

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
In East Stour Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs B Edwards (Chairman), Mrs T Bagnall, Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, P Brown, R Cowan, G Gilding, P Gould, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, N Lithgow, J Nalty, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, Mrs P Sealy, Lady A Stagg, Mrs E Scott, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, Mr M Hibbert, Footpath Liaison Officer and five members of the public. Also in attendance Janet Swiss (White Hart Link).

The Chairman welcomed Janet Swiss and those present.

**Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation**

**Footpath Liaison Officer's report** - Mr Hibbert said that the footpath diversion at Yew Tree Farm, Stour Row (access obstructed as it goes through the farm buildings) has been withdrawn by the new owners and the matter is now in the hands of Dorset County Council.

There is no news on Mead Farm, Stour Provost footpath diversion.

At Stour Provost Mill there are new tenants and there does not appear to be any problems.

Manor Farm, West Stour has been sold. The field opposite the Ship Inn is used regularly by dog walkers, this is likely to change. Martin will be writing to the new owners to see what is and isn't allowed as the route used is not a public path. The footpath from West Stour going north to Harpitts the diversion is ongoing and will take a year to finalise.

Any clearance problems please let Martin know.

Cllr Mrs Jones said that the triangular route Todber, Stour Row, Margaret Marsh is very overgrown. She has managed to clear some of it. Martin said that he will be working on it.

Bowden, Kington Magna there is a spate of vandalism five finger posts have disappeared. Martin asked if anybody sees any vandalism to let him know.

Martin was thanked for his report.

Martin Hibbert and Janet Swiss gave an update of the White Hart Link and were interested to receive updates from members present.

Janet said that SturQuest has taken this under their wing. £11,000 has been raised. The route is 52 miles long and covers 4/5 towns. Landowners/farm owners and parishes are being written to. The Stours is in the middle of the 'Link'. Both Janet and Martin have walked the White Hart Link. What is needed are places of interest to plant trees/place seats and places to allow dogs. They are aware that some dogs can be a problem. It is a 5 year plan and a small group is needed to instigate the special places along the 'Link'. It was agreed that this a marvellous idea. Stour Provost School was given 420 saplings by way of a forestry grant of which 200 have been planted. The remaining saplings (crab apple, elder, blackthorn saplings) were kindly offered to plant along the 'Link'.

Janet and Martin said that what is wanted is places of interest to be identified in each community, such as pleasant views. Stour Row Well was suggested. However what is really wanted is newcomers to become involved.

It was agreed that dogs should always be kept under control and owners pick up their dog's faeces.

Janet and Martin were thanked for the update and for attending the meeting.

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – No report received.

**NDDC WARD MEMBERS' REPORT** – Cllr Dowden sent his apologies. Cllr Jane Westbrook said that the District Council process of reorganisation is ongoing.

East Stour Crossroads and Fifehead Magdalen Crossroads are high priority and are being looked at by Highways.

There is funding for Fifehead Crossroads and Andrew Brown is meeting with the landowner. The VAS (vehicle activated sign) has been ordered and contractors are being met this week. Hopefully the VAS will be erected by Christmas.

The Chairman of Marnhull Parish Council has suggested that it would be a good idea if Marnhull, Hinton St Mary, Manston & Hammoon and the Stours got together to present a united front to discuss speeding issues in the area.

Superfast Broadband if there is a problem getting this to contact Adam Hayleat, DCC Superfast team who knows about extra funding that is available.

The Planning Department is making progress, as they have had problems with the IT system.

