

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th November 2019
In West Stour 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 P Sealy, Mrs J Uden and Mrs J Watkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, Marten Gregory, Team Leader, Dorset Waste Partnership, Dorset Council, DCCllrs Belinda Ridout, Jane Somper and Val Potheary, Martin Hibbert (RoWLO), Mrs Terry Bagnall (Tree warden) and 5 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Marten Gregory, Team Leader, Dorset Waste Partnership and those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

Public Discussion

PCSO Vicky Biggs gave her report on the reported crimes within The Stours from September to October. Also mentioned was the theft of several high value sculptures in Milton on Stour. Vicky reminded members present not to leave items in unattended vehicles and also about 'Christmas Safety #AllWrappedUp'. Vicky answered questions and was thanked for attending the meeting.

Marten Gregory, Team Leader, Dorset Waste Partnership, gave a very interesting talk/power point on recycling matters and he also answered questions from the floor. The aim was to highlight their work and the importance of reduce, reuse and recycling. Marten was thanked for attending the meeting.

Mrs Blacklock on behalf of Mrs Julia Gould updated the meeting about Pleck. Mrs Blacklock said that she has been helping out at Pleck. The area has been levelled twice and a large area has been grass seeded. 2000 plus daffodil bulbs have been planted. Approximately 90 trees will be planted, some have been donate from the Woodland Trust, which will help improve the climate. Stour Vale Markets has donated the funds for the tree planting. The aim is to improve the entrance to East Stour Village. Mrs Blacklock was thanked for the report.

Jonathon Barnett addressed the meeting about the provisional TPO 627-2019 received that day from Charlotte Flippence, Tree Officer, Dorset Council. The paddock next to their property has been abandoned and consequently is very overgrown. The septic tank is situated in the middle of this paddock and serves his and 3 other properties, which requires urgent maintenance, hence him wanting the removal of some trees. Also, these trees block the light to the properties and there is a need to prevent damage to the properties. The Tree Officer visited the site and has applied a Provisional TPO, which means that he cannot touch anything as it could be a risk of committing trespass/criminal damage. Mr Barnett will be submitting another application. Vale Tree Surgeons will be doing the tree works. He has been unable to get the contact details of the paddock's owner. Mr Barnett asked that the Parish Council supports his application to remove the trees that block the light, to prevent damage to properties and be able to maintain the septic tank. It was agreed to write to Charlotte Flippence supporting Mr Barnett's request.

Mr David Little gave further information regarding agenda item 16, the proposal for a one frame holding two toddlers swing to be situated on East Stour playing field. Hannah O'Sullivan bequeathed East Stour Society some monies and they should be spent now as per her wishes and not idling in the bank. An idea raised was to give a significant donation to purchase a swing. Also some of the money to be donated towards the continuation of the footpath on the playing field. These ideas will be discussed at the East Stour parish meeting next week.

DC MEMBERS' REPORT

Cllr Jane Somper (The Beacons), gave her report. She reported on the following: - The Dorset Council Plan, Highways, Children and Young People, Fuel Poverty, Climate Emergency, Working with Town and Parish Councils and Peer Review.

Cllr Jane Somper was thanked for her report.

Cllr David Walsh sent his apologies. Cllr Belinda Ridout read out his report which covered the following: - Portfolio Holder – Planning, full Council 17/10/19), Planning Advisory Service, The Peer Review has been postponed until January due to

the Election, Gypsy & Traveller sites will be progressed through the Dorset Local Plan, Work underway on the New Dorset single Plan and an "Issues and Options" paper will be going out to public consultation September 2020.

Cllr Belinda Ridout (Gillingham ward) reported on the following: - Climate Change Workshop, Climate Change, 'Safewise' Dorset (formerly 'Streetwise'), Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel, Dorchester, Strategic Planning Committee, Northern Planning Committee, Full Council Thursday 17th October of particular interest:- Youth Justice Plan, Council Tax – Support for Care Leavers, Working with Parish & Town Councils, South West in Bloom, Gillingham Town Team, Bee and Butterfly Garden, Gillingham Station, Local Government Association Peer Review, Gillingham & Transport Forum meeting (6/11/19), Gillingham Sustainable Transport Improvements and Planning Training.

Belinda does hold a 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.

Cllr Belinda Ridout was thanked for her report.

