

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
In Stour Row Village Hall**

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

Also present Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, M Hibbert (FPLO) and 9 members of the public. The Chairman welcomed those present.

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

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

**NDDC WARD MEMBERS' REPORT** – Cllr Dowden sent his apologies.

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that it has been quiet last month. The IT systems have been updated and are being finalised. The Travellers, there is a possibility that the Todber B3092 lay-by might be partially blocked to only allow the parking of cars. Lorry drivers and other excluded vehicles could then use another lay-by further along the road. The difficulty is finding the funding for this idea. At present the Travellers will stay at Five Bridges. Councillors for West Stour stressed that this was unsatisfactory, and Jane said she is attending meetings and liaising with DCC, the Police and NDDC to seek a solution to the problem. However nothing is definite yet. The number of Travellers at Five Bridges is 3, though there have been more vehicles parked up since the Travellers' arrival. According to the Gypsy and Travellers Liaison Officer this is their visitors' vehicles. Jane did say if there is any information regarding the Travellers at Five Bridges to e-mail her with the information. The Chairman said he attended a meeting in July where members from DCC, NDDC and our MP Simon Hoare were present. Our MP, District and County councillors are all working to find a solution as soon as possible, and recognise that it should not wait for the long term provision of more authorised sites, which will not happen until at least 2017. The Parish Council is grateful to Jane for her activity and persistence in this matter.

**Public Discussion** – Mr Matt Whitfield introduced himself and four families from Stour Row to the meeting and brought up the issue of highway safety and the need for vehicle drivers to adhere to the 30mph in Stour Row. He has liaised with and is indebted to Michèle Holden (Community Speed Watch Co-Ordinator for West Stour and East Stour). He has been in contact with PCSO Vicky Levy and PCSO Nick Fear. He wishes to do something for the Village to make vehicle drivers reduce their speed. The Chairman used Todber as an example of the gathering of vehicle speed data and the fact it does take time for Highways to implement any measures. Mr Whitfield thanked the Chairman for his e-mail which provided some helpful information. The Council will discuss this later under item 2015/118. Mr Whitfield did say that he was trying to obtain funding from other sources to purchase the speed watch equipment. It was pointed out that Stour Row could use the Parish Council's speed watch equipment in the first instance before purchasing their own set. Mr Iain Saker said that he is proposing to apply for planning permission for 16 solar panels to be placed on the roof on Joliffe's House, Stour Row. They will not be visible from Duncliffe Wood or from the main street. He will obtain advice from Development Control before submitting an application.

**Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report** - Mr Martin Hibbert thanked the farmers he had contacted for clearing the paths of maize on their land. Success at Lyde Hill Farm, the owners have agreed today to the north-south, east-west path. The footpath at Todber there are no further developments. Udder Farm Shop footpath diversion has been completed. He said he has discussed the proposal of having a hardwood finger post sign at Duncliffe (item 2015/132) with Sarah Stebbings (Woodland Trust). She's had a couple of quotes for an engraved hardwood footpath post and sign, one at £234 + Vat and the other one at £235 +Vat. The Council will make a decision on this under item 2015/132.

There have been some improvements to gates and stiles.

Cllr Parker will find out from Sarah Harbige, Programme Manager for both the Northern Dorset LAG and the Southern Dorset LAG about what is required for bid funding.

Martin said that there was a sponsored walk held in East Stour and a walk held in West Stour. He proposes to offer guided walks at parish meetings. The Hardy Way has been updated with some slight diversions and the book has been re-published. The Gillingham Welcome Walker Scheme has been approved. The Gillingham Walking Festival is on 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr Hibbert was thanked for all the hard work he does and also for his report.

Cllr Mrs Edwards said that there is a Tree Preservation Order on all the trees at Blackmore, East Stour. She has contacted NDDC and there is no historical tree order in their records. There appears to be 5 ash trees dying on the northern boundary of the playing field. Cllr Gilding will arrange for a tree surgeon to look at the trees.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said there were a couple of days when there was flooding on the roads due to blocked gullies. There has been no response from DCC about the “Flood” warning signs which will be used at the end of Shave Lane, Todber.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said she has attended a meeting and now has details of the Gillingham Area Voluntary Car Link Scheme, which list the community car schemes covering the villages in the Stours. The next meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Business Agenda**

**2015/113 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs G Herring and T Jones.

#### **2015/114 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

#### **2015/115 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

#### **2015/116 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**

Cllr G Herring's attendance was omitted, this was duly rectified and under item 101 second line the words “tarmac and” were deleted, the minutes were then **agreed and adopted** as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Gilding, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones.

**2015/117 MATTERS ARISING** – Following the “Mere carnival” signs being placed at East Stour crossroads, it was agreed that some signs be tolerated and should it be a safety issue that the “owner” be contacted and if the offending sign is not removed within 48 hours it will be removed by the parish.

