

THE STOURS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of West Stour Parish Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 29th November 2018 in West Stour Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), J Parker and Mrs P Sealy. Also Clerk, Mrs M Cox, Mr M Hibbert (RWLO) and 13 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, Miss M Cartwright, Ms M Holden, Mr & Mrs J Jeffery and Mrs F Gage.
2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 24th May 2018** were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** – none.
4. **HIGHWAY MATTERS.**
 - Community Speedwatch – Cllr Parker said now that the team has been reduced to 3 and the poor weather they have not been able to go out as often as liked. It is intended to go out more with the better weather. It has been noticeable that there is more speeding of vehicles from the west and less from the east, especially when 'SID' is in place. It was reported that the 30mph speed sign cannot be seen, however there is a repeater 30mph sign. The Chairman will look at the sign to see if it is obstructed by hedging and will let Mr Hibbert know. Michèle Holden's report was read to the meeting and it was subsequently circulated to those who wanted a copy. The main points of her report: - the Bushnell Speed gun is of enormous benefit. Drivers using mobile phones are being recorded, this can lead to being fined £200 and 6 penalty points. The CSW has been asked to monitor speed by Riverside Garage/M-Tec and the Police are looking for a safe site. The team continue to receive verbal abuse from drivers.
 - SID – Cllr Mrs Sealy said that the pole for the SID will be erected shortly on the bank just past Little Ashley and this should help reduce speed from the west. The 'SID' will be put on the poles at alternate intervals, as there is 1 'SID' between 3 poles (the other pole is in Todber). All sites are risked assessed by the police and a site by the garage is a non-runner.
 - Church Farm Estate signage – the Chairman said that Mr J Trim has told him that the sign in the wall is adequate and does not want the property names displayed alongside the existing sign. It was commented that despite there being a map in the kiosk there is still a problem when finding an address. There will be a defibrillator installed in the kiosk and the existing map will have to be removed. Mr Hibbert said that he would be happy to redo the map. It was agreed that this is a matter for the Village Hall Committee.
5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Jane Westbrook sent her apologies just before this meeting as her mother is unwell. She did say that Cllrs Paul Gould and John Parker are completely up to date with the Travellers. Also that she has emailed Katrina Trevett re the ten static caravans to say it should go before committee, if she recommends it for approval. She replied she hadn't read it up as yet, but hoped to shortly and would get back in touch
6. **CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS**

2/2018/1200/FUL, Land at Pt OS 28, Stour Hill Park, West Stour, change of use of the land for the stationing of 10 static caravans for residential occupation; associated hard and soft landscaping. Retention of existing access and create 20 No. parking spaces. The Chairman said that a site meeting was held with all West Stour Parish Councillors, the Landowner, Mr Lee and a few residents from Stour Hill Park, Stour Hill Farm and Trap House Cottage. Mr Lee had not taken in account the foul water disposal and did not know what provision would be made. He said that there are no trees when in fact there is a huge pine tree with a TPO. Also there is a dispute over the access to the site and it appears that the only access is via the A30. The Parish has opposed this application and has asked for it to go to Development Control Committee. Members present agreed that the site is a mess and needs something done, however 10 static caravans would not work and it would be preferable to have 2/3 dwellings.

7. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Footpaths - Martin Hibbert said that there is not a lot to report and there are no major problems. He and Peter Henry continue weekly with general clearance. There has been an agreement for funding to replace a stile on a footpath going towards Stour Provost. The paperwork just needs to be signed by the landowner. The monthly Stour Vale walks will be held on the last Saturday morning of the month. The next one is the 29th December from Buckhorn Weston. Martin said that he has signed up to be leader for the Walking for Health, a national scheme. These are shorter walks and last about 90 minutes. Martin is looking at the options in our villages and see if some can tie in with coffee morning schemes.

People need to be aware that gates are being left open along the green lane. The vandalised finger post at the top of West Stour/Kington Magna has been replaced. The damage was reported to the Police but they came back with nothing.

Tree – noted that the Scots Pine at Stour Hill has a TPO. Cllr Sealy said that some people are chopping trees down without permission. Planning permission is needed as some properties are within a conservation area.

Martin was thanked for all the hard work he does for the parish, it is really appreciated.

8. HOMEWATCH

Michèle sent in a report which was subsequently circulated by email. The main points were that reported crimes were mainly related to telephone and internet scams. HMRC scams are doing their rounds again, they do not phone out of the blue and certainly not with an automated message. Also BT postal scams. Our Gillingham rural PCSO is PCSO Chris Mullens. All Homewatch emails can be forwarded to anyone else who you would think would appreciate being made aware of the information being supplied. Parcel scams and viruses on computers are also doing their rounds again.

9. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Parker (Chairman) said that following a generous legacy from the late Basil Ribbons suggestions of how to use the monies were displayed asking people present to vote in order of preference/importance at the Village Hall AGM held 11/10/18. The ideas with the most votes will be discussed and taken forward at the next Committee meeting on 13th December. The Village Hall Committee will be instructing a structural engineer. There is a lot to be thought about and got through. Also Cllr Parker said that he will look into match funding. Parishioners will be kept up to date by newsletters. Cllr Parker thanked the committee, especially Mrs Viv Jeffery and Mrs Jackie Dirkin for the successful ploughman's lunch, David Amlôt for his talk on Afghanistan. The Village Christmas meal is Friday 21st December names to Diana West please. On Saturday 8th December there will be a Christmas afternoon tea. Mrs Viv Jeffery is co-ordinating the Village wall hanging project.

10. TRAVELLERS/GYPSIES

Cllr Parker reported that there will be another meeting on 4th December at Five Bridges lay-by to discuss the stopping up of the back part of it in order to prevent the return of the Travellers. NDDCllr Jane Westbrook has been really helpful and is persistent with this ongoing matter. What is wanted is for DCC to stop up the rear and Wessex Water has agreed to pay for a barrier. Complications have arisen as the land is shown as being unregistered on the Land Registry papers (the land was the old A30). There needs to be a meeting with Highways to get to the bottom of this. At the Stours Parish Council it was agreed to contribute up to £1500 towards the cost of stopping up the highway. Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Parish Council are looking to do the same. Attending the meeting are Paula Clover, Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer, Legal representative from Highways. Cllr Jane Westbrook is trying very hard to get this sorted before the Travellers are evicted from St James' Common as it is very likely they will return to Five Bridges. Simon Hoare MP is very supportive, unfortunately he could not make the last meeting as he was out of the country.

It had been noted the DCC has tidied up the layby. The scrap caravan will be removed.

11. DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Parker said that the Village Hall Committee hosted a talk by South West Ambulance Trust to provide more information on defibrillators. The Hall Committee agreed that they could provide a defibrillator. David Amlôt did a huge amount of research into costs and best options. It was agreed to go down the route of having one supplied by The Community Heartbeat Trust, a charity. The defibrillator will be installed in the telephone kiosk. We will have a 'Managed Solution', the latest machine and screen with a video telling the person using it what to do. This has been recommended by the SW Ambulance Service. The cost of the machine, batteries plus cabinet is £1795 plus vat, plus annual support cost of £135 plus vat for a minimum of 4 years. The cabinet is needed to keep the equipment at the right temperature. The 'Managed Solution' is on the proviso that people are trained to use the equipment. Mr Mick Powell has the necessary qualifications and has offered to train people. The defibrillator will be replaced should it be damaged or stolen for up to 10 years. The batteries will be replaced every 4 years. £1795 has been gifted to the Stours Parish Council so they can purchase the equipment and reclaim the vat. The defibrillator will therefore be owned by the Stours Parish Council. The annual support costs of £135 plus VAT will be paid out of West Stour's precept, therefore there will be a need to incorporate the annual support costs into future annual precepts. A possible cost to the Village Hall Committee is the electrician's charges to install the defibrillator. Once installed it will be places on the national register of defibrillators.

12. ACCOUNTS.

Balance as at 31st October 2018 - £3063.04. Since 31st October £1795 has been paid to the Stours Parish Council for the defibrillator. The clerk did say that when we become a unitary should there be any election costs it will now fall down to the parishes to pay as in the past NDDC paid. The accounts were discussed and it was agreed that there should be sufficient for the two annual grants, hall hire, annual support cost of the defibrillator and to allow for election costs should there be a need.

Dr Harper proposed that the precept for 2019/20 be £1,800, seconded by Mrs West and agreed by all. It was agreed that the annual grants of £1000 to West Stour PCC and £350 to West Stour Village Hall can now be paid.

13. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION.

- East Stour Post office opening hours Wednesdays 10am – 12noon. Also First Class coffee morning is held at the same time – all welcome.
- Martin Hibbert reminded members present about Nextdoor.co.uk which is a useful for communication between parishioners.
- The issue of cars obstructing Church Street came up again, meaning that some emergency vehicles cannot get through easily. Also some tractor drivers (could be contractors) are speeding along the highway, the Chairman did say that the legal speed limit of tractors is 20mph. The banks are being damaged. In the past letters have been written and a leaflet drop made. It was noted that some residents have taken note and park off the road, however there are still 2 or 3 properties causing the problem. The Village Hall car park cannot be used as there is a covenant on it and can only be used for the Village Hall and the Church. It was agreed that Cllr Parker and Mrs Diana West will liaise and mention the problem of parking when the next Village Hall newsletter goes out and to go from there.
- Agreed to get a map of West Stour's conservation area from NDDC so that people are aware about the trimming/cutting down of trees.
- Cllr Parker informed the meeting that he will not be standing for re-election in May 2019 as his work as governor for Salisbury Hospital Trust has increased. The Chairman thanked John for all his work as a parish councillor.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending. The meeting closed at 9.06pm

.....ChairmanDate