

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013  
in West Stour Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs J Watkins (Chairman), Mrs D Chard, R Cowan, Mrs B Edwards, T Jones, Mrs V Jones, D Little, Miss H O'Sullivan, Mrs E Newton, J Parker, L Payne, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy and Mrs C Wilkins. Also, DCCllr A Cattaway, Clerk Mrs M Cox and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

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

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – Cllr Cattaway said that the County Council has received the grant from Government for the year 2013/14. The amount set is less than £1 million and is well below the 1% of the Council's total budget. There will be a full council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the budget for next year.

The NHS is reforming public health; their aim is to keep the population more healthy, for example anti-smoking and obesity. It will become the responsibility of Local Authorities. Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset will employ a single Director. The Department of Health will give the money directly to Dorset County Council.

**NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT.**

Cllr Webb sent his apologies. He sent in a report saying The application for a new entrance off the A30 into the field adjacent to Stour Park, West Stour 'mobile' homes will go to Committee for decision not sure quite when yet. The intent is that parishes will be kept largely immune from the consequences to Council Tax benefit changes this means that they will have reasonable certainty as to their income from their precepts subject to approval (which I am reasonably confident about) at the NDDC budget. This is achieved by NDDC voluntarily passing on some £175,000 of core government funding to parishes and towns, which should make up the loss of Council Tax income resulting from the new benefits scheme which comes in April 2013.

**Public Discussion** – Mr and Mrs Chandler spoke about their planning application 2/2012/1415, Summerlease Farm, East Stour develop the land by the erection of 1 No agricultural dwelling, double garage/farm office (outline application with all matters reserved). They have lived in East Stour for six years and bought the farm 2½ years ago. At present they are in rented in accommodation with a young family and there is a need to live on the farm. The council agreed that businesses need to be encouraged and that they support this application.

**Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report**

Mr Hibbert said that the footpath, which goes through the pond at Tile House Farm, will be diverted around the farm. Mr J Trim is applying for planning permission for houses by The Lynch, West Stour. Part of the deal is the improvement of the footpath, which is mainly a green lane. This will need further discussion. There has been a re-organisation of Rights of Way at DCC. There is still a need for more rights of way volunteers. The Chairman said that the council is appreciative of Mr Hibbert's hard work in looking after the footpaths within the Stours.

**Flood Wardens' report** – Cllr Payne said that it has dried up a bit and it has been a very wet winter. He raised concerns about the Ash tree blight. It is expected that Duncliffe Wood will lose about a quarter of its tree cover within the next 10 years, which is a serious problem.

Cllr Parker reminder members present about the Flood mitigation measures from the Flood Risk Management Unit at Dorset County Council (e-mail sent by DAPTC 8/1/13).

**Transport** – Cllr Mrs Newton said that there has not been a meeting but there should be one in January.

**Business Agenda**

**2013/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs P Gould and Col G Herring. Lady Arabella Stagg and NDDCllr Webb also sent their apologies.

**2013/02 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members are 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.

### **2013/03 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

16 forms received all with the matter of "Setting the Parish Council Precept", expiry date 7 May 2015. Cllr Parker proposed that these be accepted, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

### **2013/04 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012.**

Under Transport there is not a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, this was deleted. The minutes were then **agreed** to be a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr T Jones, seconded by Cllr J Parker and agreed by all.

### **2013/05 MATTERS ARISING**

- Stour Lane, Woodville. One passing bay has been filled in with scarified tarmac chips and one other bay is half done. Mr Skeats has said that DCC will monitor the passing bays and top them up every 3/6 months. DCC does not have the finance to construct proper lay-bys as this would cost in the region of £10,000 each, whereas filling with scarified tarmac costs hundreds of pounds. The Headmistress, Mrs Sanderson of Stower Provost Community School has written expressing her dismay at the repairs of the passing bays. The road is used by the school buses. Cllr Cattaway is meeting with Mr Skeats on 15<sup>th</sup> January to discuss this further.
- Dorset Waste Partnership. Some road shows have been held and there are more scheduled (circulated by e-mail). There will be one at East Stour Village Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am to coincide with the Post Office and a coffee morning.
- Allotments in East Stour. From the Village/Parish Plan some people have shown interest in having an allotment. The update from Annabel Hull, Solicitor, Spectrum Housing is that she is still awaiting confirmation on two points from her client before the Heads of Terms can be sent to us. Ms Hull will update us when she has further news.

