

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Stours Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Stour Row Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs B Edwards, (Chairman of the meeting), Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, P Brown, R Cowan, G Gilding, R Haddon, Mrs V Jones, R King, L Trowbridge, J Nalty, Mrs L Newton, J Parker and Mrs P Sealy. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox and NDDCllr Mrs Jane Westbrook, Cllrs N Osborne and Mrs E Dale (Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna PC) and 2 members of the public.

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

PCSO 6644 Chris Mullens introduced himself to the meeting as he now covers Gillingham Rural Area for the foreseeable future, PCSO Vicky Biggs is now covering Sturminster Newton. PCSO Mullens informed the meeting of the reported crimes since our last meeting. Also there have been a few incidents in Sturminster Newton, such as shops being targeted. He answered questions from the floor and was thanked for attending the meeting. He left his contact details.

Cllr Jane Westbrook addressed the meeting about the Travellers at Five Bridges. The unlawful encampment of the travellers has been going on for at least 15 years, which is a problem. The Council agrees that there is no objection to Travellers per se, it is the mess, drug and alcohol abuse that is objected to. The Travellers have been at Five Bridges since 29 August last year. Ms Paula Clover, Traveller Liaison officer will instigate the eviction proceedings soon, which will then go to the legal department, and they should be moved on by the end of July. The Travellers have asked for a bit longer as one of them is in hospital. It is most likely, they will return to St James's Common, Shaftesbury and upset the residents of Twyford and Compton Abbas.

Five Bridges cannot be made a permanent site (as previously proposed by DCC) as Wessex Water have an operational pumping site which requires 24 hours access and the main sewer pipe runs under the rear lay-by and across to the other side of the A30. It has come to light that the Police have "busted" the Travellers for drugs. Simon Hoare MP and Martyn Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner are fully aware of the drugs issue and our concerns are fully justified. It was agreed that we need to start putting on pressure to get the Travellers a long term site and to prevent them returning to Five Bridges. Wessex Water has said they would contribute to some form of barrier at the lay-by. The pressure should be for Cllr Walsh to get an official Travellers site and for money towards the "barrier". It was agreed the Cllr Parker would write a letter from the Stours Parish Council to Simon Hoare, Martyn Underhill (after the contents have been agreed with the rest of the council) with a copy to Cllr David Walsh (head of the Planning Committee) to arrange a meeting. We need to make them aware of the pollution and mess the Travellers are making and the fact they are involved in drugs and that Five Bridges cannot be an authorised site as Wessex Water require access 24 hours a day. David Redwood, Chairman Fifehead Magdalen Parish will also be writing. Cllr Nigel Osborne, Chairman, Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Parish Council agreed that they will write requesting a joint meeting. Jane said she will ask Wessex Water to write. Jane will also liaise with Jo Francis, an East Shaftesbury councillor. Jane was thanked for all her hard work in this difficult matter.

**DCC MEMBERS REPORTS** – Cllrs Graham Carr- Jones and Andrew Cattaway sent their apologies. Since the last meeting Graham has circulated an end of year report and a May briefing, also the draft LGR report which was read to the meeting by Cllr Jane Westbrook.

**NDDC MEMBERS REPORT** – Cllr Jane Westbrook said that there is no further news about the proposed solar farms and there is quite a lot of opposition to these.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** – none.

**Rights of Way Liaison Officer's report**

Mr Martin Hibbert sent his apologies and his report (attached) was read to the meeting.

**Tree Wardens'** – nothing to report.

**Transport:** Cllr Mrs Newton said the minutes of the last meeting have been circulated and that the next scheduled meeting has been cancelled

Flood Warden – no report received.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **2018/44 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr P Gould was proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs E Newton and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

### **2018/45 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mrs B Edwards was proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs V Jones and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

Cllr Mrs B Edwards duly chaired this meeting as Cllr Gould sent his apologies (he was silaging)

**2018/46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs P Gould, Mrs E Scott, Mrs J Watkins and Mrs C Wilkins.

### **2018/47 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 R Haddon declared an interest in item 2018/62 new road being named 'Primrose Fields' and took no part in the vote.

### **2018/48 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

### **2018/49 APPOINTMENT TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEES.**

Stour Provost – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins, Stour Row – Cllr Mrs E Newton, East Stour – defer to next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

### **2018/50 TO CONFIRM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.**

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of Parish Meetings. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones, seconded by Cllr Nalty and agreed by all.

### **2018/51 TO CONFIRM PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEES FOR EAST STOUR AND STOUR PROVOST.**

East Stour – Cllr G Gilding and T Jones. Stour Provost – All the Stour Provost Councillors, plus one representative from the football club and one representative from the cricket club. Proposed by Cllr Newton, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

### **2015/52 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE PARISH FOR DAPTC, CPRE, NDDC, DCC TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODWARDEN, CRIME AND HOMEWATCH**

DAPTC – Cllrs J Parker and Mrs C Wilkins.

