

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th September 2013
in Stour Row 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, M Ratcliffe, Mrs M Rymill, M Rymill, Mrs P Sealy, Lady Staggs and Mrs C Wilkins. Also, NDDCllr Mrs T Handford, 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 – no report received.

NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT.

Cllr Mrs Handford said that there is nothing to report as there has not been a full council meeting. The issue about the relocation of Shaftesbury's war memorial has not come up at a meeting. Health authorities are changing locally and this will mean patients will have a say about services provided by their local GPs.

Public Discussion –

Mrs Diana West, Champion of Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP) addressed the meeting about the forthcoming changes to Dorset Local Bus Network. There are Community Transport schemes in Dorset. Further information can be found at <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/mylocal/> or by calling 01305 221053. Mrs West also gave details about Nordcat & SCAT Bus & Wareham Link, Age Concern (Shaftesbury) and Gillingham Area Car Link (for villages with SP8 postcode). Information leaflets available from the Clerk. Mrs West was thanked for this useful information.

Footpath and Tree Liaison Officer's report

Mr Hibbert said that DCC Rights of Way is being re-organised. Hamish Murray is the new Head of Rights of Way and Graham Stanley is the new Rights of Way officer for North Dorset.

Shade House diversion still not completed. Lyde Hill Farm this will now be in the hands of Graham Stanley. The possibility of disabled access at Duncliffe Wood is being investigated. The main track a public bridleway needs improving. There is an application for a diversion at Joliffe's Farm near Margaret Marsh and we should hear about that shortly. The diversion at Mead Farm has gone through the usual route but there appears to be no further developments.

Trees –Ash die back has been discovered at Milborne St Andrew, no evidence yet locally.

Flood Wardens' report – Nothing to report as it has been dry.

Transport – Cllr Mrs Newton covered during the public session and also is agenda item 10.

Business Agenda

2013/109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs P Gould, G Herring and Mrs E Scott. Mrs L Robertson also sent her apologies.

2013/110 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.

Cllr Mrs Watkins expressed an interest for agenda item 16 (Swings at Stour Row Village Hall).

2013/111 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS

None received.

2013/112 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th July 2013.

Cllr Cowan said that the penultimate sentence under min ref 2013/86 should read "Cllr Cowan questioned whether there was a risk that if broadband service were to be available in the Stours area from a DEFRA-funded provider using wireless technology, the limited funding available for fibre broadband under the Superfast Dorset project might be denied to the Stours area, and diverted elsewhere. As fibre is a generally superior technology to wireless, this would be to the disadvantage of Stours parishes. Andrew Cattaway undertook to raise this concern with the project manager for Superfast Dorset, and report back". This was amended and then the minutes were **agreed** to be a correct record of the meeting and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Sealy, seconded by Cllr Lady Stagg.

2013/113 MATTERS ARISING

- The pot hole by Stower Provost School was repaired on Monday 9th September.
- GIS Training - Cllr Parker and the Clerk attended the course. It showed how to get the most out of Dorset Explorer. We have a MPSA licence which means NDDC are able to print maps for us should we require them.

2013/114 PLANNING MATTERS

- Appeal by Mr W Lee, application no 2/2012/1508/PLNG Land at Stour Hill Farm, West Stour construct vehicular access.
- The application received for Squatters Cottage, Stour Provost extend and convert existing building to form 1 No. unit of holiday accommodation (2/2013/0901) was discussed and it was agreed to object for the following reasons it is in the curtilage of a listed building, the access is on a blind corner which is on a busy route to the primary school and is used by farm trucks. Should Development Control agree to the application it was requested that the access be positioned past the proposed extension. Concerns were raised about the trees on the property.
- See attached appendix 1 for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting.

2013/115 CORRESPONDENCE

- Blandford Town Council hosting a Neighbourhood Planning & Community Rights event Monday 4th November 2013 5.30pm -8.00pm at The Corn Exchange, Blandford Forum (previously circulated).
- The DAPTC would like comments on DAPTC communications (e-mail previously circulated).
- A query from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Martin Underhill - What makes a good PACT?
- Chesterton Humberts is exploring Neighbourhood Plans and would be happy to attend one of our meetings. Not required at present.
- Copy correspondence addressed to Local Government Ombudsman received from Mr G Blake. The Chairman gave a brief history of Mr Blake's complaints about NDDC planning and DCC highways.
- DIAL Access Dorset – 01202 430113 Information and Advice Line for disabled people, older people and carers.

2013/116 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Development Framework Modifications to the Submissions Strategy (previously circulated).

2013/117 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

No other matters came to our attention.

2013/118 CHANGES TO DORSET LOCAL BUS NETWORK

Comments on Dorset County Council's proposals to the route changes (previously circulated).

Consultation closes 24th September 2013.

Some of the buses cannot change their timings because of schools. There are no public buses for youngsters attending Weymouth, Poole and Bournemouth colleges. Though it is thought that Connexions have some arrangements. The Council has saved the right amount of money with the least amount of disruption with these proposals.

