

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 9th January 2020
In Stour Provost Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), D Amlôt, Mrs L Bennett, P Bowe, Mrs B Edwards, R McConnell, J Nalty, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs F Stanford, L Trowbridge, Mrs J Uden, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, Dorset Council, DCCllrs Belinda Ridout & Jane Somper, Mrs Terry Bagnall (Tree warden).

The Chairman welcomed those present. Unfortunately Mr Rupert Hardy, Group Chairman CPRE was unable to attend the meeting.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

Public Discussion – none.

DC MEMBERS' REPORT

Cllr Jane Somper (The Beacons), gave her report on the following: - Planning of Dorset Heathlands, Budget Scrutiny - DC has submitted proposals for its 2020/21 budget (link on the DC website). Climate Emergency – DC is asking for a “call for ideas” to help tackle climate change and ecology concerns, the consultation remains open until February 28th. Surgeries – Jane is considering holding bi-monthly or quarterly surgeries and is seeking views. Police Day – over the Christmas period Jane arranged to spend a day shift with the local Rural Crime team, which was a fascinating day and learned how much hard work our Police do. Views being sought on future funding for Voluntary Organisations beyond March 2021, the survey is available on the Dorset Council's website.

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 – Gillingham Southern Extension, the lead Planning officer has had to take early retirement, a new Senior Planning Officer with great experience in major projects has been recruited. Statement of community involvement, revised document will be presented at cabinet on 28th January. It will set out how DC will involve the community in the preparation and review of Planning Policy documents and making decisions. The Dorset Local Plan, work continues on a single Plan for Dorset, with the Executive Advisory Panel working with Planning Officers to ring together previous Local Authority Plan documents and all previous Public Consultations together. Belinda was thanked for David's report.

Cllr Belinda Ridout (Gillingham ward): - As well as the monthly reports circulated, Belinda said that Climate Change is a big thing with Dorset Council. The policy is to reduce the amount of single use plastic. “Call for Ideas” so far there have been over 200 public responses. Information has been provided to Dorset Councillors on the current state of Council's emissions via its own buildings. Members remain keen to explore how the Planning system can help mitigate climate change by potentially introducing new incentives and regulations for future developments. Panel members agreed that the continuing ambition is for Dorset to become “green” – reach a net-zero carbon emission state – as quickly as possible. Also an aspiration for Dorset Council to produce its own green energy. The panel reiterated their intention to visit local schools to talk to students directly about climate change. Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel, Dorchester is tasked with keeping the preparation of the Local Plan for the whole of the Unitary Authority on track for the next 4 years. Gillingham Station Bee & Butterfly Garden proposal due to significant fees required by Network Rail to convert a small grassed area adjacent to Platform 2 a totally different approach will be considered following advice from Simon Hoare MP. 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 sent her apologies.

Cllr Mrs Frances Stanford read out details of recycling at Stour Row Village Hall by Teracycle. She will forward details to the Clerk for circulation.

It was agreed to spread the word that there is a need to reduce waste at landfill, reuse and recycle.

Rights of Way Officer's report - Mr Hibbert sent his apologies and sent the following report (subsequently): -
Just a few things....obviously everything is wet and muddy!

1. Stour Provost Mill. Footpath fenced off close to the mill pond and floods after heavy rain. Graham Stanley (Dorset Council Ranger) will investigate.
 2. East Stour footpath from Back Street to Witch Lane blocked by ditch and new fencing. Path will either be reopened or diverted, discussions under way.
 3. New footbridge installed south of Udder Farm shop
 4. Stour Row, path by 'Melbury View' has been unusable for years, now hoping to reopen.
 5. Todber, gate on path towards Pigeon House Farm still unusable. Will ask Dorset Council to progress.
- Volunteer work continues & we'll be cutting back brambles before spring growth starts as well as repairing stiles. Do let me know if you see problems.

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall said that she has met the new owners of The Copse who will have their work cut out. There appears to be no worries following the TPO.
Stour Provost, Stour Row, Todber and West Stour nothing to report.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that there have been floods everywhere as it has been very wet. A cover was left off a manhole on a verge, which was dangerous, now been rectified. The bollards have not been replaced. Clerk did say that Roger Bell wanted to know what type and then he will replace them. Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that whoever takes on the role of Flood warden would need to be able to store the signs when not in use.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Uden said the next meeting is 5th February 2020.

Business Agenda

2020/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Mrs V Jones, R King and R Robson.

2012/02 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.

2020/03 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

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

2020/04 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2019.

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

2020/05 MATTERS ARISING

Parish Council Standing Orders accepted without amendments dated 14.11.19 and Model Financial Regulations 2019 dated 14.11.19 were sent out by E-mail to Councillors.

