

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th January 2018
In Stour Provost Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs B Edwards (Chairman), Mrs R Blacklock, P Brown, R Cowan, G Gilding, P Gould, R Haddon T Jones, Mrs V Jones, R King, J Nalty, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins.
Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, DCCllr Graham Carr-Jones, DCCllr Andrew Cattaway, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, M Hibbert (RoWLO), PCSO Vicky Biggs, PC 2146 Phil Sugrue and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Cllr David Walsh sent his apologies, he was diagnosed with Prostate cancer at the end of last year and went in for surgery the week before Christmas and at present is still on sick leave, recuperating. The Stours Parish Council sent their best wishes to David.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

Crime Report

PCSO Vicky Biggs said that there were three reported crimes in the Stours since the last meeting, one in East Stour and two in Todber. PCSO Vicky Biggs then introduced her colleague, PC 2146 Phil Sugrue, who is the dedicated police officer for Gillingham & Shaftesbury rural area (this covers Sturminster Newton, Shaftesbury, Gillingham, Stalbridge, Glanvilles Wootton, Bourton and Fontmell Magna). PC Sugrue explained his role and responsibilities following the reduction of neighbourhood policing.

They were both thanked for their reports and for attending the meeting

DCC MEMBER'S REPORT – Cllr Graham Carr-Jones thanked the parish council for their message of condolence following the death of his father. Graham said that he tries to keep the parish council updated with regular live reports by e-mail. Possible unauthorised development, which is not agricultural on land north of Manor Farm at Stour Provost (rented DCC owned farm land), which was brought to Graham's attention has been sent to the relevant DCC officials to investigate. The land fill and burning of waste to be reported to Mr Pitt-Kerby at Environment, NDDC. Hilary Cox, Chairman, DCC has been copied in with the correspondence.

Cllr Andrew Cattaway said that as a result of County Division he and David Walsh are the County Councillors for Gillingham ward which includes East Stour parish (our other parishes come under Graham's, Stalbridge and The Beacons). Andrew said that there is little progress on the Gillingham Southern Extension and are still waiting for Welbecks and others to submit planning applications. Andrew will let us know if he hears of any dates. There are two separate developers involved with the Southern Extension and both have held consultations and are acting independently, also two separate landowners involved. At present there is a planning application for 400 dwellings submitted for development in Stalbridge, which are difficult to argue against.

Andrew and Graham were thanked for their reports.

NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT – Cllr Jane Westbrook said that South Somerset District Council (SDDC) has refused planning permission, reason given speed of traffic, for development of 130 houses in Henstridge, however it is expected the application will be approved on appeal. The new NDDC offices, Nordon Lodge will be live from 15th February 2018, it will be a satellite service.

Jane was thanked for her report.

Public Discussion –

Trevor Hockley brought up about the very bad condition of Church Lane, Stour Provost. Cllr Carr-Jones advised him to report any defects on the Dorsetforyou website.

Land north of Manor Farm was brought up, the land is an important geological site, which has been dug up and also the next field there has been a pit with bonfires burning for years. Cllr Carr-Jones has passed this on to the relevant DCC officers.

Rights of Way Officer's report - Mr Hibbert said that the footpaths are walkable even though they are very wet. Some stiles need repairing. The rotten timbers at the path at Stour Provost Mill are being dealt with. Peter Henry, a volunteer worker and Martin are carrying out brush cutting work in conjunction with DCC.

The White Hart Link project is going reasonably well, improvements are being made to the Stalbridge to Gillingham link and Gillingham to Shaftesbury link is being looked at. Martin thanked people for donating the Waitrose green tokens. The Stour Vale walks continue, one held on New Year's Day, which was wet and soggy.

The obstruction of footpaths by car parking in East Stour is still being pursued.

The Chairman and Cllr Gilding highlighted the simplifying the reclaiming rights of ways by 2026, historical evidence needs to be gathered and that the right of way in question is still being used today, which would involve a significant amount of work and probably would not be productive. There is not a footpath on the western side of East Stour, unless there is any historical evidence.

