

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 12th March 2020
In East Stour Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs P Bowe (Chairman for this meeting), D Amlôt, Mrs L Bennett, R McConnell, G Jenkins, J Nalty, J Pitman, R Robson, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy and Mrs J Uden. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, DCCllr Belinda Ridout, Mrs Terry Bagnall (Tree warden), Martin Hibbert (RoWLO) and 7 members of the public.

Cllr Bowe welcomed those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

Public Discussion – Alex Hawtree addressed the members regarding his P/A 2/2020/0159/FUL Riverside Farm, West Stour Erect 1 No. dwelling, create 2 No. parking spaces to form 4 in total and use existing access. Alex said that he wishes to have a house there because at present the mobile home which he is living in has an agricultural tie, with temporary permission granted in 2019 which expires in 2022. A dwelling on site is necessary for his business which is sheep breeding, rearing and lambing. He has gone through the correct process and has had advice from a consultant. There is no village boundary anymore and the application will depend on merit. Alex answered questions posed to him from some of the Councillors. The Council will submit their response to Dorset Council.

Seb, Tom and Paul Hawtree explained to the meeting that they are now running the Riverside Garage business, having taken the business over from their parents. They wish to move the business forward and are looking to redevelop by having a larger shop which will be an improvement for the community. One of the rental units is a café and the other is vacant. The petrol station has been owned by the family for 30 years. Looking at doubling the size of the shop and the café not quite twice the size. At present there is insufficient room for the fishermen and bikers when using the cafe. They have a different clientele from the Udder Farm Shop. Car parking is a main consideration. These changes will be kept away from the petrol forecourt. They are looking into vehicle electrical charging points. There is no profit margin on fuel sales. It was asked if they had considered having a post office, this would depend on the P.O at Marnhull and East Stour village hall. Have had pre-application planning advice from Dorset Council and are working with Rutters. Hoping to submit a planning application shortly and to hold an open evening in West Stour Village Hall to gain views/support.

Mr Bright spoke about the unauthorised stationing of caravans at Land at Stour Hill. Last August 3 caravans appeared at the site. In September he contacted the planning officer, who appeared not to be bothered as the caravans were unoccupied. The planning permission states that caravans can only be there for 25 days maximum, there is no permission to leave them there. Dorset Council's Enforcement has taken photos. In the past few days 2 more caravans have been placed in the field. The planning permission states that the infrastructure must be in place before the touring caravans are. Also Mr Henry Lee (owner of the land) has placed an advert selling the land with permission for 10 touring caravans with a utility building and waste building. The details are incorrect as there aren't any utilities in place and there is only 1 entrance off the main A30 (he states 2). Concerns that this might go through as a cash sale and the correct procedures are not adhered to. Mr Lee's breach has been reported by the Parish Council and Mr Bright. So far nothing has happened. Cllr Belinda Ridout agreed to get details from the Clerk and follow the matter up with Enforcement.

It was also raised about the caravan in the field by The King's Arms, East Stour as this has been reported to Enforcement quite a while back. Concerns raised about sanitation. The same cars are always parked there. Also at the bottom of the field (hidden from the A30) is another caravan. Cllr Belinda Ridout agreed to get details from the Clerk and follow the matter up with Enforcement.

Belinda will also follow up the possible breach of the number of lights at The Dorset Showground, West Stour, which was reported in January.

Belinda was thanked for this.

Also queried was the West Stour signage why is there no directional road sign for West Stour at the Shaftesbury roundabout when there is one for East Stour

Also West Stour directional sign is marked halfway through West Stour along the A30 when West Stour actually starts at this side of Highbridge (the river) and finishes at the river by Five Bridges. Clerk will ask DC Highways.

