

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
In West Stour Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs R Cowan (Chairman), Mrs T Bagnall, Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, P Brown, Mrs B Edwards, G Gilding, P Gould, G Herring, Miss H O'Sullivan, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, J Nalty, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Lady A Staggs and Mrs C Wilkins.

Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, DCCllr Andrew Cattaway, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, Mr Roger Bell, Community Highways Officer, Dorset Highways, Dorset County, Ms Abby Gordon-Farleigh, Communications & Marketing Officer, Superfast Dorset, DCC, M Hibbert (FPLO) and one member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Abby Gordon-Farleigh, Mr Roger Bell and those present.

Roger Bell introduced himself to the meeting and explained his role as Community Highways Officer.

The issues that arose requesting that Mr Bell investigate were:-

- Todber B3092 - the 'road edge' markings still need to be painted on the highway. Also flooding at the junction of Church Lane and Shave Lane as well as the flooding there are problems when the water freezes.
- Head Lane, East Stour – East Stour parishioners were asked for their views following evidence of vehicle drivers exceeding the speed limit, some vehicle drivers ignoring the width restriction signage and some drivers being abusive to residents. A brief history was given to Mr Bell when the highway was made one way but this did not work.
- East Stour Crossroads – There was another accident this week on Monday. There have been many accidents over the past few years. The signs are obscured and it is felt that one is on the wrong side of the road (coming from Stour Provost) when approaching the crossroads. Suggestions made: - A 'Stop' sign if the layout of the road meets the criteria made in the Traffic Regulatory Signs document. That the crossroads be re-engineered in connection with the Gillingham Southern extension. Installation of traffic lights, this would require a formal application and would be a great expense. Additional advance signage on approach to crossroads from the south. Mr Bell said he will clip the hedges that are obscuring road signs.
- Scotchey Lane – to move the existing 40mph sign from before the left hand turn into Scotchey Lane to after the turning. This will require a Traffic Regulation Order. Mr Bell will enquire.
- Speed Issues, Stour Row – the results of the recently placed speed tubes will be sent to the parish council.
- Angel Lane, Stour Provost this class D highway has been damaged especially at the north end which has deep ruts, by contractors and hay lorries. As there is no money available to repair the road this will be monitored.
- Hunger Hill, East Stour some vehicle drivers exceed the 30mph speed limit. Mr Bell will see if the 30mph sign can be moved further north. Also part of the road is breaking up.

Mr Bell said that he will investigate these issues and report back to us and if need be he can attend individual parish meetings. He agreed to do a site visit with the Chairman. He also reminded members present to use dorsetforyou to report highway problems. He also said that Fingerposts are now under his remit.

Mr Bell was thanked for attending our meeting.

Ms Abby Gordon-Farleigh introduced herself to the meeting and explained her role with Superfast Dorset. A presentation sheet was circulated to the members present. It is hoped to cover more than 700 properties within the Stours. Ms Gordon-Farleigh was asked why there is a delay in supplying superfast broadband in Todber. The reason is that they are waiting for the power as both underground and over ground power lines are needed. It should be available by the end of the year. The delay for Stour Provost and Woodville is that the structure is being rearranged and should be available January 2016. However the connections will not reach Stour Provost Community School. Cllr Cattaway said he will make a special effort and work on BT to try and get superfast supplied to the school. It was explained that any re-routing of copper connections to link to fibre can adversely affect the broadband service of people not wishing to use superfast. The aim is to get more people to take up superfast broadband which means DCC will get some money back which they can use to reinvest. Any questions to go through the Chairman or Clerk. Ms Gordon-Farleigh was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – Nothing further to report.

**NDDC WARD MEMBERS' REPORT** – Cllr Dowden sent his apologies. Cllr Mrs Westbrook said that the site below Sturminster Newton Exchange which is an eyesore should be improved as an agreement has been reached with the developers. Large tubs will be placed strategically and it will look a lot better. Gillingham Southern Extension meeting. A lot of concerns have been raised with the number of new houses that will be built that there is not the infrastructure to cope with the increase in the population.

