

Minutes of the Parish Council Virtual Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th July 2020

The meeting was recorded for the Parish Council's records only.

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs J Watkins (Chairman for this meeting), D Amlôt, Mrs L Bennett, P Bowe, Mrs B Edwards, P Gould, G Jenkins, R King, R McConnell, J Nalty, J Pitman, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs F Stanford and Mrs J Uden. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, DCCllrs Belinda Ridout and Jane Somper.

Due to technical issues Cllr P Gould (Chairman) agreed that the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs June Watkins chair/host this virtual meeting.

Cllr Mrs J Watkins welcomed those present.

Reports, Pre-business matters and Public participation

Public Discussion – no members of public present.

Rights of Way Officer's report - Mr Hibbert sent his apologies and reported "Nothing of significance to report on footpaths, other than that we have resumed our volunteer maintenance work".

Tree Wardens' reports -

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall sent her apologies with nothing to report, however if there is anything raised to let her know.

Stour Provost, Stour Row, Todber and West Stour nothing to report.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Uden said that there has not been a meeting so nothing to report.

Business Agenda

2020/42 THE COUNCIL TO ACCEPT THE ADDENDUM 'REMOTE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS' TO ITS STANDING ORDERS

It was resolved to accept the Addendum. Proposed by Cllr J Nalty, seconded by Cllr D Amlôt.

2020/43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs R Robson and Mrs C Wilkins (subsequent).

20120/44 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.

2020/45 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2020/46 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th MARCH 2020.

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

2020/47 MATTERS ARISING

- The Stours Parish Council's website is ongoing and currently being upgraded by Vision ICT. It should be completed by September 2020.
- The Clerk has deferred her resignation and to start the process in January 2021 due to Covid-19.

2020/48 AUDIT FOR THE YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2020

The Internal Auditor's report was circulated. No questions were asked. Cllr P Gould proposed to accept the report, seconded by Cllr D Amlôt and agreed by all.

Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 was **approved** by the council. Proposed by Cllr J Nalty, seconded by Cllr J Pitman. The Chairman duly signed the document and it was shown to the camera for all to see.

Section 2 – The council **approved** the Accounting Statements for the financial year 2019/2020. Proposed by Cllr R King, seconded by Cllr G Jenkins. The Chairman signed the document and it was shown to the camera for all to see.

2020/49 NALC CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION

The consultation was previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr P Gould that we accept the new model code of conduct. Seconded by Cllr D Amlôt and agreed by all.

2020/50 PLANNING MATTERS

- See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting. In DCCllr David Walsh's report sent prior to this meeting in which he explains the reason for the back log of applications and that Dorset Council is working hard to clear the backlog.
- Appeal notification APP/N1215/W/20/3251522 land at E378398 N123148 West Stour
- Appeal notification APP/N1215/W/20/3251521 land North East of Steeplechase West Stour

Cllr D Amlôt briefed members present that previously the plans for the north of the village last autumn were turned down, the applicant appealed and was successful. These 2 appeals were refused by Planning as they did not support the applicant's view that West Stour is a sustainable village. West Stour is considered an unsustainable village in the Local Plan, being in a rural area. Cllr Amlôt was thanked. No further questions were raised.

2020/51 CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you letters received from Dorset Somerset Air Ambulance, Read Easy Blackmore Vale North and Citizens Advice for the grants made to them.
- Letter from Simon Hoare MP saying a huge, sincere and heartfelt thank you to The Stours Parish Council.

2020/52 DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr Jane Somper said that DEFRA are carrying out a consultation on the future of English trees, something that is very important for the protection of the environment and supporting biodiversity. The link is

https://consult.defra.gov.uk/forestry/england-tree-strategy/?fbclid=IwAR3K373VFL_gfn7M1vjXqOYA0T4yjmun0l_uAxt5-6U-FALO6u2Jwl7_c1U

should the Parish Council wish to engage with the consultation. Also that she has been circulating her reports since March. The Chairman said that they have been received and thanked her and Belinda for all the extremely hard work that they are doing during these changing times. They both try to disseminate the information to the parishes as much as they can. Topics covered in Jane's latest report:- The Dorset economy, Highways, Changes to Shielding Helpline operating hours. Outbreak control plan. County Lines. Dorset Libraries, Council finances, Council meetings and information.

Jane thanked the parish council for all the volunteer work carried out by communities and also the close working with Dorset Council.

Cllr Belinda Ridout her reports have also been previously circulated. Topics covered in her latest report:- preparing for easing of lockdown 4th July, regulatory advice – re-opening Dorset high streets – community and

public protection, Government funding, DC employees, changes to shielding helpline operating hours, Dorset Council's Covid-19 outbreak control plan, Covi-19 testing, Northern Area planning meeting, 23rd June, Climate & Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel (EAP), weekly webinar, disposable BBQs, Dorset libraries, key workers parking and The Dorset Council website.

Belinda seconded all that Jane said and it has been strange times and everybody is having to adapt quickly. Belinda said that she has attended Climate & Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel meeting and Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel meeting. Belinda said that at the LPE held 8th July the agenda discussion was 'What is the priority for the Local Plan?' The consultation will go out October 2020. Also now that DC is a unitary authority there will be a new planning system in place by March 2021.

Both Jane and Belinda were thanked for their reports, updates and for attending the meeting.

Cllr David Walsh gave his apologies and sent in his report - Portfolio Holder- Planning.

All the above reports have been previously circulated to council members.

2020/53 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1st May 2020 – 30th June 2020

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 30th June 2020 – NSB £12,002.00. Scottish Widows Bank – £29,240.99 Lloyds plc – £7,814.18.

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 1.5.20 to 30.6.20 and budget 2020/21 (2 monthly and to date) summary distributed.

No questions were raised.

It was **resolved** to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr Amlôt, seconded by Cllr Bowe

Cllr Mrs L Bennett has completed the quarterly check of the bank reconciliation for 31.12.19 and 31.3.20. Cllr Mrs Bennett was thanked for carrying out the check.

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

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £33.26
- DAPTC – renewal of annual subscription - £541.62
- South Western Ambulance Service – renewal of East Stour's defibrillator package approx. £1800 + vat
- East Stour newsletter – grant - £500
- Renew Somerset Playing Field membership - £15
- Vision ICT – website hosting support - £150
- Local Councils update – renewal - £75
- P Buttress – grass cutting East Stour - £384.00

Cllr Nalty asked about the South Western Ambulance payment. It is the renewal package for the defibrillator at East Stour for the next 4 years, includes support, insurance and training.

Proposed by Cllr G Jenkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs L Bennett.

Financial Regulations

The following Lloyds Bank PLC direct debit mandates held were reviewed: - Wessex Water (water2business) payment on demand (dated 6.4.19), Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to collect variable amounts (dated 16.4.14) and npower to collect variable amounts (dated 21.8.14) and Scottish Widows (dated 5.6.17). It was **resolved** that they be continued proposed by Cllr Nalty, seconded by Cllr Jenkins.

2020/54 DAPTC

Annual General meeting Saturday 14th November 2020. Resolutions have to be submitted by 5th August 2020. There were no resolutions proposed.