2013/119 CLERK'S PENSION

Members, having researched the issue, are satisfied that the council will not have to automatically enrol the clerk in a contributory pension scheme since she earns below the 'Lower Earnings Limit' (£9,440).

Cllr Parker proposed that we continue with the retirement gratuity scheme that is already in place. This was seconded by Cllr Cowan and agreed by all. £685 per annum is put aside (min ref 2010/94). Rates of interest to be investigated so the fund can appreciate rather than erode and risked assessed (Governance and Accountability). The monies to be placed in a separate account. Clerk to give an approximate retirement date. Cllrs Parker, Cowan and Ratcliffe will investigate further.

Cllr Lady Stagg left the meeting at this point.

2013/120 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

It was **agreed** that the Clerk's hourly rate be increased to £10.603 with effect from 1st April 2013 per NJC for Local Government Services. Proposed by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones.

2013/121 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Speeding motorists in Stour Row. The Chairman opened up the meeting to allow Ms Pat Traverse speak about her concerns of some motorists that are breaking the 30mph speed limit in the village, as people do walk in the road as there isn't a pavement. Children also play in the road. PC Maureen Hayward & Ms Traverse have yet to meet to discuss this issue. If there is a suitable site a road safety van could be used to monitor speed of the traffic.

Cllr Mrs Sealy said that she had met with PC Hayward and they discussed Community Speed Watch. It is run by trained volunteers. Volunteers need to be recruited and will be "vetted" and trained according to health and safety regulations, operating the laser and recording "offenders". A suitable site is required and cannot be used where there is no pavement. However a laser costs £300 which would have to be purchased by the parish council. If there is enough interest to let PC Hayward know.

2013/122 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Cllr Parker said it is now live and the address is www.thestourparishcouncil.org.uk. He also said that he would like more information for the website.

2013/123 EAST STOUR VILLAGE ACTION PLAN

It was **agreed** that a payment totalling £274.78 in respect of finishing the hedge works at the Village Hall car park be made. Proposed Cllr Miss O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton. Cllr Little's report attached.

2013/124 SWINGS AT STOUR ROW VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Ratcliffe questioned why swings are wanted in Stour Row. The reason is that it has been requested by some families as they do not have suitable facilities, e.g. the gardens are too small. Cllr Ratcliffe did say that East Stour playing field is a "centre of excellence" for 5 – 10 year old children. Cllr Miss O'Sullivan did say that East Stour is used by children of all ages and some are accompanied by parents. Cllr Ratcliffe felt that within the Stours there is nothing suitable for under 5 year olds. He suggested that money be spent in one place to provide play equipment for under 5's. A lengthy discussion took place. This would need more research – costs, grants and usage. This to be on the next agenda when Cllr Ratcliffe would bring the required information. *Subsequently Cllr Ratcliffe said that he did not have the time to do the research and he felt that he did not have the support of the council and would not pursue the matter.

It was **agreed** that the swings be purchased at an estimated cost of £336. This includes 2 swings on an A frame, rubber matting, labour is free of charge. The prices are based on commercial playground equipment complying with safety standards. Proposed Cllr Mrs Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Cowan.

2013/125 PURCHASE OF PICNIC BENCH AT EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD

Two dilapidated benches need replacing. A Surrey Picnic Table (recycled plastic) costing approximately £500 is being considered. It would need to be anchored cost of the kit needs to be ascertained. This to be discussed at the next meeting when more information has been gathered.

2013/126 TODBER TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

The previous request (over 4 years ago) for a 30mph speed limit along Church Lane and Shave Lane was on hold due to objections. DCC now has to renew the process for an extension for a 30mph speed limit. DCC has asked if the Parish Council support the 30mph speed limit extension. Cllr Cowan did point out that the proposed limit should be put in place providing there are no "objections" (i.e.

objections/suggestions) to the proposal. Cllr Parker proposed that we support this request, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all. NDDCllr Traci Handford also supported this request.

2013/127 GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS AT FIVE BRIDGES

Update received from Dave Ayre, Head of Countryside and Business Development, DCC (previously circulated). The Travellers have agreed to drop their appeal in return for an extension to 31st October 2013 and the opportunity to be considered for the new Shaftesbury site. No further extension will be agreed and DCC will evict if necessary.

2013/128 SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN DORSET

Cllr Ratcliffe sent by e-mail the latest development in the Stours and more generally in North Dorset. Dorset County Council in conjunction with BT have now published their plans. The map can be viewed at <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/superfast/availibility/map>.

There is a rolling programme until September 2016. However some areas within the Stours will not get Superfast Broadband. Cllr Cowan has raised the issue with DCCllr Cattaway why small areas like Todber are not getting Superfast Broadband. What is the reason for this "yellow area"? Is there flexibility i.e. looking at extending from green areas to yellow areas. This needs to be brought up at the appropriate time for the areas not benefiting from Superfast Broadband.

