

STOURS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the West Stour Parish Annual Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 24th May 2018 in West Stour Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman) and Mrs P Sealy. Also, Mrs M Cox Clerk and 5 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present and said that he is now also the Chairman of the Stours Parish Council.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr P Gould was proposed by Cllr Mrs P Sealy, seconded by Mr W Sealy. Elected unopposed.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - were received from Cllr J Parker, NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, Ms M Holden, Mr & Mrs A Smith, Mr & Mrs P West and Mr D Amlôt.

3. MINUTES of the meeting of 12th December 2017, previously circulated were **agreed** and were signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Sealy, seconded by Mr W Sealy.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Fifehead Magdalen crossroads, figures received for improving the junction Andrew Brown, Project Team Manager, DCC Highways provided the following information: - Advanced crossroads warning sign from the Henstridge approach = £9500 (this includes manufacture, installation, warranty, solar panels etc. and works at the crossroads to improve visibility = £21,500 (this includes earthworks, kerbing, drainage, new signs, traffic management, welfare facilities, land purchase, legal fees etc.).

The offer from NDDC of a 'No Through Road' sign at Manor Farm Gate was declined, as they felt the sign is not appropriate and that there were not that many lorries.

5. ELECTION OF RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICER AND TREE WARDEN

Martin Hibbert has agreed to continue the role of rights of way liaison officer and tree warden. Elected unopposed.

6. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- The SID has been damaged, its face has been hit. Joe Allen is investigating about getting it repaired. The SID is under a year old and should be under guarantee. It was agreed that the presence of the SID does make drivers slow down (east to west).
- Community Speedwatch – Michèle Holden's report was read to the meeting. It was agreed at the last Stour Parish Council meeting that West Stour purchase a Bushnell speed gun off the internet, which is cheaper and has the approval of the Police. Whilst using the Bushnell drivers no longer stop alongside the team and ask why they are being photographed, when the pocket radar gun was being used. The team continue to go out regularly, weather and roadworks allowing. Since the last parish meeting the highest recorded speed is 49mph; vehicle travelling from the west monitored from outside Manor Farm. This is the direction from which we record by far the greatest majority of speeding vehicles.
- Church Farm Estate signage. Mr & Mrs Jeffery are happy if there is a sign. The owners of Weir Lodge to be asked. The Kiddles have moved, The Osbornes will be moving. Mr Jeffery will ask Mr Trim if it is ok to put a sign on the wall. The problem might be who will pay for the signage, the parish might be able to make a contribution.
- A30 Townsend Farm to Fifehead Magdalen crossroads has been resurfaced. Clerk to ask DCC Highways to remove signage pertaining to the roadworks.
- Cllr Mrs Sealy has spoken to Mr J Trim about the fact that some horseboxes are being driven along Church St rather than the A30.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Jane Westbrook had nothing further to report from the last parish council meeting, where the main topic was the illegal encampment of Travellers at Five Bridges. It was agreed at the Stours Parish Council meeting to start putting pressure on and to request a joint meeting with Simon Hoare MP, Martyn Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner, Wessex Water, Cllr J Parker, Chairman of Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna parish council and Cllr David Walsh. Clerk to clarify who owns the land at Five Bridges, (it is believed that DCC own it).

8. TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Covered under previous item.

9. CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS

2/2017/1660/FUL, Workshop at Church Farm change in external appearance, approved.

2/2017/1969/FUL, The Dorset Showground erect building for use as livery stables, ancillary equine use & store, approved.

2/2018/0253/FUL, Church Farm demolish barn & erect 1 No. dwelling, form parking spaces, awaiting decision.

2/2018/0590/OUT, Land North of 1 The Lynch, West Stour, develop land by the erection of 2 No. dwellings (Outline application to determine access, appearance and layout), awaiting decision.

2/2018/0593/FUL, Workshop at Church Farm, West Stour, change of use from workshop (Class B1(c)) to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3), erect extensions and carry out associated alterations, awaiting decision.

Proposed Solar Farm in West Stour and Fifehead Magdalen. NDDC has said than an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) is not required, even though sensitive locations are being affected. To date there haven't been any planning applications submitted. Mr Hudson (Vale Farm) is not at all happy that there has been an application for a solar farm on his land. It appears the applicants are applying for many sites hoping to get one. In the CPRE Dorset Review it stated "that both developments are relatively large and that motivation is not clear as viability is marginal following the withdrawal of subsidies".

10. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Footpaths -Mr Hibbert sent in a report, "Now that the ground is drying out the main issue is spring growth, particularly nettles and brambles. We are working our way round this as time permits. We have had an unfortunate spate of vandalism in West Stour (and in Kington Magna) with finger posts being sawn off and footpath waymarks broken. This has been reported to the police as criminal damage but realistically I'm not expecting any progress. We are continuing with our Stour Vale parishes walks which seem popular. The next one will be in June. But you may be interested in our next White Hart Link walk on Bank Holiday Monday May 28, starting at 2pm from Motcombe Meadows and walking to Shaftesbury via Kingsettle Wood (4 miles). This walk completes the Gillingham to Shaftesbury section of the White Hart Link. We are continuing to raise funds for footpath improvements, and you will see that White Hart Link is one of the projects supported by the Tesco tokens scheme for May and June. As Michelle has pointed out, Stour Provost cricket club is also one of the projects! Please support us if you can". If there are any problems please let Martin know.

It was agreed that Martin is doing an excellent job in maintaining our footpaths and was thanked for all his hard work. Clerk to write a letter of thanks for continuing as rights of way liaison officer and that we really do appreciate all that he does for all the four parishes.

Trees – nothing to report.

11. HOMEWATCH

Michèle Holden's report was read to the meeting. Police Alert and Action Fraud messages continue to be sent out by email to everyone who has given us their email address in order to receive them.

Attempts to defraud people by telephone and email continue to be the main matters reported. A major concern over recent months has been the compliance of the Home Watch with the GDPR legislation coming in on the 25th May.

This has now been clarified; details are available on page 10 of the Neighbourhood Watch April/ May Newsletter sent out.

We have been informed that there is no need for the Neighbourhood/Home Watch to reaffirm the consent of current members for their data to be used for the purposes of communication and scheme administration by either their local Force Area/Borough Associations, Neighbourhood/Home Watch co-ordinators.

All email addresses are stored securely on computer. The Police Alert and Action Fraud messages are sent out BCC (Blind Carbon Copied) and are not shared with anyone else.

I am thus also allowed to continue sending out information received from the Stours Parish Council

As, has always been the case, anyone can opt out at any time and have their email address removed from the Home Watch Group list.

Finally, due to staff shortages, our Rural PCSO Vicky Biggs has informed me that she has been transferred to Sturminster Newton. PCSO Chris Mullens will be covering our Gillingham Rural area for the foreseeable future".

Michèle was thanked for both her comprehensive Speedwatch and Homewatch reports.

12. VILLAGE HALL

John Parker's (Village Hall Chairman) report attached.

13. DEFIBRILLATOR

With the information provided in the Village Hall report it was agreed that West Stour Village Hall Committee follow up getting a defibrillator, especially as one can be obtained free of charge from The British Heart Foundation.

14. ACCOUNTS – The balance as at 31 March 2018- £1520.04. The precept for the year 2018/2019 is £1500. The grant to St Mary's Church will be £1000 this year.

14. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- East Stour Post Office opens Wednesday 10am – 12pm and also there is First Class coffee Morning.
- Dorset Arts Week is running from the 26th May. Mrs McIntyre said that she will ask that the notices be removed promptly after the event.
- The left hand side of the bridge at Highbridge has been hit.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the parishioners present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date