

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
In Stour Row Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), D Amlôt, Mrs L Bennett, P Bowe, Mrs B Edwards, R King, Mrs V Jones, R McConnell, J Nalty, R Robson, Mrs E Scott, Mrs F Stanford, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, Roger Bell, Community Highways Officer and 14 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Roger Bell, Community Highways Officer, Dorset Highways and those present.

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

**Public Discussion**

Roger Bell, Community Highways Officer, answered questions from the meeting. Roger will attend to the matters that were brought to his attention. Also he re-iterated the use of Dorsetforyou website for reporting highway issues. One issue that will necessitate a meeting is to investigate further is the speed along the B3092 from the junction opposite Butts Lane, Stour Provost to past the junction opposite Red Lane, Todber. It was requested that a 40mph limit be introduced. Councillors and some members of the public provided information about vehicles being driven too fast and the possible dangers along this part of the highway. Roger replied to take this forward there will be a need for speed tubes to be placed in order to collect data and explained the protocol and how the scheme is ranked by Dorset Council. It was agreed that a meeting be held between Cllrs King, Nalty and the Chairmen of Stour Provost and Todber parishes with Roger Bell to investigate this further.

Dorset Council Highways were thanked and praised for some work recently carried out.

Mrs Gould updated the meeting about Pleck, East Stour. The ground has been cleared completely and volunteers will be planting daffodil bulbs. She is getting quotes to cut the grass from Phil Buttress and will forward them to the Clerk. The Stour Vale Markets has paid for the work done so far. The aim is to provide an attractive village entrance. Graham Stanley, Senior Ranger will be visiting the following week as the verge opposite the Church Farm is badly cut. In November more trees will be planted. The Chairman thanked Julia for the update and for all the hard work, it is really appreciated.

Andrew Branson, Acting Chair, 'No Solar on the Stour' Steering Group gave an update on the planning application 2/2019/0470. There has been a flurry of activity since the last meeting. Paul Wyeth (Dorset Landscape Officer) recommended refusal. Intelligent Alternative (IA) the applicant) responded to Planning Officer, Hamish Laird's comments, with some revision to the original application. There is a proposal to have a 40mph speed limit at the crossroads in place during the 4 months of construction. Proposal to change the access to the site by having 2 gates so that lorries can enter and exit. A more detailed analysis of the traffic movement has been carried out and there will be about 2600 vehicle movements (lorries/cranes) over 4 months. IA have also reduced the height of the solar panels by 40cm (it is felt that this will make no difference) and cutting down of some trees. IA have now suggested narrow cages along the footpath on the north facing slope, when actually these will block the view. To date there have been 249 objections. Despite the revisions received from IA the objection still stands. It is expected that Planning Committee will make a decision in September. Mr Branson was thanked for this information.

**DC MEMBERS' REPORT**

DCCllr Jane Somper (The Beacons), sent her apologies her report was circulated by e-mail. She reported on the following: - Council Workforce, Highways, Planning, relationship with Town and Parish Councils, Corporate Plan and Getting in Touch (the quickest way is the Dorset Council website).

Cllrs David Walsh and Val Potheary (Gillingham ward) sent their apologies.

Cllr Belinda Ridout (Gillingham ward) says it has been very busy and the new Council is a learning curve. She has attended all parish meetings to date. Belinda has attended the first Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel. The next Climate Change Cross Party Panel meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> September. Also she has been working with Sarah Price, Senior Technical Officer Transport Planning DC and Laura Russ, Transport Strategy Manager, Infrastructure, DC putting together a bid to Network's Rail Customer & Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF) for improvements to Gillingham Station as a transport hub and Station Road. A bee and butterfly garden on platform 2, Gillingham Station has been given the go-ahead. Belinda will be holding surgery on Thursday evenings at the Town Hall, Gillingham between 5-7pm to discuss issues. It is advisable to book an appointment. All agendas and minutes can be found on the Dorset Council website.

