

STOURS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Stours Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th May 2019 in East Stour Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), Mr D Amlôt, Mrs L Bennett, P Bowe, P Caulfield, Mrs B Edwards, R Haddon, Mrs V Jones, R King, R McConnell, J Nalty, R Robson, Mrs P Sealy Mrs F Stanford, Mrs J Uden and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox and DCllr Jane Somper, Martin Hibbert, RoWLO, Mrs T Bagnall, Tree Warden and 3 members of the public.

Reports, Pre-business matters items and Public participation

DORSET COUNCILLOR MEMBER REPORTS – Cllr Jane Somper (The Beacons) introduced herself to the meeting. Jane said that she will cover Todber and Stour Provost wards. There is nothing to report as she has just attended day 2 of her induction training. She is on the Scrutiny Committee. Jane said that there are 10/11 parish councils within the Beacon ward and she will complete a spreadsheet with the parish council meeting dates. Also she will arrange meetings with the Clerks and Chairmen of the parish councils.

Note, East Stour and West Stour are in the Gillingham ward.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION – none.

Rights of Way Liaison Officer's report

Mr Martin Hibbert said that he goes out bush cutting, hedge trimming and tidying up once a week. There is nothing significant to report. The proposed solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen is directly on the Stour Valley Way footpath. The monthly Stour Vale Walks are going well and so are the Walking for Health walks in Gillingham and Shaftesbury.

Tree Warden report – East Stour, Mrs Bagnall said there is nothing to report. No other reports received.

Transport Representative's report – no report received.

Flood Warden's report – all fine as no flooding at present.

BUSINESS AGENDA

2019/46 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr P Gould was proposed by Cllr Nalty, seconded by Cllr Amlôt and agreed by all. Elected unopposed. The Chairman duly signed Acceptance of Office of Chairman'.

2019/47 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mrs J Watkins was proposed by Cllr Mrs Sealy, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

2019/48 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

The Chairman thanked the retiring councillors for their services to the parish council.

Councillors introduced themselves to the members present and were made welcome.

All the councillors have been provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct version 6 (by e-mail) and have duly signed 'Acceptance of Office' before the start of the meeting.

2019/49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Mrs J Watkins and Mrs E Scott.

2019/50 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.

2019/51 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2019/52 APPOINTMENT TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEES.

Stour Provost – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins, Stour Row – Cllr Mrs V Jones, East Stour – Cllr R McConnell. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Sealy seconded by Cllr Bowe and agreed by all.

2019/53 TO CONFIRM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

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

2019/54 TO CONFIRM PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEES FOR EAST STOUR AND STOUR PROVOST.

East Stour – defer to 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 Nalty, seconded by Cllr King and agreed by all.

2019/55 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE PARISH FOR DAPTC, CPRE, DC, TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODWARDEN, CRIME AND HOMEWATCH

DAPTC – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins and Cllr P Bowe.

CPRE – Cllr D Amlôt

DC – Cllr P Gould.

Transport – defer to next meeting..

Crime and Homewatch – defer to next meeting.

Flood Warden – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins.

All the above were proposed '*en-bloc*' by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Nalty and agreed by all.

2019/56 TO CONFIRM RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICERS AND TREE WARDENS.

Mr Martin Hibbert has agreed to continue the post of Rights of Way Liaison Officer for all four parishes. Martin was thanked for volunteering again and for all his hard work as Rights of Way Liaison Officer.

Tree Wardens. Todber – Mr P Matcham, and East Stour- Mrs T Bagnall. West Stour and Stour Provost – deferred to next meeting,

Proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sealy and agreed by all.

2019/57 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 plus the Dedication of new war memorial in East Stour dated 18/11/18.

Trustees for the National Savings Investment Bank Account – Cllrs P Bowe, Mrs P Sealy and Mrs J Watkins. Any two of the three named to sign. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones, seconded by Cllr Amlôt and agreed by all.

2019/58 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the parish council meeting of 14th March 2019, previously circulated were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed. Proposed Cllr Mrs Sealy, seconded by Cllr Nalty and the minutes of the 17th April 2019 previously circulated were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed, proposed by Cllr Amlôt, seconded by Cllr Nalty.

2019/59 MATTERS ARISING.

Adoption of kiosk 01747 838231, East Stour is complicated and this will be discussed at East Stour's Annual meeting.

2019/60 CASUAL VACANCY FOR TODBER WARD

To be filled by co-option.