Cllr Val Potheary said that there is little to add following her colleagues' reports. There appears to be an improvement in communication with Town and Parish councils. Dorset Councillors are sending monthly reports to Parish Councils. The proposed planning peer review has been postponed until 15th January 2020 because of the Election on 12th December. Val emphasised about giving material planning responses to planning applications. Councillors present said that they felt they require more training on this. Val said she would see if there planning training available. Since the Dorset Council was formed in April there are 5 different Local Plans and the aim is to produce 1 Local Plan for Dorset Council. Also discussed with members present, was the shortfall of housing supply in North Dorset and the effect it is having that planning applications are being submitted to build outside the settlement boundaries (especially in West Stour). This stems back that North Dorset failed to meet its target because builders were (and still) not building and NDDC was in default. Planning Department do look at individual applications before making a decision. It was agreed a new Local Plan is need as there is a housing/land supply problem.

Cllr Val Potheary was thanked for her report.

Rights of Way Officer's report - Mr Hibbert gave the following report: - The footpaths are mostly passable, work continues keeping them clear. If there are any problems please let Martin know.

The Footpath diversion at Meads Farm, Stour Provost has been done, just waiting for the legal paperwork.

Footpath at Stour Provost Mill, Graham Stanley, Dorset Council has checked the area as it is close to the river and could be subject to flooding.

The footpath behind East Stour Village Hall has been blocked for a long time after meeting with the landowners the path might be diverted or a new bridge installed. This is still being investigated.

Footpath from Sandilands Close to Browns Lane the bridge across the ditch has collapsed, Dorset County will have the funds to replace it next year. In the meantime it has been repaired temporarily.

West Stour the diversion at Church Farm is ongoing. The proposed new development at Church Farm do not affect the footpaths.

Planning application for the solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen was refused on the grounds of the impact of visibility, however there is possibility of a resubmission.

Adopt a path scheme, this is where the community take on more ownership of footpaths. People walk regularly keep the footpath cleared and do low maintenance. There might be minor funding requirements.

The Gillingham & Shaftesbury health walks are still going ahead if you wish to joint let Martin know.

There is Ash die back in Woodland Trust woods.

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall said that The Copse, East Stour which has a TPO has a 'Sale agreed' sign. If there are any further developments please let her know. Nothing further to report.

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

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins sent in the following report "I am afraid I have no cones left as highways took them when I had to use them to point out where a manhole had been left with the lid off! This was extremely dangerous but highways have been notified and corrected the situation. There is a flood problem on the bend of the 3092 opposite where the Gypsy family are but I do not have enough signs to put out there, that I am sure is a drain problem. Trill has flooded badly again too but that is the norm there". Clerk has contacted Roger Bell about the cones. Also Cllr Mrs Wilkins would like to relinquish the post as she does not have the time or anywhere to store the signs/cones.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Uden attended the last Forum meeting on 6th November. Concerns raised about the future of the X4 bus route which passes through East Stour but the South West buses representatives said there was no plans to alter the present schedule. Also brought up is a request that the buses from Motcombe to the railway station be amended as present timetable does not link with train timetable. SWB representative said she would look into this. The SWB representative will also look into buying tickets which enable journeys to be made in adjoining counties. It was felt that more buses are need in the Peacemash area, this will be looked into and a report will be provided for their next meeting. Shaftesbury Car link has 13 volunteers who do a 1000 trips a month and it was felt that the service needed to be linked with other community services. A meeting was proposed with all parties concerned to co-ordinate resources. Finally £30million is being paid directly to local authorities in 2020/21to help improve restore current bus services. There was no one in attendance to give further information so this has been put on the next meeting agenda for February 2020. Cllr Mrs Uden was thanked for her report.

Business Agenda

2019/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Mrs F Stanford and Mrs C Wilkins.

2019/115 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.

2019/116 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2019/117 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2019.

The minutes were agreed and adopted as a correct record proposed by Cllr Amlôt and seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins.

2019/118 MATTERS ARISING

Cost of plaque for the bench in memory of Hans Feld was £25.

2019/119 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.

