

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th January 2017
In Stour Row Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs B Edwards (Chairman), Mrs T Bagnall, Mrs R Blacklock, P Brown, R Cowan, G Gilding, P Gould, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, R King, N Lithgow, J Nalty, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins.
Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllrs Charles Dowden and Jane Westbrook, M Hibbert (FPLO), PCSO Vicky Levy and 2 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

Crime Report

PCSO Vicky Levy said that there has been one reported crime in the Stours since the last meeting. There have been some vehicle break-ins in surrounding villages and investigations are ongoing. Members present were reminded to lock cars and not to leave anything valuable inside their vehicles. No questions arose. Vicky was thanked for attending the meeting.

DCC MEMBER'S REPORT – No report received.

NDDC WARD MEMBERS' REPORT – Reported later under the business agenda.

Public Discussion –

Colin Spender and his partner Maura Kiely have just moved into a property in Green Lane, Stour Row. Mr Spender is a retired police officer and is an experienced dog handler/trainer/behaviourist. He informed the members present that they wish to submit a planning application to NDDC for change of use of land from equestrian use to a dog training school. He has consulted Development Control, NDDC. In this area there appears to be a demand for dog training and he wishes to know if their proposition is acceptable to Stour Row and Stour Provost. There would be a 30ft by 9ft poly-tunnel alongside a drainage ditch to one side of the field. He is aware of the visual impact (however it is not visible from the road) and has spoken to his neighbours. The area will be a hard surface and standing water would drain into the ground, the poly-tunnel would be used in the winter. There would be no dogs boarding, stock fencing would be all around the field. The dogs would be controlled and there would be staggered days of training. They plan to have 2 or 3 sheep as part of the training programme. Highways have been consulted and there will be a separate drive into the field at the back. Also environmental health has been contacted about noise levels.

They were thanked for letting the meeting know about their proposals and were wished every success in their venture. The Council would wait until the application is submitted for consultation to make their decision.

Footpath Liaison Officer's report - Mr Hibbert said that it has been a quiet time and is not aware of any major problems at the present. The County Council is having a taxing time.

Lyde Hill Farm, Cllr Cattaway has not been involved with the issue, even though he said he would contact the landowner. There is one major blockage on the boundary between Lyde Hill Farm and Shade House Farm which Martin will try and get resolved.

Before Christmas, sheep were savaged by dogs at Duncliffe Wood, he doesn't know anymore. He reinforced the need for dog owners to keep their dogs under control.

If there are any footpath problems please let Martin know.

Cllr Mrs Blacklock commented that FP 13 is in a beautiful state after all the works and it has never looked so good.

Martin was thanked for organising a New Year walk in West Stour.

Also he was thanked as he does a great deal of work in maintaining the footpaths.

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – the Ash trees have come down and the job has been done.

Todber – Mr & Mrs Paul Matcham attended the Tree Council Meeting in Plymouth on 5th November 2016. Their report was previously circulated.

Nothing to report from the other parishes.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that after today there has been some flooding across the A30 by Manor Farm and the B3092, Stour Provost. These floods usually drain away.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said she attended a meeting on Tuesday where the concessionary bus pass scheme was discussed. They are trying to keep the “before 9.30am travel concession”. North Dorset is not served well with buses. The Transport Forum has written asking that the concession should be kept as it is proposed to have it removed. Gillingham bus users have said that they are prepared to contribute up to £2 per journey to keep the bus service running. Cllr Mrs Newton encouraged members present to fill in the on-line survey. When the minutes from the Transport meeting are available they will be circulated.

Business Agenda

2017/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs P Bowe and Lady A Staggs.

2017/02 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

2017/03 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

19 forms received all with the matter of “Setting the Parish Council Precept”, expiry date 7 May 2020. Cllr Parker proposed that these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Gilding and agreed by all.

2017/04 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th November 2016.

Under item 2016/189 it should read that the Food Festival is being held on one day and not over three days, this was duly amended. The minutes were then **agreed and adopted** as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Blacklock, seconded by Cllr Parker.