DC MEMBERS' REPORT

Cllr Belinda Ridout (Gillingham ward): - Belinda read out the latest statement from Dorset Council regarding the Coronavirus Covid-19. We will be kept up-to-date regularly from the DC who are working with the NHS to help stop the virus spreading. Members present were also reminded about the need to contact the NHS 111 helpline. The main points of Belinda's monthly report (previously circulated by e-mail) are Climate Change & Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel (EAP). Climate Change Inquiry Days. Northern Planning Committee. Governance Review Findings (Peer Challenge), Thursday 30th January. Full Council meeting 18/2/20:- Dorset Council Plan 2020 -2024, Budget strategy report, Dorset Council Budget 2020/21 - £304m. Review of Constitution, Pay Policy Statement. Dorset Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel – Wednesday 19th February where a presentation was given by Frances Summers, Senior Planning officer outlining proposals for the promotion and communication of the Dorset Local Plan, along with a new 'leaf' logo. Also there was an interesting presentation given on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) proposals. Other items: Bee & Butterfly Garden, platform 2 Gillingham Station a significantly reduced landscape scheme is back on the agenda. Dorset Local Access Forum. Local Government Awards. Award to boost rural mobile connectivity. All agendas and minutes can be found on the Dorset Council Website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> Cllr Belinda Ridout was thanked for her reports.

Cllr Jane Somper (The Beacons), sent her apologies and sent in her report which was duly circulated. She reported on the following: - Dorset Council will mark its 1st anniversary on 1st April and that enormous progress has been made. Coronavirus. Flooding. Council budget 2020/21. Dorset Council plan 2020-2024. Highways. Climate and Ecological Emergency. Government Funding for 5G Dorset. Government Funding for Vulnerable Residents. Keeping InTouch – the best way of contacting Dorset Council is the website, dorsetcouncil.gov.

Cllr David Walsh sent his apologies. Cllr Belinda Ridout read out David's report: - Portfolio Holder – planning "After 2 very well attended, successful engagement events on the Dorset local Plan, one for all Parish Councils and one for Towns, we are now collating all the information gathered. Agendas and minutes for all meetings can be found at: <https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>.

Cllr Val Potheary sent her apologies and sent in her report (previously circulated). She reported on the following:- At the full council meeting on 18th February the council approved the budget, an increase of 3.99% will help fund the rising cost of adult social care and children services and will also protect discretionary services. Dorset Council Plan, which will direct councils work for the next four years was approved. Feedback from the Peer Review was encouraging. The council has been awarded almost £500,000 of government funding to tackle rough sleeping in the county. Dorset Council will share £1 million of central government funding to help with domestic abuse services. The Chairman has announced the first Dorset Council Community Hero's Awards which will take place on 3rd May at Kingston Maurward. Nominations close 30th March 2020.

Rights of Way Officer's report - Mr Hibbert said that he did not think that there are any trees down. The footpaths are wet and muddy. The footpath at Stour Provost Mill, the Landowner, who is aware there is a problem of flooding, is in discussion with Dorset County, progress is slow. Martin will go back to the Landowner to discuss this further to ensure the path is safe for walkers. Another big issue is dog faeces, some dog walkers/owners still do not clear up after their dogs. Also evident at Stour Provost playing field. In Todber a path is inaccessible by the gate, Martin is liaising with the Landowner. Stour Row, the path near Melbury View is being looked at to improve its safety. Volunteer work continues. Adopt a Path Scheme. Martin is working with the Ramblers who have short walks once a month. Walking for Health still continues in Gillingham & Shaftesbury. Martin was thanked for his report.

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall said that there is nothing to report.
Stour Provost, Stour Row, Todber and West Stour nothing to report.

Flood Wardens' report – none.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Uden said she attended the meeting on 5th February most of the items discussed were brought forward from the previous meeting.

Business Agenda

2020/20 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THIS MEETING

It was resolved that Cllr P Bowe be Chairman for this meeting as Cllr Gould was unwell and the Vice-Chairman was absent, proposed by Cllr D Amlôt, seconded by Cllr R McConnell.

2020/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Mrs B Edwards, P Gould, Mrs V Jones, R King, Mrs F Stanford, L Trowbridge, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs Wilkins.

The Chairman said that in view of the Coronavirus (Covid –19) and Councillors self-isolating that today's absences would not affect their attendance as councillors.

20120/22 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.

2020/23 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2020/24 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2020.

The minutes were agreed and adopted as a correct record proposed by Cllr D Amlôt and seconded by Cllr Nalty.

