

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th March 2015
In West Stour Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs R Cowan (Chairman), Mrs D Chard, Mrs B Edwards, P Gould, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, D Little, Miss H O'Sullivan, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, M Rymill, Mrs M Rymill, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, DCCllr A Cattaway, NDDCllr Charles Dowden (Marnhull ward), Jane Westbrook (prospective new District Councillor for the Stours), Cllr R Gosney (Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council), PCSO Vicky Levy and 7 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

PCSO Vicky Levy introduced herself to the members present and said that she covered the villages around Gillingham. Since the last parish council meeting the Stours has been hit quite badly with crime. There have been houses and sheds broken into, also car damage. Vicky reminded people to keep their sheds locked, the use of security lighting, alarms, the marking of property and recording of serial numbers of equipment. It is hoped to hold another marking day of garden machinery. Members present were advised not to leave valuables in locked cars at Duncliffe Woods as there are people watching and take every opportunity to steal.

Vicky said that she could be contacted by e-mail - Victoria.Levy@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk.

Vicky was thanked for her report.

DCC MEMBER'S REPORT – Cllr Cattaway announced that he would be making a grant of £2690.40, which is the full amount of the swings installed next to Stour Row Village Hall. The Council expressed their appreciation for this grant. Cllr Cattaway said he will be our County Councillor for a further two years. He introduced NDDCllr Charles Dowden (Marnhull ward). Due to the re-organisation of wards following boundary changes it will be Stours and Marnhull with two ward members.

NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT. – No report received.

Public Discussion – Some residents from Stour Hill Farm asked about the development of the Land at Stour Hill, which has been cleared of vegetation, also the caravan has been removed. The Planning Inspectorate allowed the vehicular access (which was refused by Development Control and objected to by the Parish Council). There is planning permission to allow 20 touring caravans & 6 static caravans plus a washroom on the land. Miss Chambers said there has been a large bonfire burning all the rubbish and it is still burning after two and a half weeks. There has been a lot of smoke which is a health issue and she has spoken to Environmental Health. The owner of the land is not local. NDDCllr Dowden said if there is anything untoward happening on the land to contact him.

Ruth Blacklock from East Stour asked about Superfast Broadband as she is doubtful whether the service will be provided along Hunger Hill. The Chairman said he had received a further report today from Abby Gordon-Farleigh, Communications & Marketing Officer, Superfast Dorset (Broadband). Plans are to make the service available for the majority of the Stours by the end of the year. Speeds at individual properties will vary and not all properties in a community will have access at the same time. The majority of communities in the parish are served by the East Stour exchange where work is underway. The structure serving Stour Row and parts of Todber is due to be upgraded imminently with availability expected in 3-4 weeks. The other two structures serving the majority of properties in Kington Magna and West Stour are currently held up by wayleaves. Work cannot progress until these are signed. The Clerk to contact Abby and ask which these are to see if we can assist with the signing of the wayleaves. Also the Dorset Broadband Team have a new web page which advises alternative suggestions e.g. mobile broadband which can significantly improve your current speed or provide a connection while you wait, if your area isn't shown in the Superfast Dorset programme yet.

When it is coming to our area we will receive more details. People can register for an email when fibre becomes available in their postcode and sign up for regular local updates on the website <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/broadband/keep-informed>.

Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report - Mr Hibbert sent his apologies as he is unwell.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said everything appears to be all right at the moment.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said there is nothing to report.

Business Agenda

2015/027 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs J Cloughton, G Herring, Lady Stagg and Mrs J Watkins

2015/028 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

2015/029 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2015/030 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th JANUARY 2015.

The minutes were **agreed and adopted** as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

2015/031 MATTERS ARISING – none.

2015/032 RESIGNATION OF CLLR M RATCLIFFE

Cllr Ratcliffe has resigned due to personal reasons. There is now a vacancy. Mr James Nalty was welcomed to the meeting. He has shown interest in becoming a councillor for Stour Provost ward. However due to the elections taking place on May 7th, the process means that Mr Nalty cannot be co-opted and will need to complete a nomination paper for Stour Provost ward.

2015/033 NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN EAST STOUR

Mr Gilding said that there are two war memorials, one in the Church and one in the Village Hall, however they are unsuitable for outside. It was agreed that we would like a new memorial. Two locations have been identified to place the proposed memorial - near the Village Hall car park/playing field. 16 designs were circulated (and will be circulated by e-mail) in order to gauge preferences. He said that he would also be organising an "Open day" in the Village Hall to choose a design best suited to the Village. Mr Gilding said he is receiving advice from the RBL, who has provided a detailed inventory of checks. He will ensure that planning and all related community bodies are fully informed and consulted prior to the planned open day at the Village Hall. The funding from other bodies for this is linked to the proposed scoot track

2015/034 EAST STOUR SCOOT TRACK

The proposed track will be an all-weather path, length approximately 450 metres. One corner of the playing field will be left as a nature reserve. It was agreed that it is important to get this right, resolved to defer until the next meeting. Proposed Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded Cllr T Jones.