2017/05 MATTERS ARISING

- Roundtable discussion with Simon Hoare MP held 9th December (minutes previously circulated). The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Wilkins attended the meeting and were impressed by our MP's comments. They felt that Simon Hoare MP is doing to his bit for the B3092 traffic safety issues. North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau (NDCAB), Gillingham was discussed as the funding from NDDC is to be cut with the service either going to Sherborne or Dorchester. Cllr Parker said that he understood from a meeting this week that the idea is to keep it viable but they cannot support it as in the past. A breathing space is being considered by a suggestion of giving or increasing funding from parish and or town councils. He will learn more next Tuesday at the DAPTC Northern Area meeting as Gillingham Town Council has a good handle on this. He does not know about the Newbury premises. Cllr Gould said that he has found from a farming point of view that Simon Hoare does ask the right questions and gets things done.
- Stour Row Well this was featured in the Blackmore Vale Magazine, it was a pity that one of the pictures was wrong. Cllr Mrs Watkins said that the people who did the work were wonderful and now they are working on the telephone kiosk.
- The request received for a bench or seat at Stour Provost bus stop (B3092). It was decided that it would not be financially viable at present as Stour Provost has had increased expenditure this year. When Cllr Mrs Watkins delivered a questionnaire at Quarry Close in respect of a bus shelter there was 1 reply 'yes' and 1 'no' and the rest did not reply. Highways and Planning were involved in the consultation and it was discovered that the land where the bus stop is has utility works under the ground which means prevent something being placed on the land.
- Food Fair at East Stour, May 27th. Cllr Mrs Bagnall said that she is not sure if it will go ahead as Henry Miller has sold his cattle and the land maybe used for other things. She does not know what is happening to the field. Highways has not granted the organiser, Ian Lyster a parking license. Also Mr Lyster is running out of time. Cllr Mrs Bagnall was given a new contact name in connection with the land, so it might possibly go ahead.

2017/06 Casual Vacancy for Todber ward

Cllr Cowan proposed that Mr Richard King be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins. Mr King was welcomed to the Parish Council and duly signed the “Acceptance of Office”.

2017/07 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- Todber (B3092). Response received from Mike Harries, Director for Environment and the Economy, DCC to our letter addressed to Debbie Ward Chief Executive regarding our concern about the protracted delay in implementing all the safety improvement measures on the B3092 at Todber. Cllr Cowan said this doesn't take us much forward and the same reason, the weather, is being for used the delay. We have been waiting 18 months for the works to be done. Also what is quite worrying is that the County Council has paid for something that has not been done. The letter said that there is positive news that the cats eyes in this location were installed 5th December, there are no cats eyes and there never have been any in Todber. It is quite bewildering. If the County Council doesn't know what has/hasn't been done it is fraudulent activity. Cllr Cowan suggested we write to DCC, Mike Harries, Chief Executive Debbie Ward, Cllr Cattaway and Cllr Peter Finney (portfolio holder for Highways) pointing out our concerns that work has been paid for but not done. This was agreed.
- 'SIDs', East Stour – Cllr Brown has been replacing the batteries in the SID. The moving of the 'SID' does have an effect on slowing the traffic the north end, Witch Lane. However when positioned the southbound side it is too close to the playground sign and triggers too late, which has no effect on slowing the traffic. Cllr Gilding will ask Roger Bell to move the post. The 'SID' can be kept on one pole for 6 weeks maximum, then must be moved. 'SID' data is captured. Todber, Cllr Cowan has e-mailed Roger Bell advising that the markings on the road have been washed away. Cllr Mrs Sealy asked why West Stour can't have a 'SID' along the A30 near The Ship. When a 'SID' was requested a few years ago the criteria was not met because of the sight line. It was agreed that the Clerk to ask Roger Bell if West Stour can have a 'SID'.
- Fifehead Magdalen Crossroads, the latest update received by e-mail (duly circulated) is that the non-standard post is being delivered 13th January and the gang to erect the post are booked for 17th January, weather permitting. Andrew Brown, DCC has informed SOLAGEN to book in their gang to erect the solar powered sign as soon as possible afterwards. We will be advised of the date and also if he gets any more news of the land purchase.
- Ideas/measures required to prevent the slip road to Provost Farm being used as a lay-by. Cllr Jane Westbrook contacted Roger Bell and Andrew Brown regarding this problem and they re-iterated that the slip road would need some sort of Traffic Regulation Order to "Stop up part of the Highway" before it could be reduced or altered in size in any way. This would be painstakingly slow, and very expensive (from £3,000) so not realistic in today's climate. Jane contacted Luke Trowbridge directly with the suggestion that he puts up some large and permanent signs to indicate "SLIP ROAD ONLY" and "ACCESS FOR FARM TRAFFIC ONLY" and "NO LORRIES" and "NO PARKING". Jane said that she had not heard back from Mr Trowbridge.
- Back Street, East Stour, Mr Lockley contacted DCC saying that traffic speed along Back Street is a real problem, he guesses that 80% exceeds the 30mph limit. Mr Lockley suggested that the only solution would be installing speed bumps. Roger Bell responded and said "Currently we are not placing speed bumps in the highway as they have proven not reduce pollution, noise or accidents and that he would bring it to the attention of the Parish Council. It was thought that Mr Lockley would attend this meeting as he was advised that it would be on the agenda for discussion. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Gilding would respond saying that we sympathise with him regarding some motorists and their excessive speeding. The Parish Council can only act within strict parameters. Highways state that speed bumps are not designed to slow cars down. Also that the Parish Council are concerned with speeding motorists and this is discussed at meetings, also that we take the health and welfare of all our residents seriously.
- Closure of A3, Five Bridges (circulated by e-mail) between 5th and the 27th March to carry out carriageway reconstruction.

