

**Minutes of East Stour Annual Parish Meeting held at 6pm on
Monday 24th May 2021 in East Stour Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs B Edwards (Chairman), Mrs L Bennett, R McConnell, J Pitman, R. Robson and Mrs J Uden. Also, the Temporary Clerk, Mrs R Jacques and 10 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mrs B Edwards was elected as Chairman, proposed by Cllr Mrs Uden, seconded by Cllr Mrs Bennett and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllr G Jenkins, Mrs T Bagnall.

3. **MINUTES** of the meeting of 8th December 2020 (previously circulated).

The Chairman reported that the Chairman reported that on the East Stour Proposed Expenditure sheet the Estimated Total Expenditure should read £10,644.85 - £11,204.85 not £6,000 - £11,204.85'. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were approved. Proposed, Cllr Mrs Uden, seconded, Cllr R McConnell.

4. **MATTERS ARISING.**

There were none.

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

Mr Martin Hibbert had agreed to continue as the Rights of Way Liaison Officer for the next year only. The Chairman advised that Mr Hibbert is the RWO for all of the villages but that the responsibility rests with all residents to be vigilant and report issues to him.

Cllr Mrs Bagnall has indicated that she is willing to continue as the Tree Warden. Both were proposed by Cllr Mrs Uden, seconded by Cllr Mrs Bennett and agreed by all.

6. **ELECTION OF VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr R McConnell was proposed by Cllr J Pitman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Edwards and agreed by all.

7. **ELECTION OF PLAYING FIELD OFFICERS (2)**

Cllr J Pitman and Cllr R McConnell proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards, seconded by Cllr Robson and agreed by all.

8. **DORSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

The County Councillor's reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

9. **PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYING EQUIPMENT MATTERS**

9.1 Cllr McConnell reported that he and Cllr Pitman had met with Guy Gilding a few weeks ago for the handover. An assessment was carried out and there were no significant issues to report. Weekly inspections take place. It was noted by the attendees at the meeting that the Playing Field and Play Equipment are well used.

9.2 Cllr McConnell reported that there have been complaints from local residents regarding the parking of vehicles during Fast Feet Football sessions. The football sessions are well attended which has resulted in an associated rise in parking. When the car park is full, the drivers park their cars in nearby roads and laybys. The complaints received include some from residents of Sandilands Close. Cllr Pitman confirmed that he has spoken to the organiser of Fast Feet Football who is aware of the situation. Cllr Pitman suggested leaving leaflets on windscreens ask the drivers to park elsewhere but had been informed by a resident that they had received verbal abuse from a driver when challenged about the parking. Cllr Pitman explained that both himself and Cllr McConnell will try to persuade the drivers to park elsewhere.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- The issue is acute at the moment as the sessions have only just returned, it may diminish in time.
- When the cars park on both sides of the main road it becomes dangerous to cross the road and at times difficult to drive along it.
- There are currently no restrictions along the roads that prevent cars from parking on them.
- Parking on the playing field side of the road only may be a solution.
- Marshalling the parking may help.
- Could the pub owner possibly benefit from offering parking?
- Cllr Pitman and Cllr McConnell will try to resolve the issue.

9.3 Mr D Little asked what is happening about the flag. The Chairman reported that Cllr Mrs Uden has volunteered to raise the flag (and take it down) on important days – as the playing field could hardly be regarded as a Government building - but not every day. Mr Little objected to the decision not to raise the flag every day (as suggested for Government buildings on the Government website). He added that the funding for the flag and pole had been kindly donated and that at the September Parish Council meeting the purchase of the flag and pole had been approved. The Chairman replied that although it had been approved by the Parish Council, the East Stour Parish meeting had not been consulted. Mr Little repeated his objection but the Chairman remained firm, and repeated that the decision, which was supported by the Councillors present, had been made to fly the flag only on important days.

9.4 Cllr McConnell advised the meeting that there was no money in the Precept to resurface the footpath. However, the surface is not sufficiently robust to allow all users to access it. He added that he has approached Dorset Council for advice on the type of surface that would be most suitable. When he has received this information, he will go to competitive tendering to obtain quotes which can be discussed at a future meeting. A member of the public commented that the stones do seem to be settling. The Chairman thanked Cllr McConnell for his work.

10. HIGHWAY MATTERS

10.1 Cllr McConnell reported that he has formed an East Stour Highways and Speeding Group (Cllrs Mrs Edwards, Mr McConnell, Mr Pitman, Mrs Bennett, Mr Jenkins and Guy Gilding, as an advisor) and that they have met a couple of times remotely. The issues that have been discussed so far are: speeding, traffic safety and road maintenance. Cllr McConnell has produced a draft report, which he summarised for the meeting, including:

- Speeding: SIDs have been very successful in reducing speed and the group is considering suggesting deploying them in other areas, but certain criteria does need to

be met. The group has also consulted with Enrico Dimarino from Dorset Highways regarding signage, who has visited and conducted a survey. He discovered that many signs need to be replaced/repainted and some of the white lines need to be repainted and in places changed. Enrico advised the group that there a number of initiatives that can be used to slow traffic.

- Traffic: The group are trying to petition Dorset Council to introduce weight restriction signs. Cllr Mrs Bennett has collected traffic volume data as the previous survey was done 10 years ago. The speed cameras record speed (of between 30 and 45 mph) and traffic volume. Accident data provided by Enrico did not provide evidence which could lead to further speed limits.
- Hunger Hill pavement plan, although enshrined in local planning policy, is unlikely to happen because of recent plans for local development.
- The group has looked at highway maintenance, particularly flooding and mud on the roads. Various strategies have been considered regarding the flooding but it is an ongoing issue on some roads. Mud on roads only occurs at specific times of the year but is something residents complain about. The roads are cleaned after a time. Cllr McConnell suggested that the group should have the contact details of the agricultural contractors concerned to contact them directly with issues that are caused by them.

10.2 Cllr Mrs Uden advised that Back Lane will be closed for 7 days in June and is concerned that drivers will use Browns Lane and not the re-directed route. Discussion followed about the issues caused by HGV drivers who drive through the village although their SAT NAV should take them further along the A30.

11. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Footpaths – The Chairman reported that Mr Hibberd is aware of the 2 gates that need attention and will look at them. She reminded the meeting to report issues directly to him.

Trees – Mrs Bagnall had advised the Chairman that there is nothing to report.

12. ACCOUNTS

The Temporary Clerk advised the meeting that although she could provide an update, the figures may not be completely accurate. The balance at 31st March 2021 was £5,219 and the Precept will also have been paid into the bank, however, there may be outstanding payments for services as no payments have been this month and not many in April. The new Clerk takes up the post in the middle of June and so the correct amounts will be available at the next meeting.

13. MATTERS OF INTEREST & INFORMATION.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had left the Parish Council at short notice and a replacement has been found but cannot start until the middle of June. Rosanne Jacques has stepped into the role temporarily.

Ann Mophew informed the meeting that First Class Coffee has started again and in June will be 10 years old. Adding that usually 20 people attend.

Cllr Mrs Bennett reported that there are new books in the Phone Box library and that it has been redecorated.

Mr D Little asked how the arrangements for the purchase of the bench were progressing. The Chairman replied that an order for the bench has been placed with Mr Wattridge and the previous Clerk was in communication with him. The Temporary Clerk agreed to search for the information and forward it to the Chairman if she finds it.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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