

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

**PRESENT:** Cllrs P Gould (Chairman of the meeting), Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, P Brown, R Cowan, G Gilding, R King, J Nalty, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, Mrs E Scott and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, Rolly Skeats, Team Leader, Highways, Dorset County Council, Martin Hibbert (RoWLO) and three members of the public.

Cllr Paul Gould welcomed Rolly Skeats and those present. Cllr Gould also introduced himself to the meeting and said that he is a farmer and has lived all his life in West Stour and that he has chaired quite a few meetings including the NFU.

Roger Bell, DCC Highways sent his apologies. Rolly Skeats kindly attended the meeting instead to update the Council about "Working Together". Rolly said that DCC budgets have dwindled and because of this non-essential services have been cut. Dorset Highways and DAPTC met together and discussed the policy earlier in the year. DCC is offering parish and town councils to enter into agency agreements. There are four options: - using volunteers, using suitably qualified contractors, DCC Highways commissioned by Town/Parish Councils and Agency Agreement between Town/Parish Council and Dorset County Council. Examples of non-essential maintenance grass and verge cutting, weed killing, gully emptying (though Rolly did say Highways will empty gullies if flooding is reported on the Dorsetforyou website) and sign cleaning. Parish and Town Councils can work on the back of other councils to save costs. Insurance and risk assessments must be agreed in advance of implementing any work. Parish councils will need to sign up if they wish to go forward with the scheme. Parish and Town Councils do have the power to spend on these services and can budget for them in their precept. The cost of labour and the efficient use of DCC personnel was queried. Some figures were given e.g. gully emptying £450 per day with two operatives. It was agreed that more exploration into this was required before any commitment was made.

Rolly suggested that individual parishes discuss "Working Together" and to decide what is best way forward for each parish. Further information can be found on the DAPTC and Highways Working Together website.

Rolly was thanked for attending the meeting.

Praise was given to DCC when responding to reports posted on the Dorsetforyou website.

Cllr David Walsh sent his apologies, due to an unforeseen change of circumstances resulting in new commitments, he sent the following message about the Gillingham Southern Extension. "With regard to the Southern Extension. The only update available is that NDDC has still not received a planning application from Wellbeck Land Holdings but are assured that it will be in by the end of the month. On 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Olive Bowl, Gillingham, CG Fry will be holding a public open day to present their planning application, which we are expecting to receive in January 2018.

He apologised for the short notice but as soon as there is an update, he will present to our parish council.

The Clerk said that Cllr Walsh has been invited to the next meeting.

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

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – Graham's sent his apologies, as his father recently passed away. Members agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to Graham. Graham did send a DCC update, which covered Announcement of LGR, Dorset Direct, Are you ready for the winter, Dorset Highways Partnership recognised. Low carbon project and Trading Standards bust fake artwork deal.

**NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT** – Cllr Jane Westbrook said that on 7<sup>th</sup> November, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, announced that he is minded to support the Future Dorset plans which proposed to replace Dorset's nine councils with two new unitary authorities. Jane said that there will be a lot of changes when this happens.

Five Bridges, Jane said she had contacted Paula Clover who said that it has been quiet at Five Bridges and there is not a lot of activity. Wessex Water will let Jane know if there are any problems at the site. Five Bridges will never be a permanent site. There may be traveller pitches available in Shaftesbury. If so travellers can be made to move if not on an authorised site. The identifying of sites has ground to a halt and it was agreed that this is a difficult problem. The Travellers are likely to be at Five Bridges for a while. Jane said that she will investigate about vacancies at the Shaftesbury site.

East Stour crossroads – a feasibility study is to be carried out as it is recognised there is a problem, which probably will be carried out in April 2018 when there has been feedback from the Gillingham Southern Extension. It was agreed to ask Cllr Roger Gosney (Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Parish Council) to be involved. Cllr King will ask Cllr Gosney Speed restrictions, Cllr Trevor Vaughan (Marnhull) is gathering information and has circulated a map where information can be fed into.