Rights of Way Officer's report - Mr Hibbert sent his apologies. He sent in the following report: - Thanks very much indeed to Luke Trowbridge for hosting 23 walkers for a visit to the farm for the Gillingham Walking Festival. Feedback was very positive. Thanks also to Gavin Griggs at The Ship in West Stour for allowing us to park. The whole festival went well. Volunteer work continues. Bramble & nettle growth now easing so we will have time to do other work, although some areas still need attention (e.g. Stour Row). Maize crop blocking path north of West Stour was sprayed off & path open. Stour Valley way between Stour Provost and West Stour is narrow but passable. Paths are blocked by maize at Lyde Hill Farm. However, maize crops will be harvested soon.

Stour Provost footpath 25 near Tile House Farm, a new bridge was installed earlier in the year & path is now walkable. East Stour footpath 24 behind village hall blocked by hedge (has been for many years). Making a new attempt to open this.

White Hart Link route now complete to Shaftesbury. Looking to make improvements & create local link walks (e.g. Shaftesbury or Gillingham to Duncliffe).

#### Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall sent her apologies.

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

Flood Wardens' report – No flooding issues at present. However Cllr Mrs Wilkins did say that the 2 flood warning signs are not sufficient and she will ask for more when she goes to the next Flood Wardens' meeting.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Uden was unable to attend the last Forum meeting. When the minutes are produced they will be circulated.

### **Business Agenda**

**2019/95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs L Trowbridge and Mrs J Uden

#### **2019/96 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.

#### **2019/97 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

#### **2019/98 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

Page 3 under Highway matters, last bullet point, should read "and by entrance to Great House Farm". Also one update to the previous minutes (Martin Hibbert's report), "The footbridge to be replaced is at Browns Lane, East Stour, not across the River Stour. That is still ongoing."

These were amended and the minutes were then agreed and adopted as a correct record proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones and seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins.

#### **2019/99 MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk has written and e-mailed Clearstone saying that they are no longer required to clean the bus shelters. No acknowledgement received.

Risk Assessment received from Prime Sports (summer archery) when using East Stour Playing field.

#### **2019/100 CASUAL VACANCY FOR TODBER AND EAST STOUR WARDS**

There are 2 vacancies for East Stour ward and a vacancy for Todber ward which can be filled by co-option.

#### **2019/101 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- East Stour Crossroads – The proposed short term safety measures have been completed.
- SIDs, East Stour – a solar panel has been stolen from the post near the crossroads. It was agreed to purchase another panel, cost £175 plus vat.  
Todber, Cllr King said that the SID has been deployed at Red Lane. He gave an update on the latest statistics and amongst the data there was a speed of 77mph that was recorded.

West Stour –Mrs Sealy said that the Vario Sid (the one that says Thankyou) will be in place 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the west end of the Village. Also speed information cannot be downloaded from the Vario SID as it is a sealed unit.

- Community Speedwatch, East Stour – no report received. Todber – Cllr King reported that the CSW has been active on a regular basis. They are a deterrent and some drivers do slow down. There is a need for more volunteers, please contact Cllr King if interested. West Stour – no report received.
- Highway maintenance – Covered by Roger Bell, Community Highways Officer during public discussion.
- Pleck – covered under Public Discussion.

### **2019/102 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Request from Gary Adlem, Charleston Homes in respect of the new dwellings at Browns Lane, East Stour. He seeks confirmation that the Council is happy with the names chosen No 1 & 2 Cowslip Cottages, Browns Lane. This was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Robson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards.
- New Tree Preservation Order TPO-617-2019 a provisional TPO has been made at The Copse, Hunger Hill, East Stour (all trees whatever species). This was queried as to the motives of this order. The property is for sale and this would be restrictive for anybody buying the property.
- Appeal by Mr S Hedges, Application 2/2019/0270/OUT, 11 College Arms Close, Stour Row. Proposal: Develop land by the erection of 1 No. dwelling (Outline application to determine access and scale). No decision has been made.
- Appeal by Mr J Trim – develop land by the erection of 2 no. dwellings (outline application to determine access, appearance and layout) has been allowed by The Planning Inspectorate.
- Appeal by Dorset Showground - demolish barn and erect 1 no. dwelling has been allowed by The Planning Inspectorate.
- Appeal by Mr W Lee – Land at OS 28 Stour Hill Park change of use of the land for the stationing of 9 Change of use of the land for the stationing of 9 static caravans for residential occupation; associated hard and soft landscaping. Retention of existing access and create 18 No. parking spaces has been dismissed.
- Section 53, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 application for a definitive map modification order - Stour Provost Parish
- Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan - formal consultation (e-mail previously circulated) response is submitted by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- Hawkers Farm, planning has been granted as it is considered to be a permitted development.
- Proposed Solar Farm, Fifehead Magdalen, an update was given during public discussion. The Parish Council had no further comments to their objections already submitted.
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