2020/25 MATTERS ARISING

Pleck. An email from Cllr Mrs Edwards was read to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Edwards received a letter from Mrs Julia Gould saying that the work at Pleck is now complete, having tidied the area, planted daffodils, trees and situated several bird nesting boxes. The 'Stours Villages Market Gang' has now exhausted their funds. Julia and the SVM team are now retiring from the project. The SVM has raised over £6,000 towards village hall improvements, wildflower meadow, new war memorial, telephone kiosk refurbishment, picnic table, setting up Moviola and final Pleck.

Cllr Mrs Edwards replied thanking Julia and her team most warmly and sincerely for all the marvellous works you and your team the Stours Villages Market have achieved in and around our village in the last few years. Their achievements has made the most visual impact all around the village, particularly now that the daffodils are out. Cllr Mrs Edwards reiterated her thanks to Julia and her small team of volunteers. The meeting agreed that Pleck is looking wonderful now after the improvements and it was agreed that a thanks of gratitude to Julia Gould and her team be recorded. Also the Clerk send a letter of thanks to Mrs Gould for all the work that the Stour Village Markets has achieved.

2020/26 CASUAL VACANCY FOR TODBER AND EAST STOUR WARDS

Mr Jerry Pitman and Mr Gareth Jenkins were both co-opted to the East Stour ward. They both duly signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'. Still a vacancy for Todber ward which can be filled by co-option.

2020/27 APPOINT A FLOODWARDEN

Defer to the Annual meeting

2020/28 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- Reduction of the speed limit on the B3092 (Stour Provost to Todber) – Cllr King is in consultation with DC Highways about speed tubes, but there is no progress as matters appear to be going around in circles. He will telephone Joe Allen and agree sites for the surveys.
- SIDs, East Stour, Guy Gilding sent his apologies and said that SID deployment is ticking along nicely. Todber – Cllr King sent in the following report SID is currently in Red Lane and is due to come down 31st March. West Stour – Cllr Mrs Sealy said that the SID is deployed east to west then west to east every six weeks and the Vario-Sid is used now and then. It was agreed that the SIDs have an effect, especially the Vario-SID. However speed data figures cannot be downloaded from the sealed units. Clerk to check that this is the case. It was asked whether a SID can be positioned along Hunger Hill going towards Gillingham, as vehicle drivers do exceed the 30 mph speed limit, especially motorcyclists. Cllr McConnell will liaise with Guy Gilding. Clerk to ask Joe Allen/ Rob Camp.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour – Mr Guy Gilding reported that the CSW group has been set up and trained. They have been given permission to operate on the A30 west of the crossroads which will help reduce speeds through the crossroad. All being well they will be starting up in the next few weeks.

Todber – Cllr King sent in the following report: Todber CSW last session at the new site in Shave Lane. Speed camera session with Police at the Church Lane site on 27th January at 10.30 for an hour. Two speeders. Cllrs Paul Bowe & Richard King attended, although only one from CSW team is required. The next session is 24th April at 07:00 hours, Richard plans to attend. Has attended a CSW co-ordinators meeting at Winfrith on 24th February to discuss action plan as a result of topics raised at CSW conference last year. The group covered a lot in two hours which will influence how CSW develops in Dorset.

West Stour – no report received.

- Cllr Nalty gave an update on the 3 finger posts in Stour Provost parish that require refurbishment. It is an expensive job as being Dorset ones they have cast iron roundels and lettering. There are grants available. Further investigation is required and will be discussed at Stour Provost parish meeting.

2020/29 PLANNING MATTERS

- Appeal Notification Inspectorate's Ref: APP/D1265/W/19/3241953 Appeal by: NextPower Higher Farm Limited Application No: 2/2019/0470/FUL. Location: Land At E 378449 N 121922, Higher Farm, Fifehead Magdalen. Proposal: Construct solar farm and associated development, including perimeter fencing, CCTV cameras and landscaping. It was resolved that the Council reiterates that our views have not changed and that we do support Dorset Council's decision in refusing the application. Proposed by Cllr Nalty, seconded by Cllr Mrs Uden.
- Further breach of planning permission 2/1979/1011 Land at Stour Hill Park, West Stour there are now 5 caravans in the field prior to the infrastructure being built. Enforcement advised. Cllr Ridout will follow this up.
- Unauthorised lights at Dorset Showground and caravan(s) stationed by the King's Arms, East Stour, will also be followed up by Cllr Ridout.
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

