

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
In West Stour Village Hall**

**PRESENT**: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), Mrs L Bennett, Mrs R Blacklock, P Bowe, Mrs B Edwards, R Haddon, R King, Mrs V Jones, R McConnell, J Nalty, J Parker, Mrs E Scott, Mrs P Sealy, Mrs J Uden and Mrs C Wilkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, Mrs T Bagnall (Tree Warden), M Hibbert (RoWLO) and eight members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Allen and those present.

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

**Public Discussion**

**Mr Joe Allen, Principal Technician - Transportation Modelling Economy, Planning & Transport Dorset County Council was in attendance to discuss the Speed Indicator Device at West Stour.**

Mr Allen said that Speed Indicator Devices (SID) are working well in helping to reduce traffic speed. A second location on DCC land for a SID has been found in West Stour, which meets health and safety criteria and is deployed in the best place.

Miss Last addressed the meeting voicing her concerns about the newly erected pole for the SID being near her property, firstly that she is very unhappy that she was not personally consulted and subsequently contacted DCC (Mr Allen). Miss Last said that there are too many poles in the village of West Stour, SIDs are not effective in reducing speed and made suggestions that the pole be positioned elsewhere. It was agreed that some drivers do speed (Cllr King gave an example of the latest SID recordings of an average speed of 29mph and the maximum of 64mph). Mr Allen said that the SID, eastbound was only up for one day, so DCC only has 1 full day of data, for that day DCC saw a drop of 2mph in the 85 percentile over the previous week, from 37mph to 35mph. Cllr Parker gave evidence from the Community Speedwatch recordings. The team monitor outside Fieldgate and Manor Farm and found when monitoring both directions, from Shaftesbury and Sherborne that the speed of traffic reduced once the SID had been put in place from Shaftesbury direction. SIDs are an effective reminder to adhere to speed limits.

The Chairman apologised that Miss Last was not consulted properly and thanked her and Mr Allen for their contributions and for attending the meeting. The decision of the SID at the second site will be made under agenda item 7 (Highway matters)

Mr Little, a resident from East Stour questioned the rise in council tax. It was explained about the new Dorset County and that the base line would rise so the whole county would average out and that North Dorset has previously had the lowest council tax. Also, that the Stours Parish Council has increased their precept from to £21500 from £15000. It was recommended that Dorset Council be contacted for a more detailed explanation.

Mr Little also objected to item 17 (proposed path from the war memorial to Witch Lane, East Stour Playing Field - The Council to consider allowing dogs on leads along the footpath only). He said that the area needs to be kept free of dog mess, he appreciates that there are responsible dog owners, however there is evidence in Witch Lane that there are not, even though a bin has been specially provided for dog waste. Mrs Jacob addressed the meeting giving her reasons that dogs should be allowed; people that are less able or older would like to sit on the bench near the war memorial with their friends and dog companions, and look over the wonderful views. Most owners are responsible and would clear up after their dogs.

This Chairman said that we have heard the arguments for and against and the Council will make a decision when we get to agenda item 17.

Mrs Gould spoke about Pleck, (entrance to East Stour). The land belongs to Dorset County. In 2012 the Village Action Plan decided that one of its aims was to clear the land at Pleck. The land is now vulnerable to travellers now it has been cleared. To prevent this daffodils will be planted, also trees. Some saplings will be coming from the Woodland Trust in November, mature trees would be ideal but there is a lack of finance. Phil Buttress will quote to mow the grass occasionally (approx. £30/50). Mrs Gould said that they are fund raising and will try for grants, but the money might not be available straight away. She hopes the Parish Council would be able to help. It was explained that the precepts had been set for the forthcoming year but to let East Stour Parish know before the budgets are set for the year 2020/21.

There is a litter pick this weekend to tidy the area up. The Council agreed that it is a great improvement at Pleck and commended Mrs Gould and her helpers.

**DCC MEMBER'S REPORT** – Cllr Graham Carr-Jones sent his apologies as he was doubled book. He sent the following email "I realise this will be my last Council Meeting as your County Councillor. As far as any report for DCC, to be honest, it is almost over. Vesting day is the 1st of April, I will remain your "Shadow Council" representative until May 3rd. so if there are any issues arising please let me know.

Please convey to the Parish Council Members & Chairman, that it has been my absolute pleasure serving the Stours for the last two years. I have always felt welcomed & a valued contributor at your meetings".

**NDDC WARD MEMBER'S REPORT** – Cllr Jane Westbrook sent her apologies because she was attending a meeting in Dorchester, relating to the new council's interaction with town and parish councils. Jane had further items to report on which are covered further on in the minutes.

