

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Stours Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 11th May 2017 in Stour Provost Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs B Edwards (Chairman), Mrs R Blacklock, P Brown, R Cowan, Mrs V Jones, R King, N Lithgow, J Nalty, Mrs L Newton, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox and NDDCllr Mrs Jane Westbrook, Martin Hibbert (Rights of Way Liaison Officer), Rev'd Richard and Mrs Barbara Priest and 2 members of the public.

Reports, Pre-business matters items and Public participation

Rev'd Richard Priest introduced himself and his wife, Barbara to the meeting. They moved from Hereford to Kington Magna at the beginning of February. He was licensed on the 21st February 2017 and is responsible for the seven parishes within the benefice. He said that he is here for everybody within the community and if there is a need, please do ask. Richard and Barbara were thanked for their visit.

DCC MEMBERS REPORTS – Apologies received from Graham Carr-Jones, our newly elected councillor for Stalbridge and The Beacons (which covers Stour Provost, Todber and West Stour wards). He is busy with his induction process. However he did say “anything you need looking into or raising with DCC please ask”. Cllr Andrew Cattaway was re-elected for Gillingham (this covers East Stour ward). He is also chairman for Dorset County Council.

NDDC MEMBERS REPORT – Cllr Charles Dowden sent his apologies.

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that following the announcement of the general election the Christchurch councillors have voted to defer a referendum on local government reorganisation to two unitary authorities until after the 8th June.

The District Council will be moving from Nordon. However there will be a small hub staying at the Lodge. The staff will be based in Dorchester. District council meetings will be held in Durweston Village Hall.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION – none.

Rights of Way Liaison Officer's report

Mr Martin Hibbert said there are no major issues, just the usual growth of brambles and nettles. Martin is having to re-think the volunteer activity as Tony, a Stour Row volunteer is not very well. Martin hopes to get a group of about 4 people to help to do a small amount of jobs and go out weekly, rotating around the parishes. This will be publicised on 'The Next Door' on-line forum.

The launch of the White Hart Link will be announced in the Blackmore Vale Magazine this week.

The Stour Vale Walkers Group. The first monthly walk will be on Saturday 17th June at 10.30am starting in West Stour. Walks will be long or short it will be driven by what the community would like.

Martin was thanked for all his hard work over the past few years, which is really appreciated.

Tree Wardens' – nothing to report.

Transport: Cllr Mrs Newton said she went to a meeting and will arrange for the minutes to be circulated. There is nothing to report.

Flood Warden – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that she isn't aware of any flooding.

BUSINESS AGENDA

2017/53 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mrs B Edwards was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Newton, seconded by Cllr J Nalty and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

The Chairman duly signed 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'.

2017/54 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr P Gould was proposed by Cllr Mrs P Sealy, seconded by Cllr R Cowan and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

2017/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Mrs T Bagnall, P Bowe, G Gilding, P Gould, T Jones, J Parker, Lady A Stagg and Mrs J Watkins.

2017/56 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.

2017/57 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2017/58 APPOINTMENT TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEES.

Stour Provost – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins, Stour Row – Cllr Mrs L Newton, East Stour – Cllr P Brown. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones, seconded by Cllr Nalty and agreed by all.

2017/59 TO CONFIRM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

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

2016/60 TO CONFIRM PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEES FOR EAST STOUR AND STOUR PROVOST.

East Stour – Cllrs G Gilding and T Jones. Stour Provost – All the Stour Provost Councillors, plus one representative from the football club and one representative from the cricket club. Proposed by Cllr Cowan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sealy and agreed by all.

2017/61 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE PARISH FOR DAPTC, CPRE, NDDC, DCC TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODWARDEN, CRIME AND HOMEWATCH

DAPTC – Cllrs J Parker and Mrs C Wilkins.

CPRE – Cllr Lady A Stagg.

NDDC & DCC – Cllr Mrs B Edwards.

Transport – Cllr Mrs E Newton.

Crime and Homewatch – Cllr J Parker.

Flood Warden – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins.

Highways - Cllr G Gilding

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

2017/62 TO CONFIRM RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICERS AND TREE WARDENS.

Mr M Hibbert has agreed to continue the post of Rights of Way Liaison Officer for all four parishes.

