

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th July 2018
In West Stour Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, Mrs B Edwards, G Gilding, R Haddon, Mrs V Jones, R King, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs J Watkins, and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, M Hibbert (RoWLO) and Mrs T Bagnall (Tree warden) there were no members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

DCC MEMBER'S REPORT – Cllr Carr-Jones sent his apologies. However he has circulated information on the consultation on the draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Dorset.

NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT – Cllr Jane Westbrook said that there is nothing further to report as matters will be addressed by subsequent agenda items.

Public Discussion – none.

Rights of Way Officer's report - Mr Hibbert said that there is not a great deal to report. Volunteer work will be resumed this week and will be focussing on nettle and bramble clearance. No major problems have been reported.

There has been an ongoing difficult issue at Stour Provost Mill, the sleepers are rotting through and the owner needs to make them safe.

Pigeon House, (the land is rented from Candy's) where there is stock in the field and there are issues with the stiles and fencing.

Work at Duncliffe Wood is nearly completed. In 2015 it was agreed that the Parish Council contribute towards an oak finger post at Duncliffe Wood. The price has gone up and Martin said that he will obtain another quote. The council agreed and once purchased the ownership of the sign will be the Woodland Trust's. There have been a lot of trees felled in the wood, it was suggested that some be spread around to be used as seating. Martin will follow this idea up. Martin was thanked for his report.

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall said that East Stour parish has been offered (not purchased yet) a Walnut tree and a Lime tree to be planted on the playing field in memory of the late Terry Williams. The family do not live locally and if the trees are planted it would then be up to the parish council to look after them. Mrs Bagnall said there are quite a few trees on the playing field and produced a copy of John Gould's map of the 11 trees that he planted on the field. Mrs Bagnall explained that if a Walnut is planted it could cause problems to the wellbeing of other trees/wildlife/humans/livestock and plants. Our field is not large enough for another Walnut. It was agreed to monitor the existing Walnut. It was agreed that a Lime could be planted in one corner of the field. Mrs Bagnall will contact the family and let them know of our decision. It was agreed that we must consider future donations of planting of trees on the field. Maybe the Wild Flower Meadow could be considered.

The Ash trees will be monitored.

Another matter concerns an old Oak tree belonging to Little Meadow, local residents have reported that the owners plan to cut down the tree, Mrs Bagnall has spoken to Mr & Mrs Boyd and they have said they are not felling the tree. Mrs Bagnall also mentioned that if the residents still felt there is a threat to the tree, to put their concerns in writing to the Tree Officer at NDDC or to herself and she would pass on.

Mrs Bagnall was thanked for her report.

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

Flood Wardens' report – No flooding problems reported as it has been very dry.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said the 16th May meeting was cancelled. No date has been arranged for the next meeting.

Business Agenda

2018/73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs P Brown, J Nalty, Mrs E Scott and L Trowbridge.

2018/74 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.

No member declared any DPI

2018/75 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2018/76 APPOINTMENT TO EAST STOUR VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Cllr P Brown agreed to continue. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Gilding and agreed by all.

2018/77 TO CONFIRM TREE WARDEN FOR STOUR PROVOST

Cllr Mrs E Scott agreed to continue. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

2018/78 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th MAY 2018.

Agreed and adopted as a correct record proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards and seconded by Cllr Gilding.

2018/79 MATTERS ARISING

The setting up of Internet banking is ongoing.

2018/80 RESIGNATION OF MR R COWAN

Ryder has moved away, hence his resignation. The Clerk to write a letter of thanks on behalf of the council to him.

2018/81 CASUAL VACANCIES FOR EAST STOUR WARD

Still vacant. Still seeking for two new members.