2019/61 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

The Chairman gave a brief resume of the history of the illegal encampment of Travellers at the Five Bridges, West Stour site. It has been a problem for many years to evict the Travellers. It has been proposed by Wessex Water to put a gate across to preventing them returning. A ditch has been dug. Wessex Water require 24 hour access to their property. The Stours Parish Council has agreed to pay £1500 towards the cost of the Stopping Up order (Kington Magna & Buckhorn West Parish Council has agreed to do the same). Clerk to ask Jane Westbrook and John Parker (both of whom were involved with this matter) and to find out what is happening.

Cllr Nalty asked Cllr Jane Somper if there is somewhere suitable for the Travellers to go. Jane is still in contact with Jane Westbrook and will follow this up.

2019/62 PLANNING MATTERS

- Land at E 378449 N 121922, Higher Farm, Fifehead Magdalen Construct solar farm and associated development, including perimeter fencing, CCTV cameras and landscaping. A response objecting to this application was read to the meeting. It was agreed to submit the response with a few amendments. The main objections are that the proposed solar farm is to be erected along The Stour Valley Way and is in the wrong place and that there are better sites, the proposal is deeply flawed, ignores the fact that installation is beside historic remnants and would be seen from St Michael's Church, which is grade 1 listed and from Stour Provost Mill (listed in the Domesday Book), the effect on tourism, biodiversity and traffic along the narrow C road at Fifehead Magdalen. Also the archaeological potential of the site has been overlooked. The Parish Council is not against solar energy, providing it is in the right place. If minded to approve the application, that the application goes to full committee and that a site visit be made. Cllr Nalty proposed we send our objections to Hamish Laird, Planning Team, seconded by Cllr Amlôt. 15 in favour, 1 abstention.
- Appeal by: Mr W Lee, Reference APP/N1215/W/19/3225774, in respect of Application No: 2/2018/1200/FUL, Location: Land At Pt Os 28 Stour Hill Park, West Stour. Proposal: Change of use of the land for the stationing of 9 static caravans for residential occupation; associated hard and soft landscaping. Retention of existing access and create 18 No. parking spaces.
- See attached list for applications and decisions received since last meeting.

2019/63 DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Caulfield said that along Fernhill, East Stour there are 4 houses with the same road address and postcode, however his neighbour's address is Sherborne Causeway with a different postcode and comes under the Gillingham Town Ham ward. Cllr Jane Somper established from the map that the boundary actually goes straight through the 2 properties hence the different addresses. This is a result of the Local Government Boundary Commission work and it is independent from Local Authorities. Dorset Council are unable to do anything about the boundaries and there is no review planned they will remain. However anyone can contact the Commission about an issue.

2019/64 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- SIDs. Cllr Mrs Sealy said that the SID is presently at West Stour, before returning to Todber. The pole by Little Ashley will be fitted with a solar panel and paving slabs will be placed at the foot of the pole by DC. The Chairman said that a speed limit sign will be erected by Townsend Farm. East Stour, Mr Gilding (sent his apologies) reported that there is nothing to report. Todber, Cllr King said that he hasn't any information to give.
- Community Speedwatch. Todber, Cllr King said that the team have not gone out since our last meeting and that he meets the police (as he is on their CSW Co-ordinators Committee) and that they are very keen to promote Community Speed Watch (CSW). East Stour, Mr Gilding reported that he is happy to resurrect the East Stour Speedwatch team and if any councillor is interested to contact him.

2019/65 PLECK, EAST STOUR

This has been cleared and is an amazing improvement. Now there are concerns that it might be unlawfully occupied by Travellers. There appears to be some lack of communication and this will be discussed further at East Stour's parish meeting on 30th May.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to the public.

Mrs Julia Gould said that Pleck was cleared as it was part of East Stour's Village Action Plan from 2013. She said that she has communicated with Rolly Skeats (DCC) on 28 February 2019 about the proposed actions by the volunteer group and the scheme is being financially funded by Stour Vale Markets. They now want to put in wooden poles to deter unlawful encampment and has met with Paula Clover, Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer, Dorset Council (DC). Rolly Skeats has agreed that the posts be erected provided they are installed by the Stours Parish Council and that the Parish Council are prepared to take on the responsibility of them which includes indemnifying the Highways authority against any third party. It was agreed that the Parish Council must either put in the poles or instruct somebody, but not the volunteers as instructed by Rolly Skeats, also the insurance cover will be deemed invalid. Agreed that this be discussed further at East Stour's meeting.