Duncliffe Wood there are two new main tracks heading south towards Stour Row. The planning application for the next phase has been approved.

Martin was thanked for his report and his continued hard work on the footpaths.

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall sent her apologies. She sent in a report saying that an Oak tree from the Woodland Trust's 'Tree Charter' has been planted on the playing field.

Stour Provost and Stour Row – nothing to report.

Todber – a Cherry tree from the Woodland Trust's 'Tree Charter' has been planted on the Millennium Green.

West Stour – nothing to report.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that there is some flooding, but it soon disappears. Nothing else to report.

Transport report – Cllr Mrs Newton sent a message "If anyone has any comments or questions about the minutes of the last Transport Forum meeting let me know and I'll see what I can do."

Cllr James Nalty introduced Luke Trowbridge to the meeting. Luke farms in Stour Provost and is interested in being co-opted to the Stour Provost ward.

Business Agenda

2018/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Mrs E Newton and J Parker.

2018/02 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

2018/03 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

17 forms received all with the matter of "Setting the Parish Council Precept", expiry date 7 May 2020.

Cllr Mrs Watkins proposed that these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

2018/04 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th November 2017.

Agreed and adopted as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Cowan, seconded by Cllr Gilding.

2018/05 MATTERS ARISING

Fifehead Magdalen Crossroads. Andrew Brown, Project Team Manager, DCC Highways provided the following information (previously circulated by e-mail), Advanced crossroads warning sign from the Henstridge approach = £9500 (this includes manufacture, installation, warranty, solar panels etc. and works at the crossroads to improve visibility = £21,500 (this includes earthworks, kerbing, drainage, new signs, traffic management, welfare facilities, land purchase, legal fees etc.).

2018/06 CASUAL VACANCY FOR EAST STOUR WARD

Cllr T Jones proposed that Mr Russell Haddon be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins. Mr Haddon was welcomed to the Parish Council and duly signed the "Acceptance of Office".

2018/07 TO CONFIRM TREE WARDEN FOR STOUR PROVOST

Cllr Mrs E Scott was proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr J Nalty and agreed by all.

2018/08 TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR CPRE

Agreed to leave this until the Annual Meeting in May.

2018/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- Manor Farm Gate, West Stour, "No Through Road" signage to be deferred to the next meeting when a decision will be made by the residents.
- East Stour Crossroads. Cllr Gilding said there is not a lot to report. There have been lots of enquiries and a traffic survey of the crossroads and Head Lane in connection with the Southern Extension. Cllr Gilding will follow this up with Roger Bell. Cllr Jane Westbrook said that she will follow up the feasibility study of the B3091/3092 that should have been carried out last April.
- Condition of A30 from Townsend Farm to Fifehead Magdalen crossroads, this has been reported to Highways and they have responded by saying that they will monitor the road. The road is due for resurfacing July/August/September 2018 (capital programme). Cllr Cattaway said to keep reminding Roger Bell. Cllr Cowan said parts of the A30 from East Stour to Shaftesbury are also in very poor condition (part of this is also in the programme).
- Changing of Stour Provost road sign to include Stower Provost Pre-school, Cllr Gilding said that a site visit by Guy Smith has yet to be made.
- SIDs. The query that arose at the last meeting about our signs activating and deactivating when monitoring the speed, Rob Camp & Joe Allen were going to decide if the SIDs could be set to activate at a lower speed so that speeding traffic that slows to below 30 quickly will allow the SID time to deactivate. At present they are not allowed to show a speed below 30 mph which is causing the problem. East Stour there are now four places where the 'SID' can be positioned and because of this East Stour propose to purchase another 'SID'. Todber and West Stour, the 'SID' is working well and is making most drivers slow down.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour, there is only one site where the team can go out. The team has not been out lately, but will be out when the weather and the light is better. Todber now has a new member, Cllr Bowe. There are two authorised sites, Red Lane (where 'SID' is) and Church Lane and because it has been too cold and dark the team have not been out as much as they would like. West Stour – the team go out dependent on numbers and weather.