**Public Discussion** – Mr Alister Gower and Ms Julie Woods spoke about their proposed planning application at Butterwell Farm. Their plans were circulated to members present. Ms Woods explained that plants are vital for her work. Her business is building up, educational workshops are being developed. The present garden room has limitations. The redevelopment of the top plot will help her business and accessibility. The Planning Department is supportive and they

suggested that the Stours Parish Council be approached before the planning application is submitted. Access is approximately 250 yards from East Stour Crossroads going towards Marnhull. Access has been moved in the plans and Mr Steve Savage of Highways has provisionally agreed the new access. Should the application be permitted this could bring more employment. The Parish Council liked the idea and it appears to be a huge improvement, however concerns about access were raised as it is near East Stour Crossroads which is an accident blackspot. Mr Gower said he is aware of this and is working with Highways.

Mr Gower and Ms Woods were thanked for letting the council know about their proposed application.

Mr Luke Trowbridge spoke about the slip road by his property, Provost Farm being used as a lay-by since Todber lay-by is blocked off and is being used to store chippings. Lorries constantly park there and restrict access and visibility. It is not known who owns the slip road but there is a need to stop lorries parking there. Maybe an order of No Parking could be made and if it is illegal to park to call out the Police. The chippings were placed at Todber lay-by to prevent the Travellers returning. The clerk said she is waiting to hear from Roger Bell, Highways as this had been referred to him by Andrew Brown (no longer his remit). NDDCllr Jane Westbrook said she would follow this up with NDDC. It was agreed that three quarters of the slip road can be eliminated.

#### Tree Wardens' reports

East Stour – covered later in the minutes.

Stour Provost- nothing to report.

Stour Row – nothing to report.

Todber – nothing to report,

West Stour nothing to report.

Flood Warden's report – No flooding at present.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton attended the Shaftesbury & Gillingham Area Transport meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The minutes were previously circulated by e-mail.

### **Business Agenda**

**2016/170 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** none as all councillors in attendance.

#### **2016/171 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members were 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.

No member declared any DPI

Cllr Mrs Wilkins declared an interest in the planning application 2/2016/1609/FUL the application was not discussed.

**2016/172 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS** - None received

#### **2016/173 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016.**

The minutes were **agreed and adopted** as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr J Parker and Mrs J Watkins.

#### **2016/174 MATTERS ARISING**

Royal Mail post boxes have been painted.

#### **2016/175 CASUAL VACANCIES, ONE FOR EAST STOUR WARD AND ONE FOR TODBER WARD**

Cllr Parker proposed that Mr Nigel Lithgow has be co-opted for the East Stour ward, seconded by Cllr Mrs Blacklock. Mr Lithgow duly signed the "Acceptance of Office".

Todber ward no nominations at the present.

#### **2016/176 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- Todber (B3092) – The new chevron signs have been erected. Some edge lining has been done at the top of Red Lane. 18 months ago Highways agreed to paint edge lining along the B3092, however there has been no progress and DCC has paid for the work to be done. It was agreed to send a letter to the Chief Executive, Debbie

Ward to express the Council's concern about the protracted delay in implementing all the safety improvement measures on the B3092 at Todber.

- SIDs – Red Lane, Todber meets the criteria for a 'SID'. Highways will be out to position the pole on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. East Stour, Cllrs Phil Brown and Guy Gilding are trained to deploy the 'SID', which will be erected 17<sup>th</sup> November. Stour Row – on the 17<sup>th</sup> November Highways will find out if there is a suitable place for a 'SID'. East Stour Parish need to inform DCC Highways if the 'SID' is deployed at Stour Row and or Todber. Over time we will see what effect the 'SID' has.
- Fifehead Magdalen Crossroads – updates from Cllr Roger Gosney (Buckhorn West & Kington Magna Parish Council) have been forwarded). There is a delay probably because of an upset between the Landowner and the Lands Department DCC. Andrew Brown DCC will be meeting with the landowner and it hoped the situation will be resolved. The VAS (vehicle activated sign) should be installed by Christmas.
- Ideas/measures required to prevent the slip road to Provost Farm being used as a lay-by. This was discussed during the Public Discussion.
- Lotmoor Hill, East Stour will be closed Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for one week as DCC will be carrying out carriageway maintenance and resurfacing works.