**Rights of Way Officer's report** - Mr Hibbert said that volunteer work continues most Tuesdays and that they are on top of the maintenance work. 2 problem areas that are ongoing are Woodville Farm, Stour Row and Pigeon House Farm, Todber. Three diversions are in/taking place: Shade House Farm, the path now goes around the farm. FP13 Church Farm, West Stour instead of going through private property it will be diverted through the wooded area. FP 64 Mead Farm, Stour Provost, the path will be diverted around the farm instead of through the property.

The stile has been replaced along the footpath from The Ship towards Stour Provost. The path has been fenced off at the end of Sandilands Close, which Martin is happy about the work that has been done.

He also mentioned about Gillingham Walkers, shorter walks are held on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. If interested please let Martin know. Martin was thanked for his report and for all the work he does on footpaths.

Martin did say that a planning application for a solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen is imminent and it will be visible from Stour Provost, Stour Row and West Stour. Agreed that we would keep an eye on this.

**Tree Wardens' reports -**

East Stour – Mrs Bagnall said that a parishioner made a suggestion that a list be made of ancient trees. Mrs Bagnall contacted Sandie Saunders, NDDC Tree Officer to see if it is a viable proposition. The reply was that there are no powers of trees so not an option. Terry was thanked for making enquires. Stour Provost, Stour Row, Todber and West Stour nothing to report.

**Flood Wardens' report** – Cllr Mrs Wilkins said there have been flash floods, but the water soon disappeared. Cllr Mrs Blacklock raised the issue that despite the remedial works at Madjeston There is an ongoing problem on the B3092 with flooding at Madjeston causing a serious traffic hazard. Water from the landowner's field pours out of a culvert onto Lintern Lane and thence onto the B3092 and flows down the road to the nearest ditch. The problem has been ameliorated by the ditch being deepened. However, in rainy weather there is always a serious flood across the road. The B3092 is a very heavily used road as it is the only exit to the south and the A30 from Gillingham. In her opinion the only solution would be to pipe the outflow from the culvert under the B3092 to the existing ditch. With the development of the Gillingham south extension the traffic will increase and the solution of this problem should be given priority by the new Dorset Council. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Head of Highways about this. Also it was reiterated for everybody to use the Dorsetforyou website to report the flooding and any highway issues.

**Transport** – the minutes of the last meeting dated 13/2/19 previously circulated.

**Business Agenda**

**2019/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Newton, L Trowbridge and Mrs J Watkins.

**2019/22 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.

**2019/23 TO CONSIDER GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

## **2019/24 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019.**

The Chairman welcoming everybody was typed twice, one statement was deleted. Then the minutes were agreed and adopted as a correct record proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards and seconded by Cllr Parker.

## **2019/25 MATTERS ARISING**

The Defibrillator has now been installed in the telephone kiosk, West Stour. The Simplified cPAD Hosting Agreement made 21.1.19 between The Stours Parish Council and The Community Heartbeat Trust Charity (The cPAD Scheme) duly signed. A questions was asked about its costs. West Stour Village Hall made a donation of £1367 and there is an annual maintenance of £135 plus vat. It was agreed to publicise a notice in Octavo stating where defibrillators are: one outside East Stour Village Hall, one outside Kington Magna Village Hall and one in the telephone kiosk Church St, West Stour. Cllr Mrs Watkins reported that the issue of dog mess at Duncliffe Wood is still ongoing and that she has written to Sarah Stebbings saying that if it wasn't sorted by 1<sup>st</sup> April that it would be reported to the Environmental Health Authority.

## **2019/26 CASUAL VACANCY FOR EAST STOUR WARD**

Mrs Judy Uden was co-opted for East Stour ward, proposed by Cllr Mrs Blacklock, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards and agreed by all. Cllr Mrs Uden duly signed 'Declaration Acceptance of Office'.

