

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019**  
**In Stour Provost Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), Mrs L Bennett, R King, Mrs V Jones, R McConnell, R Robson, Mrs E Scott, Mrs F Stanford, Mrs P Sealy, L Trowbridge, Mrs J Uden and Mrs J Watkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, DCCllr Jane Somper (The Beacons), M Hibbert (RoWLO) and five members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

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

**Public Discussion**

Mrs Gould updated the meeting about Pleck, East Stour. At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed that poles be erected on Pleck, however the land is now covered by weeds. James Rose, who was going to install the poles is very busy and is now unable to do the work at present. There is now an alternative plan which is to mow/trim in front of the trees approximately 8m from the kerb and mulch will be laid around the trees. The cost of cutting will be £220 which will be covered by Stour Vale Markets and the cheque has been given to the Stours Parish Council. The mulch will be free however volunteers are needed to help lay the mulch. The aim is to improve the entrance to East Stour and to prevent unlawful encampment by Gypsy and Travellers. It was agreed to go ahead with this plan and to review the situation in the autumn/spring.

Mr & Mrs Morisetti spoke about their recent planning application, Hawkers Farm, to convert a redundant milking parlour to a community facility for arts and crafts, which was refused by Planning, as Highways said that the road is not accessible. The plans are being resubmitted as there are 3 other points of access and also, when it was a working farm there was a large volume of traffic. The traffic will now be a lot less. The Parish Council is happy to support the application when it is submitted for comments.

**DC MEMBERS' REPORT** – Cllr Jane Somper gave her report and spoke about the following: - Cabinet has agreed that work will get underway on the new Local Plan (LP) for the Dorset Council. At the Cabinet meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June, Jane was informed that any existing neighbourhood plans and those currently going through the consultation process will still be part of the planning decisions being made moving forward. The Council has produced a draft Statement of Community Involvement. Climate Change (Jane has been appointed a member of the Panel). Dorset Council are holding Digital sessions which are being held in Shaftesbury Arts Centre and Sturminster Newton Learning Centre, and are free to residents. As Chairman of People Overview & Scrutiny Committee she has held her first meeting with Heads of Services both for Children's and Adult Services and will shortly be meeting with both Portfolio Holders. The C13 and Zig Zag Hill have both reopened. The weight triggered sign to warn oncoming traffic on the C13 is still to be put in place. Parents and carers of children with SEN and disabilities are being asked to help plan short break activities in Dorset by filling in a short survey. Dorset residents have the opportunity to have their say on dementia services in the County and have been invited to take part before 11<sup>th</sup> August by visiting [www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/dementia/](http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/dementia/).

Jane was thanked for her report

Cllrs David Walsh and Val Potheary sent their apologies. Their reports (previously circulated) are attached. The main points of David's are Portfolio Holder – Planning, Cabinet 25<sup>th</sup> June and Dorset Armed Forces Covenant Review 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Val's – Induction programme, Meetings and Surgery.

Cllr Belinda Ridout also sent her apologies and reported the following "I will send separately details about the proposed junction improvements in Gillingham and forthcoming public consultation dates.

I have contacted the DWP to come and talk and they seem to wish to speak with parish clerks directly. So they will be in touch.

With reference to the Climate Change Panel, it is intended to consult with the parishes and towns for their ideas, comments and questions on how we as a council can be more carbon neutral, so I invite your thoughts please.

Other than my last report there is nothing else to report at the moment, we are all still very much in training mode".

**Rights of Way Officer's report** - Mr Hibbert said that volunteer work continues with the clearance of vegetation. He also supports Mrs Gould's new proposals at Pleck. There are 3 outstanding footpath problems. Still waiting for quotes to replace footbridge over the River Stour. The footpath between West Stour & Stour Provost and Harpitts Lane are blocked by maize crop. The Solar farm planning application will have an impact on The Stour Valley Way. Footpath at Woodville Farm now has a stile in place. The 3 diversions at Shadehouse Farm have been completed. Volunteer work is struggling

and there is now a scheme 'Adopt a Footpath' which is getting the community more involved by keeping an eye on a footpath and to do some limited maintenance which will be covered by insurance, also gloves and secateurs are provided. The Stour Vale walks continue monthly until the end of the year as there is a lack of interest. There are the weekly shorter walks, Walking for Health which are popular on Tuesdays in Gillingham & Wednesdays in Shaftesbury. In September there is the Gillingham walking festival and on July 20<sup>th</sup> is the White Hart Link walk from Fontmell Magna to Stourpaine. Martin was thanked for his report and for all that he does.

