

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018**  
**In Stour Provost Village Hall**

**PRESENT**: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, R Haddon, R King, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs J Watkins, and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, M Hibbert (RoWLO) and one member of the public (Mr R McConnell).

The Chairman welcomed those present.

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

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – Cllr Carr-Jones sent his apologies as he was interviewing for the New Chief Executive for the Unitary. He sent in this report “The Boundary Commission sent their report on the parliamentary boundary review to the Secretary of State on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. They won't publish that report until the SoS lays the report before parliament, which will hopefully be before the party conference season gets underway on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. Once this happens, the report will go on the Commission's website. The proposals will then go through the parliamentary process before being adopted in a formal order.” He also sends in his monthly reports and regular updates via e-mail. Any questions to contact him by telephone or e-mail.

**NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT** – Cllr Jane Westbrook said there is nothing further to add that is not on the agenda.

**Public Discussion** – none.

**Rights of Way Officer's report** - Mr Hibbert said that volunteer work has resumed with the clearance of nettles and brambles. There are no major issues that he is aware of. Martin will visit the landowner of a field in Stour Row, where horses are being kept as the landowner needs to be aware of the specific safety rules when there are horses in a field, which is different to when it is cattle. There is an ongoing issue of dangerous sleepers at Mill House, Stour Provost. The property has been sold and the new owners have been in touch. Martin has made them aware of the lack of response to get the sleepers repaired. The work at Duncliffe Wood has been completed and the tracks have been made wider, which is an improvement. Martin has been unable to contact Sarah Stebbings about the request to leave the fallen trunks for people to sit on in Duncliffe Wood. He will try and contact her within the next few days. Martin was thanked for his report.

**Tree Wardens' reports** -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall sent her apologies. She reported that the Williams family would like to go ahead with planting a lime - *Tilia cordata* and suggested that this is done in November as part of National Tree Planting Week.

Stour Provost and Stour Row – nothing to report.

Todber and West Stour – Cllr Mrs Sealy said there has been an ash tree chopped down at The Lynch. Martin Hibbert will follow this up.

**Flood Wardens' report** – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said there is nothing to report.

**Transport** – Cllr Mrs Newton said there is nothing further to report. The minutes of the last transport meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> August have been circulated.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Richard McConnell to the members present, as he is interested in becoming a councillor for the East Stour ward.

**Business Agenda**

**2018/96 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs Mrs B Edwards (attending Woolavington P C to collect an award for East Stour playing field), G Gilding, Mrs V Jones, J Nalty and L Trowbridge.

### **2018/97 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

### **2018/98 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

### **2018/99 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018.**

The Clerk said that the Chairman had signed 'Declaration Acceptance of Office' at the last meeting, but omitted to minute it.

The minutes were then agreed and adopted as a correct record proposed by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr King.

### **2018/100 MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Parker with reference to min ref 2018/90 (GSE) said that Stephen Hill (Dorset Council Partnership) attended the last Northern Area DAPTC meeting and said that 2 planning applications have been received which are not significant at present. Cllr Jane Westbrook gave an update and said that currently 3 outline applications have been received.

### **2018/102 RESIGNATION OF MR P BROWN**

Phil has moved away, hence his resignation. Democratic Services have been advised and they will let us know if there is to be an election or when we can co-opt.

### **2018/103 CASUAL VACANCIES TWO FOR EAST STOUR WARD AND ONE FOR TODBER WARD**

At present an interest has been shown for East Stour by Mr McConnell.