### **2013/06 CASUAL VACANCIES FOR EAST STOUR AND STOUR PROVOST WARD**

Mr David Little and Mrs Bobbie Edwards to be co-opted for East Stour ward and Lady Arabella Stagg to be co-opted for Stour Provost ward. There is now another vacancy for Stour Provost ward following the resignation of Mrs Viv Lowe. Clerk to advise Democratic Services and to reply to Mrs Lowe. The Declaration of Acceptance Office duly signed.

### **2013/07 TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR CPRE**

No nominations received.

### **2013/08 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Cllr Webb will be objecting to application Land at Stour Hill access to the A30 as he feels it is too dangerous.
- Appeal by Mr J Clarke, application no. 2/2011/1380/PLNG 2 Church Close, Todber erect two storey extension (Inspectorate Ref: APP/N1215/A12/2185637/NWF) on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by the inspector. Cllr Cowan said that this is a small business proposing to add a large extension. A petition has been signed by 65/70 of Todber adult residents, which has been sent with letters of objections. The Solicitor and Cllr Webb have written powerful letters of objection.
- 5 Church Close, Todber, form ground and first floor self contained annexe with garage (2/2012/1613). Cllr Cowan explained that the owners have health problems and the annexe would be for a carer, which is a better alternative to residential care. The parish council supports this application.
- Appeal by: Mr M Wallis Regarding: Station 1 No. mobile home for use by agricultural worker, erect 1 No. poultry house and form access track. Site Land at Butts Lane, Stour Provost. An informal hearing will be heard on 22 January 2013 at 10.00am at Motcombe Memorial Hall.
- See attached appendix 1 for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting.

### **2013/09 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Mr Andy Balchin has requested that the Parish Council help with the cost of reducing the height of trees (which belong to the parish council) between Stour Provost playing field and his property. Does the Council agree to pay a contribution of £200 (the cost of the proposed works is £594)? Mr Balchin will continue with the upkeep of the trees; however he must not take ownership of the trees. It was agreed that the Council pays £200, proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust "Wildlife Champion" AQA Award Scheme Volunteer training. Launch event Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 9.30am.

- Copy of a letter from Mr G Blake addressed to the Chief Executive, DCC in respect of damage to his property. Cllr Cattaway said that he will be discussing this with Mr Skeats when he sees him on the 15<sup>th</sup> January. It appears that when the road was surfaced the camber is not right and flooding is a problem and affects Mr Blake's property.

### **2013/10 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

No issues were raised.

### **2013/11 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

The Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of North Dorset. This is being reviewed to improve the levels of electoral representation in the district, which have been imbalanced since the last review. Currently the councillor in Motcombe & Ham represents 38% more electors than the district average. The review runs from 8 January until 18 February 2013. Representations should be made through consultation.lgbce.org.uk, by e-mail to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk).

### **2013/12 CLERK'S PENSION**

This is moving along slowly. Cllr Cowan was thanked for providing details of a financial advisor. Parish councils are obliged to provide a pension for staff by 2015. A gratuity has been established until 2015. There will be a need for further discussion between the Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Parker.

It was **resolved** that the parish council pay up to £400 for independent qualified advice. Proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Mrs V Jones.

It was agreed to ask via DAPTC who has been through this process for further information. A pension expert in DCC might be able to provide a service at a reasonable rate. Cllr Cattaway will look into it by asking the DCC Corporate department.

To be put on the next agenda in March.

### **2013/13 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Deferred until next meeting.

### **2013/14 STOUR PROVOST PAVILION**

The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Watkins have met with Wessex Water again as there is still a leak. Wessex Water has given us a water leak allowance until the leak is repaired. Three quotes have been received to replace the pipe from the water meter to the pavilion:

Nugent Plumbing & Heating Ltd - £2190 + vat

Hayward Building & Plastering - £2500

NPB Utilities Ltd, Yeovil - £2975 + vat (this includes the additional renewal of 25 metres of water pipe around the pavilion).