2020/06 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.
Cllr McConnell said that there might be somebody interested for East Stour.

2020/07 APPOINT A FLOODWARDEN

No volunteers put on March's agenda.

2020/08 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Reduction of the speed limit on the B3092 (Stour Provost to Todber) – Cllrs King and Nalty are co-ordinating any incidents (need date/times) along this stretch of the highway. From Cllr King – as previously reported, I've asked Dorset Highways about speed surveys and, subsequently, sent a follow-up email. There has been no response, so I will have to try again. Before Christmas a Todber resident reported that a car had left the road at Quarry Bend and ended up in a field.

- SIDs, East Stour, Guy Gilding sent his apologies and sent in the following report. SID deployment continuing as normal with occasional swaps with West Stour. Todber – Cllr King sent in the following report SID was taken down on Saturday 4th after six weeks in Red Lane. Speeds were: average – 30 mph 85% up to and including - 36 mph maximum – 70 mph at 0812 on Saturday 28th December.
West Stour – Cllr Mrs Sealy said that the SID is deployed east to west then west to east every six weeks.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour – Mr Guy Gilding reported that he will be leading the CSW group and has been given the date of 27th January to start by the CSW co-ordinator. He will be communicating with the volunteers ASAP. Todber – Cllr King sent in the following report: Todber CSW hasn't been operating. The police Trucam is coming to Todber for an hour's session in Church Lane on Monday 27th January. The Trucam has the same function as the camera in a van but is outside on a tripod. One member of the CSW team has to attend but only to count vehicles and take any photos required. Paul Bowe and I will be attending. At the Todber Parish meeting in November, I asked who was concerned about the speed of traffic through the village. A majority put their hands up. Later I asked for additional members to join our CSW team. There was no response. I want to continue CSW in Todber. On 27th November, I met our PCSO, Vicky Gibbs, in Todber and asked her to re-assess the suitability of the Red Lane site and to approve a site in Shave Lane. As yet I haven't heard back from her.
West Stour – From their parish meeting in December the Clerk said that the team still continue to go out when possible.
- Pleck, East Stour - the trees have been planted and it was agreed by all that it jolly well does look nice.

2020/09 PLANNING MATTERS

- Appeal by Mr & Mrs Boyd, Application No. 2/2019/0842/FUL, Little Meadow, East Stour. Proposal erect 1 No. dwelling with ancillary accommodation (demolish existing).
- Notice of Confirmation of a Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order Highways Act 1980 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Dorset County Council (part of Footpath 64, Stour Provost at Meads Farm) Public path Diversion Order 2019.
- Re planning application 2/010/0293 The Dorset Showground, there have been some queries as to whether the recently installed lights conform to the planning application. Maybe possible breach, ENF/2020/0001 received.
- The applicant for the proposed solar Farm at Fifehead Magdalen has appealed, no official consultation has been received yet.
- DCCllr Belinda Ridout will be attending a SSDC meeting regarding light pollution from industrial sites adjacent to Henstridge Airfield. No issues have arisen by the Stours in the past.
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

2020/10 CORRESPONDENCE

NALC - Consultation: Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments responses required by 19.2.20. It was agreed that the Parish Council responds "We do think that the Police should have increased powers to direct trespassers to leave the land as soon as it has been determined that they are they illegally, provided that there are appropriate/reasonable places for these people to go". It was agreed that each councillor had his/her own view, because of the areas lived in and the fact that a couple of parishes are currently affected by this topic, so each councillor will submit their views.

2020/11 DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS

Gillingham ward monthly reports duly circulated.

Consultation on the Draft Heathlands Framework 202-20215 Supplementary Planning Document, Friday 3rd January to Monday 3 February 2020.

2020/12 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS

Cllr Nalty said that he had been investigating this further as our current website is not DDA compliant and has been liaising with Vision ICT (our current website host). It needs to be DDA compliant with the WCAG (The Web Accessibility Guidelines) 2.1 by 23rd September 2020. When compliant it can also be viewed on mobile devices, user friendly especially for younger people and the new content will be more manageable. Also Parish Meeting information can be posted on the website. The cost will be £650 plus Vat and not £970 plus VAT, which was the original quote. DAPTC will be organising a seminar which will be hosted by Vision ICT. Cllr Nalty said he would attend the seminar and report back at the next meeting. Vision ICT has been very supportive to DAPTC and other parish councils. Cllr Nalty was thanked for all his hard work in investigating this and for circulating the examples from other parish councils.

