

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
In West Stour Village Hall**

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

Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, Cllr Graham Carr-Jones, Leader of NDDC, NDDCllrs Charles Dowden and Jane Westbrook and Martin Hibbert (RoWLO).

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Graham Carr-Jones and those present.

Cllr Graham Carr-Jones, (Party: Conservative), Leader of North Dorset District Council and Chairman of Stalbridge Town Council, introduced himself to the meeting. The purpose of his visit is that he is hoping to be elected for the Stalbridge and The Beacon division at the next County Council elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The Stours Parish Council is included in the Stalbridge & The Beacons. Graham feels it is important to shape the future of a unitary authority and parish councils, to protect services and to save money.

Cllr Carr-Jones was thanked for introducing himself to the members present.

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

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – no report received.

**NDDC WARD MEMBERS' REPORT** – Cllr Jane Westbrook said that Gillingham has been awarded £3.45 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund for road infrastructure to support new homes and jobs. Cllr Gilding has written to Mr Carhart-Harris requesting that he considers to upgrade East Stour crossroads out of this funding. Cllr Gilding has not yet received a reply.

Jane suggested that the Stours Parish Council considers a Neighbourhood Plan, especially if there are any strong opinions about new houses being built.

West Stour crossroads, the interactive sign is working and DCC has purchased a sliver of land required for the visibility splay at the crossroads. Work should start shortly.

Cllr Dowden said the suggested planning meeting (a generic workshop) with Marnhull Parish Council and The Stours is going ahead, probably early May and it will be held in Marnhull Village Hall. If anybody is interested in attending please let the Clerk know,

Cllr Brown asked about the progress on the Local Plan parts I & II. A review is underway and it should be brought altogether by November 2017. It takes 18 months for it to be approved by the inspectorate. There is a concern that if a Neighbourhood Plan has not been put forward, would we still be consulted when part II is ready? Cllr Carr-Jones said that there is now no part II, it is now a Local Plan Review and the Stours Parish Council will be consulted when there is moderate development. East Stour is the only parish within the Stours that has been identified in the Local Plan. DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) will be distributing £60 million per annum for community-led housing. North Dorset has been allocated £238, 000 per annum. Cllr Parker said that Paul Darrien, Dorset County Council Partnership (Housing Enabling Team Leader) attended the last DAPTC, Northern Area and explained the department's role regarding Community Land Trust and ways to develop affordable homes. Cllr Carr-Jones said that Housing Associations such as Sovereign, Yarlinton, Asra and HCA are all interested. If anybody knows of any land that is available for small developments of 3/5 houses to let the District Council know.

**Public Discussion** – none.

**Rights of Way Liaison Officer's report** - Mr Hibbert said that there are no major issues. Broken/missing fingerposts signs have been attended to. If there are any footpath problems to let Martin know. Lyde Hill – still hoping to get one more path open this month and hopefully Cllr Andrew Cattaway might get involved. Martin explained about the communication received "Definitive Map – 2026 Deadline (cut-off date) received today from The Dorset, Poole & Bournemouth Local Access Forum. It is regarding claiming old rights of way pre 1949 that were never claimed when the Rights of Way map was developed in the 1950s and 1960s. Martin concluded that it is too onerous and that there are probably too many paths in the wrong place and there might be historical evidence. If anybody knows where a footpath should be and it isn't to let Martin know. He said he will look at our footpaths and report back at the next meeting, as for example there is a

footpath from Fifehead Magdalen to West Stour parish boundary and it stops. It was agreed to follow this up at individual parish meetings.

Martin was thanked for his report and for all that he does for all our footpaths.

Tree Wardens' reports – there was nothing to report.

Flood Wardens' report – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that there have been some flash floods, however the floods come up and go back down again. Some areas that are prone to flood have not flooded.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said that there has not been a Transport meeting since our last meeting. The next Transport meeting is 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and she will circulate the minutes. The Clerk circulated a poster “Community Transport Day” venue Town Hall, Gillingham on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

## **Business Agenda**

**2017/28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** none as all in attendance.

### **2017/29 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

### **2017/30 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

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

### **2017/31 MATTERS ARISING**

Trevor Vaughan, Chairman of Marnhull Parish Council has been advised that we have accepted his invitation and he will be in contact with the Parish Chairmen.