2018/10 PLANNING MATTERS

- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.
- Another application for Hillcrest (2/2017/16410 has been resubmitted, this application has been refused three times in the past (including an appeal) objecting to the height, which would not be hidden by the hedge. When the first plans for the dwellings were submitted there was permission for the car ports, however they were not built. It was agreed to look at the resubmitted plans before responding to Development Control.
- Cllr Mrs Sealy asked if there had been a response to Development Control posting proposed planning applications on private land rather than public land. Clerk has not heard back.

2018/11 CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Council Roundtable, hosted by Simon Hoare MP on Friday 2nd February 2018, Cllrs Mrs Edwards, King and Parker will attend. The Chairman said that the last meeting she attended was very interesting and if there is anything in particular, other than Westminster Hospital, roads and Southern Extension that the council would like to be raised to let her know.

2018/12 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Nothing further was brought to our attention.

2018/13 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

North Dorset Local Plan Review the consultation ends 5pm on 22 January 2018.

Gillingham Town Council has submitted a **Neighbourhood Plan for Gillingham** under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Comments must be returned by 5pm on Thursday 15 February 2018.

2018/14 UNITED FRONT TO SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN OUR VILLAGES

Another group meeting has been arranged by the Chairman Cllr Trevor Vaughan on 22nd January in Marnhull Village Hall, 7pm.

2018/15 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that this problem will probably continue until an authorised site has been made available for the travellers. Should the Shaftesbury recycling site be moved to Gillingham, maybe the land could be used as a traveller site? It has been noted that the number of cars and caravans have increased at Five Bridges. Some of the locals have been upset by the travellers' activities. Jane will monitor this.

2018/16 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Covered under DCC and NDDC reports.

2017/17 NEW WAR MEMORIAL EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Gilding said that it has taken 3½ years in the making and to raise sufficient funds to pay for the stonework. The Stonemason is giving his time. More pledges have been received. There are two sets of plans to choose from. The memorial will be bordering Henry's field. The installation of the War Memorial was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Gilding, seconded by Cllr Nalty. Cllr Gilding was thanked for all his hard work. The memorial will be a worthy memory to those that have died.

2018/18 STOUR PROVOST PLAYING FIELD GRASS CUTTING MAINTENANCE

Cllr Nalty said that the advent of cricket has grown and there is a need to provide a better pitch. He explained that Phil Buttress has mown the grass for 3 years and has worked hard, however his machinery is not always reliable and is not suitable to mow the grass short enough for the cricket wicket. Therefore it was decided to look at other companies. Countrywide Grounds Maintenance did a free cut in December, which was an improvement and they have fantastic equipment. Also they will be strimming at the same time and it is hoped that they will provide a better service. It was **agreed** to use Countrywide Grounds Maintenance instead of Mr P Buttress. The cost will be £79 per cut. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins. East Stour are happy with Phil's service. Clerk to write to Phil Buttress.

2018/19 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st November 2017 – 31st December 2017

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31st December 2017 – NSB £4,994.75. Scottish Widows Bank – £21,735.97 Lloyds plc – £6605.63

Included in these balances is £5,480.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165 & 2017/114).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.11.17 to 31.12.17 and budget 2017/18 (2 monthly and financial year to date) summary distributed.

It was resolved to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins.

Legacy from the late Hannah Mary O'Sullivan further to min ref 2017/85, it has now transpired that the wrong information was provided by Rutters, solicitors. Hannah's legacy stated that the £3021.31 is "to the Stours Group Parish Council for the provision of a bench seat with the necessary foundations to be placed at the top of Witch Lane at or about Ordnance Survey Grid Reference ST72 785241 for the benefit of dog walkers and friends in memory of my dog PIPPA such bench to be erected subject to the obtaining of the necessary permissions any funds remaining after the provision of such bench seat to revert to the remaining portion of any residuary estate".