CPRE – Vacant.

NDDC & DCC – Cllr P Gould.

Transport – Cllr Mrs E Newton.

Crime and Homewatch – Cllr J Parker.

Flood Warden – Cllr Mrs C Wilkins.

Highways - Cllr G Gilding

All the above were proposed '*en-bloc*' by Cllr P Brown, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones and agreed by all.

### **2018/53 TO CONFIRM RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICERS AND TREE WARDENS.**

Mr M Hibbert has agreed to continue the post of Rights of Way Liaison Officer for all four parishes.

Tree Wardens. Todber – Mr P Matcham, West Stour- Mr M Hibbert and East Stour – deferred to next meeting, Stour Provost – deferred to next meeting.

Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr E Newton and agreed by all.

### **2018/54 RESOLUTIONS BY STATUTE.**

The list of deeds and trusts held by Lloyds Bank PLC were read out by the Clerk. Items held are the same as last year.

Trustees for the National Savings Investment Bank Account – Cllrs R Cowan, J Parker and Mrs J Watkins. Any two of the three named to sign. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jones, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sealy and agreed by all.

**2018/55 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES** of the parish council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, previously circulated, under item Reports, Pre-Business, it should read Cllr Gilding reported that (to delete the word “said”) that..., then they were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed. Proposed Cllr Mrs Newton, seconded by Cllr Brown.

### **2018/56 MATTERS ARISING**

- Planning applications Well Common, Hunts Hill Todber. Following Mrs Mills’ statement at the last meeting Cllr Cowan clarified the situation to avoid misunderstanding, regarding these two applications. The first one, 2/2017/0183 station 1 No. mobile home for a workers dwelling (retrospective, as Enforcement became aware of this unauthorised development) still has not been decided. The applicants have sought to justify this application by reason of having calves being reared from the age of 4 days, making this the justification for someone being on the site at all times. The change of use of barn to agricultural use (2/2017/1890) (retrospective) has been withdrawn, as it was identified that the barn subject to the application was not built in accordance with the 2008 approved plans and is therefore an unauthorised structure. Because of this the withdrawn application could not proceed. At present stone crushing is carried out at the premises contrary to conditions attaching to planning consents in 1995 and 2008. Planning consent for the yard dates originally from 1995 and current residents opposed the application. Mrs Mills suggested that the neighbours were aware of the yard when they moved to the area. Mr Mills is the new arrival, the opposite of what she asserted. The Parish Council has reiterated that if consent is given for calf rearing there should be no stone crushing on the site. We have today received the resubmitted new application for the retention and extension of the existing barn."
- Received from Stour Village Markets £519 for the picnic table/bench & £550 for the proposed footpath to the War Memorial.

### **2018/57 TWO CASUAL VACANCIES FOR EAST STOUR WARD**

These are to be filled by co-option. East Stour will see if there is anybody willing to be co-opted at their annual parish meeting.

### **2018/58 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES**

Covered at the start of the meeting.

### **2018/59 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Proposed solar farms at Fifehead Magdalen and West Stour. Cllr Mrs Westbrook said there is no further news and that there has been a lot of opposition to these.
- Appeal APP/N1215/W/17/3189467 by Mr P Smith in respect of 2/2017/1006/OUT develop land by the erection of 1 No. dwelling with garage and parking (outline application with all matters reserved), Common Lane East Stour.
- APP/N1215/W/17/3190760 by Mrs J Wood in respect of 2/2017/0352/FUL Erect single storey building for the use of therapy rooms and educational workshops. Create new vehicular access and form additional 15 No. parking spaces (demolish 2 No. existing buildings), Butterwell Farm, East Stour.
- See attached appendix for list of applications and decisions received since last meeting.

### **2018/60 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

None were brought to our attention.

### **2018/61 NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

None as matters were covered elsewhere.

### **2018/62 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- SIDs. A note from Rob Camp has been circulated ensuring these are to be operated appropriately. We are doing so. The SID at East Stour Crossroads is not positioned correctly and somebody has been tampering with the one at Back Street. Cllr Gilding will contact Rob Camp to get them adjusted. Solar power could be used instead of batteries will need to look at cost. West Stour Cllr Mrs Sealy said that the

SID east to west is fine, having one west to east (from Henstridge) is in progress. Todber Cllr King said this is being shared effectively with West Stour.