2020/13 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Jane Westbrook sent in an update for the West Stour parish meeting last December: - It has transpired that Mr Hinks' solicitor has established that he does not own the land by the lay-by. It seems no one is the registered owner of the front and rear lay-by and surrounding green area. Rebecca Buck of the Legal Team - who has been super helpful - wrote to tell Jane that she could not take things further without an owner. Jane remembered that Chris Lyle, the other landowner, had expressed interest in acquiring the land at their meeting. So Jane contacted him and this is the case. He is pursuing the matter with Land Registry, and is in touch with Rebecca. He is going to keep Jane informed, and is fully aware of the need to work with Wessex Water and parishes to fully accomplish a stop up. Jane plans to send an email out to all the working group that has been set up as soon as Chris lets her know something positive. In the meantime, Paula Clover has left the Travellers in situ way longer than usual.

2020/14 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

DCCllr Walsh gave an update in his report earlier. Also the Access road to the Southern Extension, (off the Shaftesbury Road) will be delivered before any development takes place and it is planned that work, by Dorset Council's Highways Dept. commences in June. Other Highway's improvements for Gillingham, previously consulted on, will begin this month.

2020/15 DORSET LENGTHSMAN

East Stour Parish has engaged the services of Mr Guy Gilding, Dorset Lengthsman. They have precepted monies to pay for the works.

2020/16 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st November 2019 – 31st December 2019

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31st December 2019 – NSB £11,910.90. Scottish Widows Bank – £18,240.05 Lloyds plc – £7,014.09.

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 1.11.19 to 31.12.19 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 Amlôt.

Cllr Mrs Bennett has the paperwork to do the quarterly check of bank reconciliation as at 31.12.19.

Payments

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

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £33.10
- SLCC (Society of Local council Clerks) – membership fees - £109 & ALCC (Association of Local Council Clerks) - £40.
- Play inspection Company – playground inspections - £198.
- To accept the quote from CR Groundcare Ltd to carry out grass cutting at Stour Provost playing field - £756 per annum to be split into 7 payments of £108.
- To accept the quote of approximately £450 from David Braybon to carry out tree works at Stour Provost playing field. The work has been carried out as the elm was too big in the hedge, this will now allow the oak to grow and the cost is about £240 plus VAT.

Proposed by Cllr Watkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards.

Clerk to write to Mr Rabbets, CR Groundcare advising him that we accept his quote for the playing field and to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance thanking them for their past services and that we no longer require them.

Budget and Precept for 2020/21

Precept derivation figures produced as at 31.12.19 and were perused and discussed. The website upgrade could come down as we now have a new figure. It was noted that the £3000 Highway Reserve had not be included in the 2020/21 column. It was agreed that the contingency should be £6000 as it was thought that £4000 was too low. It was asked what the £426 Local Delivery Service Gillingham Town Council for 2020/21 was for. It was thought to be for the toilets which are often vandalised and should we pay this contribution? Clerk to check with Gillingham Town Council.

It was **resolved** that the Stours Parish Council precept be £21,000 for 2020/21 and the following precepts, which were agreed at their respective parish meetings – East Stour parish - £7,000, Stour Provost parish - £5,270, Todber parish – £1,560 and West Stour parish - £1,800 (total £36,630) proposed by Cllr Mrs Watkins, seconded by Cllr Bowe.

Review Internal Audit

Terms of Reference for Policy & Resources Committee circulated and accepted. To be adopted at the next meeting.

2020/17 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. A plea from The Cinnamon Trust a charity that recruit/supplies dog walkers for the elderly who are unable to walk their dogs.

- c) Playing Fields
East Stour – Guy Gilding sent his apologies and said the playing field report from PI was good as usual. He'll make a more detailed response at the next meeting.
Stour Provost and the pavilion – all fine. Two adverts for hiring of the pavilion & field have been placed in the Blackmore Vale magazine with no response. Cllr Mrs Watkins said that this will be discussed further at another Stour Provost meeting. Steve Stokes has been hedging and the hedges are being kept as they should be.
Stour Row – all fine.

- d) Crime
Vicky gave her apologies (subsequently) she was unwell.

- e) DAPTC
The next Northern Area meeting is 15th January 2020 at Shaftesbury Town Hall. Cllrs Mrs Wilkins and Bowe will attend.

- f) CPRE
Countryside Voice & Fieldwork publications. Dorset Review.
Another date will be arranged for Rupert Hardy to attend one of our meetings. CPRE are aware that the proposed solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen will be going to appeal.

2020/18 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

New website regulations. Appoint a Flood warden. Vacancy for Clerk to the Council with effect from 1st October 2020.

2020/19 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

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 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date