

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**In Stour Provost Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs R Cowan (Chairman), Mrs T Bagnall, P Bowe, P Brown, Mrs B Edwards, G Gilding, P Gould, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, J Nalty, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Lady A Stagg and Mrs C Wilkins.

Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, Janet Swiss, M Hibbert (FTLO), PCSO Vicky Levy and one member of the public (Mrs Julia Gould).

The Chairman welcomed Janet Swiss and those present.

Janet Swiss introduced herself to the meeting and gave a short presentation about the White Hart Link (see attached). Janet was thanked for attending and for briefing the meeting on the vision of the White Hart Link - a united sustainable enhancement of a beautiful part of Dorset, in the form of a walking network to attract visitors to the Blackmore Vale. Janet answered questions from the meeting. For further information she can be contacted on 01747 838718 or 01258 471456 (SturQuest).

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

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – DCCllr Andrew Cattaway sent his apologies. There is nothing to report from County.

**NDDC WARD MEMBERS' REPORT** – Cllr Dowden sent his apologies. Cllr Jane Westbrook said that it has been quiet. The main concerns are the development of new houses in the towns. The District Council has looked at how the new Practice Manger of the Blackmore Vale Partnership has coped with the infrastructure in Shaftesbury and is impressed at the way he has it sorted. There are concerns when the houses are built in Gillingham that there might be a shortage of GPs and there might be an overflow to Shaftesbury. Most of the infrastructure will be in place when all the houses are built, however there are attempts to have some of it provided during the middle phase of the building programme. Jane was thanked for her report.

**Public Discussion** – Mrs Julia Gould from East Stour addressed the meeting about their new venture “Dorset Moviola” in association with The Stours Villages Film Night that East Stour has taken on to raise funds for their village hall. Leaflets were distributed. Julia can be contacted on 01747 838788 or the website [www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org). Mrs Gould was thanked for bringing this to our attention.

**Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report** - Mr Hibbert said that the issues at Lyde Hill are still ongoing, nothing has changed so he will ask Cllr Cattaway to talk to the Landowner. The request for a wooden finger post at Duncliffe is ongoing. The two dangerous bridges at Stour Row and Woodville have been repaired. The planned West Stour Village walk was rained off. East Stour will be having an organised walk when the weather improves. An outstanding issue, the path from Sandilands Close, East Stour to Browns Lane is very muddy, care needs to be taken when walking. Everything is wet, however there are no major issues.

Martin will follow up about the locked gate at Duncliffe Wood (Woodland Trust property) as access is required for emergency vehicles. There have been offers from neighbouring people to hold the key.

Martin did say that we have had good support from DCC, despite the cuts and pressures that they are experiencing and suggested that the Parish Council writes a note of thanks to the Head of Countryside, which was agreed. However the meeting did say that a lot of it is due to Martin himself and all that he does for the footpaths within the Stours and it is really appreciated.

Martin was thanked for his report and for attending the meeting.

**Crime Report**

PCSO Vicky Levy said that reported crime within the Stours has been very quiet since the last meeting. Only one crime reported (14.11.15). Vicky reminded us to be vigilant about doorstep salesmen and should they call to report them to Trading Standards. She did say she had warning stickers available and to contact her if they are wanted. There is a spate of thefts of motor quad bikes and advised us about securing them. With the colder weather and the roads being icy, a reminder to people to be mindful when driving their vehicles, as DCC is not gritting minor roads. Community Speed Watches in East Stour, Stour Row and West Stour all up and running following their training.

Vicky was thanked for attending the meeting and her report.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said it has been quite wet. There has been flooding at Stour Lane by the chicken farm. The B3092 has not been too bad. At Trill Bridge it has been bad and the warning signs are not clearly visible, they need to be repositioned. Green Lane, Stour Row always floods, local drivers are aware of this. She said she has had delivery of the flood warning signs, cones and jackets and stores them on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Wilkins was thanked for agreeing to store the signs and for her report.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said there is a meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The National Express Coach service will start from Salisbury to London with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> February and there will no longer be a service from Yeovil to Salisbury. There is at present a consultation on rural bus services, which will affect villages within the Stours. It would be useful to know what alternative transport there is available, as this is important for the people that currently use the buses. Cllr Mrs Newton will find out more and invite an area representative who could give us some more information to one of our meetings.