#### **2015/118 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Todber (B3092) – ‘Slow’ markings have been painted. Still waiting for the continuous white line, the bend sign and village signs to be done.

Pinch point at Highbridge, Lotmoor Hill, East Stour and West Stour. Following the email received from Mr Skeats it was agreed that Highways could not do much more

Stour Row (previously discussed during public discussion time). Cllr Mrs Watkins said that she would like the public to consult the parish council so that we can work together. A gateway signage would have to be approved by the parish council then by DCC as it would be on their land. Mr Whitfield will liaise with Michèle Holden and start off by setting up a speed watch team using the Stours Parish Council's equipment. It was agreed that evidence be gathered concerning the speed of traffic and to ask DCC highways, suggesting that the speed tubes be placed near the Church and by College Arms Close.

East Stour – Head Lane – this road is used sometimes as a “rat run”. Cllr Gilding said that Villagers have been asked for their opinion on what should be done regarding the volume and speed of traffic. He said he has received 19 replies, half said no change and the others want to make Back Street to the A30 one way, however this could make the traffic worse at the crossroads as it would become busier. Some Villagers are experiencing abuse from vehicle drivers. The overall feeling is to do nothing at present. Cllr Gilding will reply to the emails received and he will ask the residents of Head Lane. It appears there is a width sign missing, Cllr Gilding will investigate and if so it needs to be reported to DCC.

East Stour crossroads – The Chairman said that the northbound road might meet the criteria for a “Stop” sign. Cllr Gilding will check the signage queries.

#### **2015/119 PLANNING MATTERS**

- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

### **2015/120 CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

### **2015/121 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

- Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Mineral Sites Plan. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan consultation ends 5pm 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 (previously circulated by email).
- Consultation re mobile library service changes (previously circulated by email) response required by 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015. East Stour and Stour Row have already responded as they were affected by the consultation.

### **2015/122 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

North Dorset Local Plan – Part 1, Main modifications consultation 24<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> September.

North Dorset District Council – Community Infrastructure Levy. Preliminary draft charging schedules – consultation 24<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015. (both previously circulated).

### **2015/123 NORTH DORSET LOCAL PLAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

Following the presentation from Philip James on 9<sup>th</sup> July it was agreed that the Parish Council reflect and decide whether to produce a Neighbourhood Plan as individual parishes or as a group. It would involve a lot of hard work, dedication, people with specialised skills, funding, time and commitment and it is a long hard process. It was said that funding might be available (this could change). There are a lot of “ifs and buts”. East Stour has its “Village Envelope” however following Philip James’ presentation it sounds like that we have no control what happens, though we are consulted on planning applications. East Stour has been designated one of the seventeen villages for development in the Local Plan. Cllr Nalty proposed that we do not produce a neighbourhood Plan. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Blacklock. And agreed by all.

### **2015/124 NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN EAST STOUR**

Cllr Gilding said following the site meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August a few things need to be revisited. Nearly £2000 has been received in donations.

### **2015/125 EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD PROPOSED PATH**

A Heritage Lottery Grant application (stage 1) for £60,000 has been submitted for the path, play equipment including inclusive equipment. We should hear in 2 months if it is successful for the second stage.

### **2015/126 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT FIVE BRIDGES LAY-BY**

This was covered in Cllr Jane Westbrook’s report,

### **2015/127 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

This is now up and running in most of East Stour. An update from the team was received and circulated today. There have been planning notifications for the green cabinets at Stour Provost and East Stour Common. The Superfast Team has asked if we can distribute leaflets publicising superfast broadband. Please let the Clerk know if you can assist.

### **2015/128 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

Cllr Parker said that it is successful and having an effect. The road signs that come with the kit have not been issued, hence the cheque for £300 not being presented yet. We might have to pay for extra signage for Stour Row and East Stour.

### **2015/129 ADOPT A KIOSK**

East Stour 01747 838482 and Stour Row 01747 838466, the completion paperwork was received today. For insurance purposes they have been valued between £1200 and £2500 each. Though on our asset register they are valued at the purchase price of £1 each.

Stour Provost has agreed to adopt their kiosk, Clerk to notify BT payphones.

### **2015/130 ALL SAINTS STOUR ROW**

The Church will close for public worship. The last service will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2pm. On the 1<sup>st</sup> November the Board of Finance will take over the Church and they will decide what to do with the building. For administrative purposes it will be Parish of Stour Provost. Stour Provost will have first refusal of moveable items. There is also outside interest.

### **2015/131 GRASS MAINTENANCE AROUND STOUR ROW SWINGS**

It was resolved to pay approximately £255 per annum to cut the grass. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

### **2015/132 THE PURCHASE/CONTRIBUTION OF A FOOTPATH SIGN AT DUNCLIFFE WOOD**

It was resolved to purchase a hard wood sign costing £234 + vat. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones.