### **2016/177 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Henstridge Airfield – NDDCllr Jane Westbrook said that the application (15/04069/FUL) has been permitted with many conditions last July/August. There was a long meeting held in Wincanton and there were many objections which were overruled. Mr Jarvis, Proprietor did get permission for 2 aerobatics a day with a maximum of 100 per year. If he breaches the conditions set enforcement will be issued. The aerobatics affects some people, mainly Kington Magna and Fifehead Magdalen. Jane said that she has received a lot of complaints of the flying and the noise nuisance by email. At the moment they are in breach of conditions which is being sorted out by South Somerset District Council. They also do fly over East Stour and Todber and it can be very noisy. The flying of the Yaks have moved from Compton Abbas to Henstridge Airfield. David Redwood (from Fifehead Magdalen) is monitoring the flying very closely and frequently e-mails Mr Adrian Noon, the case officer, SSDC.
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

### **2016/178 CHURCH CLOSE, TODBER**

No further communication received.

### **2016/179 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Invitation from Simon Hoare MP to the Chairman and Clerk to attend a roundtable discussion on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Stourpaine Village Hall. It was agreed that the following topics be brought up, the proposal to downgrade Westminster Hospital Shaftesbury, speed of vehicle drivers, East Stour Crossroads and Gillingham Southern Extension.

### **2016/180 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

- Highways Working together and to consider the invitation from Sturminster Newton Town Council (e-mail sent 9<sup>th</sup> September). Todber declined the invitation as it is happy with their existing arrangements.
- Dorset Library Services, briefing note about the implementation of agreed changes to the mobile library service. In June 2016, the Cabinet approved changes to the mobile library service. The changes are: to maintain the mobile library service to residential homes and sheltered accommodation across the county and to cease providing the public library mobile library service and to focus resources on providing alternative access to library services to those who cannot travel to a static library. More information about the background and context to this change including the consultation results can be found at:  
<http://dorset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g902/Public%20reports%20pack%2016th-Jun-2016%2010.00%20People%20and%20Communities%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

### **2016/181 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

- Have you say on North Dorset District Council's Budget Option, the consultation will close at 5pm on Monday 28 November 2016. (previously circulated)  
NDDC has a greater financial challenge in 2017/18 due to reduction in Government grants. The district council faces a budget shortfall of £2.5m over the next three years with £1.4m needing to be achieved in the next financial year 2017/18. This has prompted a review of budget options in relation to two areas of discretionary expenditure, i.e. Citizens Advice Bureau and Community Development Service. NDDC provides an annual grant of £74,000 to North Dorset Citizen Advice Bureau (NDCAB). The options are: - option1 cease the £74,000 annual grant to

NDCAB from April 2017. Option 2 reduce the grant by £39,000 to £35,000 for the financial year 2017/18, option 3 reduce the annual grant by £59,000 to provide £15,000 funding for the financial year 2017/18. It was agreed that NDCAB need as much funding as possible and that the Stours Parish Council will look to increase their contribution for this very worthwhile cause. Cllr Parker did say that at the last Northern Area DAPTC meeting, Gillingham Town Council said that NDCAB has known that the cuts were forthcoming and they will be combining with Sherborne and Dorchester. It will take time to set up and the long term answer will be the combining of bureaux.

NDDC gives an annual grant of £122,000 for Community Development Services and there are three options of how NDDC propose to cease their funding.

For more information and to fill out the consultation questionnaire, visit: [www.dorsetforyou.com/your-say-budget-north-dorset](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/your-say-budget-north-dorset).

#### **2016/182 DORSET CCG'S PROPOSAL TO DOWNGRADE WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL SHAFTESBURY**

Cllr Mrs Newton attended the meeting. If the hospital ceases to have beds it would mean that patients would have to travel to Sherborne, Blandford or Salisbury. This would mean more bed space being used at the large hospitals. Parking will be an issue at the Westminster, especially if more clinics are proposed. The consultation is supposed to be starting in November until February. Members were urged to keep looking at the CCG's website for the consultation and to fill in the questionnaire.