### **2018/104 APPOINTMENT TO EAST STOUR VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

Following the resignation of Phil Brown this to be discussed at East Stour's parish meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

### **2018/105 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- East Stour Crossroads – Cllr Jane Westbrook had a productive meeting with Laura Russ, Principal Transport Planner, DCC yesterday. Funds will be available and it is proposed that the works will take place early summer 2019. Jane had circulated a map of the proposals. There will be a consultation and Laura will keep in touch with Jane. The proposed works in Gillingham makes these proposals more urgent. It was noted that there was a road traffic accident at the crossroads last Sunday, fortunately no one was badly hurt.
- SIDs, East Stour the SIDs have been in operation. Todber, Cllr King gave some statistics and it was noted that the maximum speed was 69mph. It took 6 weeks to receive the new screen which has now been fitted. The SID is placed along Red Lane, however there is a need for one along Church Lane. Cllr King has established that Dorset Community Innovation Fund will consider applications for SIDs. West Stour, Cllr Mrs Sealy said that the SID does have an effect as motorists do slow down when travelling west to east, however where there is no SID some motorists exceed the 30mph. (The CSW team can confirm that). Cllr Mrs Sealy will contact Joe Allen and see if a pole can be placed east to west, outside Townsend Farm was suggested.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour – still needing a co-ordinator.  
Todber –Cllr King said that it has been difficult to get a team together because of holidays, though it should be ok now. He said that he will attend the CSW conference at Winfrith next week.  
West Stour – Cllr Parker said that team try to get out when possible depending on numbers.
- The Brown's Lane fingerpost has been replaced. (Dorset CPRE kindly donated £100 to the cost of its refurbishment).

### **2018/106 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Appeal by Mrs J Wood APP/N1215/W/17/3190760. Application no. 2/2017/0352/FUL, Butterwell Farm, East Stour Erect single storey building for the use of therapy rooms and educational workshops. Create new vehicular access and form additional 15 No. parking spaces (demolish 2 No. existing buildings). **Has been dismissed.**
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

- Cllr Jane Westbrook gave an update on p/a 2/2017/0183/FUL Well Common Farm and that there have been some inconsistencies in the application so there will be further investigations by Development Control.

### **2018/107 CORRESPONDENCE**

- The defibrillator at East Stour Village Hall was vandalised. It has been replaced by SouthWest Ambulance Trust. As well as the defibrillator being vandalised there was vandalism and burglaries in East Stour Village Hall. It is believed that the criminals were local and have now been caught.
- Cranborne Chase (AONB) requesting that the Parish Council supports their bid for becoming a Dark Sky Reserve. (E-mail circulated). The Council gave their full support. Clerk to write. It was commented that there is severe light pollution along some roads and it was asked whether this can be reduced.

### **2018/108 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

No further reports.

### **2018/109 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that 'Nordon' has been sold for redevelopment for affordable homes. However there will be a delay in proceedings as there has been a great outcry by the Historical Society. Also there is a large row over the proposed development of Shaftesbury cattle market, which is publicly owned land that is for sale to developers, for example a supermarket.

### **2018/110 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES**

Cllr Jane Westbrook and Cllr John Parker attended a meeting, chaired by Simon Hoare MP. Also represented were Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna parish council and Fifehead Magdalen parish meeting. Also in attendance Paula Clover, Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer, Giles Nicholson, (Paula's boss), Caroline Naughton, Police Superintendent, Alison Creighton and Mike Coker from Wessex Water. A couple of suggestions have been made: - 1) to find a permanent site for the travellers to go to, which seem unlikely. Cllr Jane Westbrook has been working very hard exploring avenues and has found that landowners are not willing to give land over to be a travellers' site. 2) Cllr Parker and Cllr N Osborne (BW & KM pc) are in the process of looking at a way to stop up the layby at Five Bridges, which costs about £3000, but allowing access for Wessex Water. There would be a legal process to go through. Wessex Water have agreed to pay for the barrier. This proposal would mean that the Stours Parish Council and Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council would each have to set aside £1500 for the process of stopping up the highway. The next meeting chaired by Simon Hoare is at the end of September and it is hoped there will be a representative from highways. It is not possible to put the travellers (at present at St James' Common) at the Shaftesbury site because of their drug issue.