It was proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Mrs V Jones and agreed by all that we ask NPB Utilities to carry out the work as they were recommended by Wessex Water and use a "mole" to lay the pipe which will cause less damage.

The Clerk to check the council's insurance policy.

### **2013/15 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITES AN OFFER FROM VISION ICT**

It was **resolved** to set up a website with the help of Vision, the cost will be £175 for the setting up and support in the first year and £100 per year thereafter. (details previously circulated by e-mail). Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones. Cllr Parker volunteered to manage the website. It can be constructed how we want it and there will be support from Vision ICT.

### **2013/16 STOUR PROVOST BUS SHELTER**

Paul Walker, Traffic Engineering, DCC has offered that the County Council install the hard standing & kerb at half the cost.

The Chairman delivered 23 leaflets in Quarry Close to ask if there is a need for the bus shelter on the B3092. Out of the four replies 3 said no & 1 said yes. The Chairman read Mrs Mandy Jones' e-mail to the meeting about the history of the shelter when it was on the B3092 and that fact the shelter was often damaged because of the water main underneath which kept bursting, so it was repositioned opposite Quarry Close.

Cllr Mrs Chard said that when she has travelled on the bus she has seen people waiting alongside the B3092 to catch the bus. It was agreed to pursue this further. Cllr Mrs Wilkins will ask the Stour Provost Villagers.

### 2013/17 FOOTPATH 64 MEAD FARM STOUR PROVOST

In 2008 DCC started relocating the footpath from going across the garden of Mead Farm within 6ft of the house. Mr Williamson, Rights of Way officer, DCC & Eric Udall have correspondence about this. The parish council were notified (min ref 2009/13) by Symonds & Sampson. However the relocation to Trill Bridge was never finished. The parish council agreed to support the re-routing of FP64. Cllr Mrs Wilkins did not partake in this discussion.

### 2013/18 PERMISSIVE WAY CLOSURE AT HIGHER FARM, FIFEHEAD MAGDALEN

A letter (sent by e-mail) from Robin Longland, Farm Manager stating that "The agreement that we had with the Countryside Stewardship scheme has now ended. It was for the footpath that starts from the public right of way at the bridge over the river Stour at Stour Provost and continues along the Stour in a northerly direction until it meets the old water path at the Parish boundary. We have now closed this path.

This footpath may have been allowed to continue but for the fact that the fence on the parish boundary where the permissive way meets the old water path is being continually vandalised and destroyed."

It was agreed that notice be made and displayed on boards to notify walkers of the footpath.

### 2013/19 TO APPOINT A PLAYGROUND INSPECTION COMPANY FOR BOTH PLAYING FIELDS

It was agreed to continue using SD Playground Services for a further year from April 2013.

### 2013/20 FINANCE - ACCOUNTS for the period 1 November 2012 – 31 December 2012.

#### Payments

1454	Hayward Building shower pavilion	370.00
1455	Hayward Building grit bin installation	100.00
1456	DCC grass maintenance	1896.01
1457	Shelagh Corfield cleaning of pavilion	55.00
1458	Stour Provost PCC grant	200.00
1459	Stour Row PCC grant	200.00
1460	East Stour PCC grant	200.00
1461	Mrs M Cox sal & exp Oct	420.65
1462	East Stour V Hall hire	28.45
1463	Eastern Storage grit bin E.S	136.80
1464	West Stour V Hall grant	250.00
1465	West Stour PCC grant	250.00
1466	Eastern Storage grit bin SP	189.42
1467	West Stour V Hall hire	8.00
1468	Western Counties Cleaning bus shelters	60.00
1469	Hayward Building installation grit bin	100.00
1470	Gillingham Press (East Stour P Plan)	1180.00
DD	Talk Talk broadband	20.39
1471	Mrs A Morpew ES PP exp	69.40
1472	East Stour V Hall (PP)	50.60
1473	Mr D Little ES PP exp	95.82
1474	Mrs M Cox sal & exp Nov	420.38
1475	HMRCE 3 months tax	273.00
Total		6573.92

#### Receipts

M Jones SP playing field	15.00
Eastern Storage refund	12.00
Stour Provost football	60.00
East Stour Village Hall	10.00
Total	97.00

Balances of Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 – NSB £4819.23. Scottish Widows Bank – £13876.47. Lloyds TSB plc – £5941.05. (Included in these balances is the £2055 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's pension (min ref 2010/94).