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall sent her apologies and said that there is nothing to report, though let her know if anything tree related comes up.

Stour Provost, Stour Row, Todber and West Stour nothing to report.

Flood Wardens' report – none received.

Transport – no report received.

**Business Agenda**

**2019/73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs D Amlôt, P Bowe, Mrs B Edwards, J Nalty and Mrs C Wilkins.

**2019/74 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.

**2019/75 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

**2019/76 TO CONFIRM PLAYING FIELD OFFICERS FOR EAST STOUR**

Guy Gilding & Cllr R McConnell proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

**2019/77 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO REPRESENT TRANSPORT AND CRIME & HOMEWATCH**

Transport – Cllr Mrs J Uden, proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr King and agreed by all. Crime & Homewatch – vacant.

**2019/78 TO CONFIRM TREE WARDENS FOR STOUR PROVOST AND WEST STOUR**

Stour Provost – Cllr Mrs Scott proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr King and agreed by all. West Stour – vacant.

**2019/79 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019.**

The minutes were agreed and adopted as a correct record proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr McConnell.

**2019/80 MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr McConnell has established the correct grid reference where the bench in Hannah O'Sullivan's memory is located. The Ordnance Survey co-ordinates: ST 79853 24054. The Google map co-ordinates are 51.015487 - 2.288572.

**2019/81 CASUAL VACANCY FOR TODBER AND EAST STOUR WARDS**

Russell Haddon (East Stour ward) has tendered his resignation. There are now 2 vacancies for East Stour and one for Todber. There might be somebody interested for East Stour.

**2019/82 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- East Stour Crossroads – Emma Baker, Project Engineer, Highway Improvements has sent through proposed short term safety measures which intend to reduce road traffic collisions. These measures were discussed at East Stour's parish meeting and comments were fed back to Emma. It is anticipated that the works will commence shortly.

- SIDs, East Stour – the new Vario Sid has been received. Guy Gilding has agreed to continue deploying the SIDs in East Stour.  
Todber, Cllr King said that as the pole is in the shade there is no need for a solar panel. The SID is coming to the end of its 6 week stint. The residents adjacent to the SID say that it does make a difference and reduces the traffic speed. Cllr King agreed to continue deploying the SID for Todber.  
West Stour –Mrs Sealy said that a SID has been erected from west to east, by Little Ashley. However Rob Camp & Joe Allen have recommended that the Vario SID be used there. Cllr Mrs Sealy would like to use the new Vario Sid every 12 weeks if the Council are in agreement. This was agreed as the latest Vario was purchased out of the Stours Parish Council's funds. Cllr Mrs Sealy said she will contact Guy Gilding to arrange deployment. All the poles in East Stour and West Stour have been fitted with solar panels. Mrs Sealy is happy to continue deploying the West Stour SID. Also she will contact Joe & Rob about the downloading of figures/information from the SID.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour – no report received. Todber – Cllr King reported that speed watches were carried out at Church Close. It appears that one driver has reduced their speed from 36mph to 33mph. The team will try and get out more often but there needs to be a minimum of 3 people. The SID and CSW are used alternately along Red Lane and Church Close. West Stour – no report received.
- Highway maintenance – Cllr King asked what can be done about such issues as sign cleaning, state of the verges, conditions of the roads and roadside litter. Would like clarification what is Dorset County's remit and the Parish Council's remit. Guy Gilding is the Dorset Lengthsman. This is a new service to parish and town councils providing highways maintenance not covered by County Highways. Guy will be able to work for the council after November if the council so wish. The Clerk has arranged for Roger Bell, Community Highways Officer to attend our next meeting to discuss this issue.
- Pleck – covered under Public Discussion.
- Finger post at Hawker's Lane, Stour Provost and by entrance to Great Down Farm, Stour Row are in need of refurbishment. Clerk to contact Dorset Fingerpost for quotes. The one opposite Trill Lane, along the B3092 is also in need of repair. Cllr Trowbridge will ask Mr Raymond who has offered to repair it, if he is still minded to.