2017/08 PLANNING MATTERS

- Portal Planning – update on paperless consultation for West Dorset, North Dorset and Weymouth & Portland. We have been doing paperless consultation for quite a while. From 1st April 2017 printing and posting of planning applications will be discontinued in favour of online availability.
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990 APP/N1215/W/16/3161057. Appeal by Mr James Clarke, application No 2/2016/0286/VARIA. Location: Church Close Business Park, Todber. Proposal: application to vary condition No. 2 from planning permission 2/2011/1380/PLNG to add 2 No. dormers on east elevation. An appeal has been made in respect of NDDC's refusal of permission. It will be determined on the basis of Written Representation. The dormers will be on the outside of the contained unit and will be looking onto somebody else's garden. The Parish Council objected to this application and will write to the Planning Inspectorate along the same lines as before.

2017/09 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

2017/10 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

No matters came to our attention.

2017/11 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that all meetings are to do with the unitary authority and that is likely to happen in April 2019. There will be many less councillors who will have to work harder. It looks as if town and parish councils will have more work to do as well. Cornwall has been an operative unitary for 9 years and many parishes meet together as a 'cluster'. The funding gap for social care is enormous.

2017/12 DORSET CCG'S PROPOSAL TO DOWNGRADE WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL SHAFTESBURY

Cllr Mrs Newton attended the last public meeting. Simon Hoare MP saw the point of preserving the hospital. Dr Murison said it is ridiculous closing the bed spaces. This would put pressure on Sherborne and Blandford hospitals. Bed spaces could be created in nursing homes, however DCC will not pay for this. It is all to do with the lack of finances. The Westminster Hospital, being an old building is very expensive to run and maintain. Another reason for keeping the hospital open is the lack of public transport. The CCG need to make choices in order that they make their money to go around and to be more cost effective. There should be another consultation out shortly. Members present were encouraged to complete it.

2017/13 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Cllr Jane Westbrook reported that it is up to the parish council to decide the way forward with the Five Bridges lay-by. For many years it has been used by Travellers as an unauthorised site. This could continue with the Travellers being there for six months at a time, which is the time period that DCC monitor and tolerate their needs as well as those of the general public. If DCC has been tolerant they are more likely to get a successful outcome at Court. The Travellers that have been at Five Bridges are at St James (an unauthorised site) at present, but it is likely they will return to Five Bridges in the Spring, when moved on. For many years there have been numerous discussions to try and reach a solution. The main objections are the eyesore created within a community by an untidy traveller camp and the suspected nature of the visits by cars to the lay-by. Jane has visited the authorised site in Shaftesbury, where Paula Clover makes regular visits and the site is kept tidy. Each caravan has its own area and no extra caravans are allowed on the site.

Five Bridges could be made an authorised site, like the one at Shaftesbury and would be managed. However DCC would have to put in a planning application which would be open to consultation. The Travellers would have to sign an agreement prior renting a pitch and pay a £500 deposit. If this was to be a permanent site it could be screened. However, it is not known if funding is available from HCA to make this an authorised pitch. Or things could be left as they are, and when and if the Travellers appear we have to give sufficient time for Paula to start the eviction process. As well as West Stour this does affect Kington Magna and Fifehead Magdalen parishioners.

Cllr Gould proposed "That the three Chairs of the affected parishes (West Stour Parish, Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council and Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting) meet to find a way of gauging public opinion of the Five Bridges problem of the Travellers". Seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by all.

2017/14 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Cllr Westbrook and Cllr Gilding attended the Gillingham Growth Board in May 2016 representing The Stours PC, Marnhull PC and Sturminster Newton TC at which it was agreed that a survey should be carried out along Back Street with the possibility of have a pedestrian crossing, unfortunately even with the proposed extra traffic, the data does not support the installation of a pedestrian crossing. Also a traffic assessment was carried out at East Stour Crossroads, the signage markers do not make it implicitly clear that drivers are approaching a junction. It was recommended to improve signage. Cllr Westbrook said that highway safety at East Stour and West Stour is on DCC Highways' radar and she will monitor this. Cllr Gilding said that DCC Local Transport Plan have the crossroads currently flagged as "Not programmed" and "Monitor collision data".

1100 homes have to be sold before any traffic improvements are made. We will be able to monitor this once the work starts.