Questions were answered about the accounts.

The accounts were **accepted**. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton & agreed by all.

The Councillors were each given a copy of accounts reconciliation and comparison of expenditure to budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

### **2013/21 TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2013/14**

Estimated budget figures were produced for consideration by the Clerk. The Clerk has not received the revised Band 'D' figures from NDDC following the Government's changes to local government finance (transitional relief grant). It might not be possible to increase our precept over 2% in future. There is uncertainty within the Councils due to rising costs and inflation. We might have to take on extra services and do not want to be caught out. The revenue support to Gillingham Community Leisure Centre will not be required for 2013/14.

Local Delivery Service total is £1525.44 breakdown:-

Shaftesbury Town Council - £672.00

Gillingham Town Council - £853.44

It was agreed to raise a precept of £10,000. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

The following precepts were agreed –East Stour parish - £5000, Stour Provost parish - £4275 and West Stour parish - £750 and Todber parish – £550. Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Payne.

### **2013/22 FINANCE – PAYMENTS**

Renewal of Society of Local Council Clerks membership subscription - £100.

West Stour Village Hall (hire) - £11.

Mrs C Wilkins (reimburse key cutting for pavilion) - £7.

It was **agreed** to pay the above items. Proposed Cllr Jones seconded Cllr Mrs Newton.

### **2013/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

#### a) Chairman's –

The Chairman said that on 9<sup>th</sup> November she attended an open meeting to meet the prospective Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) hosted by Shaftesbury Town Council. There was an opportunity to discuss matters with them.

#### b) Clerk's

- Local Councils Update. Community.com issue 129 &130. Clerk & Councils Direct. All available at the meeting or from Clerk.
- DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.

#### c) Playing Fields –

Stour Provost and the pavilion – previously covered.

East Stour - The bird nest swing shackle has been repaired. Cllr T Jones said that he has written a report showing that the broken part is seriously defective, apart from the actual failure and have pointed out that it is highly likely that there are other similarly defective parts in use elsewhere. When the part is sent to the manufacturers we would like to be informed of the results of their own investigation. Also, it would be worthwhile asking for a three year warranty (at least) to back up their claim that these parts do not fail. The replacement was free of charge but we don't want to have to pay for further replacements. Cllr T Jones was thanked for replacing the defective shackle and for his investigation.

#### d) Crime

PC Maureen Hayward's report (e-mail previously circulated) was read to the meeting.

#### e) DAPTC

The Northern Area Meeting is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 at Blandford Forum. Danny Edwards, Local Government Boundary Commission for England gave a presentation explaining the process of the North Dorset District Council Electoral review.

#### f) CPRE

- The Winter Party will be held at the Manor, Winterborne Tomson, Blandford, DT11 9HA, the home of Rupert and Helen Hardy, on Thursday, 31st January. We are most grateful to them for again hosting our Party. Drinks will be served from 6.30 - 8.00pm.
- The AGM will take place at 5pm on Tuesday, 26th March at Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster, DT11 8LL, by kind permission of the Headmaster. After official business Heather Gordon of English Heritage will speak on Protection of Heritage Buildings in Dorset.

**2013/24 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING.**

- Clerk's Pension
- Speed of traffic along the A30 King's Arms to the Udder Farm Shop
- To appoint a member to represent the Parish Council for CPRE.
- Grass cutting contract for East Stour and Stour Provost playing field.

**2013/25 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

14 March 2013 at Stour Row, 9 May 2013 at Stour Provost, 11 July 2013 at East Stour, 12 September 2013 at Stour Row, 14 November 2013 at West Stour.

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEXT MEETING IS AT STOUR ROW**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50PM and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman

Date .....

DRAFT