Stours Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Stour Provost Village Hall on the 2nd of September 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman – Cllr J Watkins, Cllr B Edwards, Cllr C Wilkins, Cllr J Pitman, Cllr J Uden, Cllr M Elsworth, Cllr P Sealy, Cllr P Patrick, Cllr R King and Cllr R McConnell.

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips – Clerk, Dorset Council Cllr B Ridout and Cllr J Somper. 3 members of the public.

**Public Consultation:**

Mr B Partridge expressed concerns over the inconsistency of the grass cutting in East Stour Pleck plot and requested that the Parish Council consider increasing the number from 5 to 8 or 9 for next year. The Clerk will be in contact with the contractor for the grass cutting to ensure that it is cut as soon as possible. **Action - Clerk**

Mr David Little expressed concerns over the inconsistency cuts at the wildflower meadow verge at East Stour. The Clerk confirmed that she has left a message with the contractor to ensure this is cut back as soon as possible.

**Action - Clerk**

**1/21. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Stagg, Cllr Scott, Cllr Robson, Cllr Bowe and Cllr Gould.

**2/21. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

**3/21. Co-option for new members for East Stour and Stour Row.**

Mr Michael Sumpster showed an interest in joint the Parish Council for Stour Row ward and stayed for the meeting to see how the Council works. The Clerk announced that there is another person interested in joining East Stour ward but was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Co-options will remain on the agenda until vacancies have been filled.

4/21. Approve minutes from the 24th of May 2021 and matters arising.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Sealy and seconded by Cllr Wilkins, all agreed that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the 24th of May 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman

Matters arising:

East Stour and Todber speeding group – Cllr King from Todber Ward reported that the Community Speedwatch team need new members. If you are interested in supporting this project, please contact the Clerk for Cllr King direct. A meeting is to be held on the 23rd of September for Community Speedwatch at Wimborne. The SID recorded a vehicle doing 79MPH at 4.45pm on the 13th of June on Red Lane.

Cllr McConnell from East Stour ward reported that a speed watch location at Hunger Hill has been agreed. Cllr Uden has volunteered to join the Community Speed Watch team and is waiting to hear back from the Police.

Travellers and Gypsies site at 5 Bridges – Dorset Councillor Ridout had circulated information that Dorset Council have served the travellers with a section 77 to leave the site, which has now expired. A section 78 to move anyone still on the site will be issued, which only takes about 1 to 2 weeks.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to investigate if the land that seems to not be owned by anyone if the local farmer has taken on the responsibility of the land. Action- Clerk

Cost for the Parish Council to supply email addresses for Councillors: The Clerk had circulated the cost for supplying each Councillor with their own Parish Council email address. The cost will be £18.00 a year each account. After debate, it was proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr McConnell to instruct Vision ICT to supply the Councillors with new emails addresses, all were in favour.

RESOLVED: to instruct Vision ICT to supply the Councillors with new email addresses for the sum of £18.00 per annum each account. (4/21 – website)

Supply grit bin for East Stour – the Clerk had circulated the cost to supply and new grit bin for East Stour for the sum of £148.19 plus VAT. Dorset Council confirmed that they would fill the bin free of charge for this year. Cllr Edwards proposed the grit bin is purchased and this seconded by Cllr Sealy, all member in favour.

RESOLVED: to purchase a new grit bin for the sum of £148.19 plus vat. (4/21 – Village Maintenance)

**Resurfacing of the footpath at East Stour** –Cllr McConnell read out a memorandum from Cllr Robson giving details of the proposed resurfacing of the footpath at East Stour. These are bullet points from the memorandum: Different types of materials were investigated for the footpath, but the cost for resin bound was substantially too much to consider. A donor who said that they would be prepared to give up to £10,000 towards a new footpath who wishes to remain anonymous came forward. Two quotes were received, the first, for £8,326 including VAT, fell away for various reasons. The second, for £8,582 including VAT (£7,152), is from Dorset Council and has been accepted by the East Stour parish councillors. This excludes £280 excluding VAT for weedkilling, which will be paid for by the parish council out of reserves. The work will be done by late September. The gravel will come from Corfe Mullen. It is intended to be a sandy brown colour, subject to final confirmation of the colour from the quarry and final approval of the colour from the donor. The East Stour parish councillors have also concluded that the extension of the footpath across the top of the playing field is not affordable at this time.

New policies and procedures had been circulated – The Clerk had circulated new policies and procedures for the Parish Council to adopt. Cllr Edwards proposed that the Parish Council adopt the circulated policies and procedures, this was seconded by Cllr King, all in favour.

RESOLVED: to adopt the new policies and procedures circulated to the Councillors. (4/21 no budgetary provision required)

5/21. Bullet Points from the report given by Dorset Council Councillor: The full report can be obtained by the Clerk and viewed on the Parish Council’s website.