Cllr Gilding will respond to the Consortium thanking for the data and that we are looking forward to seeing the improvements.

2017/15 NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN EAST STOUR

Cllr Gilding said nothing new to report. It was agreed to remove this from the agenda for the time being.

2017/16 EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD PROPOSED PATH

Cllr Gilding said nothing new to report. It was agreed to remove this from the agenda for the time being.

2017/17 LITTER SIGNS EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Gilding said this will be discussed at East Stour parish meeting and can be removed from the agenda for the time being.

2017/18 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

East Stour – The team has had two outings. Drivers exceeding the speed limit are being recorded.

Todber – Cllr Richard King is the co-ordinator for Todber. The team goes out fortnightly and are getting results of speeding motorists.

West Stour – Michèle Holden, the co-ordinator has been out of action for a while. The team is planning to go out next week and once a week or fortnightly thereafter.

2017/19 ALL SAINTS STOUR ROW

Nothing further to report.

2017/20 BROADBAND SPEEDS

E-mails from the Superfast Team have been circulated with information to help those with broadband speeds of less than 2mbps. The Superfast Team is now on Facebook.

2017/21 MARNHULL PARISH COUNCIL

Trevor Vaughan, Chairman of Marnhull Parish Council has an idea that may help us all in dealing with the problems in our various Parishes such as planning, speed, dog mess, bin clearing, pot holes etc. just to name a few. He is wondering if we as a whole banded together under Marnhull and The Stours Group with each Parish passing an action motion, passing it through the Chairman's Group and we then take it to NDDC for action with a bigger voice would they be more inclined to hear us (his e-mail previously circulated).

It was thought that this might be useful with the upcoming changes and it was agreed to have our Parish Chairmen, Cllrs Cowan, Mrs Edwards, P Gould and Mrs Watkins, as a contact group. Clerk to let Cllr Vaughan know. Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Cowan.

2017/22 THE PENSIONS REGULATOR

Acknowledgement of declaration (dd 1/12/2016) of compliance received. The Pension Regulator acknowledges that there is one member of staff (the Clerk) who is in employment on the staging date, who does not fall into the pension scheme for automatic enrolment.

2017/23 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st November 2016 – 31st December 2016

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31st December 2016 – NSB £4,964.92. Scottish Widows Bank – £13,722.69 Lloyds plc – £6504.71.

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 1.11.16 to 31.12.16 and budget 2016/17 (2 monthly and financial year to date) summary distributed.

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

- **To discuss and set the Budget and Precept for 2017/18**

At their respective parish meetings the following precepts were agreed –East Stour parish - £6,000, Stour Provost parish - £5,270, Todber parish – £3,011 and West Stour parish - £1,000. It was agreed that each parish would be responsible for “working with highways” and have budgeted accordingly in their precept figures.

- **Local Delivery Service**

Gillingham Town Council has requested £426 for 2017/18. This contributes towards public conveniences and Three Rivers Partnership. The amount has reduced by half for 2017/18 because the toilets have been vandalised and two have been closed. Gillingham Town Council said that there is a charity interested in refurbishing the toilets for their private use as an office, if they are successful with their grant application.

It was **resolved** that the precept for the Stours Parish Council be £15,000 and the above precepts were agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Cowan

2017/24 FINANCE – PAYMENTS

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Mrs M Cox - £32.85 reimburse broadband.
- Stour Row Village Hall - £12 hire.
- Mr J Gould - £21.50 reimburse materials used for concrete bases bench and litter bin, Wild Flower meadow.
- David Braybon - £1080 tree work East Stour playing field.
- Blackmore Vale Blinds - £166.80 venetian blinds East Stour Village Hall

It was resolved to authorise the above payments Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Cowan.

2017/25 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 – has been too wet and cold to do anything.
Stour Provost and the pavilion – Shelagh Corfield no longer cleans the pavilion for personal reasons. We do have replacement and also he also does odd jobs, which could be useful. We have had the 2017 cricket fixture, the list to be circulated to Stour Provost Councillors and the new cleaner
Stour Row –the swings are being used a lot.
- d) Crime
PCSO Vicky Levy gave her report at the beginning of the meeting.
- e) DAPTC
The next Northern Area meeting is 17th January 2017 at The Hub, Stalbridge. Cllrs J Parker and Mrs C Wilkins will attend. The CCG will be giving an update, Cllr Parker will ask about Shaftesbury Westminster Memorial hospital
- f) CPRE
Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

2017/26 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Stour Row Church
- Food Fair, East Stour
- Update on drainage in West Stour (A30)
- Litter problem

2017/27 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

9th March 2017 at West Stour, 11th May 2017 at Stour Provost, 13th July 2017 at East Stour, 14th September 2017 at Stour Row, 9th November 2017 at West Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date