour Crossroads because the crossroads is an accident spot and mobile signal reception is very poor.

It was **resolved** that the Parish Council supports whatever decisions are made by the individual Parish meetings. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones, seconded by Cllr Parker.

2015/81 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS

Balance of Accounts from statements as at 30th April 2015 – NSB £4,927.96. Scottish Widows - £16,086.38. Lloyds plc – £16,578.51. (Included in these balances is £3,425.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94 & 2015/022).

Budget 2015/16 summary for April 2015 distributed.

The council **approved** the accounts. Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by all.

2015/82 FINANCE – PAYMENTS

- DAPTC annual subscription – this is due but the exact figure is unknown it should be approximately £485.
- Renew CPRE membership – due 1/6/15, this should be about £36 if the same as last year.

It was agreed to pay the above items *en-bloc* proposed by Cllr Miss O' Sullivan, seconded by Cllr J Parker and agreed by all.

Local Delivery Project First Instalment

It was resolved to pay Gillingham Town Council £426.72. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

2015/83 AUDIT FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2015

Section 1 – The Council approved the accounts for the financial year 2014/2015 (previously circulated). Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins and agreed by all.

Section 2 – The Statement of Assurance (previously circulated to the members present) was duly completed and approved by the Council. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

2015/84 INTERNAL AUDIT

A letter addressed the Chairman from Mr Michael Robinson saying he has completed the Internal Audit report. Once again, he confirmed that the control objectives have been achieved to meet the needs of the Council. He did draw our attention to page 38 para 2-81 of the Practioners' Guide, suggesting that the Council should carry out a review of internal audit at least every three years. He does not recall seeing this recorded in the minutes over the last nine or ten years which he has been acting as Internal Auditor. He is not suggesting any alterations are needed, the Clerk does an excellent job, but perhaps a note in the Minutes should be recorded. (nb this was last reviewed 12/5/11 min ref 2011/60). The Chairman agreed he is correct and the Clerk to circulate the Internal Audit Review checklist in time for the next meeting.

The last point is that he wishes to step down as he is now in his 80s. He found the position interesting as until then he had little knowledge of how Local Government was controlled.

The Chairman will write to Mr Robinson thanking him for his services over the past 13 years.

Appointment of new Internal Auditor. Cllr Parker and the Clerk will approach Mrs Diana West, as she has parish council experience and also has book keeping experience.

2015/85 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

a). Chairman's report

The Chairman said he had nothing more to report.

b). Clerk's

- Local Councils update. The Clerk Journal. Clerk & Councils Direct and LCR.
- DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.

c). Playing fields

East Stour – Report received from SD Playgrounds Services for the inspection carried out at East Stour dated 14/4/2015. Cllr Gilding said that they are dealing with the aspects of the report time and weather allowing.

They do have a problem with moles on the field, which is being dealt with. Cllr T Jones said that 2 new picnic benches will be ordered once the bases have been prepared.

Compliments were made on the splendid display of daffodils.

Stour Provost – There are problems with rabbits digging up the cricket pitch and football pitch. Cllr Mrs Watkins knows of a game keeper, who is licensed. He will use a silencer to shoot the rabbits at dawn or dusk. It was agreed that action may be taken to control the rabbits. It was agreed to discuss the grass cutting at the Stour Provost Annual Parish meeting 26th May. Miles Jones has done an amazing job with Stour Provost Cricket Club by getting it going again and arranging matches.

d). Crime – PCSO Vicky Levy sent her apologies. Her report (previously circulated) was read to the meeting. Four crimes have been reported since the last meeting. This month Dorset Police are focusing on Scams postal and over the phone. Please remember do not give out personal information including Bank details over the phone or in the post. If you have not entered into a competition you cannot win it. If anybody has any concerns please contact Vicky, her e-mail is Victoria.Levy@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk. Homewatch messages are circulated by e-mail.

e) DAPTC – The next Northern Area meeting is Tuesday 21st July 2015 at Blandford Forum Town Council offices. Clerk to circulate the minutes and briefings of the meeting so members can have an insight to these meetings.

f) CPRE - Countryside Voice and Fieldwork publications.

2015/85 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Items listed above that have been deferred 2015/60, 2015/62, 2015/75.2015/76. Internal Audit. All Saints Church, Stour Row. Gypsy and Travellers. North Dorset New Local Plan.

2015/86 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

9th July 2015 at East Stour, 10th September at Stour Row, 12th November 2015 at West Stour, 14th January 2016 at Stour Provost, 10th March 2016 at East Stour, 13th May 2016 at Stour Row, 14th July 2016 at West Stour, 8th September 2016 at Stour Provost, 10th November 2016 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date