### **2017/32 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- Todber (B3092). Response received from Mike Harries, Director for Environment and the Economy, DCC to our letter highlighting our concerns following his response dated 9<sup>th</sup> December about the protracted delay in implementing all the safety improvement measures on the B3092 at Todber. The reason given for the delay in doing the work, was it was being held off until the road and weather conditions were suitable. Cllr Cowan said that there now has been some development, the contractors have put continuous white lines along three-quarters of the Village. However several metres of white lines have dilapidated, Cllr Cowan has emailed Roger Bell, Highways, but has not received a response. He will monitor this issue. Cllr Bowe said that the Village gateway signage should be installed along the B3092 within the next couple of months.
- SIDs, Todber the post has materialised, a bracket is needed for this post, Clerk to contact Joe Allen or Rob Camp at DCC Highways and order one. East Stour and West Stour no further developments, still waiting for both sites to be assessed.
- Fifehead Magdalen Crossroads - the Vehicle Activated Sign has been installed. Also DCC now own the slither of land required for the visibility splay at West Stour crossroads.
- Drainage West Stour (A30), from earlier works carried out by Highways there is still a big hole in Cllr Gould's hedge and the water still goes in, causing flooding. Clerk to contact Roger Bell.
- Community Speedwatch. East Stour a bit dormant as waiting for better weather conditions. Todber – a new member has been recruited, but the team are waiting for the Police's approval. West Stour – has been quiet due to the weather and other issues. However the team has been out twice in the last three weeks.

### **2017/33 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Lower Mead, Stour Row, and possible unauthorised change of use of garden. Cllr Mrs Watkins said that the owner is now using his residential garden for his fencing business. The garden has been gutted, trees cleared, a couple of wooden stables have been erected (the owner stores his tractor, quad bike and tools in the stables), 4 or 5 CCTV cameras have been installed, also laser lights, which are affecting the neighbours. Cllr Mrs Watkins has asked him to turn off the lights, as it is a nuisance to the neighbours, the owner said that the lights and

cameras are needed to protect his equipment. This has been reported to the Dorset County Council Partnership Enforcement Team and can take 21 days. It was confirmed that planning permission is needed for change of use. Cllr Carr-Jones said that the Enforcement Team has been slack and if there are any problems to let out District Councillors know who'll pass it on.

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

#### **2017/34 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Information Commissioner's Office **Data protection registration - confirmation of renewal** our register entry has been renewed and the new expiry date is 23/02/2018. Registration reference: **Z7472996**.
- Copies of replies to the points raised at Simon Hoare MP's roundtable discussion, received from various bodies. (hard copies were made available at the meeting).
- Western Gazette Business Awards 2017 the Western Gazette (look there for details) – being held on 15 June in Yeovil, entries close 30 March 2017. (E-mail circulated).

#### **2017/35 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

No matters came to our attention.

#### **2017/36 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

- Proposed Tree Preservation Order TPO -571-2017 has been made at Byway, Common Lane, East Stour, Dorset, SP8 5NB, the reason that these trees are considered important for the amenity of the area. A lot of brambles and undergrowth has been cleared. It is likely the TPO will be passed providing there are no objections.
- Future Dorset proposals for the reorganisation of local government (more information of the vision at [www.futuredorset.co.uk](http://www.futuredorset.co.uk)). This proposal to create two unitary authorities in Dorset has gone to the Secretary of State and a decision should be made by March 24<sup>th</sup> 2017.

#### **2017/37 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES**

Cllr Jane Westbrook said it is all peaceful at present the Travellers are still at St James Common. Cllr Gould said that he has been in contact with the Chairmen of Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council and Fifehead Parish meeting, and they both felt that their parishioners (especially the residents who live nearby) do not want a permanent site at Five Bridges lay-by. The lay-by is used by HGV drivers. Should it be a permanent site it would encompass all of the lay-by. It is anticipated that the Travellers will be served notice at St James Common and they could return to Five Bridges, probably about June time. Wessex Water are against having a gate as they require access in case of flooding. It was agreed that Cllr Parker would have tentative talks with Wessex Water about the stopping off the rear part of the lay-by by gate/fencing (but is it classed as a highway as it was the old A30 and is now designated a picnic area). Cllr Jane Westbrook will enquire with DCC, Highways and ask them about access, also there might be legal complications. Cllrs Parker and Jane Westbrook will report back next meeting.

#### **2017/38 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Nothing further to report other than the request for improving East Stour Crossroads as mention in NDDC Members' report.

#### **2017/39 ALL SAINTS STOUR ROW**

Cllr Mrs Newton said that the commercial angle has not been taken forward and now is being considered as private purchase.

#### **2017/40 FOOD FAIR, EAST STOUR**

Cllr Mrs Bagnall said the last information received Mr Lyster was meeting with the police to resolve the parking issue. He hasn't been in touch with either Cllr Mrs Bagnall or Cllr Brown. Also Cllr Mrs Bagnall checked with the Licensing Officer at NDDC and no license has been applied for. As Mr Lyster has not got in touch and we are into March and the event is to be held in May it seems unlikely that it will go ahead, with so little time left. It was agreed as the Stours Parish Council is the landowner of the field, that Mr Lyster is contacted to advise him that the hire of the playing field should be withdrawn. However, should he wish to try again at a future date that he does consider hiring East Stour Playing field. It was agreed that this is a disappointment as it would have been a good venture for East Stour and the surrounding villages.

