

STOURS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the West Stour Parish Annual Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th May 2019 in West Stour Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman) and Mrs P Sealy. Also, Mrs M Cox, Clerk, DCCllr Belinda Ridout and 10 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed our new Dorset Councillor, Gillingham ward, Belinda Ridout and those present and said that he is still the Chairman of the Stours Parish Council.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - were received from Cllr D Amlôt, DCCllrs Val Potheary and David Walsh, M Hibbert (RoWLO), Mrs T McIntyre, Mr & Mrs A Smith, Mr & Mrs C Gage.

3. MINUTES of the meeting of 29th November 2018, previously circulated were **agreed** and were signed as a correct record. Proposed by Mr J Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs P Sealy.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Martin Hibbert provided a map of the conservation area within West Stour, which was circulated in a newsletter to all households. The Chairman reiterated that permission is required from the Planning Dept, Dorset Council before any works are carried out on trees.

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.

Tree warden - vacant. It was agreed that somebody with knowledge of trees should fulfil this role.

6. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- The SID is shared with Todber and will be back shortly on the pole opposite the Ship Inn. Both poles will be having solar panels fitted. The pole at the west end will be having paving slabs fitted around the base for health and safety reasons. Average speed recorded is 35mph. 64mph has been recorded. Cllr Mrs Sealy and Mr Sealy were thanked for deploying the SID and for their report.
- Community Speedwatch – Michèle Holden's reported that the team go out for an hour. Speeds of 36+ are recorded, also more recording is done now so that the Police can get more information. The Police say that it is ok to record mobile phone users whilst driving. The team have been recording outside Manor Farm and have received a lot of abuse, particularly from one person. Now that the grass verge is smaller outside Manor Farm and the land is privately owned the team are no longer able to stand there to carry out the Speedwatch. The CSW team need to be far away from a SID to monitor vehicle speeds. The record sheets for the CSW team are much more comprehensive and complicated. The Bushnell speed gun is very efficient and effective, unlike the old equipment, which looked like a camera. It is agreed that Speedwatch team do make a difference, especially during busy periods. HGVs have never been caught. The team can only go out in suitable weather. Martha Perry, from the Police visited the 40mph zone down by Riverside Garage/ M-Tec and has said that the site is not suitable to carry out a speedwatch.
- Car parking along Church Street is still an issue, despite the problem being circulated in a newsletter. Mr & Cllr Mrs Sealy said that their bank is being eroded because of this.

7. DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Belinda Ridout congratulated Cllr Gould on being Chairman and she also praised the Speedwatch team. Belinda introduced herself. She thanked people for electing her and Cllr Val Potheary and David Walsh to represent the Gillingham Ward on the new Dorset Council. She said that she is on the Northern Area of the Planning Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee (a new position) and the Mineral and Waste Policy Joint Advisory Committee. Dorset Council has recognised that climate change is happening and there is a Climate Change Emergency. The Council needs to be as green as possible a council can be. Recycling is an issue and plastic is a big problem. Belinda said that she is also on the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Transport Forum. Belinda explained briefly about Val Potheary and David Walsh's roles within the new council. She read Cllr David's report to the meeting. David has been appointed to Cabinet on the New Dorset Council with executive responsibility for Planning, covering the new Council area. His first job will be to get the New Dorset Council to start on a Single Plan and aims to have this completed within four years. He continues to be a Member Champion for the Armed Forces.

8. TRAVELLERS AND GYPSIES

Mr John Parker said that he had been liaising with Jane Westbrook (ex-NDDCllr) and Wessex Water to present the return of illegal encampment of travellers at Five Bridges. So much has been invested in this and he agreed (so has Jane Westbrook) to continue this matter on behalf of the parish. Jane has been doing a lot of work and has been working with the legal department in arranging a "Stopping up order". It has been discovered that the surface is owned by Highways and the land beneath belongs to Mr G Hinks, landowner and Mr C Lyle. Both landowners have been consulted and are happy about the "Stopping up order". A meeting has been arranged for 3rd July, Mr Parker, the landowners, Jane Westbrook, Wessex Water and Cllr Paul Gould will attend. If all are in agreement a "Stopping up order" will be applied for, which will cost approximately £3000. The Stours Parish Council has agreed to contribute £1500 also Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magana have agreed to contribute the same. It will take a while to take effect once the order has been. It is likely that Paula Clover, Gypsy & Traveller Liaison officer will be evicting the Travellers from their present site at St James Common. Once the order is in place Dorset County will place boulders on the grass to prevent them going across and Wessex Water will install a gate enabling them to have access to their property and to prevent illegal encampment.

