

**Minutes of East Stour Virtual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 25th November 2020**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs B Edwards, (Chairman), Mrs L Bennett, G Jenkins, R McConnell, J Pitman, R Robson and Mrs J Uden. Also, Clerk Mrs M Cox and seven members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** – Cllr P Gould, (Chairman, Stours Parish Council), M Hibbert (RoWLO)

2. **MINUTES** – of the meeting of 21st November 2019 were **agreed** and duly signed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING.** – none.

4. **WELCOME TO OUR NEW WARD COUNCILLORS**

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Gareth Jenkins and Jerry Pitman. They have attended a Stours Parish Council meeting and this is their first parish meeting.

5. **HIGHWAY MATTERS.**

Speeding issues in the Stour Villages is a perennial problem in East Stour. Speeding has been worse during lockdown. Cllr McConnell said that a few of them met with Roger Bell, Highways in January, mainly to talk about the difficulties for pedestrians in navigating Knapp Corner. Due to the restrictions of Knapp Corner, there is little flexibility of installing things that might help. Roger did suggest bypassing Knapp Corner by going to the back of the farm and behind the Village Hall or to go down Brown's Lane and come out opposite the Village Hall. At the Stours Parish Council it was suggested that speeding issues within the Stours be looked at collectively and have a working group, as each Village does have its own specific issues. It was agreed that further investigations are needed to see what might work in East Stour. This is on the Stours Parish Council's January agenda. Mr Gilding said that when the Gillingham Extension was being discussed, the problems at Knapp Corner were highlighted, but DCC said it was a pinch point and did not represent a big enough problem. DCC said the pinch point would make traffic slow down. Residents that live at Knapp Corner say it is very dangerous to cross the road. Suggestions were made, that the working committee get together and produce proposals/ideas to the parish council.

SID – Mr Guy Gilding said that the deployment of the SIDs is doing their usual job, which is great.

Speedwatch – Mr Guy Gilding said this has been suspended until 15th January 2021, because of Covid. Just before the suspension, the team did clock somebody going through the crossroads at 62mph.

Cllr Belinda Ridout said that she sympathises with the parish's concerns and will give her support. That the parish puts their proposals to Highways to be assessed.

6. CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS

Stoneleigh, erect 1 No. dwelling, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and 2 No. parking spaces, permitted.

Land east of Bakers Cottage, erect a pair of semi-detached dwellings, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and form 4 No. parking spaces. (Variation of Condition No. 2 of Planning Permission 2/2018/0742/FUL to alter external materials, internal floor layouts and amend elevations), permitted

Primrose Fields, convert Building to form 1 No. dwelling (part retrospective). (Variation of condition application to vary condition 2 on planning permission 2/2018/1397/FUL to allow change of wording to demolish the existing barn and rebuild new dwelling using existing materials). Application Reference Number: 2/2018/1397/FUL Date of Decision: 29/11/2018 Condition Number(s): 2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out strictly and only in accordance with the following approved drawings and details: GMA- 0047-08A, GMA- 0047-11B forming the approved application. Conditions(s) Removal: Due to structural and safety reasons the barn was rebuilt instead of a conversion to exactly the same size and shape using all the existing materials. We would like the wording to be changed to the following: Demolish the existing barn and rebuild new dwelling in the existing materials, permitted

White Cottage, Bleet Lane To New Road, Madjeston erect 1 No. single storey garage extension and associated alterations, permitted.

Primrose Fields, erect detached double garage, permitted.

18 sites in North Dorset removal of 18 No. telephone kiosks, determined

Pipers Pool erect 1 No garage, withdrawn.

Summerleaze Farm erect roof over existing yard area, permitted.

7. DORSET COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Belinda has sent through her reports. A lot of information has been coming out of Dorset Council. The draft Ecological and Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan consultation now closes on 20th January 2021. Winter Pressures Grant, help is available through the Dorset Council website where vulnerable people can register on the Help and Kindness link, available from 1st December until 31st March 2021. The link

<https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/>

Cllr Val Potheary doesn't have much more to add to Belinda's reports. A live Covid update tomorrow night (26th November). Welcome to join and listen into and Public Health will be covering what tier we will be in on 2nd December. Val will send the Teams Meeting link to the Clerk.

Both Val and Belinda were thanked.

8. GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Is going ahead when we do not know. The Manse, Gillingham has been demolished.

9. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Martin Hibbert gave his apologies and sent in the following report: - The only item of real significance is that footpath 24 (behind village hall), which has been blocked for many years, now has been opened with a new bridge across the ditch.

I have noticed that the stile on footpath 10 (from B3092 at Duncliffe View down to A30) has been removed completely. I hope this is with consent of the landowner!

I have also been asked about the gate on footpath 23 (B3092 next to Longmead) which is collapsing & I am investigating.

Please let Martin know if there any other problems.

10. DORSET LENGTHSMAN

Mr Guy Gilding set out a series of works from Sandilands to the crossroads, which has been completed. A lot of materials taken away. Appreciation of the footpaths being wider. The tarmac on the footpaths has been broken up, which was reported to Roger Bell and this has resulted that the footways maybe re-laid by Dorset Highways.

Guy was thanked for his hard work. It will be easier to maintain in the future as all the heavy work has been done.