## **2019/27 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- East Stour Crossroads – Jane Westbrook sent the following update: you will be aware that planning approval has been given for two further large developments, as part of the Gillingham Southern Extension. The funding for the new road, to be built linking the B3081 Shaftesbury road with the B3092, near Madjeston, had been withdrawn by government, but has now - apparently - been transformed into a loan. There are also still disagreements between the consortium and the planning officers as to the level of affordable housing. The council would like 15%, and the developers want 11%. As far as I am aware, neither issue has been completely resolved, but I am trying to find out as all of this will affect West Stour and East Stour traffic wise.
- SIDs, East Stour – a new Sid has been deployed. Guy Gilding sent his apologies and sent in a report that he will continue to deploy the East Stour SID and has offered in future to the deployment of the other SIDs, if there is a need (he has the relevant insurance & Chapter 8 training). This is on the understanding that come November he will tender for his services as a Lengthsman. The Clerk is waiting to hear from the Council's insurance company about public liability. Cllrs Mrs Sealy and King have been trained to deploy the SIDs.  
Todber, Cllr King said at the moment vehicle speeds have come down a bit.  
West Stour – The council considered the use of a currently owned Speed Indicator Device (SID) in West Stour on the post supplied and fitted by Dorset County Council on the highway verge about 10 metres East of 'Little Ashley' to monitor eastbound speeds. A representation was made by the occupier of 'Little Ashley' objecting to the siting of the SID during the public session. Also in the public session, the council heard information from the Principal Technician, Transportation Modelling Economy, Planning & Transport, Dorset County Council on the siting of the post and the effectiveness of SIDs in general. The council felt that the siting of the post was the only safe place with the necessary line of sight and that the SID would provide a general reduction of speed through the village to the benefit of the community. Accordingly, it was resolved to use the SID at the established site. It was agreed that the council would write to the occupier of 'Little Ashley' informing her of the decision and apologising if she felt that the issue was not properly consulted on. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards.
- Community Speedwatch, East Stour –.nothing to report  
Todber – Cllr King When I downloaded the information from its last deployment in West Stour, I found that the average speed of traffic was 29 mph; the maximum 64 mph and that up to 85% of traffic had been doing 35 mph. The CSW minimum reporting speed is 36mph. It appears that traffic speeds are dropping slightly.  
SID Update No 4 issued by DCC reports that some SID groups are working together with their CSW teams. The report says that it can be beneficial to have the speed of drivers indicated by the SID when the CSW volunteers are operating. This is contrary to police advice as they'd prefer that the groups operate separately in case the SID and the radar gun display different speeds.  
The Todber CSW team last went out on 29th January to clock vehicles in Red Lane. The fastest was doing 56mph. When I was on my way home the car stopped in the lay-by near Shave Lane and the driver wanted to know what we were doing. I told him and he wanted to know my name which I didn't divulge. I reported the incident to the police by phone. The advice was to have the official CSE leaflets available to give drivers. I have plenty of these, just not on me at the time. If the West Stour group would like some, let him know."

West Stour – Cllr Parker said that the Police want to come out with the CSW team using a calibrated speed gun and they will be able to issue a fixed penalty notice for those that exceed the 30mph.

- Pleck – covered under Public Discussion. It was agreed that the Council write to Mrs Gould thanking her and her helpers for the great improvement made at Pleck and that the Council will try and support the project as and when they can.

### **2019/28 PLANNING MATTERS**

See attached for list of planning applications and decisions received since last meeting.

A West Stour parishioner did query p/a 2/2019/0027, Riverside Farm, use of land stationing a mobile home for occupancy for agricultural worker, why is there a need for this when it is sheep farming. Mr Hawtree (the applicant) explained that he has received independent agricultural expert advice advising that now that he has a flock of over 600 ewes (increased from 300) there is now a need for the mobile home. The Parish raised no objections to the application.

It was noted that work had commenced at Greenacres, East Stour (erect 1 single storey garage) even though permission has not been granted.

Cllr Mrs Blacklock said that she is not seeking re-election in May, as the planning department are irrational, they take no notice of the council's comments, e.g. East Stour Common.

This matter was brought up at Simon Hoare's Round Table Meeting. Cllr Parker said at the New Dorset's Shadow Executive's meeting, one of the issues discussed was the involvement of parish and town councils with planning matters. However the final decision is made by Development Control.

Mrs Bagnall asked about a caravan and a few vehicles parked in the field opposite The King's Arms East Stour. This could be in breach in planning, Clerk to inform the Enforcement Team at Development Control.

### **2019/29 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Shaftesbury Area Community Radio – Alfred Radio (e-mail circulated).
- Cinnamon Trust (e-mail circulated).
- The Dorset Lengthsman is a new service to parish and town councils providing highway maintenance not covered by County Highways. Guy Gilding is The Dorset Lengthsman.
- Letter received from Read Easy Gillingham and Shaftesbury detailing their charity and requesting a grant this year to further their work.
- Information Commissioner's Office **Data protection registration - confirmation of renewal** our register entry has been renewed and the new expiry date is 23/02/2020. Registration reference: **Z7472996**.

