

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th July 2015
In East Stour Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs R Cowan (Chairman), P Brown, G Gilding, Miss H O'Sullivan, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, J Nalty, J Parker, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, and Mrs C Wilkins.

Also present the Philip James, Planning Policy Manager – Interim, NDDC, Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, M Hibbert (FPLO) and one member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

Philip James introduced himself and addressed the meeting about Neighbourhood Plans (late substitute for Nick Cardnell). He went through the steps of a Neighbourhood Plan, which has a statutory status and is prepared by the parish council. It is about the use and development of land, needs to meet its best objectives and benefits for the neighbourhood. Once prepared, after going through many steps it is submitted to the NDDC being a statutory document. Housing targets have to be met by the District Council and they are focussing on the 4 market towns (Blandford Forum, Shaftesbury, Sherborne and Sturminster Newton), Stalbridge and the larger villages, this is part of the New Local Plan. Local open places (not green belt land) can be designated in the plan. We would need to promote sustainable development. Community support is required for development. NDDC do support Neighbourhood Plans. Our four parishes could submit a plan as the parish council or as separate parishes. If there is no neighbourhood plan development could take place in accordance with the Local Plan, it was advised to produce a plan if we wanted to prevent inappropriate developments taking place. It will cost the parish council in time and money. Technical and professional support could be sought within the parishes. Mr James or Development Control, could not guide us due to lack of resources, he referred us to the "Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap Guide" (given to the Clerk). Grants available from DCLG and Planning Aid, England. Settlement boundaries are to be reviewed by NDDC's Local Plan part 2. Other parish councils are preparing Neighbourhood Plans, such as Bourton and it was suggested we ask them for further information. It was commented that Gillingham southern extension will affect East Stour, especially the increased traffic along the B3092. We should be consulted as we are a neighbouring parish. Gillingham Town Council, DCC and Highways are involved with the Gillingham strategic extension (Local Plan part1). We were advised to express our concerns. Mr James was thanked for attending our meeting.

DCC MEMBER'S REPORT – No report received

NDDC WARD MEMBERS' REPORT – Cllr Dowden sent his apologies.

Cllr Jane Westbrook said that the Local Plan is in the consultation process and there are some changes but nothing significant. Gillingham is very concerned about the increase in traffic. There is a need to improve the road infrastructure as the proposed link is no longer going ahead due to cuts in funding. It was agreed that a letter be written to Dorset Highways pointing out the concerns of increased traffic along the B3092 with a copy for Gillingham Town Council. Also there are concerns about the lack of facilities such as schools and doctors when the houses are built in Gillingham. Jane also said that she is on the Strategic Delivery Committee and Planning Committee. She did recommend that we have a Neighbourhood Plan, because if there is not a development plan in place we do not have any control over it.

Public Discussion – No issues raised.

Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report - Mr Hibbert said that the footpaths are in good shape, with the regular maintenance of weed clearance. Maize obstructing footpaths appears to be a problem at the moment. Some obstructions are resolved. Cllr Gould was thanked for clearing the maize promptly on his land. There are no updates for Lyde Hill farm and the footpath at Todber as Graham Stanley is away. There are three diversions in progress Mead Farm, Yew Tree Farm and Tile House Farm.

The White Hart Link, which aims to share beautiful places is progressing slowly. Paths need to be cleared and to be used.

Sarah Stebbings is doing more work on improvements at Duncliffe Woods. It was suggested that the Parish Council make a contribution for a wooden sign post at Duncliffe Woods, this to be discussed at the next meeting. East Stour Parish has a reserve of £500 for footpath maintenance.

North Dorset Local Action Group (NDLAG) focus on small projects such as trail ways funding might be available. Cllr Parker will get some more information.

It was agreed that walkers need to respect the use of rights of ways.

Mr Hibbert was thanked for all the hard work he does and for his report.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said everything appears to be all right at the moment. An interest has been shown to DCC for “Flood” warning signs which would be used at the end of Shave Lane, Todber and on the B3092 as required.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said there is nothing to report but there is a meeting when she returns from her holiday.

Business Agenda

2015/87 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs P Bowe, Mrs T Bagnall, Mrs R Blacklock, Mrs B Edwards, P Gould, Mrs E Newton, Lady A Stagg and Mrs J Watkins.