Payments

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Mrs M Cox - £35.49 reimburse broadband.
- Chq nos 2015 SLCC £100 & 2016 £30 & ALCC (retrospective) see min ref 2017/138)
- £72.99 - renewal of AVG Internet Security
- Stour Provost Village Hall (hire) - £15.
- £103.29 - Viking Direct (brother toner)
- That East Stour Parish purchase a 'SID'. This will be purchased when the 2018/19 precept monies have been received.
- To accept the quote from SRJ Wattridge Building and Landscape £3108.00 for East Stour playground repairs (breakdown of quote circulated). Cllr Gilding explained that for many years Cllr Jones and himself had maintained the equipment to their best ability, however there are works (6 different jobs) that need to be done that is beyond their remit. Mr Wattridge has done work at Stower Provost School and other parish councils. The works will be done in order of priority and some will be a long term fix. Cllrs Gilding and Jones have done well in maintaining the equipment and were thanked.

It was resolved to authorise the above payments Proposed by Cllr Mrs Blacklock, seconded by Cllr Mrs P Sealy.

- To agree that the Parish Council purchase a Bushnell 101911 speed gun (costing between £100 and £200 plus vat). It was agreed to defer this and to ask Mr Whitfield if we could use the redundant Stour Row equipment for West Stour before considering buying the gun. Clerk to ask Mr Whitfield again.

- To discuss and set the Budget and Precept for 2018/19

At their respective parish meetings the following precepts were agreed –East Stour parish - £6,000, Stour Provost parish - £5,270, Todber parish – £650 and West Stour parish - £1,500.

- Local Delivery Service

Gillingham Town Council has requested £426 for 2018/19. This contributes towards public conveniences.

Copies of the precept derivation for 2018/19 were previously circulated and the figures produced were discussed, it was agreed that a contingency of £4,000 (same as the previous year) would be sufficient. Each parish has considered and made provision if required, for “Working Together”. It was **resolved** that the precept for the Stours Parish Council be £15,000 and the above precepts were agreed. Proposed by Cllr R Cowan, seconded by Cllr Gilding.

Review Internal Audit

The review was carried out with no issues arising at the Policy and Resources meeting held at 7pm on 11 January 2018 and the Committee recommended that it be accepted at this meeting. It was **resolved** to accept the annual review, proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards, seconded by Cllr R Cowan.

2018/20 REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

To review The Parish Council Standing Orders Model Issued by NALC/DAPTC October 2013 and Financial Regulations (NALC 2014) which were adopted by the Full Council 12th November 2015. (Both accepted with no changes min ref 2016/198).

- The Standing Orders were reviewed and the Policy and Resources Committee recommend that they be accepted with no changes. **Agreed.**
- The Financial Regulations (which were subsequently amended min ref 2017/74) to remove clause 3.1 “The Policy and Resources committee shall review its three year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments. Having regard to the forecast, it shall thereafter formulate and submit proposals for the following financial year to the council not later than the end of November each year including any proposals for revising the forecast”, which was reviewed at the Policy and Resources meeting held at 7pm on 11 January 2018 and the Committee recommended that clause 3.1 be removed.

The budget forecast for the precept will still be carried out (clause 3.2) but it was felt that with changes to local government in Dorset it is very difficult to do a three year forecast.

It was resolved to remove clause 3.1 from the Financial Regulations.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Gilding.

Clerk to circulate updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

2018/21 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 – already covered under 2018/19.

Stour Provost and the pavilion – the pavilion is in good order following some maintenance works by Mr Belcher (known as Rabs). At present there is not a football team using the facilities, Clerk to put an advert in the Blackmore Vale Magazine advertising the field and pavilion.

Stour Row - all fine.

d) Crime

PCSO Vicky Biggs gave her report at the beginning of the meeting.

e) DAPTC

The next Northern Area meeting is Tuesday 16th January 2018 at Sturminster Newton Town council offices. Cllrs J Parker and Mrs C Wilkins will attend.

f) CPRE

North Dorset AGM is 28th March at 5 pm at Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster. Cllr Mrs Wilkins might attend. Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

2018/22 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Gypsy and Travellers.
- Land north of Manor Farm, Stour Provost.
- Gillingham Southern Extension (to invite Cllr David Walsh).
- Data Protection and Information Governance report from Cllr Nalty.

2018/23 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

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 9.50pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date