

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th January 2015
In Stour Row Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs R Cowan (Chairman), Mrs D Chard, P Gould, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, D Little, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, M Ratcliffe, M Rymill, Mrs M Rymill, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox and Mr Martin Hibbert (Footpath Liaison Officer).

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

PCSO Rich Mullins sent his apologies.

DCC MEMBER'S REPORT – No report received.

NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT.

Cllr Mrs Handford sent her apologies - report attached.

Public Discussion –

Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report

Mr Hibbert said that the work on the wet patch at Church Close, Todber is coming along slowly. It is not practical to use volunteers to lay the stone along the 40m. Three quotes are being obtained to get the work done professionally.

Lyde Hill Farm, Graham Stanley has met with Mr Trim who has now signed a Section 31 Agreement to allow an open permissive path to run north - south. The rerouting of footpath at Summerleaze Farm and Udder Farm Shop has been successful and the final paperwork has been signed. The footpath in Stour Row to Duncliffe Wood is an ongoing project for this year. Members present were reminded how good the online Dorset Explorer map is for locating footpaths.

As always we are really appreciative of all the work Mr Hibbert does regarding the footpaths.

Yew Tree Farm (item 14), Mr Hibbert explained the reason for the diversion is that at present the legal line of the footpath goes through the middle of the farm buildings and the permissive path has been used for over five years.. This will be discussed under item 14.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said there has been flooding and the land around is very wet. The river is low, it does go up but then goes down.

Cllr Rymill said there is still a problem with flooding from Brown's Lane. DCC Highways do clear the gullies but they leave the spoil on the side and consequently when it rains the spoil gets washed down the highway. He will report this to DCC.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said that there was nothing to report as there has not been a meeting. They are trying to arrange one.

Business Agenda

2015/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs J Claughton, Mrs B Edwards, G Herring, Miss H O'Sullivan, Mrs E Scott and Lady Stagg.

2015/002 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that if they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) on their register relating to any item on this agenda, they may not take part in the debate and may not vote. If they have a DPI on any item that is not on their register they must declare that interest, take no part in the debate or vote and register such interest within 28 days.

No member declared any DPI

2015/003 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

19 forms held all with the matter of "Setting the Parish Council Precept", expiry date 7 May 2015. Cllr Parker proposed that these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

2015/004 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2014.

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

2015/005 MATTERS ARISING

- The west to east sign has been erected by Stower Provost Community School.
- Response regarding the consultation paper has been received and circulated by e-mail from Robert Ford, Head of Corporate Planning, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service.
- East Stour Village Action Plan – Cllr Little said there is a balance of £700 with one or two small expenses to settle. He will be meeting with Cllr Miss O’Sullivan to finalise the distribution of funds. It is expected that the funds will go towards the Village Hall restoration project.

2015/006 PLANNING MATTERS

- The Old Rectory, Stour Provost, 1 Horse Chestnut and 1 Leylandi – fell.
- The Old Post Office and Provost House, Stour Provost, 1 Cherry (Provost House) reduce by 6ft, Acer crown lift to 6ft and reduce by 8ft and Hornbeam crown lift to 6ft and reduce by 8ft (Old Post Office).
- Church House, Stour Provost, Chilean Cedar – fell.
- The response to the application 2/2014/1451 Nonna’s Cottage. No objection to the proposal in principle, but the following comments were made: - The Street, which is in the conservation area has not altered in appearance for a great many years and this proposal would represent a significant change. It is felt that a stone facing to match the existing dwelling would be more in keeping than the proposed timber cladding. The roof line of the new extension is considered to be too high.
- See attached appendix 1 for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting.

2015/007 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

2015/008 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Parker said that the closure at Dinah’s Hollow, Blandford Road, C13 is likely to take at least 2 years to reopen. On the dorsetforyou website there is an update from Deborah Croney, Leader NDDC. There are worries about the increased use of surrounding roads, such as more potholes.

2015/009 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

- Tri- Council Partnership Survey Following the decision of North Dorset District Council to enter a Tri-Council Partnership with West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, North Dorset have decided to undertake a consultation asking what people think the objectives/priorities of the Tri-Council Partnership should be. Consultation closes 16th January 2015. The survey can be found by accessing the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Tri-councilPartnershipConsultation>. It was agreed that it is peculiar being consulted after it had been decided to go forward as a Tri-Council Partnership. It does appear that they are going in the direction of a Unitary Council. The options 1) Improve efficiency, 2) Reduce costs, 3) More consistent services, 4) more economic influence over economic growth. It was agreed to respond with reduced costs (this would improve efficiency) and to comment that we think that they are all important. Also that we are intrigued that there was not this consultation before the forming of the partnership.
- Submission of the North Dorset Local Plan 2011 – 2016 Part 1. This sets out the planning strategy for North Dorset until 2026. The documents can be viewed online at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/northdorsetsubmittedlocal> plan or at their main office, Nordon. Cllr Parker felt there was a need to look further at the 'countryside' policy in the new Local Plan, especially the facility to 'opt-in' for development under Part 2. It was suggested that each parish cast their minds to where their greenspaces are and if there are any particular areas they have concerns about.

