

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Stour Provost Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs J Watkins (Chairman), Mrs D Chard, R Cowan, P. Gould, G Herring, Mrs V Jones, Mrs V Lowe, Miss H O'Sullivan, Mrs S Panton, J Parker, Mrs M Rymill, M Rymill, Mrs P Sealy and Mrs C Wilkins.

Also DCCllr A Cattaway, NDDC P Webb, Mr M Hibbert (fplo), the Clerk Mrs M Cox and 1 member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Lester Dibben and Steve Clinch, Shaftesbury Town Council and those present.

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

Susi Calder, Community Engagement Officer, Superfast Dorset sent her apologies. Hopefully she can attend the next meeting.

Cllr Lester Dibben gave a brief resume of the Wessex Cross Boundary Group. Parishes surrounding Shaftesbury have been invited to join the group. The aim is to promote cross border co-operation between towns and parishes located on the Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset borders. Some of the aims are to discuss highway issues, the A303 upgrade, A350, the Education Skills Centre, health, business and commerce, gypsy and travellers and environment. There will be further meetings and the next one is scheduled for late October. The Chairman said she would attend the next meeting. Cllr Dibben was thanked for the information provided and attending the meeting.

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT –**

Cllr Cattaway said since autumn last year the County Council has under spent by £4m following severe austerely measures. There has been a reduction of 400 members of staff and fewer than 20% were compulsory staff redundancies. Money from Central Government has gone down and the financial situation is very tight.

**NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT –**

Cllr Webb said that with the Government reducing its spending it means there will be a reduction in services. There shortly will be a consultation about the Localisation of Council tax which starts next April. Benefits will be reduced. The vulnerable will be protected. Housing benefit will be scrapped and replaced by Universal Credit. This will have an impact on town and parish councils. Cllr Parker said there is another consultation out and members were asked to complete it.

Cllr Webb said on 28<sup>th</sup> September he will be standing down as Leader of the Council for personal reasons. The Chairman thanked Cllr Webb for all his work as Leader.

**Public Discussion –**

Mr Jerry Blake addressed the meeting and also passed around photographs about the large number of oddities that have been built in Willow Cottage (property opposite his own). These buildings are upsetting him and his family. He feels that the property is a shambles/tip. North Dorset District Council Planning Enforcement has said that no planning laws have been broken. Mr Blake's M.P said that he should approach his parish council to see if they could do anything. The parish council has the least powers. NDDCllr Webb has spent some time with Mr Blake on previous occasions and said that legal planning could find no wrong doing by Mr Clunies-Ross (owner of The Willows).

The Chairman concluded by saying that she would write an e-mail to the District Council saying how upset Mr Blake is with the structures in the Willows.

### Footpath and Tree Liaison Officers' reports

Martin Hibbert gave his report, which was circulated at the meeting. He also spoke about P4C (Paths for Communities). It was agreed that a footpath linking West Stour, East Stour, Stour Provost and Fifehead Magdalen would be desirable.

It was agreed that some dog owners do not act responsibly and that some sort of public education programme is needed.

Volunteers are needed to help with footpath clearance. Mr Hibbert said that he has been provided with the necessary tools for clearing the paths.

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

Flood Wardens' report – no report received.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton said there is nothing to report as the Transport meeting is this week.

## **Business Agenda**

**2012/098 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs Mrs B Edwards, T Jones, Mrs E Newton and Mrs E Scott.

### **2012/099 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.

### **2012/100 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**

The minutes were **agreed** to be a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded Cllr Mrs V Lowe and agreed by all.

**2012/101 MATTERS ARISING** – none.

### **2012/102 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Notification of intent to carry out works to tree(s) within a conservation area – Church House, Stour Provost.
- An appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate by Mr Lyle, Application No 2/2012/0147/PLNG, Location: Coking Farm West Stour, Proposal: to remove Condition No 6 from Planning Permission 2007/1066 to allow Permitted Development Rights.
- Unit 1 Church Close Todber (p/a 2/2012/1044) change of use of existing business units to form two detached dwellings. Cllr Mrs Chard said that some Todber residents are against this application and that the business unit should remain as the development in Church Close was agreed to be business and private homes on the old Dorset County Council Depot. The Stours Parish Council endorses Todber Parish support to the application. Clerk has notified Development Control.
- See attached appendix 1 for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting.