**Public Discussion** – No issues raised.

**Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report** - Mr Hibbert said that some work has been done on the footbridge and stile at Lyde Hill. The landowner has now declined to co-operate any further. There is a requirement to maintain public right of ways. Mr Hibbert and Cllr Cattaway will talk to the landowner. The muddy footpath at Todber some stone has been put down today. Stour Row to Copse Corner the path is very muddy. The bridge at Woodville, there is now a hand rail. Near Shade House Farm there have been two incidents of horses being ridden across pedestrian footbridges and damaged. These have been repaired and he said that he will take further action to ensure it does not happen again. It is thought the Hunt might be responsible and should anybody be in contact with them could they please ask them not to use the pedestrian bridges with their horses. One of the bridleway gates has been resolved at Duncliffe. He said he will follow up the far one. The landfill planning application at Shade House Farm will affect a footpath, however it is little used and if the application goes ahead there will be a need to seek a diversion. A lot of tree work has been carried out at Ashley House, West Stour.

Mr Hibbert was thanked for all the hard work he does, which is really appreciated and also for his report.

Cllr Mrs Edwards said that she contacted Observatree, Woodland Trust about the five Ash trees that are dying at East Stour and is waiting to hear back from them. A person who is knowledgeable about trees from Stourhead does not think it is chalara

**Flood Warden's report** – Cllr Mrs Wilkins will be attending a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015. The Gillingham Southern extension might have some effect on flooding. There has still been no response from DCC about the "Flood" warning signs which will be used at the end of Shave Lane, Todber and on the B3092 at Stour Provost and Todber.

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

### **Business Agenda**

**2015/143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr Mrs J Watkins

#### **2015/144 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

#### **2015/145 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

#### **2015/146 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

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

**2015/147 MATTERS ARISING** – Cllr Mrs Bagnall clarified that as well as the Tree Protection Order at Blackmore it also covers the trees at Ridge Close. The Clerk has a map showing the extent of the TPO.

#### **2015/148 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

These were dealt with under the pre- business matters.

#### **2015/149 PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning application 2/2015/1072/VARIA Unit 1 Church Close, Todber; the information was misleading and permission was not granted to insert 3 No. additional dormers and roof lights on east elevation.

An application received today for Shade House Farm, Woodville to fill and regrade land with inert materials. It was asked to respond to DCC that there be no traffic movement in connection with this before 9.30am and also between 3 and 4pm because of the school buses. That the lorries be wheel washed when leaving the site so as not to muddy the highway. Also the road is single lane with 5 properties.

- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

#### **2015/150 CORRESPONDENCE**

E- Mail received from SD Playgrounds Services to say that they are now trading as Elite Playground Inspections. Certificate of Registration for the RPII expiring 17.9.18 from Steven Day received.

#### **2015/151 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

Cllr Cattaway said there is nothing further to report and was thanked for his attendance.

#### **2015/152 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

A consultation on its revised Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 and a consultation on its Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. Both Consultations will run simultaneously and will start today (12<sup>th</sup> November 2015) and will end at the close of play on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Comments can be made to [licensing@north-dorset.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@north-dorset.gov.uk) (Previously circulated).

Cllr Mrs Westbrook said there is nothing further to report and was thanked for her attendance.

#### **2015/153 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

The proposal for the County Council divisions is in its final draft and will require a parliamentary order. The County Council Elections will be in 2017, when the new boundaries will come into effect. This area is being broken up and there will be an extra division. Gillingham will be a two member division, which includes East Stour. Stour Vale will be split with Todber and the rest of the Stours in Stalbridge and The Beacon division. This will mean here will be another county councillor in the county which should bring extra weight on rural issues.