Cllr Newton was thanked for her report

## **Business Agenda**

**2016/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs Mrs R Blacklock, Miss H O'Sullivan and G Herring,

### **2016/02 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

### **2016/03 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

18 forms received all with the matter of "Setting the Parish Council Precept", expiry date 7 May 2020. Cllr Brown proposed that these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

### **2016/04 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

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

### **2016/05 MATTERS ARISING**

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth. Mr Marshall, Head of Stower Provost Community School has purchased a flag pole and flag. It will be a formal occasion held at the school on 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10am and there will be a press release. It is hoped to invite a celebrity. West Stour Parish will be giving a Union Flag to the School to be used on other suitable occasions.

### **2016/06 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Following our last meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> November the Chairman and Cllr Gilding had a site meeting with Roger Bell, Highways to address the matters that were brought up.

- Todber (B3092) – The edge white lining job has been handed back to Sam Paulley to deal with promptly. As to date this has not been done. The Clerk has chased for an update and has not had feedback. The chippings in the B3092 lay-by have been strategically placed and we should be receiving a bill from DCC shortly.
- Head Lane, East Stour – the road markings have been repainted and edge lining provided. The meeting resolved to ask for a 20mph speed limit along Head Lane. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Bagnall, seconded by Cllr Gilding. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be required; the Clerk to write to Highways.
- East Stour Crossroads - the north bound road markings have been repainted. Roger Bell is currently costing and designing a new sign for the bottom off the hill from the south. We are appalled to discover that there are no plans to re-align the crossroads before the end of 2016. (The proposed "realignment" at the East Stour crossroads in The "Gillingham Growth Study" report for DCC and NDDC in 2009 said the work would be completed by 2016). Again concerns were raised with the increase of road traffic and construction traffic with the proposed new homes in Gillingham, which will make the crossroads even busier.
- Extension of 40mph limit by Scotchey Lane – This requires a TRO and as it is not a high priority it would cost Stour Provost Parish approximately £2000 (legal costs) to have the sign moved. This will be looked at again by the Parish.

- Hunger Hill East Stour – The extension of the 30mph speed limit sign northwards again this requires a TRO and as it is not a high priority it would cost East Stour Parish approximately £2000 (legal costs) to have the sign moved. This will be looked at again by the Parish.
- Fifehead Magdalen Crossroads – Cllr Parker contacted Cllr Roger Gosney (Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council), who has been in discussion with Andrew Brown, DCC. There is a proposal to install a Vehicle Activated Sign on the A30 approach from the west. Currently the funding is programmed for 2015/16 although Mr Brown hopes it can be moved to 2016/17 year, primarily due to land issues. Mr Brown has met with the landowner of the corner property and the situation can be improved with the removal of the hedge, a new fence thereby improving visibility and by improving the maintenance regime on the corner. This in conjunction with the new sign would provide a much improved and safer junction. It is proposed to have the sign installed by May 2016.
- Speed Indicator Device (SID) at East Stour. Cllr Gilding has done a lot of research into the possibility of obtaining a SID for East Stour parish. The Police and Highways fully endorse and support a portable SID, which can be moved from one location to another. To be effective the SID must not be in the same location for more than six weeks at a time. Rob Camp, Senior Supervisor Technician (Safety), Transport Planning has been very helpful. If the parish buys a SID it could be used in a couple of locations. The locations are assessed, representatives are trained for health and safety reasons. The cost is approximately £2200 plus vat and the post is approximately £200 plus vat. A speed assessment would have to be carried out at the site before a SID is put up. West Stour is unable to have a SID as it lacks the sight lines. It was agreed in principle to have a SID. Each parish to identify potential sites and to report back at the next meeting. An application for a grant to the Safer Dorset Fund could be made. Cllr Gilding was thanked for looking into this.