### **2019/30 DORSET COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP MATTERS**

- Elections – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019
- Licence Pursuant to s72 Road Traffic regulation Act 1984 between Dorset County council and The Stours Parish Council dated 23 January 2019.
- Notice of making a Public Path Diversion and Definitive map and Statement Modification Order. Highways Act 1980 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Dorset County council (Part of Footpath 64, Stour Provost at Meads Farm) Public Path Diversion Order 2019, made on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 under section 119.
- Community SID Update – No 4 (circulated).
- Shaping Dorset Council Town & Parish Council briefing 3<sup>rd</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (circulated).

### **2019/31 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE**

In the sad event of the Queen's passing there are protocols that the council will be required to follow under the name of 'Operation London Bridge'. One of the actions we are asked to consider is the Home Page of our website being over written with a black page carrying a portrait of HM Queen and a tab link to your normal home page. The website can be restored to normal the day after the Queen's funeral. It was agreed that Vision ICT carry out this procedure at a cost of £35 plus vat. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Nalty.

### **2019/32 2019 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD**

It was resolved that the Clerk's hourly rate be increased from £11.275 to £11.67 per hour with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 (old SCP 23 new SCP 14) as per NJC for Local Government Services. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr King.

### **2019/33 TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES**

Cllr Jane Westbrook sent in the following report - "As a result of the advice given by the parish council, I went to see Graham Hinks and family, and they do indeed own all the land on the Nyland side of the old A30. So this encompasses the front layby, all the grassy area, and the layby on the opposite side of the new A30. They were very helpful, and do not enjoy the unauthorised occupation of Five Bridges. I have arranged with them that once Rebecca Buck, of the council's legal team, has written to them with her proposals, I will take the letter out by hand, and discuss or explain anything therein. It seems to be very complex, and Rebecca is taking her time in order to get the best, and right solution. I have been in touch with Wessex Water, who are still prepared to supply and fit a barrier to the rear layby, but are waiting to see how the legal documentation will secure their position with regard to access. I have also spoken to Paula Clover, who is of the opinion that the Travellers will remain at St James', Shaftesbury until June or July, by the time she has completed the eviction process. Currently, they are not causing problems and there have not been any complaints about excessive incoming cars. So, it is moving forward, but very slowly!"

Cllr Parker confirmed that Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Parish Council is happy to contribute up to £1500 (half the cost of the stopping up order) but will not contribute to further costs.

### **2019/34 GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION**

Cllr Jane Westbrook sent in the following report - planning approval has been given for two further large developments, as part of the Gillingham Southern Extension. The funding for the new road, to be built linking the B3081 Shaftesbury road with the B3092, near Madjeston, had been withdrawn by government, but has now - apparently - been transformed into a loan. There are also still disagreements between the consortium and the planning officers as to the level of affordable housing. The council would like 15%, and the developers want 11%. As far as I am aware, neither issue has been completely resolved, but I am trying to find out as all of this will affect West Stour and East Stour traffic wise.

### **2019/35 STOUR ROW CHURCH**

Cllr McConnell said that the County Archaeologist said that the proposed style of the extension is not liked and should be more in keeping with the church and has recommended that permission is not granted.

### **2019/36 EAST STOUR PARISH TO ADOPT TELEPHONE KIOSK 01747 838231 FOR £1**

Mr Keith Harman contacted BT to see if he could purchase the kiosk. BT said he could not but the parish council could adopt it. Mr Harman has offered to refurbish the kiosk if it can be adopted. It was resolved to adopt the kiosk, proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards seconded by Cllr Nalty.

### **2019/37 PROPOSED PATH FROM WAR MEMORIAL TO WITCH LANE, EAST STOUR PLAYING FIELD**

The Council to consider allowing dogs on leads along the footpath only. A vote was taken 2 in favour, 7 against, 4 abstentions. The existing order no dogs on the playing field remains.

### **2019/38 ROUND TABLE MEETING WITH SIMON HOARE MP HELD 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019**

Cllrs Mrs Edwards, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Watkins and King attended the meeting which they found informative. When the minutes of the meeting are received the Clerk to circulate them. The main points discussed were planning issues, speed of vehicles in villages, light pollution, broadband speeds. It was agreed that these Round Table meetings be held more often. Cllr King will make a suggest this to Simon Hoare.

### **2019/39 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Balances of Accounts from statements as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – NSB £11,225.90. Scottish Widows Bank – £15,738.33 Lloyds plc – £5,341.27

Included in these balances is £6,165.00 which has been ring fenced for Clerk's gratuity (min ref 2010/94, 2015/022 & 67, 2016/165, 2017/114, 2018/113 & 2018/133).