### **2018/111 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Cllr Gilding reported that Phase 1 is being fast tracked and would hopefully start next year. The Principle Street will be constructed prior to further development to encourage the developers to begin subsequent phases. Jane Westbrook gave further information. There are to be 90 houses built at Lodden Lake, optimistically the end of this year or early next year. Of the £7½ million funding, £3½m will be for the traffic programme in Gillingham. There will be new traffic lights at New Road/Station Road. The £4m is to accelerate housing which is being used for the Principle Street.

### **2018/112 UNITED FRONT TO SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN OUR VILLAGES**

Mike Potter, DCC has looked at the Villages within the Stours, Stour Row and Shave Lane have had signs painted on the roads.

Trevor Vaughan, Chairman, Marnhull P C has said that Marnhull will not be purchasing a SID but will be having a Community Speedwatch Team. Cllr King said that he will be helping them in training/setting up a team.

### **2018/113 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 – NSB £5,018.29. Scottish Widows Bank – £25,737.08

Lloyds plc – £4,450.05

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 1.7.18 to 31.8.18 and budget 2018/19 (2 monthly and to date) summary distributed.

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

## **Payments**

It was resolved to make the following payments:

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £15.50.
- To pay Gillingham Town Council second instalment (Local Delivery) – £213.00
- Came & Company (renewal of annual insurance) - £1,615.56
- Stour Provost Village Hall (hire) £15
- PKF Littlejohn (audit fee) - £240
- M Belcher ((pavilion maintenance) - £85
- Countrywide grounds maintenance ((Stour Provost field grass cutting) - £142.50

Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

The following were resolved. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

- That the Clerk's monthly working from home electricity payment be increased from £16 to £18 per month.
- That the next annual payment of £685 of the Clerk's gratuity be added to the existing balance (held with Scottish Widows).
- To contribute (in principle) up to a maximum of £1,500 towards the cost of stopping up the highway at the rear of Five Bridges lay-by (see min ref 2018/110).
- In principle to purchase a hard wood footpath sign at Duncliffe Wood costing approximately £250. (Clerk to ask Mr Hibbert to get an up to date quote in case the cost is much greater than £250).
- It was agreed that the Stours Parish Council receives a gift of £1,500 from the West Stour Village Hall committee for the purpose of purchasing a 'Lifeline VIEW AED' (defibrillator) together with an associated 'Webnos' Governance System from the Community Heartbeat Trust, for siting in the telephone box in West Stour. The defibrillator will be owned by the parish council and there is an annual support cost of £126 which it is intended to be included in the annual West Stour precept. Cllr Parker briefly outlined David Amlot's, (West Stour Village Hall committee member) enormous research into funding and getting a defibrillator for the Village and the 'Lifeline VIEW AED was the best proposition.
- To agree to the purchase of a VarioSID (approx. £2500) and to sell our existing basic model to another parish council. This proposal deferred to next meeting as there was some confusion.

Proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins

## **Audit year End 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

PKF Littlejohn's LLP External Auditor's report. "On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

The annual return and auditor's certificate was approved and accepted by the Council. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Newton, seconded by Cllr Parker.

The 'Notice of conclusion of audit' to be published on the Council's website and be displayed on our notice boards.

Thanks was also given to Mrs Diana West for completing the Internal Audit.

## **Review of Bank mandate Signatories**

Lloyds Bank PLC and Scottish Widows Bank PLC. Cllr Mrs Bobbie Edwards, Cllr Mrs June Watkins and Cllr John Parker. As Cllr Cowan has resigned it was resolved that Cllr Paul Bowe be the fourth signatory. Proposed by Cllr Gould, seconded by Cllr Parker. Clerk to advise both banks.

## **2018/114 DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

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 Parker and Mrs Wilkins will be in attendance. Cllr Mrs Wilkins will vote accordingly.

## 2018/115 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 – Cllr Mrs Edwards attended a presentation at Woolavington Village Hall to receive an award from the Somerset Playing Fields' Association. Cllr Gilding sent in a report saying that Steve Watridge will start the previously agreed works this weekend and will also be starting the War memorial construction which will, hopefully, be completed by next weekend.