2019/120 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- Reduction of the speed limit on the B3092 (Stour Provost to Todber) – Cllr King said that Joe Allen, Principal Technician Transportation Modelling, Highways said that the parishes will need to request a traffic survey in order to monitor speed. The survey will be a joint one and will cost £250. Also required are details of any incidents along the highway. If there are any please report them to Cllr King or Cllr Nalty.
- Todber Lay-by and the possible need to remove the scalplings – Cllr Bowe said that this came up during a conversation with Roger Bell. This is part of the highway which is blocked by scalplings (placed to prevent unlawful encampment of Travellers). It means HGVs cannot park there and at present are parking in Mr Trowbridge's entrance, which is a visibility display and this is dangerous. Roger was making the Council aware, as the scalplings might be removed.
- SIDs, East Stour, new solar panel should be installed shortly when Joe Allen returns from sick leave. Clerk to check that it is securely fixed. Todber – Cllr King said that the SID is deployed for 6 weeks on and 6 weeks off. The maximum recorded speed was 60mph and the 85 percentile maximum was 36mph, which means the recorded speed of vehicles has gone up. West Stour – Cllr Mrs Sealy said that the VarioSID has been borrowed from East Stour. This one say 'Thank you' when keeping to the 30mph limit, which is well received.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour – Mr Guy Gilding reported that David Little has gathered names for a willing group which Guy will happily lead and hoped to get the group started asap. Todber – Cllr King said that they have not been out lately. He has attended conference which was successful. West Stour – there is a lack of volunteers and they find it difficult to go out. Cllrs Mrs Sealy and King were thanked for their reports.
- Highway maintenance – no issues arose.
- Pleck, East Stour covered under Public discussion.

2019/121 PLANNING MATTERS

- Appeal by Mr & Mrs Jackson Inspectorate's Ref: APP/D1265/W/19/3235598 Application No: 2/2019/0345/FUL Tennis Court 60M from Hill Farm Green Lane to Foyle Hill, Stour Row Proposal: Erect 1 No. dwelling, create new access and 2 No. parking spaces.
- TPO-617-2019 at the Copse, Hunger Hill East Stour was confirmed without modification under delegated powers on 23 September 2019.
- Land at Stour Hill Park, West Stour stationing of 3 caravans prior to infrastructure being provided – agreed to report to Enforcement Planning Team.
- Proposed Solar Farm, Fifehead Magdalen - application refused.
- New Tree Preservation Order TPO-627-2019 (provisional) has been made at Land At The Old Stables, Church Street, West Stour to prevent the full scale removal of all trees on this site. (Discussed in public discussion time).
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

2019/122 CORRESPONDENCE

Copy of letter addressed to J Wiltshire, Head of Highways, received from Mr J Trim about the highway verges in West Stour, in particular The Lynch. Members were reminded that the first 3ft of the verge is Dorset County land. This is being dealt with by Rolly Skeats, Dorset Council. Clerk to ask for a copy of their reply.

2019/123 DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS

Gillingham ward monthly reports duly circulated.

Community SID update No. 5 (previously circulated).

Cllr Bowe said that he attended a workshop at Durweston Village Hall. The presentation focused on how Dorset Council can work together with Town and Parish Councils. Cllr Bowe said it was a useful meeting talking about the values of working together and there was a chance to air views, such as that Town and Parish Councils were recognising the new Dorset Council. Views will be feedback and collated also it will be ongoing.

2019/124 CLIMATE CHANGE

Cllr Mrs Edwards said that she has given a lot of suggestions to Simon Hoare. The Government is taking climate change seriously, as is Dorset Council. On 19th November there is a Town & Parish Council Climate Emergency Advice Seminar at Dorchester to provide information and advice on how councils can respond to the Climate Emergency.

2019/125 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS

The Stours Parish Council website is not exempt and needs to be DDA compliance with the WCAG (The Web Accessibility Guidelines) 2.1 by 23rd September 2020. Our existing website is managed by ICT Vision. Our website does require updating. Vision ICT has quoted £970 + vat. Some thought that this is a lot of money especially if our website is not viewed a lot. Clerk to find out how many "hits" there are. There are other companies that can be approached. Clerk to ask if the Vision ICT sales executive could give a presentation at our next meeting. Cllr Nalty said that he would investigate this more.

2019/126 V E DAY 75 (8TH – 10TH MAY 2020)

Cllr Mrs Bennett said that Cllr McConnell and herself attended the TESS meeting to discuss arrangements to celebrate V E Day on 8th May. They have agreed that it is better that there is one joint event, the Village Hall Committee TESS and East Stour parish meeting. A suggestion is a tea dance there might be some extra costs. It is at the early stages and the plans will be discussed further at East Stour parish meeting next week.

2019/127 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Jane Westbrook sent in an update: - Dorset County has had to go back to the drawing board to establish ownership of the land. Jane hopes to provide more information in time for West Stour parish meeting 10th December.

2019/128 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Outline planning application for housing is being submitted. The link road should be going ahead early next year.

2019/129 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st September 2019 – 31st October 2019

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31st October 2019 – NSB £11,910.90. Scottish Widows Bank – £25,240.05 Lloyds plc – £4,436.47.

Included in these balances is £6,850.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165, 2017/114, 2018/113, 2018/133 & 2019/109).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.9.19 to 31.10.19 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.