2015/035/HIGHWAY MATTERS

- Fifehead Magdalen – Kington Magna crossroads - Cllr Roger Gosney (Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Parish Council) reported on his meeting with Andrew Brown, Traffic Engineering, DCC. Cllr Gosney introduced himself to the meeting. He said that he had been in contact with Andrew Brown concerning the Fifehead Magdalen crossroads which has very poor visibility when pulling out of the junctions from West Stour/Kington Magna Road and also from Fifehead Magdalen. Andrew Brown agreed that there is a safety issue and there could be potential fatalities. The mirror often gets fogged up so drivers are unable to see along the highway. It has been suggested to extend the 30mph speed limit. Andrew Brown has suggested the placing of speed tubes to gather vehicle speed information. The crossroads are in the parish of West Stour. Because of the dangers of using the crossroads many drivers are using Kington Magna Village as an alternative, which is detrimental to the Village and the roads. DCC has an extremely limited budget and there are also other projects in the pipeline. The DCC Capital Programme Scheme shows £100,000 expenditure for an interactive vehicle sign. Capital Programme expenditure is being approved this month. A project manager is to be appointed who will keep in contact with Cllr Gosling. It was agreed that Cllr Gosling maintains his liaisons with us. Cllr Parker proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Gosling for all his efforts in this matter, which is really appreciated and especially as it affects The Stours. DCCllr Cattaway endorsed this as it concerns the Stour Vale ward and also he is indebted to Andrew Brown in co-operating with Cllr Gosling.
- East Stour Crossroads – The Chairman said he has seen "Slow" marked on the roads from the south, it is not known when the Slow sign will be painted. DCCllr Cattaway said that he has badgered Andrew Brown for lines/speed warning signs and it appears that something is happening.

- Todber (B3092) – The Chairman, Cllr Herring, Andrew Brown, Sam Paulley (DCC Highways), Ron Salinger (consulting engineer invited to attend by Gordon Spicer) and Gordon Spicer walked the route of the B3092 Todber, Church Lane, Shave Lane and Hambledon Close to visit the highway problems along this route. It was agreed that road safety improvement is needed along these areas and the Chairman awaits a written response to the road/traffic hazards highlighted. The meeting was well received.
- Sandilands Close. The Clerk had received a telephone call from a lady living there saying about vehicles being parked and left in the road (the road has been adopted by DCC) near her property for a 3/4 days and the vehicles were nothing to do with the Sandilands Close residents. It was agreed that Cllr T Jones would keep an eye on this and report back at the next meeting for further discussion.
- Cllr Mrs Sealy said that Highbridge (Lotmoor Hill), on the boundary between West and East Stour is narrow with frequent accidents as some lorries cannot pass each other. Could Highways investigate this and erect some sort of warning? Clerk to contact Highways with grid reference. DCCllr Cattaway will visit the site.

2015/036 PLANNING MATTERS

- Appeals by Chris Lyle, site at Coking Farm, West Stour APP/N1215/A/14/2222218 change of use from farmland to tent camp site/farmland and APP/N1215/A/14/2222226 form 5 bay caravan park and provide storage for contractors. Both were dismissed and refused by the Planning Inspectorate.
- See attached appendix 1 for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting. It was noted that the trees have already been cut at Church House.

2015/037 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

2015/038 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

No other matters came to our attention.

2015/039 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

No other matters came to our attention.

2015/040 REPORT OF THE DAPTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Cllr Parker's report attached. He said that there were good presentations at the meeting and mentioned the Neighbourhood Planning seminar on 24th March. (Cllr Little will be attending). He also gave brief details of the Local Council award scheme which provides a framework to support all local councils to meet their full potential. It was agreed to take this forward after the elections.

Cllr Parker was thanked for his report and for attending the AGM.

2015/041 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT TODBER B3092 LAY-BY

The Travellers are still there. The Chairman said that the recent report from DCC is that their legal department are progressing with eviction which should happen at the end of March beginning of April. There are no children to consider. The Parish Council has asked DCC to make a bye-law prohibiting unauthorised camping in the lay-by. However DCC does not regard this as the way forward; as the Travellers are prepared to break the national law they will take no notice of bye-laws. On the 3rd March Harlow Council and Essex County Council have got a High Court injunction banning illegal sites. The Chairman said he has written to Robert Walter about the illegal encampment and has received a written response from Brandon Lewis, Minister of State, which he read to the meeting – the main point is that Government is concerned that local authorities and police are not using all the powers available to them to deal quickly and decisively with unauthorised camps. The Minister's officials have spoken to DCC about the site and others in Dorset. DCC could use section 77 and 78 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (for example) but have decided not to and chosen to tolerate the illegal camps before taking legal action. He is concerned about the situation and has committed to discuss with his ministerial colleagues how enforcements can be improved. The Parish Council will follow this up after the elections.