2015/010 2014-16 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

It was **resolved** that the Clerk’s hourly rate be increased to £10.836 with effect from 1st January 2015 per NJC for Local Government Services. Proposed Cllr Little, seconded Cllr T Jones.

2015/011 DAPTC TRAINING COURSES

It was agreed that when the 2015 schedule is published (available from DAPTC website and/or the Clerk) that Councillors consider the training sessions offered and to try and attend if they seem worthwhile. When a Councillor has attended a

course that they report back at the next meeting. It is felt that there is always something to learn and policies do change. Please also see Cllr Little's report attached.

Cllr Mrs Sealy said that Cllr Miss O'Sullivan and she attended the planning seminar which was useful.

The DAPTC Annual Conference is on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at Kingston Maurward, where there will be high powered speakers with short pertinent presentations. Cllr Parker will attend.

2015/012 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- East Stour Crossroads. Nothing more to report since Cllr Mrs Edwards spoke to DCC Highway representatives taking photographs and talking about replacing signage. Hopefully Cllr Cattaway might have further to add at the next meeting.
- Todber (B3092). The original request for a speed limit along the B3092 does not meet the essential criteria for 30mph, which is correct and it was suggested that the Department of Transport guidance be followed to find ways to discourage drivers going too fast as there are concerns of accidents at Great Down Lane, Westminster Buildings and Red Lane (by the Quarry) junctions. DCC has been contacted for a site meeting to address these issues. They were happy to meet after the data collected from the speed tubes had been placed by Great Down Lane and by Hanson Concrete (which approaches the sharp bend). The results are concerning as there are vehicles exceeding 60mph every day and 55mph plus by the bend. DCC has been reminded for the third time about the proposed site meeting as there has been no response. There has been some confusion and DCC are now saying a site meeting was not agreed, however the Chairman has e-mails confirming that a site meeting will be held after the placing of speed tubes. Cllr Parker suggested that the Chairman might like to contact Steve Howard DCC Highways Strategy & Community Liaison Manager about 'walk, talk, build', which is a budget scheme designed for simple/low cost/high value projects.

2015/013 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT TODBER B3092 LAY-BY

The Travellers are still there. The Chairman gave a brief synopsis of the Todber Parish meeting held on 28th November. In attendance were Cllr Cattaway, Peter Moore, Head of Environment, DCC, Ms Paula Clover, Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer, Giles Nicholson, Area Manager, West and North Dorset Countryside, and two Police Officers as well as approximately 40 Todber residents. It was a lively meeting of views and concerns being exchanged. DCC undertook to provide monthly progress updates, the first of which has been received. Every power that Eric Pickles, Secretary of State identified to remove the Travellers, apart from Section 55 of the Civil Procedure Rules, DCC had a reason why not to use it. MP Robert Walter has agreed to forward the residents' concerns to the Secretary of State, but we await a response. DCC undertook to arrange for the Fire Service to visit the Travellers to give safety advice of the use of wood burners and gas burners in their caravans. In the first progress report DCC said that the Travellers are not prepared to co-operate and have declined a visit. This request has been reiterated, pointing out the value of a professional assessment regarding site safety matters when seeking an eviction order from the Court.

The earliest the Travellers can be evicted is March as DCC has to follow a legal procedure, using a Civil Law, rather than a Criminal Law. Also they have to show that they have considered their human rights. DCC are in a weak position as there are insufficient authorised sites. Once they have moved on they can return to the same site. A pre-emptive injunction could be obtained by DCC which would prevent them from returning. DCC are looking at this with their lawyers.

2015/014 APPLICATION FOR A PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Footpath N71/11 Stour Provost Yew Tree Farm. The legal footpath presently runs through the farm buildings. For several years the permissive path (proposed diversion) has been used as an alternative. It was agreed that the Parish Council to respond "We see no reason at this stage to object to the proposed diversion(s) but reserve the right to do so later".

2015/015 SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Regular updates are circulated from the Project Team before our meetings. Parts of Todber/Marnhull should be connected in the spring. The rest of the Stours will be later. There has been evidence of the green cabinets being installed in Marnhull and East Stour.

2015/016 ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY INTEREST IN PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Fifteen ideas from Cynthia Starkey, Chief Executive, DAPTC were previously circulated. This to be discussed at next meeting with some ideas.

2015/017 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Cllr Parker reported that all the West Stour contingent have been vetted and are on the system. They were due to have an onsite training in December but this has been postponed until January. A further report will be given at the next meeting.

2015/018 PROPOSAL FOR THE UNION OF PARISH AND A DECLARATION OF CLOSURE FOR REGULAR PUBLIC WORSHIP

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee is considering making recommendations to the Bishop under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 that the church of All Saints, Stour Row shall be closed for public worship (previously circulated). It is a sad fact that the members are getting older and no younger people are coming forward and the upkeep has led to the decision to close All Saints for regular worship. The church of St Michael and All Angels, Stour Provost shall be the parish church.

This led to the discussion about the upkeep of the churchyard should the church close. It can still be maintained by the parish and grants from the parish precept can still be paid towards the maintenance. The parish council support whatever the Stour Row parishioners decide about their churchyard.