2020/30 CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter received from Read Easy Blackmore Vale North outlining their role in the community by helping adults who have difficulty in reading. They are an active organisation and hope the Stours Parish Council will consider making a further grant to their work, in order to help change people's lives. £300 has been budget for this (see 2020/38). Cllr Mrs Sealy proposed that we should consider giving Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance £1000 instead of £500 as they are a lifesaving service. This figure to be considered when the 2021/2022 precept and that towards the end of the financial year 2020/21 whether the Council is in a position to make an extra payment of £500 for 2021.
- Information Commissioner's Office **Data protection registration - confirmation of renewal** our register entry has been renewed and the new expiry date is 23/02/2021. Registration reference: **Z7472996**.

2020/31 DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS

Gillingham ward monthly reports duly circulated.

Cllr Belinda Ridout said there was nothing further to report.

2020/32 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL VACANCY EFFECTIVE 1ST OCTOBER 2020

A Policy & Resources meeting was held 11th February 2020, where it was resolved that "An advert has been drafted and it was agreed that the advert be placed in the Blackmore Vale Magazine advertising the vacancy after Easter. A job description from the Governance Toolkit for Parish & Town Councils will be available for prospective applicants. It was agreed that the new Clerk should start in August 2020 and shadow the present Clerk until 30th September 2020. Salary will be in line with National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) depending upon experience. Clerk to ask DAPTC for further guidance for the starting SCP point for unexperienced clerks. Upon receipt of C.V.s, which will then be sent to the Parish Council Chairman and Parish Chairman for consideration. Another Policy & Resources to be arranged to discuss applications received."

The Council agreed with the Policy & Resources Committee's decision.

2020/33 DORSET LOCAL PLAN ENGAGEMENT EVENT HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2020

Cllr Rupert Robson attended this meeting and as a response was required by 28th February, Cllr Robson drafted and circulated a memorandum for comments before being submitted. The Council were happy and said that it was a very good report and thanked Cllr Robson.

2020/34 TO CONSIDER A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr McConnell said that he agreed with Cllr Robson's response to the Dorset Local Plan event that a Neighbourhood Plan should be considered. It is appreciated that the Parish Council has discussed this before but we ought to give consideration to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan as we could well risk poorly conceived development proposals being granted in our villages in an ever increasing drive to satisfy housing targets if we don't have a local mechanism to

prevent it. Development will happen and should, but it should also be sympathetic to the character of our villages. It is appreciated that this might not be pertinent to all the Stours. The Stours could do a joint plan, or each individual parish/village. It was agreed that Shaftesbury and Motcombe have both put forward very good Neighbourhood Plans. Agreed as a first step and to learn what is involved with setting up a Neighbourhood Plans that the Clerk ask who put theirs together and whether they would come and address the council to say what is involved.

2020/35 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS

Cllr Nalty attended the website accessibility course provided by DAPTC. It was a lively session run by Vision ICT (our current website host and provider) but, thankfully, not a sales pitch. DAPTC strongly recommend Vision ICT as a website provider and everything he heard and saw confirmed to me that this is a sensible decision. Vision ICT's presentation slide was circulated to councillors. Our current domain name is www.thestourparishcouncil.org.uk. The .org domain is generally recognised as being for charitable organisations. Vision ICT recommend that we change to a .gov.uk address e.g. www.thestourparishcouncil.gov.uk or maybe www.thestourpc.gov.uk as this is more appropriate, which should be easy to arrange.

The Clerk has one email address (stours@dorset-aptc.gov.uk) provided free by DAPTC. This will (but not immediately) be removed as DAPTC will no longer support this. Vision ICT can provide a similar .gov.uk email address, which should be consistent with our website domain name. There is a charge for this. The cost is £105 for two years initially, then £55 every two years after that. Cllr Nalty recommended that we do this as we set up our new website and that the clerk gradually migrates to the new address as soon as possible after that. Cllr Nalty proposed that we ask Vision ICT to set up our new website so it is DDA compliant at a cost of £650 + vat and that we change the Clerk's email address, seconded by Cllr Amlôt. It was **resolved** that we go ahead and place the order.

2020/36 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Jane Westbrook sent in the latest that she had heard from Chris Lyle, who is battling on to get control of the lay-by. He is talking to DC about buying the wet land they own but no progress yet.