Planning- The 5 year Plan. Further investigations are being carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they are uncomfortable about the 'Powers of Delegation' given to the head of Development Control.

Jane has taken on the proposed planning training event, which Cllr Dowden spoke about, however a date has not been arranged yet. Anybody interested to let the Clerk know.

Jane was thanked for her report.

#### **Public Discussion** - none.

**Rights of Way Liaison Officer's report** - Martin Hibbert said he would liaise with Cllr Brown regarding the parking in East Stour (which is still happening), that was brought up at the last meeting. The footpath in Stour Row to Margaret Marsh that Cllr Mrs Jones mentioned at the last meeting has been cleared. Some of the paths in Duncliffe Wood have been closed with new main tracks being constructed. Volunteering continues weekly in all parishes. Martin said following training with DCC he is now insured to do brush cutting work providing it is a delegated job.

The White Hart Link is now complete and comes under The Three Rivers Partnership and further funding is being applied for. The Village monthly walks are continuing and the next one is on 25<sup>th</sup> November at Fifehead Magdalen at 10 am. The 'Duncliffe Wood' sign will not be materialising.

Martin was thanked for his report and for all his hard work with the footpaths.

**Tree Wardens' reports** – East Stour, Cllr Mrs Bagnall sent her apologies and reported that the trimming of the trees at the playing field has now been carried out by David Braybon. Terry also gave thanks to those who bought logs from the felled ash trees, where £185 was raised for Village Hall funds. Also thanked were those that helped with transporting, storing, chopping and sawing of timber.

Other parishes, there was nothing to report.

**Flood Wardens' report** – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said that there have been no reports of flooding.

**Transport** – Cllr Mrs Newton said that the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 was postponed. She will send the minutes of the re-arranged meeting when it has taken place.

#### **Business Agenda**

**2017/121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllrs Mrs B Edwards, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, Mrs P Sealy and Mrs J Watkins.

#### **2017/122 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.

Cllr King declared an interest in Item agenda 18 (Finance, grant increase to Read Easy).

**2017/123 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS** – none received

#### **2017/124 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

The minutes were **agreed and adopted** as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr J Parker and seconded by Cllr P Brown.

**2017/125 MATTERS ARISING** Fifehead Crossroads still waiting for a response of the costs, as public monies were used, from Andrew Brown (despite reminders). It was agreed that it is an improvement. Cllr Roger Gosney was thanked for his involvement in this.

#### **2017/126 TWO CASUAL VACANCIES FOR EAST STOUR WARD AND A CASUAL VACANCY FOR STOUR PROVOST WARD**

These can now be filled by co-option.

### **2017/127 RESIGNATION FROM LADY ARABELLA STAGG**

Lady Stagg has resigned from the Parish Council, as she has moved away from the area.

### **2017/128 TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR CPRE**

Vacant. Put on the next agenda.