2015/019 CONSULTATION DORSET HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRC)

This has been previously circulated. Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) is reducing costs for its seven partner councils by sharing resources, working across boundaries and introducing a new collection service that has increased recycling and reduced landfill waste. However, with on-going reductions in funding, the DWP and its partners are under increasing pressure to provide services for less money. They are looking at all areas of the services they provide to find the savings needed. One of these is their network of 11 household recycling centres. They are looking at a range of options to provide a more efficient service that remains convenient and accessible for local people. The savings needed are significant and some difficult decisions will need to be made.

It was agreed that none of the options were appropriate, as each would result in increased fly tipping. Apart from the despoilment this would cause, the costs of dealing with it could mean that little or no saving was made overall. Clerk to respond accordingly.

2015/020 MACMILLAN PATIENT INFORMATION PROJECT

Jane Simkin is currently leading on a project across the whole of Dorset, which is funded by Macmillan and hosted by Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The aim of the project is to explore and scope the provision of Patient Information across Dorset, to discover what information is available. It was agreed that this is a good idea but her offer to attend a meeting of the Council and make a presentation was not necessary; it would incur travel expenses and the money could be well spent elsewhere.

2015/021 TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2015/16

The Stours Group Parish Council to set their precept for 2015/16. At their respective parish meetings the following precepts were agreed –East Stour parish - £2500, Stour Provost parish - £4500, Todber – £690 and West Stour parish - £750. The Parish precepts were agreed, proposed by Cllr Mrs V Jones, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

A budget forecast with expenditure to 31.12.14 was produced by the Chairman and Clerk.

Local Delivery Service

Gillingham Town Council has requested £853.44 which was agreed.

Shaftesbury Town Council has requested £705. We have written again to Shaftesbury Town Council, as the information provided failed to answer our questions and their response is unsatisfactory. They say that they cannot confirm the figure of £705. 2014/15 expenditure is greater than 2015/16. They have failed to explain why costs have risen more than the rate of inflation and what alternative funding approaches had been explored. We feel we cannot spend our tax payers' money until we receive further information. From the 3 year accounts provided we are unable to discern their figures. However, it was agreed to make a provision of £705 in our precept figures, pending further information.

The Governance and Accountability (England) – Practitioners' Guide 2014 Para 2.26 Reserves, advice to generally recommend a reserve of 3-12 months operating costs. It was agreed that we would hold a contingency of £4000 (3 months).

It was resolved that the precept for the Stours Parish Council be £14600. Proposed by Cllr Ratcliffe, seconded by Cllr T Jones.

2015/022 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1 November 2014 – 31 December 2014

Please see attached Income and Expenses detailed.

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31 December 2014 – NSB £4891.27. Scottish Widows Bank – £18549.86. Lloyds plc – £4578.85

Included in these balances is £3425.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94). Cllr Parker pointed out that it should be called Clerk's gratuity as the council has not set up a pension scheme.

Copy of account balances 1.11.14 to 31.12.14 and budget 2014/15 summary distributed

It was resolved to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Watkins & agreed by all.

2015/023 FINANCE – PAYMENTS

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- £103 – renewal of subscription to Society Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

It was resolved to authorise the above payment Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Chard and agreed by all.

2015/024 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

- a) Chairman's – The Chairman said that he had nothing else to report.
- b) Clerk's
Local Councils Update. Community.com. 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's report previously circulated. Proposed Scoot Track, the two quotes issued are out of date but only quote for self-binding gravel surface. He has contacted both companies to re quote based on three possible surface types to give the council a choice of path surface rather than just cost. Also he has asked a third company (GJC Groundwork in Shaftesbury) to provide similar quotes. All three have been asked to confirm that quotes will be valid while funds are raised and also what time of year is recommended for each surface type laying. Maintenance of the pathways will be a consideration too, both existing quotes mention wooden edging that, if a permanent feature, will need replacing and also may hamper grass cutting.
Stour Provost – the pavilion doors need to be repaired as they can be opened whilst locked. There will be a discussion about possibly erecting a barrier to the field entrance.
- d) Crime
PCSO 5412 Mullins sent his apologies and his report was circulated by e-mail.
- e) DAPTC
Next Northern Area meeting 13th January 2015, The Pavilion Okeford Fitzpaine. Cllr Parker & Mrs Chard will attend. The Annual Conference is Wednesday 25th February 2015 at Kingston Maurward, Cllr Parker will attend and report back.
- f) CPRE
Nothing to report.

2015/025 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- All Saints Church, Stour Row
- Highway Matters - Todber B3092 and East Stour Crossroads
- Report from DAPTC Annual Conference (Cllr Parker)
- Invite PCSO Mullins.
- Unlawful encampment of Travellers at Todber B3092 lay-by
- Community Speedwatch
- Encouraging community interest in Parish and Town Council Elections

2015/026 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

12th March 2015 at West Stour, 14th May 2015 at Stour Provost, 9th July 2015 at East Stour, 10th September 2015 at Stour Row, 12th November 2015 at West Stour.

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

.....Chairman Date