There have been complaints that vehicle owners are parking their vehicles on the grass just outside of the playing field fence when Fast Feet were playing football. Neil Coates has been asked to remind parents not to park on the verge as it damages the growth of bulbs planted. Jo, his wife was aware and has texted parents.

Stour Provost and the pavilion. Cllr Mrs Watkins said that there have been issues between Mr Balchin (owner of Springfield's) which neighbours the playing field and Stour Provost playing field committee. The trees which are in a conservation area and are the property of the parish council have been left happily to grow on the boundary to keep the noise out (as there have been complaints about noise and balls) from the neighbours and to maintain their privacy. Earlier in the year an elm tree was cut down and the council was horrified by the mess so in April a letter was written requesting that Mr Balchin tidy the mess up and that in future any requests to cutting down of trees/branches be made in writing. This letter upset Mr Balchin and there has been email correspondence and meetings between himself and Stours Provost Councillors. David Braybon, Arboriculturist was contacted to check the condition of the trees and boundary and he has reported that our trees are sound and in good health, except an Elm tree, which as Dutch elm disease. He will remove the diseased elm, which also is affecting the telephone wire. Mr Braybon should commence works the end of this month. Mr Balchin has been advised that he can cut his side and put the waste onto the playing field. Shortly after a planning application was received for Springfield to erect a single storey rear extension (to which there were no objections) and a detached store/shed, to which there were objections to the siting (less than a metre from the boundary) as it was thought the footings would damage the trees. It was suggested that slabs be laid down instead to protect the trees. The Parish Council is only a consultee and is the lowest form of local government and has no authority in planning decision. Mr Balchin wanted a meeting with the councillors either Monday or Thursday, unfortunately there was insufficient time and availability of councillors to make one before this meeting.

The football pitch is too small for league standards, which has meant that last year's team have stopped using the facilities. James Armstrong (who used to play football here many years ago) wants to use the facilities for a ladies team, has moved the pitch to where it used to be. However, Mr Balchin has said that this is too close to his house and has banned football, if the pitch stays where it is. He suggested a new position and this is now nearer the cricket square, which has been agreed to. James and his friend Andy will re-site the larger pitch and will invoice us accordingly. This has been a difficult situation, however it is felt that the football pitch should not be compromised now that the cricket nets are up. It was thought Mr Balchin was attending this meeting.

The Stours Parish Council supports Stour Provost's actions in these matters.

The cricket pitch is in good order.

Steve Stokes, who does the hedge cutting for both playing fields is very ill and it is unlikely that he will be able to do them this year. Andrew Gould of West Stour could cut them if need be.

There will be a Playing field Committee meeting when David Braybon has been to do the tree works at the end of the month.

Stour Row – all fine.

d) Crime

Subsequently received from PCSO Chris Mullens "Please accept my apologies for missing the meeting last evening. I was committed with an operational incident which made me late in attending so much so that I thought that my late attendance and disruption to the meeting that would have caused would be unfair. I had very little to update on as it was, because thankfully crime has been low in the parish areas. I think my best action for future meetings will be to send you a report anyway and if I am able to attend I will".

It was asked that he sent in a report so that it could go with the minutes and it is hoped that he will attend the next meeting.

e) DAPTC

The next Northern Area meeting is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Hub, Stalbridge. Cllrs Parker and Mrs Wilkins will attend. Cllr Parker said that Caroline Naughton, Police Superintendent will be at the meeting following the spate of crimes locally.

f) CPRE

Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

**2018/116 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Stour Row Church. Gillingham Southern Extension. SIDs. Gypsy and Travellers.

**2018/117 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at East Stour, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Stour Row, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at West Stour, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Stour Provost, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at East Stour, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Stour Row, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at West Stour.

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

.....Chairman

Date .....