The Travellers have returned today from St James'. Clerk to advise the Police. Need to find out when they can be evicted. Cllr Ridout will follow this up and contact Paula Clover, DC.

2020/37 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Cllr Belinda Ridout said that Dorset Council is waiting for 4 reserved matters to come in. Progress is slow. No building works are happening. The roadworks are going on and the link road works should start June/July.

2020/38 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st January 2020 – 29th February 2020

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 29th February 2020 – NSB £12,002.00. Scottish Widows Bank – £14,240.57
Lloyds plc – £7,923.83.

Included in these balances is £6,850.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165, 2017/114, 2018/113, 2018/133 & 2019/109).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.1.20 to 29.2.20 and budget 2019/20 (2 monthly and to date) summary distributed.

It was **resolved** to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr Robson, seconded by Cllr Amlôt.

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

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £32.50
- Cllr J Nalty – travel expenses website accessibility course - £23.40
- DAPTC – website accessibility course - £17.50
- R King – mileage CSW meeting - £23.67
- To pay a grant of £300 to Read Easy, Blackmore Vale North
- To pay a grant of £1000 to Citizens Advice, Dorchester, Sherborne and District and North Dorset
- To pay a grant of £500 to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

Proposed by Cllr Robson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sealy.

Local Delivery Service

The Town Clerk, Gillingham Town Council responded to our query "The toilet is a wide access multi use toilet with baby changing facilities and despite the vandalism we have managed to keep it open. We are just about to invest in some improvements including a replacement handwashing station (water, soap and drier) and a more powerful and efficient extractor fan. We are also looking at making improvements to the flooring and will be replacing the wooden door with a steel vandal-proof one. The toilet is well used and is free".

It was resolved that we still contribute the £426 to Gillingham Town Council (this figure has been budgeted for 2020/21). Proposed by Cllr Bowe, seconded by Cllr Robson.

Internal Audit

Terms of Reference for Policy & Resources Committee circulated and adopted. Proposed by Cllr Bowe seconded by Cllr Robson.

Risk Assessment

This was circulated and reviewed. Following the amended insurance policy it was agreed that the wording for outside equipment, gates & fences, playground equipment, natural & other surfaces read "We accept the risk and in the eventuality of damage occurring the council will use its funds to replace or repair".

- 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 and said there is nothing to report.
Stour Provost and the pavilion – Cllr Nalty said that there a couple of issues to follow up from the PI inspection report, which will be discussed at their annual parish meeting.
Stour Row – no report.
- d) Crime
PCSO Vicky Biggs has been transferred to Gillingham Town. PCSO 6644 Chris Mullens will now cover Gillingham Rural Villages. Clerk has sent a message of thanks to her on behalf of the Council.
PCSO 6644 Chris Mullens sent an e-mail saying "Sorry I will not be able to attend the meeting on Thursday. Due to me now covering a much larger geographical area it is unlikely that I will be able to attend Parish council meetings as a regular appointment. If there has been a particular Police event of series of events then I will do my best to attend. Sorry for the disappointing news but unfortunately with our current staffing and priorities I am somewhat restricted".
The Clerk has asked Chris to send in a report for the parish council when he is able to do so.
- e) DAPTC
The next Northern Area meeting is 1st April 2020 venue unknown. Cllrs Mrs Wilkins and Bowe will attend. (Since cancelled due to Coronavirus Covid-19).
- f) CPRE
Cllr Amlôt said he is unable to present a report as no publications have been received. CPRE Dorset are tracking the appeal for the solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen. He is trying to contact Rupert Hardy to re-arrange his visit to a council meeting.
Invite to North Dorset CPRE Group AGM & Talk, 5.30 pm on Thursday, 2nd April at Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster. Cllr Amlôt was to have attended but this has now been postponed due to Coronavirus Covid-19.

2020/40 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting should be the Annual Parish Council meeting held in May (date unknown due to Coronavirus Covid-19). East Stour Annual Parish Meeting is 21st May 20 (this is subject to change due to Coronavirus Covid-19).

2020/41 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

Annual Meeting date & venue unknown, 9th July 2020 at West Stour, 10th September 2020 at Stour Provost, 12th November 2020 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date