The Chairman has carefully read the Department of Transport guidelines to Local Authorities and it states that speed limits shall not be used to deal with nasty junctions.

#### **2016/07 PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning application 2/2015/1629 Church Farm, West Stour, install water turbine, chute and fish pass to existing weir, the river might rise by 6 inches but this should not be a problem. At Hillcrest, East Stour (2/2015/1599) there has been evidence of a specialist firm dealing with removal of the asbestos from the property.

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

#### **2016/08 CORRESPONDENCE**

Read Easy Gillingham & Shaftesbury newsletter. The Stours Parish Council is thanked for their £200 donation.

#### **2016/09 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

An e-mail received giving details of the Rural Bus Services Review which is now open for consultation up until 8th February 2016. Cllr Mrs Newton will follow this up.

#### **2016/10 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

NDDC has received the Inspector's report on the examination of the North Dorset Local Plan part 1, the council is now in a position to formally adopt the plan and intends to adopt LP1 on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. It is available for inspection at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/planning/north-dorset/planning-policy> or hard copies can be view at Nordon, NDDC Blandford and Public Libraries at Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton and Blandford during their normal opening hours.

Cllr Jane Westbrook said there is nothing further to report.

#### **2016/11 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

The proposed 2200 houses to be built is over a 20 year period. The proposed 1800 houses and the doubling of the Brickfields Industrial Estate will mean there will be more vehicles and heavy lorries along the B3092. The traffic is bad enough now and there are concerns what effect the increase in traffic will have on the road. It was suggested that a weight limit be put in place. In November/December the consultation was held. A planning application using the master plan framework will be submitted, starting with phase 1. The Gillingham to Shaftesbury Link road is timetabled for phase 4. There is a need to look at Shaftesbury, the B3092 with the impact of construction traffic. The infrastructure, schools and doctors are coming too late to serve the new homes. The money for the infrastructure comes from the developers. Gillingham Town Council has a monitoring committee. It was agreed that we need to join forces with others and make sure all concerns are addressed and actioned. The Chairman proposed that we have a working group and to involve other councils, i.e. Marnhull Parish Council and Sturminster Newton Town Council and to liaise with Gillingham Town Council's monitoring group. Seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by all. As East Stour is most immediately affected by

this, Cllr Gilding agreed to chair the working group. Volunteers from each parish East Stour – Cllr Brown, Stour Provost – Cllr Nalty. We would also like Councillors from Todber and West Stour Parishes to volunteer.

#### **2016/12 TRANSPARENCY CODE TO ADOPT BEST PRACTICE**

The Stours is not subject to the new Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, audit system as our turnover will be over £25,000 for this financial year. Smaller councils are now not audited, but have to publish on their own website, specific details of their assets, expenditure of items of over £100, year-end accounts, annual governance statement and internal audit report. We already publicise our income and expenditure on our website, when the agenda and minutes are produced. Cllr Parker will take this forward and contact Vision ICT on publishing any other information.

#### **2016/13 NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN EAST STOUR**

Cllr Gilding said nothing new to report.

#### **2016/14 EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD PROPOSED PATH**

Cllr Gilding said nothing new to report.

#### **2016/15 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT FIVE BRIDGES LAY-BY**

Cllr Jane Westbrook's said that she has been very active in this matter. She has spoken to Ms Paula Clover today who said that the Travellers will be moving in the Spring. Following Jane's meeting with Sgt Horn, Gillingham Rural Police have been able to move the matter of the presence and activities of the Travellers up to priority. They will, from now on, be putting Police in the area to observe and potentially search the vans. Jane will contact Wessex Water again about their access to see if there is a solution to prevent future unlawful encampments in the lay-by. District Councillors Deborah Croney (Leader of NDDC and a DCCLr) and David Walsh (also a DCCLr) are aware of this problem. It has been realised that it is not acceptable to have Travellers, with their unlawful activity life style being planted amongst the community. There will be a meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February in West Stour Village Hall to discuss this matter further, which Jane will be attending.