It was commented that it is interesting that an appeal had been upheld when the development is outside the settlement boundary. Cllr Belinda Ridout said that as North Dorset has not reached its housing target each application is looked at individually. Another problem is that builders are not building at present. Also planning permission had been refused in Todber, three times when the dwelling would be on the applicants' land and permission has recently been granted for three large houses on the adjacent sites. Belinda said that she would look into this.

The meeting agreed that more planning training is required. Some Councillors recently attended the DAPTC training seminar and felt a bit deflated, also that it was not sufficient to meet their needs. Belinda took note of this.

### **2019/103 CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from Mrs Diana West, Internal Auditor thanking the Parish Council for the gardening gift vouchers and she is most grateful for the Councillors' consideration.

Letter from Col Andrew Duncan LVO OBE regarding the fingerpost at the junction of the B3092 and Trill Lane. He says that it is an eyesore and there is a "finger" missing and asked if there is a chance of getting it repaired. It was understood that Mr Raymond had offered to repair it. Clerk will check with Cllr Trowbridge that this is still correct.

E-mail received from Cllr Roger Gosney, (Chairman, Buckhorn & Kington Magna Parish Council in respect of the Appeal by Mr W Lee – Land at OS 28 Stour Hill Park "It's very unfortunate that we were not informed of this Appeal. We would certainly have raised strong objection to it on the grounds of safety. It is particularly galling that having been instrumental in getting the visibility splays and vehicle activated sign in place to improve the safety of this junction, a new access has been allowed onto the A30 at this location. This new access close to the existing junction introduces new safety issues due to the insufficient stopping sight distance between the two to provide safe interoperability and could not be justified under current highway design standards for an arterial road. Please register our concern at the lack of liaison with us at the next meeting of the Stours Parish Council".

The Chairman said that the Parish Council strongly objected and Planning, NDDC refused the application, but it was the decision of the PI. Also that there was a lack of communication between the District and Parish Councils.

Letter and a donation of £50 received from Oliver Betts thanking the Parish Council for allowing Prime Sports Coaching to use East Stour playing field for the 'Archery Summer School'. He concluded 'It is as a result of our relationship formed this summer that I hope we would be willing to co-operate and provide more amazing opportunities in the future!'

#### **2019/104 DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS**

Gillingham ward monthly reports duly circulated.

Environmental Health, Consultation on Extension to Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Orders (e-mail circulated 27/8/19).

#### **2019/105 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES**

The Chairman said that it transpires that land ownership is still in question. Clerk to ask Jane Westbrook for an update. Cllr Belinda Ridout said that she will try and find out any more information.

#### **2019/106 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Funding has been obtained. There is to be a substantial improvement to the highways. Still waiting to hear the results of the public consultation. The link road should be going ahead soon as the money from government needs to be spent.

#### **2019/107 WILD FLOWER MEADOW**

The waste bin used to be emptied voluntarily by John Gould as no arrangements were made when the bin was installed. Unfortunately the bin is uncovered so it gets rather wet inside. For the amount the bin is used it does not warrant paying DWP to empty it (£4.80 per collection). Cllr Mrs Edwards volunteered to empty it for the time being. It was suggested that it be removed or maybe do a swap with Stour Provost. Cllr Mrs Watkins & Mrs Edwards will liaise.

#### **2019/108 THE PENSION REGULATOR**

Automatic enrolment, date of re-declaration 20/8/2019 & date of re-enrolment 20/8/2019.

#### **2019/109 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 – NSB £11,225.90. Scottish Widows Bank – £12,239.69  
Lloyds plc – £3,483.31

Included in these balances is £6,165.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165, 2017/114, 2018/113 & 2018/133).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.7.19 to 31.8.19 and budget 2019/20 (2 monthly and to date) summary distributed.