#### **2015/154 WORKING TOGETHER REPORT – A PILOT PROJECT BETWEEN THE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE DAPTC AND FOUR DORSET TOWN CLERKS**

This appears to run parallel with the 'Forward Together' run by DCC. Cllr Parker said this project came out of several workshops of how tiers of local government work together. There are some good ideas. It was proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Jones that we respond to DAPTC as per the Chairman's response (copy attached). Agreed.

#### **2015/155 NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN EAST STOUR**

Cllr Gilding said that work is in progress. The stonemason is finalising the design. £2000 has been received in donations.

#### **2015/156 EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD PROPOSED PATH**

The Heritage Lottery Grant application was declined. It is now back to the drawing board to apply for other grants. The meeting thanked Guy for all his hard work with this and the war memorial.

#### **2015/157 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT FIVE BRIDGES LAY-BY**

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that she has attended several meetings. One lately with Police Sgt Dave Horn and Ms Paula Clover concerning the activities of the Travellers. Sgt Dave Horn of Gillingham has had experience of Travellers across Dorset. He is prepared to do what he can and it is known that there are illegal activities being carried out in the lay-by. The Police have budget restrictions and have to justify their time. Help is needed from the public, if they could drive into the lay-by and make note of registration numbers and report them to Crime Stoppers. DCC are trying to find somewhere else for the Travellers to go, probably St James' Common. There are now seven caravans parked up. She said she will investigate ways to stop them from returning to Five Bridges and will ask Wessex Water about their access arrangements. She said that with Cllr Cattaway they will continue to do their best when the Travellers are evicted from Five Bridges. The Chairman thanked both Cllr Cattaway and Cllr Mrs Westbrook for what they are doing. DCC approached Todber Parish asking to use the lay-by to store road chippings, however DCC need financial help for the transport of the chippings as a private contractor would be used. Marnhull Parish Council, Todber and Stour Provost Parishes and Cllr Cattaway (using funds from his discretionary budget) have all agreed to share the costs. The chippings will be stored indefinitely.

#### **2015/158 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

This was dealt with under the pre-business matters.

### **2015/159 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

(This part of the meeting was opened to the Public).

Mr Matt Whitfield of Stour Row was successful in getting a grant of £300 from the Safer Dorset Fund Community Grant for a speed watch kit. Stour Row now has a team of nine volunteers and the team has been in operation for 3 weeks. They can only check the vehicles from Shaftesbury to Todber because of health and safety reasons. However the presence of the speed watch team is having an effect by being a deterrent. Figures were given to the meeting. Matt Whitfield welcomes other willing volunteers for Stour Row. If interested please contact the Clerk. West Stour is also having their usual success.

### **2015/160 ADOPT A KIOSK**

West Stour 01747 838301 has been purchased for £1. BT has now completed the decommissioning of this kiosk. Stour Provost is going through the consultation process.

### **2015/161 ALL SAINTS STOUR ROW**

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Diocese of Salisbury, Benefice of Stour Vale, Parishes of Stour Provost and Stour Row was made by the Commissioners on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and Parts I and II came into effect on 1 November 2015. The future use of the Church is unknown. It is a grade II listed building. However the churchyard will remain the responsibility of the parish.

### **2015/162 STOUR PROVOST PLAYING FIELD**

The entrance gate has been secured with a coded padlock and chain taken as a measure in order to prevent illegal occupation. If you need the code contact Cllr Nalty.

### **2015/163 FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH – 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

This was discussed at the previous meeting and it was agreed in principle to make a grant of £250. Cllrs Gilding and Nalty approached Mr Marshall, Head of Stour Provost Community School who accepted the offer. The Commonwealth Flag can now be ordered. Cllrs Nalty and Gilding have agreed a suitable site at the school with the Mr Marshall. It was **agreed** to give a grant of £250 to Stour Provost Community School. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins. Cllr Parker said he was given a Union Jack flag from a West Stour resident and this will be donated to the school.