2013/129 PURCHASE OF PUBLICATIONS

- SLCC Clerk's Manual - £32.50
- Charles Arnold Baker, Local Council Administration - £60 + p&p
- 10 Good Councillors Guide at £2 per copy

It was **agreed** that the above publications be purchased, proposed by Cllr Mrs Newton, seconded by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan.

2013/130 PURCHASE OF A NEW PRINTER

The Clerk's printer is old and temperamental with the new lap top and will soon need replacing. It was **agreed** that a new printer be bought to a maximum cost of £200. Proposed by Cllr T Jones, seconded by Cllr Miss O'Sullivan.

2013/131 RURAL FAIR SHARE CAMPAIGN

MPs from rural areas aiming to ensure public services at all levels in rural areas receive a fair share of Government funding, including Local Government funding. Petition duly signed and sent.

2013/132 FINANCE - ACCOUNTS for the period 1 July 2013 – 31 August 2013.

Payments

DD	TalkTalk broadband	21.21
1530	CPRE renewal membership	29.00
1531	S Corfield pavilion cleaning	35.00
1532	Communicorp renewal LCU	75.00
1533	SD Playgrounds - inspection	52.92
1534	D Little travel expenses	18.00
1535	Phoenix Services Todber M Green	80.00
1536	Southern electric pavilion	6.16
1537	P Buttress grass cutting ES & SP p fields	240.00
1538	Mrs M Cox sal& exp June	399.23
1539	DAPTC training courses	75.00
1540	Mrs M Cox sal & exp July	398.36
DD	Talktalk	20.66
Total		1450.54

Receipts

Scot Widows Interest	20.86
Mrs D May use of playing field	15.00
Fast Feet	70.00
Total	105.86

Balances of Accounts as at 31 August 2013 – NSB £4854.86. Scottish Widows Bank – £11976.13, Lloyds Bank plc – £3670.22.

Included in these balances is £2055.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's pension (min ref 2010/94). Copy of accounts reconciliation and comparison of expenditure to budget to 31.8.13.

The accounts were **accepted**. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Little & agreed by all. The Councillors were each given a copy of accounts reconciliation and comparison of expenditure to budget as at 31st August 2013.

2013/133 FINANCE – PAYMENTS

- BDO LLP (Auditors) - £240.
- Came & Company renewal of insurance - £1425.96
- Wessex Water - £15.95 (Stour Provost pavilion)
- North Dorset District Council - £27.50 (GIS training course)
- Philip Buttress - £360 grass maintenance
- Gillingham Town Council - £426.72 (Local delivery)
- Shaftesbury Town Council - £336 (Local delivery)

Cllr Miss O'Sullivan proposed that the above items be paid, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

2013/134 AUDIT YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2013

BDO LLP has completed the audit for the year ended 31st March 2013. There were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

The annual return and notice of conclusion of audit to be displayed in a conspicuous place for 14 days.

The return was approved and accepted by the Council proposed by Cllr Little seconded by Cllr Parker.

2013/135 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Chairman's – See attached report
- b) Clerk's
 - Local Councils Update. Community.com. Clerk & Councils Direct. All available at the meeting or from Clerk.
 - DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated. The Newsletter can be viewed on the DAPTC website – www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk.
- c) Playing Fields –
East Stour – the replacement of picnic bench was discussed under item 2013/125 and will be on the next agenda.
Stour Provost and the pavilion – The rotten gate post has been removed and needs replacing. J S Rose has quoted £755 plus vat (includes labour) as the work needs to be done by hand & the post needs to be concreted in. It was agreed to get more quotes and to be discussed at the next meeting.
- d) Crime
PC Maureen Hayward's report previously circulated via e-mail. There is very little to report for the Stours, however there have been a number of shed and out buildings broken into. Also parked and unattended motor vehicles having windows smashed and items stolen from within. Please bear this in mind when visiting isolated locations (i.e. Duncliffe Wood). She also reported about Community Speed Watch.
- e) DAPTC
 - Annual General Meeting Saturday 2 November 2013.
 - The next Northern Area meeting Tuesday 15th October 2013 at The Hub, Stalbridge.
 - Training Calendar previously circulated.
- f) CPRE
Mapperton Solar Farm planning application largest solar farm in the south west (previously circulated). CPRE is against the application. They are supportive of renewable energy but not if it wrecks our precious landscape.

2013/136 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- Clerk's Pension
- Purchase of picnic bench East Stour playing field
- Speed Limit by Stover Provost Community School
- Replacement gate & posts, Stour Provost playing field

2013/137 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm

14 November 2013 at West Stour, 9 January 2014 at Stour Provost, 13 March 2014 at East Stour, 8 May 2014 at Stour Row, 10 July 2014 at West Stour, 11 September 2014 at Stour Provost, 13 November 2014 at East Stour.

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

.....Chairman Date