

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Stour Provost Parish Assembly held at 6.30pm on Friday 21st May 2021 in Stour Provost Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs J Watkins (Chairman), Mrs P Patrick, Mrs E Scott, Lady Arabella Stagg, Mrs F Stanford, and Mrs C Wilkins. Also, the Temporary Clerk, Mrs R Jacques and 1 member of the public (Mr J Bishop).

Mr J Bishop introduced himself to the members as representing the Cricket Club. He had felt it necessary to attend the meeting to gauge public opinion as there have been many negative comments about the club recently. He expressed a willingness to discuss issues with members of the council and the public and considered that an opportunity to meet could be a possible solution. Cllr Mrs Watkins agreed and invited him to attend the Playing Field Committee meetings held twice a year.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mrs Wilkins proposed Cllr Mrs Watkins as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Lady Stagg and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – County Cllr Jane Somper, Mr W Forrester, Mr E Udall.

3. MINUTES of the meeting of 24th November 2020, previously circulated were **approved** and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Mrs Scott and agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING – There were none.

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

Rights of Way Liaison Officer, Mr Martin Hibbert has agreed to continue the post for both Stour Provost and Stour Row. Proposed by Cllr P Patrick, seconded by Cllr Mrs Stanford.

Cllr Mrs Scott agreed to be the Tree Warden for Stour Provost and Stour Row. Proposed by Cllr Lady Stagg, seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkins and agreed by all.

6. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEES

Cllr Mrs Patrick proposed Cllr Mrs Watkins (Stour Row), seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkins. Cllr Mrs Watkins proposed Cllr Mrs Wilkins (Stour Provost) seconded by Cllr Mrs Scott. Both were elected.

7. DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The County Councillor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. All agreed that it was very informative.

8. CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS

Lyde Hill Farm, Stour Provost. Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to dwelling. The Chairman noted that this is a Class C3 application and so not a planning application. Hop House, Stour Provost. P/HOU/2021/00535 Erect a two-storey side extension, and dormer extension to rear roof slope (demolish conservatory). No objections were raised.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr Mrs Patrick reminded the meeting that the road through the village will be closed on Monday 24th May for resurfacing – weather permitting. She had contacted Dorset Highways to enquire if the works could go ahead if it is raining. The department confirmed that works cannot proceed in poor weather.

General discussion confirmed that not all residents affected by road closure had received letters from Dorset Council. Cllr Mrs Patrick reported that a local resident has agreed to provide parking spaces for the residents directly affected by the road closure.

Cllr Wilkins requested that Dorset Highways be contacted regarding the possibility of putting a speed limit through the village. The Councillors agreed that Dorset Highways would be very unlikely to agree with the request.

Cllr Mrs Stanford requested that consideration be made on putting a speed limit outside the School. Cllr Mrs Patrick suggested that an application for a speed limit that involved the children at the school might have more impact. Cllr Mrs Stanford agreed to speak to the Headteacher on this matter.

10. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

No issues were raised.

11. PAVILION AND PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

i) Correspondence from Mr Sturdy and Mr Balchin had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting by the Temporary Clerk.

Cllr Mrs Watkins read the following statement:

Having read the two lengthy reports we have received, one from Gary Sturdy and another from Andy Balchin, on behalf of the Cricket Club, there seems to be a rather unfortunate difference of opinion between Gary Sturdy and the Cricket Club on the back of the Public Spaces Protection Order. I am sure that there are more voices out there who have not taken any further action after the initial emails. We will see tonight. If it remains between these two, I don't want us involved.

It is not the place of the Parish Council to become involved in such things. The Parish Council will put up a notice as below on the playing fields, as we are instructed to do by Dorset Council, and very much hope that the visitors to the playing fields will obey the order and monitor their dogs closely when they are off the lead. They should keep them on a lead within 5 metres of either marked sports pitch. We trust everyone to be responsible dog owners and pick up and remove dog poo at all times. Failure to do so will result in the dogs on leads ruling changing to dogs on leads at all times. Even better train your dog to do that before coming into the recreation ground. We also hope that the cricketers will take notice of what Mr Sturdy has pointed out as hazards from the cricket nets and equipment and adjust their use of these items accordingly.

Owners much pick up their dog's poo in this recreation ground and dispose of it appropriately. There is a bin by the main gate. Dogs off leads are not allowed within 5 metres of marked sports areas.

With regard to the issue of safety and the Cricket Club activities raised by Mr Sturdy, we will look into this immediately and take whatever action is necessary and discuss our findings at our next Parish Meeting in November. We will give good notice of the date and time of the meeting nearer the time. We will be discussing the ecology and diversity of the playing field grounds further with Dorset Council.

If you any queries or issues with this statement please contact the Clerk.

The Chairman asked to see the insurance policy. The Temporary Clerk informed her that it is not available at the moment as it is with other paperwork held by the outgoing Clerk. When it is provided the Temporary Clerk will forward the policy to the Chairman.

Mr Bishop suggested that it would be in the interests of both the Parish Council and the Cricket Club to work on a joint risk assessment. This was considered a good idea.

The Councillors discussed possible solutions to the issues raised in the Chairman's report including:

- i) More signage, waste bins with bags provided (the concern with this suggestion being who would replace the bags when the dispenser is empty).
- ii) The ash trees at the recreation ground are good and have been inspected.
- iii) Play equipment. Swings appear to be ok. The cricket nets are up. Stour Row - all is fine.
- iv) Mr Bishop raised the issue of a lack of water supply to the sprinkler near the square. He reported that since the new meters were installed the water pressure appears to be much lower. The Chairman agreed to contact Wessex Water on this matter.

12. ACCOUNTS

The Clerk apologised for not having the information with her but agreed to send it to the Chairman as soon as possible.

13. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

Cllr Mrs Patrick informed the meeting of a national campaign named '20's Plenty' to reduce 30mph speed limits to 20mph. The organisers are requesting that residents lobby their local council to reduce the speed limit in the county they live in.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.12pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date