11. PLECK AND WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Mr Bob Partridge has taken over volunteering the looking after of Pleck. The parish are really grateful. Julia Gould is still helping out. Phil Buttress has said that the grass is being kept too long between cuts so 5 cuts are needed so that the mower can cope. Had saplings delivered from Woodland Trust and has excellent response with volunteers.

David Little said that the problem is managing the wild flower meadow, the strong meadow grass needs to be cut shorter to a height of 10cm high, because it is dominating the area. Volunteers needed to provide and use a ride on mower to keep the grass short to allow the wild flowers to grow. David will ask in the next newsletter. Brian Down kindly cut down the long grass down, but it was too late. Strimming is not an option. David will be meeting John Gould to discuss what is needed to be done for the spring. David was thanked for taking over. Need somebody who has an interest in wildflower meadows. We want to keep this as a wild flower meadow and for it not to revert to the wilderness that was there before.

12. KIOSK LIBRARY AND THE NEW BENCH IN MEMORY OF HANNAH O'SULLIVAN

Cllr Mrs Bennett said that the kiosk painting has been delayed because of Covid. Another issue is the lights have broken. Paul Lampard, electrician said that the whole fitting needs to be replaced and has estimated at a cost of approximately £100. He will repair the fitting. Electricity is supplied by BT.

The Stours Parish Council has agreed that a bench be put beside the kiosk. Mr David Little and a couple of volunteers have agreed to put in a concrete base which would save some money. David and the Clerk to liaise with regard to ordering a suitable bench. The bench about £400 and the concrete about £100.

13. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

As the VE party did not go ahead and to cheer the Village up, it was agreed to have lights along the hedge of the Village Hall, and have a tree with lights by the kiosk. Cost to be shared with TESS and Village Hall and East Stour parish. The cost should not be more than £70 each.

14. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYING FIELD EQUIPMENT MATTERS

- New War Memorial. An e-mail received from Hayley Masterton "People have commented with regards to the finish of the footpath itself. I believe that self-binding gravel was being used as the finish, but instead 20ml gravel has been put down, which will allow weeds etc to grow through, also making it difficult for pushchairs, wheelchairs, Zimmer frames, small children on their bicycles, as it gives way, therefore making it incredibly hard to use. Surely this is not what the path was meant for, making it so difficult to use. The path is a great idea but feel that perhaps before the extension or completion of the footpath, it is better to have one path that will last for years as opposed to one that will need constant maintenance and will disappear over time with the weeds. My concern with the weeds is the weed killer used may not good for the environment or children likewise". The problems were endorsed and it was agreed that the present issues and maintenance needs to be addressed. Guy Gilding said that at the start of this the suggestion of a tarmac path was not affordable at the time (£20.000). The present path was put down by finding a balance between cost and durability. No matter what is put down nature will

take over. Appreciated that Hayley's comments are valid, but if the path is used more it will keep the weeds down, this will help by completing the path. A lengthy discussion took place of the problems with the existing gravel/aggregate and what was turned down at the start of the project because the costs were prohibitive. There needs to be a compromise. The path is a great resource to the Village, but it does exclude certain users of the path. There is a need to look towards it being inclusive to all users. It was agreed that this be investigated further whether stabilising the existing path is a practical alternative or to extend the path. Also, it is a question of affordability. Also, to ask Hayley (whose husband is Manager at Sydenhams for further information about her suggestions.

- Flagpole and flag erected in time for Remembrance Day. Mark Lockley was thanked for doing the erection work at no charge, also Sydenhams for the free aggregate and cement for the flagpole base and finally a villager (who wishes to remain anonymous) for funding via the Village Action Plan - the flagpole and flag cost £400. Guy and David were also thanked for organising this.
- Proposal to use some of Hannah O'Sullivan's legacy to have a fenced off area behind the Village Hall, gate on the right, where local dogs could be taken for elementary obedience and socialisation – Some people were for the idea and some against as there could be a problem with some dogs defecting on the playing field. This was deferred as it is understood that this piece of the land is for the use of the Village Hall. The Village Hall pay a peppercorn rent to the parish council and the area of land mentioned is the responsibility of the Village Hall.
- Playing field and equipment matters. Nothing much to report. Last inspection was end of November 2019. Comments on the "zip slide" not working. It is working because it has a brake on it for safety reasons. You need to pull it down for it to slide properly. Steve Wattridge has carried out maintenance work. Nothing urgent to be done. Oliver Betts donated £50 from his Prime summer school sports. The playing field is becoming even more popular, which is good, Prime Sports and Rugby Tots (since not being able to use the hall) have been using it. It is not a rentable space, but can be subject to donations. Some people use the field when hiring the hall. We do have to pay to maintain the field so there should be some sort of tariff. Playing Field Committee to propose a tariff.
- Grass maintenance review of mowing schedule

15. ACCOUNTS Balance as at 31 October 2020- £9,152.15.

In view of lack of some information it was agreed to defer the setting of the precept to another meeting – to be held on 8th December 2020.

The annual grant of £300 can now be paid to East Stour PCC.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST & INFORMATION

- Post Office opening hours Wednesdays 10am – 12pm. Also running at the same time is the First-Class Coffee Morning when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

There being no further matters, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date