The Chairman thanked John for agreeing to continue this matter.

9. CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS

- Proposed solar farm 2/2019/1200/FUL, Higher Farm, Fifehead Magdalen. A meeting was held on 17th April in West Stour Village Hall. The majority objected and a response was sent by the Stours Parish Council to Planning. There has been no further communication. It is understood that an archaeological survey will be carried out. The Planning Committee will be meeting next month to discuss this application.
- Appeal by Mr W Lee, 2/2018/1200/FUL, Land at OS 28 Stour Hill Park. There is a tree with a TPO on it which is in the corner of the property. There are no further comments to add to those objections that have been submitted to Planning.
- Appeal by Mr Julian Trim in respect of Land North of 1 The Lynch, develop land by the erection of 2 No. dwellings (Outline application to determine access, appearance and layout). 2/2019/0590/OUT.
- Appeal by Mr Julian Trim, Dorset Showground, demolish barn and erect 1 No. dwelling, form parking spaces. 2/2018/0253/FUL.

It was agreed to respond to Mr Trim's appeals further by adding to North Dorset Council's refusal. Cllr Belinda Ridout did say that North Dorset still uses the NPPF, existing Local Plan and that the new Dorset County made a declaration of climate emergency. We are a small village with limited amenities. The occupants of these new dwellings would not be able to work or indeed shop, without using a motor vehicle which is not a sustainable form of transport.

- Agreed to re-circulate the map of West Stour conservation area.

10. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Footpaths -Mr Hibbert sent in the following report, "I'm happy to continue as footpath officer but don't have time to be tree officer. Could someone take over this latter role? And if anyone would like to join me in looking after the footpaths, please let me know. Main activity at the moment is strimming footpaths around the village. You may have noticed that we have also strimmed the grass at the top of Combe Lane. We installed a gate to replace the stile at the Ship car park. This was funded by the Ramblers walking charity, and installed by Peter Henry & myself. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Tizzard for giving permission. Concern has been expressed about the state of the footpath from that new gate, but I believe the surface is adequate. I will monitor the situation as the maize crop grows. We continue our monthly walks of about five miles with Stour Vale Walkers. Next walk is Saturday June 29th from Kington Magna church to Nyland. If five miles is too much, why not join us for shorter walks with the Walking for Health programme in Gillingham or Shaftesbury? And for longer walks, the White Hart Link project will complete the link from Blandford to Shaftesbury later this year.

Trees – no report.

11. HOMEWATCH

Michèle Holden reported about the WhatsApp latest hacking scam. Also she read out about the security of Smart phones/ computers which have cameras, also Alexa. These devices are able to record and a simple way to prevent this is by covering with sellatape. Also reiterated was the checking of telephone numbers. Michèle also offered for people who have not signed up, to have Action Fraud emails sent to them. About 60 people already get these alerts via Dr Harper and Michèle.

Michèle was thanked for both her Speedwatch and Homewatch reports.

12. VILLAGE HALL

John Parker's (Village Hall Chairman) report attached. Main points are the use, the fabric of the hall, events, finance, defibrillator, wall hanging project and the Committee.

13. DEFIBRILLATOR

On behalf of the Village, John Parker thanked the Hawtree family for their generous donation of £1000, which has gone towards the cost of purchasing it. The Hawtree family has also agreed to fund the annual cost of the defibrillator, which is greatly appreciated.

As the defibrillator is in the kiosk, Martin Hibbert will be making a smaller village map.

The Chairman thanked West Stour Village Hall Committee for all their hard work.

14. ACCOUNTS – The balance as at 31 March 2019- £1705.04. The precept for the year 2019/20120 is £1800. No questions were raised.

14. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- East Stour Post Office opens Wednesday 10am – 12pm and also there is First Class coffee Morning.
- West Stour Plant meeting this Wednesday 29th May, 7.30pm all invited as new ideas welcomed.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the parishioners present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date