### **2017/41 LITTER PROBLEM**

Cllr Mrs Blacklock said she had been approached by Julia Gould and Sarah Miller about the litter in East Stour and whether a litter pick could be organised. This was discussed and it was agreed amongst other issues, especially health and safety regulations it would not be practical. The Portman Hunt is organising a litter pick along the B3092 to Sturminster Newton. Cllr Lady Stagg said she will contact the Hunt. It was agreed that litter is a problem, and it was suggested that this be put in Village newsletters and Octavo. However it is noted that there are people who habitually do pick up litter.

### **2017/42 WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL SHAFTESBURY**

Update - letter from Simon Hoare MP circulated.

The consultation has recently closed so it will be a while before the results are publicised. Cllr Parker e-mailed Simon Hoare's letter addressed to Tim Goodson, CEO Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group to South Wilts fellow governors, who have lobbied the South Wilts MP to respond to the consultation.

### **2017/43 TREE CHARTER SURVEY**

It was agreed to get involved with the local charter branch (reference email sent 13/2/17 with survey).

### **2017/44 RISK ASSESSMENT**

This was perused for audit purposes and it was resolved that we accept the risk assessment. It was agreed that each parish looks at their assets/insurance value and to let the Clerk know of any amendments by this July.

### **2017/45 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – NSB £4,994.75. Scottish Widows Bank – £8,732.38. Lloyds plc – £8,067.00

Included in these balances is £4795.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67 & 2016/165).

Copy of Income and Expenses for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and budget (2 monthly and financial year to date) summary distributed.

**It was resolved to adopt the accounts.** Proposed by Cllr Nalty, seconded by Cllr Parker.

### **2017/46 FINANCE – PAYMENTS**

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- £48.15 Cllr J Parker - travel expenses to DAPTC Northern Area meetings 10/3/16 – 5/11/17
- £32.85 Mrs M Cox reimburse broadband
- £11 West Stour Village Hall hire
- £200 grant to Read Easy, Gillingham and Shaftesbury
- £500 grant to North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau
- £500 grant to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

**It was resolved to authorise the above payments** Proposed by Cllr Gould, seconded by Cllr Brown.

### **2017/49 IDEAS/WAYS TO SHORTEN THE AGENDA**

This was discussed and suggestions made

- That parish items be discussed at parish meetings and anything relevant for the parish council meeting to be reported by the Parish Chairman.
- There be a slot for parish updates.
- Any matter that affects the Stours Parish Group must go on the agenda.
- Removing standing items unless there is anything to report, discuss or decide.
- Stating for each agenda item its purpose - report, discuss or decide. No agenda item should have any other purpose. If 'decide', the decision required should be clearly stated.
- Circulating as much information as possible before the meeting for each agenda item, stating its purpose, and making clear that councillors will be expected to have read the material before the meeting. Where the purpose is 'report', dealing with the agenda item at the meeting would be a formality quickly executed.
- Brief written reports circulated before the meeting (minimum 2 days prior).
- That no longer than 5 minutes is taken on discussing an item that includes public discussion (reference The Stours Parish Council Standing Orders).

The Chairman and Clerk will meet together to review the agenda noting the suggestions made.

**2017/50 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 – repairs are in hand.  
Stour Provost and the pavilion – Marnhull Cricket club may use the facilities. There is now another caretaker for the pavilion who will be able to do odd jobs as well as the cleaning.  
Stour Row – all fine.
- d) Crime  
PCSO Vicky Levy sent her apologies and her report was read to the meeting, there were 2 reported incidents since our last meeting, one in Easts Stour theft from a farm outbuilding and heating oil stolen from a property in Todber.
- e) DAPTC
  - Cllr Parker said that at the last meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January presentations were made by Paul Derrien, who gave a brief outline about his department's role regarding Community Land Trust and how they can advise and support local councils who express an interest in this type of development and Wessex Community Land Trust relating their advice and support they can give if a community wishes to develop in their area.
  - DAPTC Annual Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 at Kingston Maurward College, Cllr J Parker and will attend, also Cllrs Nalty and Mrs Wilkins. Cllr Parker said that the Leader of Wiltshire County Council and a Parish Clerk from Maiden Bradley will be speaking about the changes in Wiltshire from a County and Parish Councils' perspective. Also The Town Clerks from Bridport and Blandford Forum will be discussing how Dorset Town and Parish Councils will work together with the proposed changes.
  - The next Northern Area is on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Gillingham Town Council Offices. Cllrs Parker and Mrs Wilkins will attend.
- f) CPRE  
North Dorset CPRE Spring Party Thursday, 6th April at the Old Rectory, Fifehead Neville.  
The AGM is on Thursday, 13th April 2017 at 5pm at Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster, Cllr Lady Stagg will attend.  
Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

**2017/51 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Annual parish meetings to be held by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017.

To consider an increase to the annual grant to Read Easy Gillingham and Shaftesbury.

**2017/52 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Stour Provost, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at East Stour, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Stour Row, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at West Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman                      Date .....