### **2015/133 DUNCLIFFE WOOD**

Sarah Stebbings, Woodland Trust had contacted Cllrs Mrs Watkins and Mrs Jones about the ongoing problems of dog walkers hanging their dog waste bags in the hedges. The Woodland Trust is not in favour of dog waste bins. It was agreed that the land belongs to the Woodland Trust and that it is not a parish council issue. Cllr Lady Stagg said that when using the bridle path at Duncliffe horses and riders are unable to get through the gate as it slams shut and the reins get caught up. Mr Hibbert said this has been reported but he will discuss this with Sarah Stebbings and DCC.

### **2015/134 TO CONSIDER PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR THE DAPTC 2015 AGM**

As our meeting was held before the receipt of the resolutions it was agreed to give Cllr Parker the mandate to vote as he feels appropriate in the interests of the Stours PC.

### **2015/135 FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH – 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

It was agreed that Stower Provost Community School be the best place for this, also it would be meaningful and educational for the school. It was agreed in principle to contribute up to £250 for the purchase of a pole and flag, subject to consultation and agreement with the Head, Mr Marshall. Cllrs Gilding and Nalty will take this forward. Proposed by Cllr Gilding, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins and agreed by all.

### **2015/136 INTERNAL AUDIT**

To adopt the Internal Audit Terms and Plan. This was previously circulated. It was agreed to remove the word "Draft" and to amend it to read "The following schedules set out the approach..." (Page 2 final paragraph). Proposed by Cllr Mrs Newton seconded by Cllr Nalty.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are being reviewed and rewritten and will be discussed at the Policy & Resources meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 before being presented to the council at the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### **2015/137 AUDIT YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

BDO LLP has completed the audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. There were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

The annual return and notice of conclusion of audit to be displayed in a conspicuous place for 14 days.

**The return was approved and accepted by the Council.** Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by all.

### **2015/138 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 – NSB £4,927.96. Scottish Widows Bank – £20,086.83. Lloyds plc – £5,891.64

Included in these balances is £3425.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94 & 2015/022). Copy of Income & Expenses 1.7.15 to 31.8.15 and budget 2015/16 summary distributed.

**It was resolved to adopt the accounts.** Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr J Parker.

### **2015/139 FINANCE – PAYMENTS**

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Came & Company renewal of Local Council Insurance £1438.58. (This could be subject to change in view of the insurance for the 2 kiosks and the updating of East Stour's picnic tables and benches, Clerk to let Councillors know of the revised premium). \*\* Came & Company kept the premium the same\*\*
- BDO audit fee - £240.
- Reimburse M Cox for the cost of repair of laptop/emails - £50
- DAPTC -£12 purchase of Good Councillor Guides

**It was resolved to authorise the above payment** Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkins and agreed by all.

Life Education Wessex requesting a grant towards their work for providing health and drug prevention education to approximately 82 children at Stower Provost Community School when they visit in October this year. It was agreed to find out more about this and to defer this until the next meeting.

**2015/140 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL**

- a) Chairman's – The Chairman said there is nothing further to report.
  
- 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 – SD Playground Services inspection report dated 14.7.15. Cllr Gilding has carried out a lot of work following the receipt of this report. Vandalism - this is petty stuff, branches have been snapped off trees, goal net pegs removed.  
Stour Provost and the pavilion - all appears to be fine.  
Stour Row- SD Playground Services inspection report dated 14.7.15. All appears to be fine.
  
- d) Crime  
PCSO Vicky Levy's sent her apologies. Her report previously circulated. Five reported crimes since our last meeting. If anybody has any concerns please feel free to contact her at Victoria.Levy.@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk
  
- e) DAPTC  
Next Northern Area meeting 15<sup>th</sup> October at Stalbridge Town Council Office at 7pm. Cllr Parker will attend. Cllr Parker said that it would be useful to have another representative as he is Chairman of the Northern Area, also it is very informative as it covers the whole of North Dorset. Also the DAPTC Annual General Meeting is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Cllr Parker will also attend this meeting.
  
- f) CPRE  
Countryside Voice & Fieldwork publications.

**2015/141 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- There will be a Policy and Resources meeting at 7pm.
- Highways including East Stour Crossroads and speed issues Stour Row.
- To consider a grant to Life Education Wessex.
- Proposed contribution of flag and pole for Stower Provost Community School.
- Proposed war memorial and playing field path.
- Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.
- Travellers.

**2015/142 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at West Stour, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at Stour Provost, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at East Stour, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Stour Row, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at West Stour, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Stour Provost, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm and thanked everyone for attending.

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