2018/82 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- East Stour Crossroads – covered under item 2018/84.
- SIDs, East Stour, Todber and West Stour. SID Operation update received 18.6.18 and circulated. Cllr Gilding said that Joe Allen & Rob Camp have clarified operating procedures (e.g. high-vis jackets and no step ladders), which must be followed or it could invalidate the Council's insurance. The Vario SID, which is the next model up to ours will display a message "Slow down/thankyou", which is a better option and has been recommended by Rob & Joe, it does cost approximately £500 more than the basic model that we have. East Stour will be purchasing one (already budgeted for another SID). Morelock Signs Ltd, the suppliers have approached Cllr Gilding saying that some parish councils due to the cost, might be prepared to purchase second hand models and might we be interested in selling ours and then the Council could purchase the Vario SID. This would have to go on the next agenda as the council has not budgeted for this expenditure for the year 2018/19, however it could be considered for 2019/20. The cost of a new one is approximately £2500 plus vat. Cllr King said that a new screen was been ordered at the end of June for the Todber/West Stour, after contacting the company he has been told there is a 3 - 4 week wait for delivery. The SID cannot be put up because of the damaged screen. He also said that they would like a SID along Church Lane, however a survey would have to be carried out first (which has to be paid for) and there might be need to fund raise as it might be difficult to raise the Todber precept. Cllr Mrs Sealy said there is nothing further to report for West Stour.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour – Cllr Gilding said there has been an article asking for a new co-ordinator and volunteers but no response. Todber – Cllr King said that the team has diminished. Church Lane is being monitored and there have been a few driving in excess of the speed limit. He also said that he attended a CSW meeting on 6th July and that the Police say that CSW are important to them. On 27th June was "Operational Wolf" PCSO Chris Mullens gave a crime report about this. West Stour – Cllr Parker said that the team is also diminishing so it is hard to get a team out to monitor the speed

of traffic. Traffic from Shaftesbury direction is quiet (especially when the SID is in place), however from Sherborne direction where there is no SID many more motorists do drive in excess of the 30mph. Michèle Holden is recruiting for new volunteers.

- Sign replacement along the A30 (East Stour) is being replaced like for like and will be paid for by Highways.
- The advanced crossroad warning sign and crossroad sign are obscured by hedge growth, Clerk to report it to Roger Bell. The Chairman asked that we ask Roger for clarification of who is responsible for cutting of hedges & verges where there are highway signs.

2018/83 PLANNING MATTERS

- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.
- Received today planning application for Church Farm, East Stour to erect agricultural building to house calves. East Stour councillors will discuss and maybe visit the site and let the Clerk know their response.

2018/84 CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail received from Mrs C.K. Bhamra-Griffiths, East Stour raising her concerns that there might be traffic lights in the village following the installation of speed tubes along the A30 either side of the crossroads. In response to this Cllr Jane Westbrook read an e-mail from Laura Russ, Principal Transport Planner, DCC "The interim scheme is due to be designed this year probably in the 3rd Quarter (October to December), but is currently planned for construction in 2019/20. If we can bring this forward, we will. The preliminary work indicates it could be a good candidate to do sooner, and there may be slippage elsewhere in the programme. As things stand however, construction work is unlikely to take place before 2019". It was agreed to reply "that Dorset County Council are proposing important minor works at the crossroads and that construction is planned for 2019/20. When the parish council receives a concrete proposal from DCC we will of course consult with the village" to Mrs Bhamra-Griffiths.
- E-mail received from Mrs Westall, Stour Provost regarding the turning right from Terrace Lane/Scotchey Lane on to the B3092 with the possible dangers experienced from speeding traffic. Cllr Mrs June Watkins said that she has visited the spot again with Mike Potter and he is the second person to say that they would have to get a court order to change a speed limit and it would take years and also it would cost £20k and they would not do that. The de-restriction sign on the right is going to be taken away within a few months and it is thought that this will help. Clerk to let Mrs Westall know and to say that the parish council do agree about the danger and sympathise with her.

2018/85 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Carr-Jones sends monthly briefings which are circulated.

2018/86 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that there will be changes to the wards and the number of councillors and council size. Nothing further to report.

2018/87 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WARD BOUNDARIES IN DORSET

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has published its recommendations for wards for two new unitary councils. Any comments by the council must be submitted by the 27th August 2018. It has been proposed that the Stours Parish Council be split into Beacon, Gillingham and Stalbridge wards so that there will not be an electoral inequality. This should make no difference to the parish council. At present we are in Gillingham and Beacon wards.