### **2015/164 INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Mrs West's report (previously circulated) was perused and her comments were accepted by the Council. The points raised have been and will be acted on. Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr Gould. Cllr Parker did say that the appointed External Auditor will look at the Internal Auditor's report.

### **2015/165 THE PENSIONS REGULATOR**

The law on workplace pensions has changed under the Pensions Act 2008. The Stours Parish Council's automatic enrolment date is 1 November 2016 (staging date), when the law comes into effect for us. The Clerk's salary is below the criteria (£486 per month (gross) where there is a right to join a pension scheme. However the Clerk would have to ask to be put in a pension scheme, but the council as employer does not have to make any contribution.

### **2015/166 TO ADOPT REVISED STANDING ORDERS (MODEL ISSUED BY NALC/DAPTC OCTOBER 2013) AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (NALC 2014).**

These were circulated before this meeting. A policy and Resources meeting was held prior to this meeting where it was recommended that to accept the revised standing orders and regulations. It was **resolved** to accept the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Newton, seconded by Cllr T Jones. They will be reviewed in twelve months' time at a Policy and Resources meeting.

### **2015/167 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 – NSB £4,927.96. Scottish Widows Bank – £28,628.81 Lloyds plc – £5,317.04

Included in these balances is £4,110.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94 & 2015/022). The Clerk's gratuity balance has increased by £685 (this annual increment was agreed see min ref 2010/94 effect from September 2010).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.9.15 to 31.10.15 and budget 2015/16 summary distributed.

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

To discuss the Budget and Precept for 2016/17

Proposed draft budget figures were circulated. Figures will be produced and circulated prior to the next meeting. A firm proposal will be needed at the next meeting for the 2016/17 precept.

**2015/168 FINANCE – PAYMENTS**

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Local Delivery second instalment to pay Gillingham Town Council - £426.72
- Elite Playground Inspections - £52.92 (East Stour's)
- DAPTC £60 – New Councillor s courses.
- Cllr P Bowe - £21.15 reimbursement travel expenses Councillor's Course
- Cllr J Nalty - £16.20 reimbursement travel expenses Councillor's Course
- Reimburse Mrs M Cox for superfast broadband set up £41.95
- West Stour Village Hall (hire) - £11

**It was resolved to authorise the above payments** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

Life Education Wessex requested a grant towards their work for providing health and drug prevention education to approximately 82 children at Stower Provost Community School. They did make a visit in October this year which was well received. The School paid £300, approximately half the cost towards this event. It was established that there was no requirement for funding and it was agreed not to make a grant at this time.

**2015/169 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 – SD Playground Services inspection report dated 14.10.15. Cllr Gilding has carried out a lot of work. Normal things keep coming up and the repairs are being done. It has been noticed that repairs have been made and the same problem is on the next report. Cllr Gilding said he is investigating the possibility of appointing a new playground inspection company. He is waiting to hear back from Gillingham Town Council.  
Stour Provost and the pavilion - all appears to be fine.  
Stour Row - all appears to be fine.

d) Crime

PCSO Vicky Levy sent her apologies. Her report previously circulated. Vicky did say that she would be holding surgeries and the dates are on the Dorset Police website under the Gillingham Rural section.

e) DAPTC

Cllr Parker said that the AGM was well attended. His report of the meeting is attached.

The next Northern Area meeting 12th January 2016 at Durweston Village Hall. Cllr Parker will attend. Another representative is welcome. A Budget Workshop is being held at Nordon in December and there are four spare places if any councillor would like to attend to contact Cllr Parker.

f) CPRE

Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

**2015/170 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- To invite Janet Swiss (White Hart Link)
- Transparency Code to adopt best practices.
- Highways including East Stour Crossroads and Hunger Hill.
- All Saints Church, Stour Row
- Travellers.
- Superfast Broadband.
- Gillingham Southern extension

**2015/171 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at Stour Provost, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at East Stour, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Stour Row, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at West Stour, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Stour Provost, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at East Stour.

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

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

DRAFT