The Chairman had also received recommendations from the Police about securing the posts on the Millennium Green to prevent illegal occupation. The existing wooden posts are rotten. Consent has been received from DCC that posts can be concreted in and drop posts placed in the footway. The concreting of posts is subject to confirmation from Development Control, NDDC. Were such measures to be taken, it would not be possible for travellers to gain access to the Millennium Green without causing damage, and if damage were to be caused the Police have powers to remove them immediately. Costings will be obtained and will be discussed at Todber' Parish meeting 23rd April.

2015/042 SUPERFAST BROADBAND

This was covered during the Public Discussion.

2015/043 RISK ASSESSMENT

This was perused by members prior to the meeting. One amendment under street furniture East Stour should read 4 seats, not 3. It was resolved that we accept the Risk Assessment, Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Little.

2015/044 WILD FLOWER MEADOW (FORMERLY KNOWN AS LAND AT OSWALD'S BARN) EAST STOUR

It was resolved to spend approximately £300 to re-seed the meadow and to purchase a compost bin costing approximately £135. Proposed Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded Cllr T Jones.

2015/045 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A DOG WASTE BIN FOR EAST STOUR

Providing the bin will be emptied by Dorset Waste Partnership it was resolved to purchase a "Retriever 35" type bin, costing approximately £360. Proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan.

2015/046 ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY INTEREST IN PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Cllr Claughton is not putting himself forward so there will be a vacancy for East Stour ward. The Chairman said he had attended a meeting addressed by DAPTC at Sturminster Newton Town Council to encourage new councillors to come forward but unfortunately it was not well attended.

2015/047 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

West Stour agreed to pilot this scheme. There are two sites one in West Stour and the other in East Stour. West Stour volunteers have had two lengthy training sessions along the A30 and East Stour has had a brief training session. If East Stour wish to follow this up they will need their own team of volunteers. At present the equipment is borrowed, however there is an enormous call for it with other community speed watch schemes increasing within the area. It would be worthwhile for the parish council to buy in the equipment as it would be readily available to be used within the Stours. The Stours Aviva insurance covers this activity (confirmation received from Came & Company). The excess is £200 per claim which the Council could underwrite if need be.

It was resolved to purchase the speed gun equipment costing approximately £300, proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Parker.

2015/048 PROPOSAL FOR THE UNION OF PARISH AND A DECLARATION OF CLOSURE FOR REGULAR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Stour Row Church will be given back to the Village providing no one person makes any representation. The process is going through and the timing of closure is unknown. There should be something more to report at the next meeting.

2015/049 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1 January 2015 – 28 February 2015

Please see attached Income and Expenses detailed.

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 28 February 2015 – NSB £4,927.96. Scottish Widows Bank – £18,568.83. Lloyds plc – £3716.58

Included in these balances is £3425.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94 & 2015/022).

Copy of account balances 1.1.15 to 28.2.15 and budget 2014/15 summary distributed

It was resolved to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr J Parker.

2015/050 FINANCE – PAYMENTS

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- J Parker - £23.85 (travel expenses DAPTC AGM)
- DAPTC - £50 (Annual Conference 25.2.15)
- £11 – West Stour Village Hall (hire)
- £200 to Read Easy, Gillingham and Shaftesbury
- £500 to North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau
- £500 to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

It was resolved to authorise the above payments Proposed by Cllr Mrs Newton, seconded by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan and agreed by all.

Shaftesbury Town Council - Local Delivery – the Chairman said that the Town Council has failed to explain clearly the figures produced. They show an increase of costs this year of about 12% over the previous year, despite a significant reduction in electricity costs and the cleaning cost figures are misleading. We have made provision for their request in our precept. It was agreed that we will take no action until we receive a firm request and they respond to our questions and then we will consider it.

2015/051 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

- a) Chairman's – The Chairman said there is nothing further to report.
- b) Clerk's
Local Councils Update. Community.com. Clerk & Councils Direct. All available at the meeting or from Clerk.
DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.
- c) Playing Fields –
East Stour – SD Playground Services inspection report received 12.1.15. Following the report Guy Gilding has produced a work plan. Also there are evidence of moles which will be dealt with.
Stour Provost and the pavilion - SD Playground Services inspection report received 12.1.15
The Clerk to check with planning about the erection of an entrance barrier to the field to prevent illegal encampments.
The facilities are still being used by the football team and the cricket club have matches arranged from May.
- d) Crime
PCSO Vicky Levy gave her report at the beginning of the meeting.
- e) DAPTC
Next Northern Area meeting 1st April 2015, The Pavilion Okeford Fitzpaine. Cllrs Parker & Mrs Chard will attend.
- f) CPRE
The Winter/Spring party will on Sunday, 29th March from 1200-1400 at the Old Rectory, Ibberton through the generosity of members, Christopher & Clare McCann.
The AGM will be on Wednesday, 15th April at Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster at 5 pm.

2015/052 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

- All Saints Church, Stour Row.
- Unlawful encampment of Travellers at Todber B3092 layby.
- Superfast Broadband.
- War Memorial.
- Scoot Track.
- Highway issues – Todber, Sandilands Close and Highbridge.

2015/053 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

14th May 2015 at Stour Provost, 9th July 2015 at East Stour, 10th September 2015 at Stour Row, 12th November 2015 at West Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date