### **2012/103 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Copy of correspondence received from Mr Gerry Blake, Stour Row, addressed to North Dorset District Council regarding the “shambles built opposite” at Willow Cottage, Stour Row. Discussed during the Public Participation.
- Community Partnerships Executive of North Dorset (CPEND) invitation to celebrate the achievements of the North Dorset Community Partnerships on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 7.00 – 9.00pm at The Olive Bowl, Gillingham. Cllr Parker and the Clerk will attend.

- The Audit Commission has confirmed that BDO LLP has been appointed our external auditor for five years from 2012/13.

### **2012/104 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

- A30 East Stour to West Stour carriage works. Commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012 for 3 weeks the carriageway will be re-fabricated. The road will be closed from opposite the King's Arms to Head Lane and a diversion will be in place. (Previously circulated)
- Community Involvement in Snow Clearing Operations. Cllr Parker said that he attended a meeting at DCC Highways. The parish council (a grouped parish council will be treated as one entity) could do its own snow plan by identifying a local farmer with a snow plough and the County Council will then provide the blade free of charge. If there is not a plan in place the County Council will administer the scheme. Gritting: DCC has a strategic network of gritting the main roads. There is also the community network link which aims to get the vast majority of villages connected to the strategic network. Grit bins that are registered will be filled by the County Council at the end of October. Provided there are sufficient stocks of grit salt the bins will be replenished. Community owned bins will be charged £55. It was agreed in principle that we do a local plan as Stour Row is not linked to any strategic network.
- Dorset Highways Satisfaction survey (previously circulated), deadline for responses is 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### **2012/105 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

- Gillingham Neighbourhood Area identified as per Regulation 7 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012. Further information is available at <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/neighbourhoodplanning/north>  
The Chairman said that Cllr Miss O'Sullivan and herself attended a Gillingham Neighbourhood meeting. The house building quota has been exceeded. The relief road by Orchard Park via Madjeston to East Stour is a proposed scheme well into the future. At present there is no further information about the scheme. Cllr Mrs Wilkins will make an appointment to view the documents.

### **2012/106 CLERK'S PENSION**

Cllr Parker explained that at present funds are set aside for the Clerk's pension under a gratuity scheme. There is now a requirement that employees are automatically enrolled into a workplace pension scheme. It was agreed at the Policy and Resources meeting held 12 July that the Local Government Scheme is too expensive. There are other schemes such as NEST (National Employers Savings Trust). There is time to explore this further. This to be on the next agenda.

### **2012/107 SUPERFAST BROADBAND DORSET**

Everything is in place for 95% of the County. The EEC is delaying matters because they have not approved the use of State Aid funding. It is believed that the project will be approved and it is anticipated the project will be completed by the end of 2014.

### **2012/108 HEAD LANE, EAST STOUR**

There is a 6'6" width limit for this road. Concerns have been raised that drivers of large vehicles are continually using this road, which is an offence and there could be an accident one day. Clerk to let P.C Maureen Hayward know.

### **2012/109 WESSEX CROSS BOUNDARY WORKING GROUP**

Discussed at the start of the meeting.

### **2012/110 STOUR PROVOST PAVILION – WATER SUPPLY PROBLEMS**

Still ongoing to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **2012/111 STOUR PROVOST BUS SHELTER**

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Lowe and the Clerk met with John Cumming, Passenger and Transport, DCC and Paul Walker Traffic Engineering, DCC to discuss the possibility of having a bus shelter along the B3092. They agreed that there could be a new shelter on hard standing (it is not an option to move the existing shelter as it is too old and damaged). It was agreed that the "Kassel" kerb be used as it is accessible for push chairs and wheelchairs. The costing for a "Kassel" kerb would be £2287.30. Mr Walker will find out the cost of a shelter from DCC. Cllr Cattaway will explore the availability of redundant shelters in Weymouth following their revamp because of the Olympics. It was agreed that there is a need to raise funds of approximately £5,000 by way of precept or fund raising.