Tree Wardens. Todber – Mr P Matcham, West Stour- Mr M Hibbert, East Stour – Cllr Mrs T Bagnall,

Stour Provost – Cllr Lady Stagg.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Blacklock, seconded by Cllr Lithgow and agreed by all.

2017/63 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 R Cowan, J Parker and Mrs J Watkins. Any two of the three named to sign. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Newton, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sealy and agreed by all.

2017/64 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the parish council meeting of 19^h March 2017, previously circulated, were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed. Proposed Cllr Cowan, seconded Cllr Mrs Sealy.

2017/65 MATTERS ARISING

We have registered with the Tree Charter.

2017/66 PLANNING MATTERS

- The provisional Tree Preservation Order TPO-571-2017 at Byway, East Stour Common was confirmed without modification under delegated powers on the 17th March 2017.
- The Planning Inspectorate, Appeal Ref: APP/N1215/W/16/3161057, JPL Products Ltd, 1 Church Close Business Park, Todber has been allowed. The application of award of costs has been refused.
- Lower Mead, Stour Row – update from Mark Hitchcott, Senior Planning Enforcement Officer was read to the meeting. He has visited the premises and there was no sign of any business being run from it. At the time of his visit there were works going on to extend the house. The light attached to a tree does not require planning consent. The light on the post next to the driveway might require consent as set too closely to the road, however if moved just a few feet away it would not require consent. He will consult with his colleagues whether it should be moved or not.
- Planning Application 2/2017/0100/FUL Dormers, this application is upsetting the neighbours with the number of dogs that will be trained on the premises. There will be no kennels and no overnight stay of dogs. The applicant has reduced the number of dogs and is hopeful for planning permission for the amended application.
- See attached appendix for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting.

2017/67 CORRESPONDENCE

North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Council for the grant of £500, which they are very grateful. Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance thanking us for the donation of £500, for our support and thinking of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Read Easy Gillingham and Shaftesbury thanking the Parish Council for their donation and they are very grateful for our support in the work they do.

2017/68 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

None were brought to our attention.

2017/69 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

None as matters were covered elsewhere.

2017/70 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- SIDs. The installation of the post in Todber has not been paid for as we are waiting for the post to be moved to the correct place. The problem is there are 2 teams (DCC and Highways) involved with this. Cllr Cowan is continuing to chase DCC to get this resolved.
East Stour. Cllr Gilding met with Roger Bell, DCC on 7th May and there are a couple of options for the post Back Street, southbound, we could swap the SID and playground signs around or move the current pole to the crossroads westbound (there would be a charge for this). It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have a pole at the crossroads.
It was resolved that the issue of the incorrect placement of the 2 'SID' posts be raised with our Dorset County Councillors as this has been going on for months and not to pay the bill until the matter is resolved.
West Stour. Cllr Mrs Sealy met with Joe Allen, DCC and 2 places on the A30 were identified that are suitable for a 'SID' on the grass in front of Manor Farm and opposite Stower Cottage.
- Todber, B3092. Village Gateway, the gates have been manufactured and delivered to DCC and are ready to be installed. The signs are being made and it is hoped that they will be ready in 3 to 4 weeks. The sign shop is very busy at present. The white edge lining has partly been painted after 2 years. However, outside Westminster Buildings it has delaminated. Cllr Cowan has asked and reminded DCC to come and fix it. Also to finish the job from the lay-by south to the junction at Church Lane. Cllr Cowan has been assured the works will be finished.
- Community Speedwatch. Todber. Cllr King said that the team has been active and there has been success with some vehicles slowing down, however there are still drivers exceeding the speed limit. It was agreed that a 'SID' appears to be effective when carrying out a Speedwatch.
Cllr Brown said that the optimum number of sites for a 'SID' is 3. It was agreed that Todber and West Stour share a 'SID' as East Stour will need their 'SID' for their 3 sites. Cllr King offered to manage the 'SID' for Todber.
- Passing places along Green Lane, Stour Row are in a terrible state a mixture of mud and scalping. The road has been raised with a new surface, but the drop to the passing places with scalping will damage cars and several agricultural contractors use this lane on a daily basis and they are making it worse. The

passing places need to be the same level and tarmacked to stop the breakdown between the road and passing places. This has been reported on dorsetforyou and to Roger Bell. No response received yet.