### **2017/129 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- Roger Bell responded by email on Manor Farm Gate, West Stour - This is a request to have a 'No Through' road sign on the Junction of the A30. I have visited the site and have come to the conclusion that a 3m 76mm post with a large T sign does not suit the road or the situation and would not work. May I suggest that Parish Council request a name plate Manor Farm Gate with a No through road sign on the same plate from North Dorset District Council.  
Currently, one large carved stone, surrounded by plants has the road name on it. It is very hard to read when traveling at any speed along the main road. This request will help visitors and drivers to understand that this not a through road.
- East Stour Crossroads, Roger Bell and Cllr Gilding had nothing further to report.
- Car Parking in East Stour covered in the Rights of Way Liaison report.
- To agree the removal of redundant bus stop posts at the crossroads East Stour. Roger Bell and Rob Camp have confirmed that the stops are no longer in use and the posts can be removed. Cllr Gilding will find out the cost of removing the posts as it thought that parish will have to pay. It was agreed that the posts be removed as no longer required.
- Changing of Stour Provost road sign to include Stower Provost Pre-school (circulated 6/10/17). Cllr Gilding said that DCC do not replace directional signs, the sign on the B3092 is technically illegal and should it fall over it will not be replaced by DCC. If a replacement sign is required the parish council will be required to pay for it. Cllr Gilding will find out the cost and ask Stower Provost School and the Pre-School how much they are willing to contribute. Cllr Gilding will bring the figures to the next meeting. Roger Bell and Cllr Gilding have had a site meeting opposite The King's Arms (A30) about possible signage. Roger did say that cost is the main barrier. The DCC sign shop are looking at different options and will get back to Roger
- SIDs – The new SID has been erected at West Stour. It can be used for six weeks maximum. Then it will be erected in Todber. Cllrs King and Mrs Sealy have been trained and risked assessed in the deployment of the SID. Both were thanked for this. The new SID has been insured with the council's insurance company Came & Co for £2500. East Stour has one SID which rotates between the 4 designated poles in the Village. Cllr Cowan has queried that the SID reads a speed which stays the same for the following cars. We are waiting for a response from Joe Allen about this.
- Community Speedwatch. East Stour, no report as Cllr Jones absent. Cllr Gilding said that when high vis jackets are worn they are effective as drivers do slow down. Todber, Cllr King said when the SID is erected the team will have to go to another site authorised by the Police. PCSO Vicky Biggs requires evidence of the new site and a code will be issued. The new site cannot be used until all the formalities are in place. The team is down to five members. More volunteers required. West Stour, still operating on both sides of the highway. PCSO Vicky Biggs is letting the team borrow a new radar gun to try out. If the new type of speed gun is wanted the parish will have to purchase one.

### **2017/130 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Cllr Trevor Vaughan is collating proposals from parish councils. He will then circulate the ideas prior to another group meeting before the suggestions are submitted to DCC.
- Cllr Mrs Wilkins spoke about Neighbourhood Development Plan. At the Northern Area DAPTC meeting, Stephen Hill a senior officer with NDDC said that parishes and towns should think about having a neighbourhood plan, which would mean the parish may have more control over planning. It would be best for the Stours that each individual parish decided whether they want a neighbourhood plan. Cllrs Mrs Wilkins and Nalty will discuss this further at Stour Provost's parish meeting.
- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

### **2017/131 CORRESPONDENCE**

Heating Oil Club has launched a club for Gillingham and surrounding area. More information visit [www.Oil-club.co.uk](http://www.Oil-club.co.uk)

### **2017/132 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

- Minerals and Waste Plans Consultation - Advanced Notice, subject to the approval of the relevant committees, we will be undertaking a formal public consultation on the following planning documents between the **1 December 2017 and 31 January 2018**. (Email circulated)
- North-South Connectivity (Strategic Case for Investment) (previously circulated).
- 'Prepare to Live Better' (previously circulated)

### **2017/133 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

Consultation: NDDC recommendation to introduce charges for scheduled town and parish council elections. (circulated via DAPTC by Email). Some responses collated and sent to DAPTC as requested.  
Cllr Jane Westbrook said there is nothing further to report.

### **2017/134 UNITED FRONT TO SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN OUR VILLAGES**

Cllr Cowan's report from the 29<sup>th</sup> August meeting has been sent to Cllr Vaughan. No date has been arranged for the next meeting.

### **2017/135 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES**

Update in Cllr Jane Westbrook's report.

### **2017/136 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Nothing further to add to the report at the beginning of the meeting.

### **2017/137 DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

Cllrs J Parker and Mrs Wilkins attended. Cllr Mrs Wilkins reported that it was a very interesting meeting. There was a presentation by NHS Dorset CCG. There will be major changes further south. Westminster Hospital, Shaftesbury is staying with retaining beds. However they are actively identifying a site for a new hospital. Assurances were made that there would be more investment in north of the county. The Dorsetforyou website is to be? made more user friendly. The Secretary of State has announced that at the moment he is not going to introduce referendum [council tax capping] principles for local councils. Cllr Parker said when setting the precept to be aware of uncontested elections and the possible costs involved.