- Community Speedwatch. East Stour a co-ordinator is needed. Todber Cllr King said that the team can now operate alongside the SID. There are two sites in Todber where the team do their Speedwatch, Red Lane and the junction at Church Close and Church Lane. West Stour Cllr Parker said that they go out a regular weekly basis. When the SID is erected there is a considerable difference in the speed of motorists coming from the east compared to the speed from the west, where there is no SID, where more drivers are captured with the speed gun. Cllr Parker also said that the Bushnell speed gun that is being used is much more effective as it looks like a speed gun and registers the data clearly, whereas the Pocket Radar, a hand held device has to be pointed then reset each time. There have been instances where drivers have reported to the Police that they are being photographed when the Pocket Radar, which looks like a mobile phone is being used. Hence the request to purchase a Bushnell Speed gun.
- Sign replacements along the A30 (East Stour) – the Council to agree to the purchase of directional sign costing approximately £2,550.00. Cllr Gilding said that the reason why the cost is so high is that frangible safety posts will have to be installed, in case of collisions. There is a need for a directional sign as there is a blind crest before the junction. Cllr Gilding said he has asked Roger Bell and Rolly Skeats if DCC Highways would share the cost. DCC are not replacing directional signs because they do not have the resources. It was agreed that as this is a safety matter, with the site being on the crest of the highway that Cllr Gilding liaise with Mike Potter, Dorset Highways, Collision Reduction Team Manager and request that DCC pay for the sign.
- At East Stour Crossroads speed tubes will be placed to measure the volume of speed. Joe Allen said this is a general review of highway safety.

#### **2018/63 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Two grants have been made by the government totalling £7.45m which is for the Enmore Green Link road and other infrastructure items in Gillingham.

#### **2018/64 THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

Cllr Nalty said that the meeting he attended last year focussed a bit on the data protection but a lot more on freedom of information. As a council we must have consent to have electronic records of living individuals and that information must be kept secure. Clerk to keep a register of data records held. DAPTC, NALC and ICO have produced guidance notes. Cllr Parker said that NALC has proposed that there been an amendment to the bill to remove the need for a data protection officer for smaller bodies such as Parish and Town Councils.

#### **2018/65 CORRESPONDENCE**

Diana West (Internal Auditor) thanks the Stours Parish Council for the £150 gardening gift voucher as a token of appreciation for her internal audit work.

Citizens Advice Dorchester, Sherborne & Districts & North Dorset thanking the Council for the grant of £1000, which they are very grateful.

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance thanking us for the donation of £500, for our support and thinking of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Read Easy Gillingham and Shaftesbury thanking the Parish Council for their donation of £300 and they are very grateful for our support in the work they do.

#### **2018/66 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD**

It was resolved that the Clerk's hourly rate be increased to £11.054 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to £11.275 per hour as per NJC for Local Government Services. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Gilding.

#### **2018/67 UNITED FRONT TO SPEED RESTRICTIONS TO OUR VILLAGES**

Mike Potter, Collision Team Manger Highways, DCC met with Cllrs Cowan, Mrs Edwards, Gilding, Mrs Watkins, and Nalty to discuss road safety at Todber, East Stour, Stour Row and Stour Provost. Mr Potter has made a number of proposals:-

- Edge lining to be reinstated between gateway features on B3092 at Todber – works order will include request to sweep road edge before edge lines painted – site inspections suggested that the delamination of the existing lines could have been exaggerated by being painted over detritus.
- Condition of all existing SLOW markings to be assessed and refreshed where required.
- Give way markings to be refreshed at eastern end of Shave Ln, Todber
- New give way sign to be erected in nearside verge for eastern end of Shave Ln, Todber
- New junction warning sign to be installed for junction with Great Down Lane

- Review cross road warning sign location in advance of Church Ln/Stour Ln junction.
- **Parish** to contact owners of properties Stevenstone and Stour Lodge to see if they can cut back vegetation that is growing out onto the verge restricting visibility to/from Church Ln
- Replace existing 'bends' warning signs either side of bends south of Scotchey Ln jct – new sign to include 'Reduce speed now' plate underneath.
- Four new SLOW markings to be installed on approaches to bends south of Scotchey Ln – two extra for each approach
- Centre lines to be reinstated at 150mm wide on approach to and through the bends south of Scotchey Ln
- Chevron signs at sharpest of the two bends (closest to Scotchey Ln) to be investigated – site visit required with colleagues from sign shop as not yet clear whether sufficient space is available. Also, vegetation at bend could prove restrictive – particularly at the second bend south of Scotchey Ln
- Offside national speed limit terminal sign to be removed – the reason for doing this is to prevent drivers from seeing the national speed limit terminal until they are closer to it.
- Replace 30mph terminal signs west of Stour Row
- Install new painted '30' roundel at each 30mph terminal (Dover St x2 and Green Lane)
- National speed limit terminal signs removed on nearside at Dover St terminals and on Green Lane
- Four new '30' painted roundels on Dover St, Stour Row – two in each location both side of road – site 1 at repeater sign close to Village Hall, site 2 at repeater sign close to access for property, Ash Tree Cottage.
- 30mph terminal signs on the A30, East Stour to be replaced with new.
- Existing SLOW markings on approach to East Stour cross to be replaced with '30' roundels on both sides of the road adjacent to existing '30' repeater signs.
- Bend warning signs on both approaches to the church as East Stour to be replaced – new max speed 25mph to replace existing max speed 30mph sign for westbound traffic.