2018/88 DAPTC

The Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday 10th November 2018, proposals and resolutions procedure: completed forms with proposals for a resolution should be sent to the DAPTC office by 6th August 2018. Cllr Parker said that any resolutions that crop up locally and that need addressing would be submitted to the Association who would then lobby MPs and parliament. For example:- NALC lobbied that parish and town councils do not need a General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Officer, also the provision of transport for 16-18 year olds whilst in education.

Cllr Parker will attend the AGM, being Chairman of the Association. Cllr Mrs Wilkins will also attend.

2018/89 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Cllr Parker reported on the meeting held on 6th July at Fifehead Magdalen Village Hall to discuss the Travellers' unauthorised encampment at Five Bridges. The Stours Parish Council, Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council, Fifehead Parish meeting, as a joint concern wrote to Simon Hoare MP about the Travellers. Simon arranged a joint round table meeting on the 6th July, which focussed on residents' objections to the unauthorised encampment and to

find a solution to the problems these Travellers cause to the community in general. Cllr Jo Francis (for East Shaftesbury) has noticed an increase in drug related problems, which has been confirmed by our police representatives, it was felt that it is time to resolve this issue. Please see Cllr Jane Westbrook's notes attached.

Cllr Parker said it was an interesting meeting and it was concluded that the only way to resolve the problems is to find a proper site for these Travellers. Paula Clover, Gypsy & Travellers Liaison Officer and Giles Nicholson, DCC Ranger Greenspace Manager would visit a site at Shaftesbury, hopefully to accommodate these people. Cllr Parker will liaise with Wessex Water and Andrew Martin, Head of DCC Highways to see if they are amenable to contributing to a lockable barrier at the back of Five Bridges (this might mean that the Stour Parish Council will also have to make a contribution). Five Bridges cannot become an authorised site as the main sewer pipe runs directly under and Wessex Water require access at all times. Cllr Jane Westbrook said that subsequent to this meeting, Paula Clover contacted her and there is DCC owned land adjacent to the Shaftesbury site. Also the Police are being co-operative as there is a drug problem. Simon Hoare MP has asked that all work together and keep in touch with each other. Another joint meeting has been arranged between 10th and 29th September 2018. It is hoped that DC Cllr David Walsh will attend this meeting. Cllr Gould asked that he be invited to the meeting. It was agreed that some progress is being made.

2018/90 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Cllr Gilding said that nothing is happening and there have been no planning applications to date. The result is that larger villages are being inundated with planning applications. Cllr Jane Westbrook will ask Cllr David Walsh to see what is happening.

2018/91 UNITED FRONT TO SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN OUR VILLAGES

E-mail response received from Mr Mike Potter regarding Butts Lane. "After my revisit to Butts Lane I'm afraid that I was not able to identify any reasonable measure that could be made that would result in a notable improvement for people choosing to access the B3092 from Butts Lane. There is insufficient space available in order to make this junction more straightforward to negotiate a left turn from. Using the triangle of land of the north of the junction would result in poorer visibility to/from the junction and result in a steeper approach to the junction and would not allow for vehicles to make a left turn any easier angle than it is now. These limitations would, in my opinion, result in an increased risk of collision rather than an improvement. Similarly, I do not have anything reasonable I can suggest that would encourage drivers to enter onto Butts Lane from the B3092 (northbound) more slowly. On a more positive note, following my visit to the bends south of Scotchey Lane on the B3092, there is sufficient space to install a chevron sign for south bound traffic at the first (right hand bend). Site observations suggested that this was where a chevron would be most warranted due a combination of the tighter bend and the higher approach speeds into the right hand bend.

Two new double bend warning signs combined with 'REDUCE SPEED NOW' plate will also be installed, one for each direction and two new SLOW markings will be installed on the approaches to the bends.