2017/71 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Ms Paula Clover has started eviction process for the Travellers at St James' Common. It is thought that they will move May/June time and could return to Five Bridges.

Cllr Jane Westbrook and Cllr Parker met with Alison Creighton, Estates Officer, and David Whitelock, Pumping Station Leading Hand, from Wessex Water at Five Bridges.

Subsequently Cllr Jane Westbrook and Cllr Parker met with Cllrs Mrs Edwards and Cowan, Cllr N Osborne, Chairman, Buckhorn & Kington Magana Parish Council and David Redwood, Chairman, Fifehead Parish Meeting to report on the meeting at Five Bridges.

Wessex Water personnel confirmed that from Wessex Water's point of view the presence of the Travellers in the unauthorised site on the lay-by was a problem to them in terms of access to the pumping station on a 24 hour basis for vehicles including HGVs and tankers. They also stated that there had been reports of drivers not gaining access and of feeling intimidated when they had to go through the encampment. They further informed us that a main sewerage pipe runs directly under the lay-by and on across the grass, and that this pipe must be able to be accessed at any time in case of any problem that may arise. For these reasons, they could not envisage a permanent Traveller site being built there.

While she did not have the authority to approve it, Alison Creighton indicated that Wessex Water would probably consider making a financial contribution to a fixed barrier, however, they would be unlikely to fund the total cost. It is understood that the cost of an effective barrier could be substantial. Jane will inform the police that the Travellers might be back in view of their past "business activities". It was agreed to get the details together and present these problems to DCCllr Graham Carr-Jones for further action.

Jane said that she will keep chasing. Jane was thanked for her report.

2017/72 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that she had been in touch with Laura Truss, Senior Transport Planner at DCC, and she had informed her that there was to be a survey of the traffic problems emanating from East Stour crossroads, beginning April 2017. Jane has been named as Key Stakeholder, which means she will be consulted during the survey and will of course involve Cllr Guy Gilding, as he is more knowledgeable in terms of East Stour. Depending on the result of the survey, funds have been allocated for works to the crossroads if the survey indicates it is necessary. Jane was thanked for her report.

Cllr Gilding sent in the following report – "The LEP will make the £3.45M Growth Deal 3 funding available to DCC from 2019– 2021. The original bid to the Growth Deal 3 was for £5.7M, so unfortunately DCC has not received enough money to deliver the whole package of necessary junction improvements. We are in discussion with the LEP to determine the priority for the money. The LEP Board will make the decision regarding which of these schemes to allocate the money to, based on which of the transport schemes are deemed most necessary to unlock the development south of Gillingham. DCC will have to find alternative sources of funding for schemes which are now unaffordable because of this reduced level of GD funding. Preparatory work to progress the designs and delivery of the schemes will commence this year as the funds must be spent and construction completed by March 2021. This means that the consortium will be in no rush to get the GSE under way. If funds are not available until 2019 it would seem unlikely that the consortium would want to invest until the infrastructure is complete".

With the reduced funding available to DCC it seems unlikely that the Enmore Link will go ahead, as this is the most expensive project and there will be more traffic through East Stour. It was agreed that the B3092 in its present state is not capable of carrying more transport.

Consequently the Gillingham Southern Extension and the Brickfields road network will be overloaded. Serious concern was expressed about the dysfunctional performance of DCC Highways, it was agreed that a dossier be put together listing our grievances, e.g. white lines and 'SID' posts. Cllrs Cowan and Nalty and hopefully Cllr Gilding will prepare the dossier for presentation to our Dorset County Councillors (who will be invited) at the next meeting. Also agreed to invite representatives from Marnhull Parish Council and Sturminster Newton Town Council to the July meeting to discuss our highway safety concerns of the Gillingham Southern Extension.

2017/73 TO INVESTIGATE A PARTNERSHIP WITH SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL AND GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR SOME DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

Cllr Nalty said their first home cricket match of the season was cancelled. The cricket square grass has been nicely cut by Phil Buttress, however grass cuttings were left behind. He also said that we are looking at the possibility of using mowing services with either Shaftesbury or Gillingham town councils, and is exploring this and have had a (rather tardy) response from Shaftesbury saying the Head Groundsman will contact me soon.