The Chairman thanked Jane for all that she is doing about the unlawful encampment, we are really appreciative of her persistence and what she has done.

Jane was thanked for attending the meeting.

#### **2016/16 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

The Chairman said that he has received an e-mail saying that Todber is now activated, however there is a problem as it is showing as being not available when trying to connect to the service. It is hoped that this will be rectified as soon as possible.

Cllr Mrs Bagnall said that East Stour's Travelling Post Office has been experiencing connection problems, since the arrival of Superfast. Marnhull has had the same problems. This disruption is affecting the community and could affect the provision of the P.O. Cllr Mrs Bagnall will contact Ms Abby Gordon-Farleigh, Superfast Dorset.

At our last meeting Cllr Cattaway did say he would follow the matter up that Stover Provost Community School will not be able to have Superfast as they are deemed too far from the cabinet. Cllr Nalty said there have not been any further developments to get the school connected to fibre. He said that the School's contract with their existing supplier SW Grid Learning ceases at the end of August. The Head, Mr Marshall does not want to miss out on the superfast broadband service. Cllr Cattaway did say he would follow this up with Superfast and BT, however there has been no response. It was agreed that Cllr Nalty write to Ms Abby Gordon-Farleigh (with a copy to Cllr Cattaway) to see if the School could be connected to fibre. Mr Marshall is also taking this matter up.

#### **2016/17 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

Cllr Mrs Watkins said that she is disappointed that another set of speed guns has been purchased, when the parish council already owns one, especially as Stour Row does not really have a speeding issue. Matt Whitfield successfully applied for a grant of £300 from Safer Dorset Fund - Community Grant. It was thought that the equipment being used in Stour Row could be borrowed, as no financial transactions have taken place.

West Stour's monitoring has been quiet over Christmas and the New Year, also monitoring cannot be carried out with low visibility and poor weather conditions.

East Stour volunteers have been trained. They propose to purchase their own equipment from the precept or from the Safer Dorset Fund.

#### **2016/18 ADOPT A KIOSK**

Stour Provost 01747 838380 the consultation has expired without comment and BT is ready to proceed with the sale and purchase for £1.

## **2016/19 ALL SAINTS STOUR ROW**

There is nothing further to report.

## **2016/20 THE PENSIONS REGULATOR**

Information on pensions and the new Auto-enrolment pension circulated for the council to consider. (Our enrolment date is 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016). The Clerk's salary is below the threshold. Every person working for an employer earning a certain amount of money is automatically enrolled into a pension. If an employee is below the threshold he/she must inform the council if he/she wants to opt out. The Stours Parish Council has looked into the provisions and we are in accordance with the regulations. The Clerk is happy with the provision of the gratuity that has been set up.

## **2016/21 PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS**

East Stour has changed from Elite Playground Inspections to The Play Inspection Company (PI) (Came & Company scheme) and will now be carried out annually from October 2016. East Stour changed as Elite's reports were repetitive and the PI's reporting system seems to be far better and comprehensive and instead of quarterly inspections they will now have annual inspections, which is acceptable.

Stour Row and Stour Provost have agreed to go with PI, the Clerk to arrange the annual inspection visits.

## **2016/22 SOMERSET PLAYING FIELDS' ASSOCIATION**

Following the recent decision of the Dorset Playing Fields' Association to wind up their affairs, the Somerset Playing Fields' Association has invited us to join their association. It costs £15 per annum. Cllr Nalty proposed that we try it for a year, there might be some beneficial gain. Seconded by Cllr Gilding and agreed by all.

## **2016/23 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FOR EAST STOUR AND STOUR PROVOST PLAYING FIELD**

It was agreed at the parish meetings to continue to use Philip Buttress to maintain the playing fields. East Stour price per cut £70 and Stour Provost £50. Mr Buttress did say that his prices will probably rise next season.

## **2016/24 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 – NSB £4,927.96. Scottish Widows Bank – £24,628.81 Lloyds plc – £5,439.03

Included in these balances is £4,110.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67). Copy of Income & Expenses 1.11.15 to 31.1.15 and budget 2015/16 summary distributed.