Both were thanked for attending the AGM and for their report.

### **2017/138 FINANCE**

#### **ACCOUNTS** for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 – NSB £4,994.75. Scottish Widows Bank – £27,735.97. Lloyds plc – £6,304.07

Included in these balances is £5,480.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165 & 2017/114).

Copy of Income and Expenses for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 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.

### **PAYMENTS**

It was agreed to make the following payments:

- Mrs M Cox - £35.79 reimburse broadband
- Mrs M Cox – reimburse Cleverbridge (macrium IT software) - £12.24
- Via traffic controlling – Speed Indicator Device - £2570.40
- To agree to renew Somerset Playing Fields' Association membership - £15
- David Braybon - pruning works East Stour playing field - £192
- Renewal of SLCC & ALCC subscription – approx. £115
- To agree in principle to pay approximately £50 for seed for Wild flower meadow, East Stour

The above payments were **agreed en-bloc** proposed by Cllr Parker and seconder by Cllr Nalty.

It was **resolved** to increase the annual grant payment from to £200 to £300 to Read Easy Gillingham & Shaftesbury. (Cllr King did not partake in this discussion). Proposed by Cllr Nalty, seconded by Cllr Parker.

## **Budget and Precept for 2018/19**

Figures were produced as at 31/10/17 together with projected expenditure until 31/3/18. The Clerk will produce up to date figures as at 31/12/17 by the next meeting when the precept must be decided.

## **Internal Audit**

The review to be discussed at the Policy and Resources meeting 11 January 2018 and then presented to the full council for acceptance.

Mrs West has submitted her report dated 27 October 2017. The budget reports need to be dated since installation of software and to look at the three year forecast (to be discussed at the Policy and Resources meeting).

## **2017/139 REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

This has been deferred to the next meeting as the Policy and Resources meeting could not be held as there was not a quorum.

## **2017/140 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL**

a) Chairman's – The Chairman had 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.

It was good to see that Cllr Nalty's winning photograph of the telephone kiosk( smallest museum in Dorset) and volunteers on the front of the annual report, which won a free training session for a councillor with DAPTC.

c) Playing Fields

East Stour – the zip line needs some maintenance work which will have to be carried out by a company that is able to carry out this type of work. There are other little jobs that are not too desperate that will have to be done, probably by a handyman.

Stour Provost and the pavilion – All fine, still investigating the grass maintenance as no response received from Gillingham and Shaftesbury Town Councils.

Stour Row – all ok.

The Clerk said that the annual play inspections are due anytime now.

d) Crime

Vicky sent her apologies. She sent in a report that there had been 3 crimes reported since the last meeting. Theft of gas bottles from a commercial property in West Stour, 2 people have been arrested in connection with this. A vehicle was entered and a hedge cutter stolen, whilst parked in Todber and an overnight attempted break to a shipping container at a property in Todber.

It is hoped that Vicky will attend the January meeting. The Clerk said that Vicky is invited to all the parish council meetings.

e) DAPTC

The Northern Area minutes of the AGM held 19<sup>th</sup> October have been circulated. The next Northern Area meeting is on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Sturminster Newton Town Council offices. Cllrs Parker and Mrs Wilkins will attend.

f) CPRE

Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

## **2017/141 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

To invite DCCllr David Walsh to give an update on the Gillingham Southern Extension.

To have a Policy and Resources Meeting, 7pm.

Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

To set the precept for 2018/19.

**2017/142 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

11th January 2018 at Stour Provost, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at East Stour, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Stour Row, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at West Stour, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Stour Provost, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at East Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman

Date .....

DRAFT