#### **2019/83 PLANNING MATTERS**

- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.
- The proposed solar farm, Fifehead Magdalen application, Dorset Council has agreed an extension of time with the applicants in which to determine the application until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2019. Any decision on the application is unlikely to be taken before this date. Cllr McConnell said that the landscape assessment is not on the planning portfolio.
- Parts of Footpaths 30, 31 & 33, Stour Provost Public Path Diversion Order 2006.
- No decision has been received regarding the appeals for Church Farm, West Stour and Land north of 1 The Lynch West Stour.
- Stour Row Church, Cllr McConnell said that it looks as though the plans have been revised to take account of the Conservation Officer's concerns and subject to some further minor amendments, and thinks they are minded to approve the application.

#### **2019/84 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Request from Stour Provost Cricket Club for the Stour Parish Council's permission to keep cricket covers for use on the cricket square at Stour Provost Playing Field. (When in use they will be in place over the cricket square. When not in use they can be easily moved to the edge of the playing field). The Cricket Club applied for a grant for these covers and were successful. It was agreed that the covers be kept on the field, but would like them to be put away in the winter.
- V E Day 75, 8 – 10 May 2020 (email previously circulated) – the Council agreed to be involved and to be kept updated with any correspondence received.

#### **2019/85 DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS**

Gillingham ward monthly reports duly circulated.

#### **2019/86 DAPTC**

Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019, proposals and resolutions procedure: completed forms with proposals for a resolution should be sent to the DAPTC office by 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

#### **2019/87 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES**

The Chairman said that unfortunately that he could not attend the meeting that was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July with interested parties. It is hoped to have a report for the next parish council meeting.

### **2019/88 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Gillingham Junction & Sustainable Transport Improvements, there is a public exhibition Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 11am to 3pm and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 12.30pm to 7pm at Gillingham Town Hall.

### **2019/89 WILD FLOWER MEADOW**

A question arose about the emptying of the waste bin as John Gould no longer maintains the Meadow. Cllr Mrs Bobbie Edwards will look into this matter when she returns from her convalescence.

### **2019/90 CLEANING OF EAST STOUR & STOUR PROVOST BUS SHELTERS**

It has been noted that as well as the cleaning of the shelters there is need to clean/weeding and tidying in and around the shelters. At present Clearstone just wash the panels for £48 for both twice a year. For East Stour, Mr Gilding has said that he will scrub down the panels at £30 per clean and to clean and do any weeding/tidying £40 per clean. For Stour Provost, Mr Belcher has quoted to do the same twice a year £160. It was resolved to accept these quotes and not to use Clearstone anymore. Clerk to write to Clearstone.

### **2019/91 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – NSB £11,225.90. Scottish Widows Bank – £20,739.31  
Lloyds plc – £7,457.70

Included in these balances is £6,165.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165, 2017/114, 2018/113 & 2018/133).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.5.19 to 30.6.19 and budget 2019/20 (2 monthly and to date) summary distributed.

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

The Clerk said that Cllr Mrs Bennett has agreed to carry out the quarterly bank reconciliation that was previously done by Liz Newton. Also the Clerk now has full access with Lloyds Bank on-line banking system.

### **Payments**

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £34.00
- Mrs M Cox reimburse padlock and chain for VarioSID - £30.66.
- DAPTC (new councillors training) - £120.00
- Stour Row Village Hall – grant Stour Row website - £250 (agreed at Stour Provost meeting).
- Renewal of Local Councils Update (Communicorp) - £75.
- Vision ICT - website hosting support (Sept 2019 to Aug 2020) - £150
- Vision ICT (Operation Forth Bridge & Menai Bridge) - £84.
- Stour Provost Village Hall – hire - £15.
- Countrywide Grounds Maintenance – Stour Provost playing field - £145.36.
- Dorset County – installation of 5 SID solar panels - £1260.
- CPRE – 3 guests garden party, Venn House - £45.
- It was agreed to purchase a gardening gift voucher to the value of £100 for the Internal Auditor, as an expression of the council's appreciation for her work for the past two years.
- To consider a grant to 'No solar on the Stour' towards their fighting fund in respect of the Fifehead Magdalen Solar Farm planning application. It had been suggested that we match Fifehead Magdalen Parish meeting's contribution of £1000. This suggestion was discussed and it was resolved not to give a grant for the following reasons no one from the No Solar committee has attended this meeting, the Parish Council has organised an extra-ordinary planning meeting, specifically and invited the applicant who attended, that it is the public's money being used, it would set a precedence, the outcome of the application has not yet been decided, it does not affect all the parishes within the Stours and we must bear in mind the balance of our contingency fund since purchasing the SID solar panels.

Proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr McConnell.

## 2019/92 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

a) Chairman's – 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 – Guy Gilding sent his apologies. He sent in a report saying that the first part of the path has been completed and he has walked it and it is fab.

Mrs Bagnall sent in an email as a resident of Witch Close approached her (thinking she was still a councillor) with the following question "Could I ask if the 60 MPH sign down Witch Lane is going to be moved as now that the footpath has been extended down to the gateway to the lane this is greatly increasing the chances of a bad accident at this point so therefor surely should be a 30 MPH limit". The Clerk has passed this on to Roger Bell. Highways. His response (received 12<sup>th</sup> July was "The completion of the footpath is an Right of Way issue with the landowner doing the work I have cc in Guy Gilding and Graham Stanley.

There is no need to move the 60mph sign down the lane as it relates to the Traffic Regulation order on the main road not on Witch Lane. This lane is narrow and unlikely to have any speeding issues at the point of the footpath exit on to the road". (The response was sent to Mrs Bagnall).

The field is being used during the summer for archery for the local community, organised by Oliver Betts, Prime Sports Coaching Founder. Clerk to get a risk assessment from Mr Betts before the archery commences.

Stour Provost and the pavilion – a gate has been installed in the perimeter fence by Rabs so that the water meter can be moved by Wessex Water, in order that readings can be taken when the cricket club use their sprinkler on the cricket square. At present the meter is in a dangerous place, hence not being able to access it. Also Rabs has replaced the lavatory seats in the pavilion. It is hoped that Steve Stokes will be able to cut the hedges next time as he is now back working.

Stour Row – all fine.

d) Crime

It was noted that there has been a lot of garden equipment thefts in East Stour.

Vickie gave her apologies and sent in a report (received after this meeting). "Unfortunately it has been a busy couple of months.

- Between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May an outbuilding on a farm in Stour Row was broken into and a quantity of power tools were stolen.
- Overnight on 15<sup>th</sup> May a garage at a residential property in East Stour was broken into and garden machinery was stolen.
- Between 10am and 1pm on 30<sup>th</sup> May a garage at a residential property in East Stour was broken into and garden machinery was stolen.
- Between 6.15pm and 6.50pm on 5<sup>th</sup> June a vehicle was broken into whilst parked at Duncliffe Woods and a handbag was stolen.
- Overnight on 10<sup>th</sup> June a garage at a residential property in Todber was broken into and power tools were stolen.
- Overnight on 20<sup>th</sup> June there was a break to a residential property in East Stour. Enquiries are still ongoing regarding this incident.
- Between 7.15pm and 7.45pm on 7<sup>th</sup> July a vehicle was broken into whilst parked at Duncliffe Wood and a handbag was stolen.
- Between 8pm and 9pm on 10<sup>th</sup> July a vehicle was broken into whilst parked at Duncliffe Woods and a bag was stolen.

Elsewhere in North Dorset we have suffered from a spate of walk in residential burglaries in Shaftesbury and Gillingham several people have been arrested for these burglaries and are helping police with our enquiries.

I would like to remind everybody to remove items from their vehicles when parked up unattended and to lock the doors to their properties".

Should anyone like crime prevention advice please feel free to contact Vickie.

e) DAPTC

The next Northern Area meeting is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Town Council Offices, Sturminster Newton. Cllr Mrs Wilkins will be attending.

- f) CPRE  
Cllr Amlôt sent a message saying that there is nothing to report.  
Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

**2019/93 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Policy and Resources meeting  
Roger Bell, Highways, Dorset County will be in attendance  
Pleck

**2019/94 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

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

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm and thanked everyone for attending.

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

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