**It was resolved to adopt the accounts.** Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Mrs Newton.

- To discuss the Budget and set the Precept for 2016/17  
At their respective parish meetings the following precepts were agreed –East Stour parish - £6000, Stour Provost parish - £4500, Todber – £860 and West Stour parish - £750. The parish precepts were agreed proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.  
The figures for 2016/17 were previously circulated in November and this meeting. The increase in salary costs may or may not materialise as there has not been any information about salary rises. Stour Provost Cricket Club might need help for the future in the way of mowers/rollers and a secure store, as figures were not available, this will be discussed at the next meeting. Also proposed is an artificial cricket pitch in conjunction with Stower Provost Community School.
- Local Delivery Service  
Gillingham Town Council has requested £853.44 for 2016/17. This has been included in the precept budget figures.

It was **resolved** that the precept for the Stours Parish Council be £12500. Proposed by Cllr T Jones, seconded by Cllr Mrs V Jones.

See attached Income and Expenses for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

## **2016/25 FINANCE – PAYMENTS**

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- BT - £1 adopt a kiosk
- Society Local Council Clerks - £103 renewal membership
- Somerset Playing Fields's Association (membership) - £15
- Stour Provost Village hall (hire) - £15

To authorise the following proposed expenditure for 2016/17 in order that the payments can be made.

£300 - Telephone kiosk refurbishment including wooden bookshelves

£300 - Community Speedwatch

£684 - Wild Flower Meadow - seat £514 & bin £170

£800 - Defibrillator top up

£5731 - Playground equipment

£2625 – Village Hall - three air extractors £550 + curtains in main hall £1600 & lights £475

£500 - WI village newsletter

TOTAL £10,940 for East Stour

Also provisionally for East Stour £2400 for a 'SID'

West Stour - £250 telephone kiosk refurbishment.

Todber - £250 Village gateway signage. (This is provisional)

Stour Provost and Todber - £500 DCC works for storage of chippings at B3092 lay-by

**It was resolved to authorise the above payments and proposed expenditure** Proposed by Cllr Gilding, seconded by Cllr Mrs V Jones.

### **2016/26 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 – ongoing works required, there are no urgent matters.  
Stour Provost and the pavilion – there have been problems with the football clubs leaving the pavilion in a mess.  
Following communications with Cllr Nalty there appears to be a more positive approach from the footballers. If necessary the footballers may be charged for the extra cleaning for the mess that they leave. This will be monitored.  
Stour Row – All appears to be o.k.
- d) Crime  
PCSO Vicky Levy gave her report at the beginning of the meeting.
- e) DAPTC  
Cllr Parker attended the Northern Area meeting on 12th January 2016 at Durweston Village Hall. He reported that licenses allowing fracking have been issued for parts of Dorset and that there is a film event to raise awareness about fracking in Dorset being held in Blandford Corn Exchange on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Hilary Trevorah, Chief Executive, DAPTC has said that in the Local Government Finance Settlement, no provision has been made to cap parish council precepts. The Annual DAPTC Conference will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 at Kingston Maurward. Cllr Parker will attend. The main topic is the impact of Local Government re-organisation on parish and town councils. Also the Dorset Unitary Structure will be discussed. It has been acknowledged that The Working Together project has raised some concerns and now Michele Harding, Burton Bradstock Clerk will join the project. There will be representatives from the Cornwall Council Devolution. A presentation from the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group saying why health care in Dorset has to change. More information on this can be found at [www.dorsetvision.nhs.co.uk](http://www.dorsetvision.nhs.co.uk).
- f) CPRE  
Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

### **2016/27 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- 'SIDS' East Stour
- All Saints Church, Stour Row
- Travellers.at Five Bridges lay-by
- Gillingham Southern Extension
- Clean for the Queen
- Stour Provost Cricket Club - secure storage facilities

**2016/28 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

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 10.05pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman

Date .....

DRAFT