2017/74 FINANCE ACCOUNTS

Balance of Accounts from statements as at 30th April 2017 – NSB £4,994.75. Scottish Widows - £8,735.31. Lloyds plc – £20,522.84. (Included in these balances is £4,795.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94 & 2015/022 & 67 & 2016/165).

See attached Income & Expenses for the period 1st March 2017 – 30th April 2017.

The Council approved the accounts for the period 1st March 2017 – 30th April 2017.

Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkins and agreed by all.

PAYMENTS

- Annual Subscription payment to DAPTC – approximately £500.
- Renew CPRE membership – due 1/6/17 – £36
- Local Delivery Project First Instalment - to pay Gillingham Town Council - £213
- Reimburse broadband Mrs M Cox - £35.49
- DAPTC, Chairman's course - £35
- Cllr Mrs B Edwards, travel expenses – £30.24
- Dorset CC Traffic ATC speed monitoring, West Stour - £300
- It was agreed to accept the quotation of £1010 from RB Services for remedial pavilion works. This will be discussed further at Stour Provost annual parish meeting.
- Clearstone Solutions, cleaning of bus shelters - £48
- East Stour Village newsletter - £500
- Karen James, grass cutting Stour Row churchyard and Village Hall - £300
- Stour Provost Village Hall, hire - £15
- To purchase a litter bin for East Stour – it was agreed to give Cllr Mrs Bagnall the mandate to spend up to £400 on the purchase and installation of a litter/dog waste bin, once she has completed her investigations and deems that it is a worthwhile solution to our dog fouling problems. It was agreed that she report her findings to ESPC members and a joint decision is to be made regarding the emptying method and costs for the emptying.
- To purchase a SID for West Stour, approximately £2,000.
- Painting & refurbishment of Stour Provost telephone kiosk.

It was resolved to authorise the above payments. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Blacklock, seconded by Cllr Cowan and agreed by all.

- To consider an increase to the grant made to Read Easy Gillingham and Shaftesbury. It was agreed to defer this until the September meeting when the council is in a better position to review the request.
- Dorset CC supply and erection of SIDS East Stour and Todber - £695.52. It was resolved not to pay this until the siting of the poles has been rectified.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The following Lloyds Bank PLC direct debit mandates held were reviewed: - Wessex Water (watre2business) payment on demand (dated 11.9.14), Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to collect variable amounts (dated 16.4.14) and npower to collect variable amounts (dated 21.8.14). It was resolved that they be continued proposed by Cllr Cowan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

Financial regulation adopted 12 November 2015 (Model issued by NALC/DAPTC in October 2013)

Annual Estimates (Budget) and Forward Planning, To remove the clause 3.3 "The Council shall consider annual budget proposals in relation to the council's three year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments including recommendations for the use of reserves and sources of funding and update the forecast accordingly". It was **resolved** to remove clause 3.3, proposed by Cllr Cowan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

2017/75 AUDIT FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2017

Section 1 – The Annual governance statement was **approved** by the council.

Section 2 – The council **approved** the Accounting statements for the financial year 2016/2017.

Proposed by Cllr Nalty, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

2017/76 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

a). Chairman's report

The Chairman said she attend the DAPTC's Chairman's Course, which was very interesting and learnt a few things. She also attended a meeting at Bourton Village Hall, where an interesting discussion took place about Bourton having a new hall and that they hope it to be a community hub for surrounding areas.

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 – nothing to report.

Stour Provost – All in good order.

Stour Row – all fine.

d). Crime – no report received.

e) DAPTC – Annual Conference report by Cllr Nalty (circulated 24.3.17).

The next Northern Area Meeting is Tuesday 18th July 2017.

f) CPRE - Countryside Voice and Fieldwork publications.

On the 13th April, Cllr Lady Stagg attended the North Dorset CPRE AGM, which had some very interesting speeches.

2017/77 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

To invite DCCLrs A Cattaway and G Carr Jones, representatives from Marnhull Parish Council and Sturminster Town Council to discuss Gillingham Southern Extension and the dysfunctional performance we have experienced with DCC Highways.

2017/78 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

13th July 2017 at East Stour, 14th September 2017 at Stour Row, 9th November 2017 at West Stour, 11th January 2018 at Stour Provost, 8th March 2018 at East Stour, 10th May 2018 at Stour Row, 12th July 2018 at West Stour, 13th September 2018 at Stour Provost, 8th November 2018 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman

Date