### **2012/112 PATHS FOR COMMUNITIES (P4C)**

Mr Hibbert agreed to head a working party with representatives from our parish council to explore this further. Cllr Parker – West Stour, Cllr Mrs C Wilkins – Stour Provost and Cllr Miss O' Sullivan – East Stour. Mr Hibbert will arrange a meeting and report back at the next meeting. He did say that there are other sources of funding such as Natural England which runs until early 2014.

### **2012/113 EAST STOUR ALLOTMENTS**

Wendy Dyer, Spectrum Housing has had a brief discussion regarding the lease with the development officer and their solicitor. They have suggested a 5 year lease initially with either a peppercorn rent or a small rent of perhaps £50 per year. They would have to give us 12 months notice if they wanted to end the lease. There will be other clauses but it will be a very simple lease. Once they have sorted the definite terms out the solicitor will write to us with a Heads of Term letter which will set everything out for our approval.

Cllr Miss O'Sullivan said that as the person that originally made the request for allotments has moved the matter will be discussed further at East Stour's parish meeting in November.

### **2012/114 EAST STOUR PARISH PLAN**

A draft document is being drawn up. There will be a Village Open day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 3 - 7.30pm in the hall. The finished document will be issued to the villagers at the end of November.

### **2012/115 STARTING TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was agreed to leave the time of 7.30pm.

### **2012/116 FINANCE - ACCOUNTS** for the period 1 July 2012 – 31 August 2012.

#### **Payments**

1427	CPRE renewal membership	29.00
1428	SD Playgrounds inspection	50.40
1429	M Cox reimburse toner printer	131.98
1430	M Rymill East Stour Parish Plan	20.98
1431	TalkTalk broadband	17.78
1432	Mrs M Cox sal & exp June	398.78
1433	Communicorp renewal LCU	75.00
1434	Viking stationery supplies	89.57
1435	Phoenix services grass cut Millennium Green	80.00
1436	Mrs M Cox sal & exp July	387.96
Total		1284.45

#### **Receipts**

S/Widows Interest	46.18
M Jones Stour Provost playing field	15.00
Total	61.18

Balances of Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 – NSB £4,828.87. Scottish Widows Bank – £16,824.39. Lloyds TSB plc – £2,605.59. (Included in these balances is the £1,370 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's pension (min ref 2010/94).

The accounts were **accepted**.

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

### **2012/117 FINANCE – PAYMENTS**

- DAPTC - £40 & £10 training courses.
- TalkTalk- £17.95 broadband
- £18.74 Jason Eyres (Todber Millennium Green)

It was **agreed** to pay the above items. Proposed Cllr Miss O'Sullivan seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed.

- Wessex Water (pavilion) - £98.97 this seemed rather high despite the fact there has been some tests on the pressure and showers. Agreed not to pay until the Chairman has contacted Wessex Water to query the bill.

### **2012/118 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

#### a) Chairman's

The Chairman said that she attended celebratory service for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at Wimborne Minster. Also on the 12<sup>th</sup> July Cllr Mrs Jones and herself saw the Olympic Torch Procession from Shaftesbury Town Hall.

#### b) Clerk's

- LCR. Community.com issue 155. Clerk & Councils Direct. The Clerk magazine. LCU. All available at the meeting or from Clerk.
  - DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.

#### c) Playing Fields –

- East Stour –
- Stour Provost and the pavilion – discussed earlier.

#### d) Crime

Cllr Miss O'Sullivan attended the North Dorset Crime Prevention Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

#### e) DAPTC

The next Northern Area meeting is the Annual General Meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Sturminster Newton Town Council Offices.

Cllr Parker reminded members present to respond to the Localised Support for Council Tax consultation out at present.

#### f) CPRE

Countryside Voice.

### **2012/119 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING.**

- Clerk's Pension.
- Todber's "Business Park" sign.
- Stour Provost bus shelter.
- The return of the Gypsy and Travellers at Five Bridges lay-by.

**2012/120 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

8 November 2012 at East Stour, 10 January 2013 at Stour Row, 14 March 2013 at West Stour,  
9 May 2013 at Stour Provost, 11 July 2013 at East Stour, 12 September 2013 at Stour Row,  
14 November 2013 at West Stour.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman

Date .....