It was **resolved** to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones.

#### **Payments**

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

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £32.50
  - Cllr R King – reimburse mileage CSW meeting £11.16
  - Stour Row Village Hall – hire £18
  - Came & Co - renewal of Insurance approximately £1712.82. Councillors thought that the premium is very high and that we ought to look at the policy and see if it can be reduced. It was agreed to pay the premium and to review the policy. Cllr Robson agreed to pursue the policy and contact Came & Co and to report back at the next meeting.
  - Mrs Feld has kindly donated £500 for a bench in memory of her late husband, Hans. It was resolved to pay Steve Wattridge £220 for the labour and materials required to install the bench. A plaque (with wording provided by Mrs Feld) will also be ordered, cost unknown at present.
  - Stour Row and Stour Provost finger post restorations. The quotes from Roger Bond (Normtech) have not yet been received. However it was agreed that they do need replacing/repairing and that the work should be done.
  - That the next annual payment of £685 of the Clerk's gratuity be added to the existing balance (held with NS&I).
- Proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards.

#### **Audit year End 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

PKF Littlejohn's LLP External Auditor's report has not been received, it should arrive before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. To go on the next meeting's agenda.

#### **Review of Bank Mandate Signatories**

Lloyds Bank PLC and Scottish Widows Bank PLC bank signatories are Cllrs P Bowe, Mrs B Edwards, Mrs P Sealy and Mrs J Watkins. Proposed by Cllr Robson seconded by Cllr R McConnell and agreed by all.

### **Review Internal Audit**

The review was carried out, with two issues arising - 'Terms of reference for internal audit' and audit planning and reporting are required, at the Policy and Resources meeting held at 7pm on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The Committee recommended that it be accepted at this meeting with 2 outstanding matters. It was **resolved** to accept the annual review with the 2 outstanding matters to be clarified at the next meeting, proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards, seconded by Cllr Watkins.

### **2019/110 DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The Council resolves to mandate its representative to vote in accordance with the councils agreed view on any motions put before the DAPTC AGM and to use their discretion in the event of any original motion being amended. Cllrs Bowe and Mrs Wilkins will be in attendance. Cllr Mrs Wilkins will vote accordingly.

### **2019/111 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 – Guy Gilding sent his apologies and said there is nothing to report.  
Stour Provost and the pavilion – all fine  
Stour Row – all fine.
- d) Crime  
Vicky sent her apologies after the meeting. She was unable to attend as she has been off due to an injury. She hopes to be at the next meeting. She did report that currently we have been suffering with a spate of thefts of off catalytic converters across Shaftesbury and Gillingham.
- e) DAPTC  
The next Northern Area meeting is on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Shaftesbury Town Council Offices, Cllrs Bowe and Mrs Wilkins will be attending. The feedback on the recent Planning Seminar will be mentioned at the meeting.
- f) CPRE  
Cllr Amlôt gave the following report, Members of the PC attended the CPRE Summer Garden Party at Venn House, Milborne Port, nothing significant to report.  
There are a number of CPRE organised "Green Clean" events aimed at encouraging Dorset residents throughout the county to clean up their green spaces, the evidence of rubbish collected will be used to help the campaign for a deposit return scheme on recyclable items such as plastic bottles. Details at <https://www.cpre.org.uk>.  
CPRE has a "New Purpose", to connect people and the countryside, promote rural life and to empower communities. Recent achievements in Dorset include the removal of 22 Pylons moving cables underground between Martinstown and Winterborne Abbas, and matching £10K of crowdfunding to challenge a proposed expansion of Bridport into an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.  
Cllr Amlôt was thanked for his report.

Countryside Voice & Fieldwork publications. Dorset Review.

**2019/112 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Darren Orchard, Recycling Officer, Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Council will be attending the meeting (questions to Clerk before meeting). Insurance policy renewal. Internal audit review.

**2019/113 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at West Stour, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Stour Provost, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at East Stour, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at Stour Row, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at West Stour, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at Stour Provost, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

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

DRAFT