Copy of Income & Expenses 1.1.19 to 28.2.19 and budget 2018/19 (2 monthly and to date) summary distributed.

It was **resolved** to adopt the accounts. Proposed by Cllr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Blacklock.

Hannah O'Sullivan's legacy to the Stours Parish Council – it was resolved to accept the quote from Mr S Wattridge to supply and install composite bench and dig out area and concrete bench into ground and infill with scalplings and top with self-binding path shingle - £1224, along Witch Lane, East Stour. Also to ask for a plaque to be fixed to the bench. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards, seconded by Cllr McConnell.

## Payments

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

- Mrs M Cox - reimburse broadband - £35.56.
- Mrs M Cox – reimburse stationery - £4.70.
- Mrs M Cox reimburse padlock and chain for SID, East Stour - £23.52.
- DAPTC (planning training) - £65.00
- To pay a grant of £300 to Read Easy, Gillingham and Shaftesbury
- To pay a grant of £1000 to North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau
- To pay a grant of £500 to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance
- West Stour Village Hall –hire - £11
- Countrywide Grounds maintenance (SP playing field grass maintenance) - £145.36.
- J T Gould & Son – hedge cutting East Stour playing field - £108.
- D Braybon – hedge & tree works £2016

Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Nalty.

- The quote from Mr M Belcher- clear vegetation from around bus shelter, wash down, remove flaky paint and sand down. Remove damaged plastic panel and replace with shatter proof polycarbonate panel (must be shatter proof as it is a public bus shelter health and safety) then mask up and paint in hammerite direct to galvanized paint colour dark green. Put up wet paint signs and put up cordoned off barrier around shelter while working on shelter - £485. This was agreed, proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Nalty.
- To consider a grant of £250 for Stour Row website. It was agreed further details are required as there are other methods of communication such as Facebook, Nextdoor. Clerk to contact Mr Veness. Defer to the next meeting.

## Risk Assessment

This was previously circulated and agreed as submitted.

## 2019/40 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

- a) Chairman's – The Chairman said that this is the last meeting before the elections and that Cllrs Jane Westbrook, Graham Carr-Jones and Andrew Cattaway will no longer be standing for our council. He thanked Jane, Graham and Andrew for attending our meetings and all their contributions. Especially the issues regarding unauthorised encampment of Travellers at Five Bridges. The Chairman gave thanks to the following who are not seeking re-election, Cllrs Mrs Ruth Blacklock, Mrs Liz Newton and John Parker, for all their contributions to the parish council over a number of years. John was especially thanked for his help with policy matters.
- b) Clerk's  
The Annual Parish meetings are to be held by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.  
Local Councils Update. Clerk & Councils Direct. All available at the meeting or from Clerk.  
DAPTC – Chief Executive's Circulars – previously circulated.
- c) Playing Fields –  
East Stour – Guy Gilding reported that Steve Watridge has undertaken a large number of maintenance jobs. Remaining to do is the concrete slab which will be turned into a hopscotch play area and the birds nest swing. The quote for safer matting underneath the swing was prohibitively expensive so we will need to review this. Also Steve Watridge has advised that he would be able to start the first section of the footpath in May. This would go from the pedestrian gate in the car park to approximately where the pyramid is.  
Stour Provost and the pavilion – a rather large bill for the last six months of £317.92 from Wessex Water has been received. The bill is usually about £20 for six months. Wessex Water have been out to check the meter and there is not a leak. It is recommended that the meter be moved so it can be safely accessed so readings can be taken. Further investigations are being made before the bill is paid. The Cricket Club has asked to install a cupboard in the pavilion, Cllr Mrs Watkin, Stour Provost Chairman suggests that this be looked at when the Stour Provost Parish meeting is held in May.  
Stour Row – all fine.

- d) Crime  
Vickie gave her apologies and sent in a report that a vehicle was broken into at Duncliffe Wood and a handbag was stolen. There was an attempted theft of scrap metal from a driveway in East Stour.
- e) DAPTC  
The next Northern Area meeting is Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Pimperne Village Hall. Cllrs Parker and Mrs Wilkins will be attending.
- f) CPRE  
Countryside Voice, Fieldwork & Dorset Review publications.

**2019/41 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Proposed solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen.  
To consider a grant for £250 for Stour Row website

**2019/42 DATE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ALL THURSDAYS AT 7.30pm**

9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at East Stour, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Stour Provost, 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 closed the meeting at 9.50pm and thanked everyone for attending.

.....Chairman                      Date .....