#### Measures identified outside of meeting

- Reinstatement road narrows warning sign and 'oncoming vehicles in middle of road' on B3092 just north of junction with Butts Ln adjacent to existing SLOW marking
- Remove offside national speed limit sign at terminal on Church Ln/B3092 junction, Todber

Mr Potter will take these forward once we have agreed to his suggestions. However, it is disappointing that there are no measures to be implemented for Butts Lane from the B3092, as we are very concerned about the speed of traffic travelling north on the B3092 when turning into Butts Lane. Another problem at Butts Lane is when drivers are turning right, the B3092 has the national speed limit and there are many vehicles which do travel approximately 60mph, with visibility being poor it can be quite difficult to pull out. Even more of a problem is trying to turn left from Butts Lane, it is virtually impossible to stay on the left hand side of the road. It was agreed that we write to Mr Potter thanking him for his proposed actions and to go ahead with them and also to ask about Butt's Lane, suggesting some action that would slow drivers down and also to remind him about the ownership of the 'splay' by Summerfield Farm.

#### **2018/68 FINANCE ACCOUNTS**

Balance of Accounts from statements as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – NSB £5,018.29, Scottish Widows - £18,736.51. Lloyds plc – £18,931.96. (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).

See attached Income & Expenses for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The Council approved the accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Budget for 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 distributed.

The accounts were verbally updated by the Clerk following receipt of the Lloyds bank statement showing receipt of the precept from NDDC. The accounts were then **approved** proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Brown.

#### **PAYMENTS**

- Annual Subscription payment to DAPTC – approximately £500
- Renew CPRE membership – due 1/6/18 – £36
- Local Delivery Project First Instalment - to pay Gillingham Town Council - £213
- Reimburse broadband Mrs M Cox - £15.50

- Clearstone Solutions, cleaning of bus shelters - £48
- East Stour Village newsletter - £500
- To purchase a 'Bushnell' speed gun for West Stour costing approximately £100 - £200

**It was resolved to authorise the above payments.** Proposed by Cllr Gilding, seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by all.

### **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The following Lloyds Bank PLC direct debit mandates held were reviewed: - Wessex Water (water2business) payment on demand (dated 11.9.14), Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to collect variable amounts (dated 16.4.14), npower to collect variable amounts (dated 21.8.14) and Scottish Widows to pay Lloyds plc variable amounts (dated 5.6.17). It was resolved that they be continued proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton and agreed by all.

Risk Assessment this has been perused, we are awaiting a reply from Came & Co to see if we can increase the excess from £250 to either £1000 or £5000 to save on the annual premium.

To investigate the use of Lloyds Internet Banking by the Stours Parish Council. It was agreed that electronic banking is now the way and the council delegated this to the Policy & Resources Committee. Clerk to arrange a meeting.

### **2018/69 AUDIT FOR THE YEAR END 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018**

Section 1 – The Annual governance statement 2017/18 was **approved** by the council.

Section 2 – The council **approved** the Accounting statements for the financial year 2017/2018.

Proposed by Cllr Nalty, seconded by Cllr Mrs Newton.

### **2018/70 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **a). Chairman's report**

The Chairman said there is nothing further to report.

#### **b). Clerk's**

- Local Councils update. The Clerk Journal. Clerk & Councils Direct and LCR.
- DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.

#### **c). Playing fields**

East Stour – Cllr Gilding said following the playing field inspection report there is a need for new signage 'No dogs' and a statement of what the playing field is for. The cost is approximately £180 from ADE Signs.

Stour Provost – All in good order. There are a few matters to be discussed at their Annual Parish meeting

Stour Row – all fine.

**d). Crime** – reported at the beginning of the meeting.

**e) DAPTC** –The next Northern Area Meeting is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Cllrs Parker and Mrs Wilkins will attend.

**f) CPRE** - Countryside Voice and Fieldwork publications.

### **2018/71 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

#### **2018/72 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

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,

10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Stour Row, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at West Stour, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Stour Provost, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019

at East Stour, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Stour Row, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at West Stour.

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

.....Chairman

Date .....