#### **2016/183 TRAVELLERS**

Cllr Jane Westbrook reported that the Travellers are still at St James, Shaftesbury. The Travellers are planning to stay there a while. There is nothing further to report. Jane will give another report in January.

#### **2016/184 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Cllr Gilding said that there is nothing to report.

#### **2016/185 NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN EAST STOUR**

Cllr Gilding said that there is nothing to report.

#### **2016/186 EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD PROPOSED PATH**

Cllr Gilding said that there is nothing to report.

#### **2016/187 LITTER SIGNS AT EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Gilding said that following the PI playground inspection report there is a need for more signage so this will be combined and discussed at East Stour parish meeting.

#### **2016/188 MAINTENANCE OF THE TREES AT EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD**

Three quotes have been received from:- Treecare Co - £1,050 plus vat for group of 5 Ash trees, group of 3 Ash trees remove dead wood and breakage - £625 plus vat and remaining works (as per original quote ) £1,800 plus vat. David Braybon £960 plus vat and Hawes Arborists - £1625 plus vat. It was agreed that all were knowledgeable in their profession. Cllr Mrs Watkins proposed that we use David Braybon, seconded by Cllr Mrs Bagnall.

#### **2016/189 THE HIRING OF EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD AND FEES**

Next May there will be a Food Festival over three days and it is the first time an event like will be held. The Playing Field Committee proposed a fee of £500 but have not heard back from the organiser, Ian Lyster.

#### **206/190 WILD FLOWER MEADOW EAST STOUR**

The meadow is looking good. John Gould has been reimbursed £72 for the seed that will control aggressive grasses.

#### **2016/191 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

East Stour – Cllr T Jones said that the equipment was received late in the summer and he is trying to set mutually convenient dates to get the team together.

Stour Row – can now be removed as the team has disbanded. Can now be removed

Todber – the team has been active along Church Lane and Red Lane.

West Stour – had a few weeks rest as Michèle Holden (co-ordinator) has been away but will be out again soon. The Police have been out monitoring speed.

### **2016/192 STOUR ROW WELL**

This has now finished and a lovely job has been made. The old flower bed has been demolished. A long stone has been used as a feature with green oak octagonal raised flower beds, gravel and grass seed and a bird bath. The two men who did the work have done a very good job and Stour Row are proud of it. It cost £647 to do the works. There will be a sign saying site of Stour Row Well.

### **2016/193 ALL SAINTS STOUR ROW**

There are still people interested in buying the Church. The Diocese is asking some people to go into more details of what they intend to do because of the graves in the churchyard. Parking could be a problem the wall could be taken down to help resolve the issue.

Cllr Mrs Newton and her husband were thanked for clearing the graveyard.

### **2016/194 REQUEST RECEIVED FOR A BENCH OR SEAT AT STOUR PROVOST BUS STOP (B3092)**

To be discussed at Stour Provost parish meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

### **2016/195 THE PENSION REGULATOR**

The Parish Council must complete their 'declaration of compliance' by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

### **2016/196 DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

Cllrs J Parker and Mrs C Wilkins attended. Cllr Mrs Wilkins gave a report and said it was an interesting and useful meeting.

Chideock Parish Council raised the issue of speeding problems. They want to lobby Parliament to change the law so that single track roads have a speed limit of 20mph.

Also discussed was Care in the Community and the problem of bed blocking, the reduction of doctors' surgeries because of the lack of finance.

Simon Hoare MP attended the meeting.

DAPTC won a national award for the way it has worked with the NHS to encourage hard to reach groups to get involved in changes to health services.

Vision ICT (our web hosts) were also in attendance.