Cllr Mrs Bennett has completed the quarterly check of bank reconciliation dd 7/11/19.

Payments

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

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £32.50
- Gillingham Town Council £213 (local delivery service, second half).
- Karen James - grass cutting Stour Row - £225
- P Bowe – travel expenses - £32.49
- G Spicer – repair of Todber's Jubilee bench - £160.
- D Little – reimburse strimmer fuel costs (WFM) - £6.30.
- It was agreed to investigate more cost effective ways to restore Stour Row and Stour Provost finger posts as it was felt that the quotes from Roger Bond (Normtech) of approximately £1800 for each post was a lot of money..
- Request from St John Ambulance for a donation of as little of £75 from each parish. It was resolved not to make a donation. It was pointed out that the Red Cross raise funds and do not ask for donations in this manner.
- It was agreed that the proposal for a one frame holding two toddler swings is installed at East Stour playing field (quotes received without VAT are £2,745 and £2,599 with funding from TESS. The swings would be the property of the Stours Parish Council) be discussed further at East Stour parish meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards.

Audit year End 31st March 2019

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".

Insurance Policy renewal

Revised quote received from Came & Co of £1060.35. It was **resolved** to have the amended cover. The Street Furniture sum insured has been reduced by £22,963.60 to a new total of £17,000.00 (for the Street Furniture covers £5,000 for bus shelters, £5,000 for Speed Indicator Devices, £3,000 for signs plus the addition of the Todber Gateway worth £4,000). The category for Outside Equipment has been deleted. The category for Gates and Fences has been deleted. The category for Playground Equipment has been deleted. The category for Sports Equipment has been deleted. The category for Natural Surfaces has been deleted. The category for Other Surfaces has been deleted. Stour Provost pavilion is insured for £76,771.

Proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins.

Clerk to advise Came & Co of the amendment to our insurance and to obtain the refund.

Review Internal Audit

Terms of Reference and audit planning and reporting produced. However one is required for Policy & Resources Committee.

Internal Auditor's report

Report received from Mrs Diana West (circulated). The matters brought to our attention have been addressed).

Budget and Precept for 2020/2021

Figures produced as at 31.10.19. Clerk to produce figures for the January meeting in order that the precept can be decided.

2019/130 REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was **resolved** to accept the Standing Orders were accepted with no amendments. It was **resolved** to adopt the Model Financial Regulations (2019) (NALC).

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr D Amlôt.

2019/131 DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9TH NOVEMBER 2019

Cllr Bowe reported that he and Cllr Mrs Wilkins attended the DAPTC AGM. John Parker, President said that they are moving away from the old structure and moving towards a new structure, as the five existing councils are now one council. Things will be done differently but there will constant communication.

There were 9 motions that were voted on, one of them was that NALC to lobby the Government to make Town and Parish Councils (T&PCs) statutory consultees for all planning applications within their council areas thereby ensuring T&PCs' comments are given greater weight.

2019/132 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. Agreed to place another advert for hiring of the pavilion & field in the Blackmore Vale magazine.

Stour Row – all fine.

d) Crime

Vicky gave her report at the beginning of the meeting.

e) DAPTC

Copy of letter addressed to Aidan Dunn, Executive Director (Corporate Development S151) Dorset Council regarding the setting of the tax base for the last financial year, in the hope the position is rectified for future years (circulated).

The next Northern Area meeting – to be advised.

f) CPRE

Countryside Voice & Fieldwork publications. Dorset Review.

Cllr Amlôt read out the latest news for North Dorset from the CPRE newsletter. This included:

- The progression of the Dark Sky status for the Cranborne Chase AONB.
- The proposal to establish the rural area of the County of Dorset as a National Park.
- It was highlighted that the local CPRE chair had been involved in campaigning against the proposed solar farm in the Stour Valley.
- The point was raised that it may be useful to receive a brief from the local CPRE representative on the items that we are most likely to interact on as a Parish Council.
- Since the meeting, as agreed, Mr Rupert Hardy has been contacted and will give a short 15 minute presentation at the start of the next Parish Council meeting on 9 January 2020.

2019/133 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

To set the 2020/2021 precept. New website regulations. Attendance of a Vision ICT sales executive? Terms of Reference for Policy & Resources Committee. Appoint a Flood warden. Rupert Hardy, CPRE will give a brief presentation.

2019/134 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

9th January 2020 at Stour Provost, 12th March 2020 at East Stour, 14th May 2020 at Stour Row, 9th July 2020 at West Stour, 10th September 2020 at Stour Provost, 12th 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