2015/88 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

2015/89 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2015/90 APPOINTMENT TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEES

East Stour – Cllr T Jones. Stour Provost – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins. Stour Row – Cllr Mrs J Watkins. Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

2015/91 TO CONFIRM PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE FOR EAST STOUR

Cllrs G Gilding and T Jones and Mr O Salisbury. Proposed by Cllr Miss H O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by all.

2015/92 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th May 2015.

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

An e-mail was subsequently received from David Little saying that he was omitted from the Chairman's thanks to retiring councillors at the May meeting under item 2015/56. The Chairman replied saying that we are so sorry this was missed from our minutes and we can confirm that he was indeed honourably mentioned and was thanked for his contribution to the work of the Council, which was considerable and very much appreciated,

2015/93 MATTERS ARISING – Steps have been taken by the installation of posts to defend the Millennium Green, Todber against vehicle occupation. Should any vehicles occupy the Millennium Green then it would be classed as criminal damage.

2015/94/HIGHWAY MATTERS

Todber (B3092) – Request for ‘Slow’ markings, highway improvements imminent.

Pinch point at Highbridge, Lotmoor Hill, East Stour and West Stour. Rolly Skeats, DCC response was “I think the biggest problem has been the speed of the traffic at this point, on investigation it was found that the 30 mph repeater signs on the hill were missing and the ones opposite the garage were covered in foliage.

The missing repeater sign has now been replaced and the owner of the overgrown bush opposite the garage is about to cut it back to reveal the sign.

Hopefully this should sort things out, however we will keep an eye on this area over the coming weeks to make sure all is well”. It was agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting.

It was agreed to investigate why there is no “Stop” sign at East Stour crossroads.

2015/95 PLANNING MATTERS

- Outline Consent and Premises Approval for Child Okeford Surgery has been granted.
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

- It was noted that the work had started at the Udder Farm Shop. Consent was granted in 2006 for the extension, but what has been built is not what permission was granted for. The floor area is a little bigger. Cllr Gilding spoke to the owner and apparently no provision was made for the fire corridor/exit, hence the need to expand the base.
- Blue Barn, Stour Provost – an application has been made for Prior Approval of Change of Use. Concerns have been raised in the past with the number of planning applications submitted. The Blue Barn is not used solely for agricultural purposes. The proposed fabric of the 2 dwellings do not fit in with the surrounding dwellings. Would this lead to further development? Access to the B3092 is hazardous. The present site is an eyesore, subject to an enforcement, could this “rubbish” be dumped elsewhere? It was agreed that these concerns be sent to Development Control.

2015/96 NORTH DORSET NEW LOCAL PLAN

Cllrs Miss H O’Sullivan & P Brown attended the Planning Training Session hosted by North Dorset District Council on 30 June 2015. The presentation papers have been circulated. The Chairman has asked Councillors to think about individual commitment of personal time to a Neighbourhood Plan and there will be a need to involve other people. Deferred to the next agenda.

2015/97 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

2015/98 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

No other matters came to our attention.

2015/99 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

No other matters came to our attention.

2015/100 NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN EAST STOUR

Cllr Gilding said that this and the next item were discussed at East Stour Parish Meeting with all East Stour Parish Councillors and 20 residents in attendance. It was agreed unanimously that a human sundial (photograph circulated) with names on the stones be the proposed style of the war memorial. The Royal British Legion are helpful and supportive with this venture. The Parish Council agreed that this is a good compromise.

2015/101 EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD PROPOSED PATH

The proposed path will be an all-weather path, length approximately 450 metres. Three quotes have been obtained (these were circulated) and it was resolved at the Parish Meeting to go with the tarmac and compacted aggregate surface. The next step is applying for grant funding, £20,000 for the path, also funding for the gym and children’s playground equipment. There would be one grant covering everything. The Lottery Community Reach Fund (up to £100,000) and smaller grants of £10,000 maximum available. There will be a further report at the next meeting. The Hall and Woodhouse Community Chest was suggested.

Cllr Gilding was thanked for all his hard work with the above two projects.

2015/102 UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT OF TRAVELLERS AT FIVE BRIDGES LAY-BY

The Chairman attended a meeting on 3rd July with MP Simon Hoare, DCCllr Andrew Cattaway, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook and Cllr Philippa Chapman (Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna P.C.) about Travellers occupying unauthorised sites. The object was to produce an action plan to reduce unlawful encampments. Simon Hoare will make further enquiries and will explore a number of options with DCC and NDDC.

It has been suggested that the Travellers at Five Bridges will be moved on in October.