### **2016/197 REVIEW OF THE PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS MODEL ISSUED BY NALC/DAPTC OCTOBER 2013 AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY THE FULL COUNCIL 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015.**

These were reviewed at the Policy and Resources meeting held before this meeting and were accepted with no changes.

Cllr Nalty proposed that we accept them, seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed.

### **2016/198 INTERNAL AUDIT**

Review – the Audit Review checklist was duly completed, no issues arose.

Report from Internal auditor – Budget, The Internal Auditor would like to have a table showing the budget for the year, the amount spent to date and budget remaining, possibly with a percentage figure. Also as per Financial Regulations 3.1 & 3.1 to draw up a 3 year forecast. The Clerk will attend to these matters.

Transparency Code – this financial year our turnover will be in excess of £25,000 therefore we will have to complete the usual Audit return. However, voluntarily we will continue to comply with the transparency code as a matter of best practice.

### **2016/199 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 – NSB £4,964.92. Scottish Widows Bank – £13,722.69 Lloyds plc – £12,125.68. 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).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.9.16 to 31.10.16 and budget 2016/17 (2 monthly and year to date) summary distributed.

**It was resolved to adopt the accounts.** Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

### **Budget and Precept for 2017/18**

Figures were produced as at 31/10/16 together with projected expenditure until 31.3.17. It was resolved that the donation to NDCAB be increased to £1000 proposed by Cllr Cowan, seconded by Cllr Parker. The Clerk will produce up to date figures as at 31.12.16 at the next meeting when the precept must be decided.

## **2016/200 FINANCE – PAYMENTS**

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Mrs M Cox - £61.20 reimburse Macrium software support backup
- To renew Society of Local Clerks membership due December approx. £110
- DAPTC - £65 Essentials for Councillors courses part 1 & 2
- To consider a grant of £200 to Fast Feet Football for new footballs, bibs and pitch cones. More information was given about this request. Fast Feet are not a charity and are not registered as a business. Neil & Jo Coates run this for the youngsters. Blackmore Vale Dairies has withdrawn their sponsorship. There have been pleas on the website for sponsorship. Their jackets have been provided by Fitness by Design. Fast Feet are in need of bibs, cones and footballs. Cllr Nalty said that as Fast Feet benefit everybody and also it encourages children to be active. He proposed that the Stours Parish Council purchase the equipment up to the value of £200 and give the items to Fast Feet. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards, motion carried.

**It was resolved to authorise the above payments, proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkins.**

## **2016/201 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL**

- a) Chairman's – The Chairman said that she and the Clerk attended the Read Easy pre AGM meeting. The talks were very interesting and learnt that funding and training weren't the real issue, it is getting adult readers to attend lessons, as 5% of adults cannot read or lack basic reading skills.
- b) Clerk's  
Local Councils Update. Clerk & Councils Direct. All available at the meeting or from Clerk.  
DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.
- c) Playing Fields  
East Stour – In the Play Inspection report dated 2.11.16 one piece of equipment the bird nest came up with a warning. Risk assessment is low. This will be dealt with. The new Burmese Bridge has also been highlighted, Cllr Gilding is contacting the makers about this.  
Stour Provost and the pavilion – The Provost Barbarians have disbanded so there is no football being played. Stour Provost cricket club greatly appreciate the container it now means they can store their equipment easily. They thank Stour Provost Parish for the purchase of the container.  
Stour Row – All fine.
- d) Crime  
PCSO Vicky Levy gave her apologies and sent in her report, there were there reported incidents in East Stour and West Stour. (Her e-mail previously circulated).
- e) DAPTC  
The next Northern Area meeting, is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at The Hub, Stalbridge.
- f) CPRE  
Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.  
Cllr Lady Stagg said there is nothing to report.

## **2016/202 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- Setting of the 2017/18 precept.

## **2016/203 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Stour Row, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at West Stour, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Stour Provost, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at East Stour, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Stour Row, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at West Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman                      Date .....