There is insufficient space available to install a chevron sign at either of the two bends for northbound traffic and also for southbound traffic at the left hand bend. I feel that the additional SLOW markings and new signing will help to raise the profile of both bends. The right hand bend for northbound traffic is not as sharp as the left hand bend and I felt that this bend helped to slow northbound drivers before the tighter left hand bend. Observations made whilst on site suggested that approach speeds for the northbound left hand bend were lower than southbound speeds approaching the right hand bend. A chevron was not feasible at the left hand bend for northbound traffic owing to the location of the access to property, Stour Yard. I am still investigating the area north of the access to Provost Farm. It has proved to be more complicated than first thought... Ordnance survey mapping has the area marked as a layby, if this is definitive then this restricts what we are able to do. I also need to consider that there are currently no other accessible laybys for southbound traffic on this section of the B3092. I will keep digging".

E-mail reply received from Mr Gale (owner of Stevenson) regarding our request to cut back vegetation restricting visibility. He said he has contacted Mike Potter and will arrange to cut back the vegetation after the bird nesting season towards the end of July and at that time he will remove the lowest hanging branches on the other trees; the major work will be done in the autumn.

2018/92 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st May 2018 – 30th June 2018

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 30th June 2018 – NSB £5,018.29. Scottish Widows Bank – £25,737.08
Lloyds plc – £8,943.40

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 1.5.18 to 30.6.18 and budget 2018/19 (2 monthly and to date) summary distributed.

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

Payments

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Mr R King - reimbursement for SID computer adaptor - £10.72.
- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £15.50.
- Vision ICT – website host support - £150.
- NORMTECH (RDB) – refurbishment of Browns Lane fingerpost - £156.45.
- Communicorp - renewal of sub - £75.
- P Buttress – grass maintenance, East Stour - £378.
- Marmax products - picnic bench, East Stour - £622.80.
- Karen James - grass maintenance Stour Row churchyard & hall) - £300.
- M Belcher – maintenance & cleaning pavilion - £120.
- Countrywide Ground Maintenance – SP playing field - £142.50.
- West Stour Village Hall – hire for meeting - £10.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards, seconded by Cllr Parker.

Cllr Gilding recommended the work of Normtech following the making up of the replacement 'Browns Lane' finger post. The sign is a replica of the original and a very good job has been made.

Cllr Parker said that there will be an invoice for £14 for the hire of Fifehead Magdalen Village Hall in respect of the Travellers' meeting.

It was agreed to purchase 2 solar power devices (which are permanently attached to the poles) for our SIDs at a cost of approximately £100 each and to see how it goes. By having solar panels it would mean that there would not be a need to charge the batteries.

Insurance Renewal - it was agreed not to have a higher excess above the standard £250 under the Ecclesiastical Insurance property section of the policy, when the policy is due for renewal in September as the savings are minimal for the amount of minimum excess of £1000 and £5000. Agreed to continue with the current excess of £250.

2018/93 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 – Nothing to report.

Stour Provost and the pavilion – Cricket is going well and when the nets are erected they will be available for all to use. Mr Belcher has not been able to finish painting the swings as the metal poles get so hot that the paint dries before it gets to the poles.

Stour Row – nothing to report.

d) Crime

PCSO Chris Mullens sent his apologies. He sent in a report (previously circulated) saying there is a slight increase in break-ins in unattended motor vehicles at beauty spot parking areas. He advised against leaving property in vehicles with windows open during the hot weather. An extract from their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthDorsetRPT/> in relation to an operation they ran along the A30 on 27th June during the Bikers blast event at Henstridge airfield.

Dorset Police Merger Public Meeting - Creating A New Force the merger proposal between Dorset Police and Devon & Cornwall Police. Members can respond individually by 27th August 2018. It was agreed that the parish council is in favour of the merger.

e) DAPTC

Cllr Parker said that at the Northern Area meeting crime is a major issue. They are in touch with Dorset Police and have invited someone along to a meeting to explain what is happening. For example there have been a lot of problems in Sturminster Newton, crime is on the increase. Sturminster has been given one extra PCSO. It appears that drugs and anti-social behaviour is happening in all the market towns.

The next Northern Area meeting is 17th July 2018 at Pimperne Village Hall Cllrs J Parker and Mrs C Wilkins will be in attendance.

f) CPRE

Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

2018/94 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Travellers and Gypsies.
- To consider increasing the Clerk's working from home payment from £16 to £18 per month.
- Purchase of Vario SID(s)

2018/95 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

13th September 2018 at Stour Provost, 8th November 2018 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date