

# THE STOURS PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of West Stour Virtual Parish Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**PRESENT:** Cllrs P Gould (Chairman), D Amlôt and Mrs P Sealy. Also, Clerk, Mrs M Cox and 8 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present and apologised for the brief agenda, due to Covid-19. He hopes to have an open meeting when possible. He then paid tribute to Michèle Holden, who sadly passed away a few months ago. He spoke about Michèle's involvement with Homewatch and Community Speedwatch within the Village. The parish really did appreciate all her hard work, especially her collation of statistics.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Martin Hibbert, Julian Trim, Anne Hazzard and Wendy Martin.
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed.
3. MATTERS ARISING – The Hawtree Family have kindly again agreed to pay the annual maintenance cost for the defibrillator. They were thanked for their generosity. The family agree that it is a nice gesture to the Village.  
Cllr Mrs Sealy reported that people had approached her to complain about the Water Turbine noise. Those affected by the water generator noise, being an environmental concern, can fill out a report on-line using the following link <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/environmental-health/noise-complaints.aspx>. However, the website advises that affected persons should approach the individual who was responsible for the noise first to try and resolve the issue before submitting a complaint to the environmental team. Should anybody need help, Cllr Amlôt said he would be happy to help and point them in the right direction. The Chairman encouraged individuals to use the Dorset Council website to report any issues.
4. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS  
Footpaths - Martin Hibbert sent in the following report:
  1. The diversion of footpath 13 near Steeplechase is now complete. There is no actual change on the ground as this diverts the legal line of the path on to the walked route.
  2. You may remember that the proposal for new fishing lakes at Coking Farm originally required footpath 58 to be diverted. This was changed and I confirm that the path follows its original route over two bridges. It is now a nice path through the fishing lakes.
5. ACCOUNTS.  
Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 - £3,940.04.  
West Stour Village Hall Committee and West Stour PCC said that they are happy to have the same amount for their grants in 2021. Cllr Mrs Sealy proposed that the precept for 2021/22 be £1,800, seconded by Cllr Amlôt 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. Proposed Cllr Amlôt, seconded Miss Fowler.

## 6. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION.

- East Stour Post office opening hours Wednesdays 10am – 12noon. Also, there is a Post office service at Buckhorn Weston.
- Seb Hawtree gave thanks to West Stour Parish and the Stours Parish council for their support with the Riverside Garage planning application. The family really do appreciate that the application was successful and they look forward to next year. It is likely that the works will begin in the middle of the year. There have been weekly meetings with the designers and retailers and fuel company. They are in talks with Spar and another retailer, before making a decision.

- John Parker, Chairman of the Village Hall gave an update on the works on the hall. It has all nearly finished just the curtains to make and a bit of tidying up. The Committee are pleased with the works. Hopefully when we can all get together there will be a grand re-opening. John said that he has sent a letter to John Watt, (Basil's partner in the Village), updating him of how Basil's legacy was spent, together with photographs. Also, when we can meet up, it is hoped that we can get John to the grand re-opening. The Committee are currently hiring out the hall to Dorset Council for 1-1 tuition with a student from Sherborne School. All the Covid signage is in place. On another matter the Chairman said that he has written to the Charity Commission about our Trustees, as there are historical references to the PTA and Mothers Union. They replied saying that we can alter it ourselves with a resolution and that it is part of a government documents. This will be looked at and amended next year. Finally, the hall had their fire extinguishers serviced and it appears that we have been charged excessively and been issued with new extinguishers and one might not be needed. Paul and Diana West know of a fire inspection officer, who will give us a report later this month. Paul & Diana thanked.
- Mrs Jane Barkes asked about the street lighting at the Dorset Showground and wondered whether it is still on the Enforcement team's agenda. Mr Barkes has been in touch with them but no response received. The parish council contacted them in November and has not received a response either. The Clerk to chase Enforcement as the lightening does affect neighbouring properties, as the light does shine brightly into their bedrooms. When the parish council wrote originally it was asked for confirmation of the lighting around the manège itself. These are new set of tall lights, which are in addition. It was asked if permission were to be granted that the lights be on a timer, be shielded, because of light pollution, because of the height that the lights be shrouded not to affect wildlife and people.
- The Chairman and David Amlôt gave thanks to Michelle, the Clerk, this is her last parish meeting for West Stour. A new Clerk has been appointed, Kate Squire, she works part time for Sturminster Newton Town Council.
- John Parker asked that we record the sad passing of Jo Harper, our condolences to Brian and his family.
- Hopefully when time allows, we will have a proper face to face meeting in the new refurbished hall.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending. The meeting closed at 8.10pm

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