2015/103 SUPERFAST BROADBAND

The Chairman has asked for regular reports but no report has been received in time for this meeting. East Stour has had 2 green boxes installed. There is planning notification of a green box being installed at Great Down Lane/B3092. It is expected that East Stour boxes will serve Stour Provost.

2015/104 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Cllr Parker said that this is going from strength to strength. There has been a vast improvement in the reduction of speeding traffic. They go out once a week at various times catching speeding motorists. Highways will be asked for permanent “Community Speedwatch Area” sign to be erected. It is successful and having an effect. East Stour are putting forward a team.

2015/105 ADOPT A KIOSK

East Stour- The kiosk opposite The Crown is to be adopted, consent has been allowed for adoption so there is no requirement to go through the consultation. The one by the Crossroads is to stay because of it being an accident area and there is poor mobile signal reception. Stour Row – this can now be adopted, Clerk to let BT know. West Stour – this is going through the 90 day consultation process between BT and NDDC to remove the telephony service.

Stour Provost kiosk deferred to the next meeting.

2015/106 ALL SAINTS STOUR ROW

There have been no representations regarding the closure of public worship and it appears that the Church will close. Financial arrangements for the maintenance of the graveyard will be made and will be discussed at Stour Provost Parish meeting.

2015/107 DARK SKIES

Cllr Nalty said that Stour Provost has had a discussion about this with circulars being sent around seeking people's views and to raise awareness that if there is a lot of external lighting it does affect the presence of nocturnal animals. There is the counter argument of the use of security lighting and there needs to be a sympathetic approach to the use of lights during darkness. The Council supported this.

2015/108 INTERNAL AUDIT

Mrs Diana West has agreed to be the Council's Internal Auditor.

The Terms of Reference and having an Internal Audit Plan need to be checked. Cllr Parker and the Clerk will check the Governance and Accountability in Local Councils Practitioners Guide and the information will be circulated prior to the next meeting.

2015/109 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st May 2015 – 30th June 2015

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 30 June 2015 – NSB £4,927.96. Scottish Widows Bank – £23,086.83. Lloyds plc – £5,904.26

Included in these balances is £3425.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94 & 2015/022). Copy of Income & Expenses 1.5.15 to 30.6.15 and budget 2014/15 summary distributed.

It was resolved to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr J Parker.

2015/110 FINANCE – PAYMENTS

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Renewal of Local Councils Update - £75 (payable to Communicorp).
- Renewal of Vision ICT maintenance of Web - £150.

It was resolved to authorise the above payment Proposed by Cllr T Jones, seconded by Cllr G Gilding and agreed by all.

2015/111 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 – new picnic benches have been ordered to replace the 2 rotten ones. The park seat will be re-sited. Stour Provost and the pavilion – the water boiler has broken, we might need to purchase a new one, a kettle loaned by Stour Row Village Hall is being used temporarily. A request to pay for the mowing of the grass around the swings at Stour Row Village Hall cost £255 per annum, this to be decided at the next meeting.

d) Crime

PCSO Vicky Levy sent her apologies. Her report previously circulated. Only one reported crime since our last meeting. If anybody has any concerns please feel free to contact her at Victoria.Levy.@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk

e) DAPTC

Next Northern Area meeting 21st July 2015, Blandford Town Council Offices. Cllr Parker will attend. Cllr Parker said that it would be useful to have another representative as he is Chairman of the Northern Area, also it is very informative as it covers the whole of North Dorset. The North Dorset Local Action Group (LAG) covers the eastern and northern areas of Dorset.

AGM proposals for resolutions are issues which are beyond DAPTC policy remits, such as national issues. These proposals are to be received at the DAPTC office by 7th August 2015.

f) CPRE

No matters came to our attention.

2015/112 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Internal Audit - The Terms of Reference and having an Internal Audit Plan.
- The paying of grass cutting around the swings, Stour Row Village Hall - £255 per annum.
- Purchase/contribution of a footpath sign at Duncliffe Wood.
- East Stour Crossroads.
- Highbridge, Lotmoor Hill.
- North Dorset Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.
- DAPTC AGM Resolutions.
- Proposed war memorial and playing field path.
- Adoption of Stour Provost kiosk.

2015/113 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

10th September 2015 at Stour Row, 12th November 2015 at West Stour, 14th January 2016 at Stour Provost, 10th March 2016 at East Stour, 13th May 2016 at Stour Row, 14th July 2016 at West Stour, 8th September 2016 at Stour Provost, 10th November 2016 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman Date