The Chairman then closed the meeting to the public.

2019/66 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

No report received.

2019/67 CORRESPONDENCE

Citizens Advice Dorchester, Sherborne & Districts & North Dorset thanking the Council for their very generous grant of £1000.

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance thanking us for the generous 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 of £300 and they are very grateful for our support in the work they do, which will enable Read Easy to continue their service for those adults who need help to improve their reading skills.

2019/68 FINANCE

ACCOUNTS

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 30th April 2019 – NSB £11,225.90. Scottish Widows Bank – £10,738.92, Lloyds Bank plc – £3292.36

Included in these balances is £6,165 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165 & 2017/114, 2018/113 & 2018/133).

See attached Income & Expenses for the period 1st March 2019 – 30th April 2019.

Budget for 1st April to 30th April 2019 distributed.

The accounts were **approved** for the period 1st March 2019 – 30th April 2019. Proposed by Cllr Mrs B Edwards, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkins.

PAYMENTS

- Annual Subscription payment to DAPTC – £530.83.
- Renew CPRE membership – due 1/6/19 – £36.
- Local Delivery Project First Instalment - To pay Gillingham Town Council - £213
- Reimburse broadband Mrs M Cox £32.50.
- East Stour Village newsletter grant - £500.
- West Stour Village Hall hire - £10.
- Dorset Council empty trade litter bin Witch Lane (1/4/19 -31/3.20) - £124.80.
- Karen James – mowing Stour Row Church & Village Hall - £300.
- Viking Direct – stationery supplies - £127.51(toner) & £18.44 (stamp).
- M Belcher – cleaning of pavilion - £60.
- It was agreed that 5 or 6 solar panels for the SID poles at £175 each be purchased.

It was resolved to authorise the above payments. Proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards.

- To agree £685 for the repair of Todber' Jubilee bench. This to be discussed at Todber's Parish Meeting 23rd May and it was agreed that the Parish Council supports the decision made.
- To consider a grant of £250 for Stour Row website. This is maintenance for 5 years. Cllr Nalty required more information saying that income would be generated from advertising at £10 a time. Mr Veness will be attending Stour Provost Parish Meeting 14th May. It was agreed that following that meeting that the decision to be made at our next meeting in July.

Proposed by Cllr Nalty. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkins.

(Cllrs Mrs Jones & Stanford left the meeting (9pm).

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The following Lloyds Bank PLC direct debit mandates held were reviewed: - Wessex Water (water2business) payment on demand (dated 17.4.19), Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to collect variable amounts (dated 16.4.14) and npower to collect variable amounts (dated 21.8.14) and Scottish Widows (dated 5.6.17). It was **resolved** that they be continued proposed by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards.

2019/69 AUDIT FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2019

Section 1 – The Annual governance statement 2018/19 was **approved** by the council.

Section 2 – The council **approved** the Accounting statements for the financial year 2018/2019.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards, seconded by Cllr Bowe.

The Clerk said that actions had been taken following Mrs West's Internal Audit report (previously circulated), a rubber stamp has been ordered. Minutes of the Policy & Resources meeting sent to her and the initialling of minutes.

2019/70 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

a). Chairman's report

The Chairman said there is nothing further to report.

b). Clerk's

- Local Councils update. The Clerk Journal. Clerk & Councils Direct and LCR. All available at the meeting or from the Clerk.
- DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.

c). Playing fields

East Stour – Mr Gilding reported that he is hoping that the first stretch of the new path will start soon and hopefully a timetable can be agreed at the next parish meeting.

Stour Provost – all fine except that it appears that there might be woodworm in the pavilion and this will be investigated.

Stour Row – no report received.

d). Crime – no report received.

e) DAPTC –The next Northern Area Meeting is Tuesday 17th July 2019. Cllr Mrs Wilkins will attend.

f) CPRE - Countryside Voice and Fieldwork publications.

2019/71 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

To consider a grant of £250 for Stour Row website

To consider purchasing a gift for the Internal Auditor.

2019/72 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

11th July 2019 at Stour Provost, 12th September 2019 at Stour Row, 14th November 2019 at West Stour, 9th January 2020 at Stour Provost, 12th March 2020 at East Stour, 14th May 2020 at Stour Row, 9th July 2020 at West Stour, 10th September 2020 at Stour Provost, 12th November 2020 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman of this meeting closed the meeting at 9.20pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman

Date