Some meetings have taken place in County Hall, namely licencing but Full Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny meetings remain virtual. This is being reviewed in September and I hope that we will be heading back to some face-to-face meetings.

Covid-19 as of 31.8.21 - Case rates in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area have stayed the same this week and Dorset Council's case rate has increased this week. Both case rates are below the SW region average but higher than England's average.

Face to Face Service Points Re-open - Dorset Council Customer Service points reopened from 5th July. Help with council services is available from Nordon Lodge in Blandford, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Generally, there will be pre-booked appointments, and Covid regulations will be in place to keep everyone safe, and residents will still be contacting the Council by phone.

Planning - Work continues the Dorset Local Plan. The reviewed Plan is now due to be publishes early next year and is still on track for submission to the Secretary of State in May 2022 for public examination by the Planning Inspectorate and adoption in 2023.

Bus Services - In response to the Governments new National Bus Strategy, which aims to improve bus services, Dorset Council is developing a Bus Service Improvement Plan in collaboration with local bus operators, community groups and passengers. The Improvement Plan will look at networks and services, fares and ticketing and passenger facilities.

Bin Collection Round Changes- Around 34,000 households in north Dorset had their bin collection days changed at the start of June.

New Police and Crime Commissioner - David Sidwick is the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

The Environment Bill - This Government Bill is schedule to come into law in the autumn this year, it is reaching and does much to underpin the aspiration and plans of local government in dealing with climate and ecological concerns.

Afghan Relocation Scheme – Dorset - Dorset Council is urging private landlords and owners of second homes to come forward if they can provide suitable accommodation for the Afghan relocation scheme.

Dorset Council has pledged to support the scheme, which is being funded by the UK Government.

Dorset Council will not use accommodation, such as social housing, intended for Dorset families on the housing register or for people who are homeless. The contact details private landlords or a second homeowner who may be able to help with any of these housing needs, please contact [**afghanfamilieshousing@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**](mailto:afghanfamilieshousing@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Continued Support & Advice for Dorset Council Residents - Dorset Council has awarded two, 5-year contracts to voluntary and community organisations to continue with the provision of support, advice, and guidance to residents. If you would like to volunteer or need some help and would like to find out more, visit volunteeringdorset.org.uk or call 01305 269214.

For help and support from Citizens Advice, visit <https://citizensadvicedorset.org.uk> to find your local branch or call Dorset Adviceline on 0800 144 88 48.

Current Consultations/Surveys - Dorset Council wants to hear from resident Blue Badge holders to help shape a unified approach to parking charges across the council area. Link here: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162825060301>

6/21. Finance

To confirm payments agreed by email for June and July 2021. This was confirmed.

To agree: Payment Schedule

The Clerk tabled the Payment Schedule for August 2021for the sum of £2744.85. It was proposed by Cllr Pitman and seconded by Cllr Uden, all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed by Chairman.



RESOLVED: to pay the payments on the schedule to the total sum of £ 2744.85 (6/21 current account)

The Clerk asked for permission to pay Jacky Blomfield as and when she sends her invoices in for cleaning the pavilion, this was agreed by all.

The Clerk tabled the cost for the Parish Council’s insurance for 2021-2022, for the Sum of £552.53. This was agreed by all for payment in October.

**6**/21. Planning: review of working group recommendations:

P/PABA/2021/02995 – Provost Farm – Erect extension to existing agricultural building. (Information purpose only)

7/21. Chairman’s report.

The Chairman has been asked by the Clerk from Gillingham Town Council to meet with her to discuss the boundaries between Gillingham and East Stour. The Chairman and Clerk will discuss this request in more detail and report back. Action – Clerk and Chairman

The Parish Council have been asked to consider its shape and size in the Governance review. The Chairman and Clerk will produce a memorandum to circulate for the Councillors information and consideration. Action – Clerk and Chairman

8/21. Ward and Officers’ Reports

Stour Provost– a meeting with the Playing Field committee will be arranged.

East Stour – expressed concerns over the state of the side of the road that were being cleaned last year, but the person doing the cleaning has resigned. The Clerk will contact Dorset Council to request the road sweeper goes through the village. Action – Clerk

The advertising board in East Stour has been taken down. A replacement will be considered.

Last year a proposal for a dog park was considered. The land next to the village hall needs to be checked to see if the Parish Council own it. The Clerk will investigate this. Action - Clerk

Todber – the road surface needs to be looked at.

West Stour – is increasing in development and is still waiting for the works for the new garage to commence.

9/21. Clerk Report and correspondence:

The Clerk received an email from PKF Littlejohn LLP, external auditor, stating that there is an error on the AGAR part 3, that funds had been put against this heading in error. The Clerk will amend this for the return in 2022.

10/21. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – Budget, Legacy for the Stours, B3092 speed, Officers roles, Travellers and Gypsies site

Parish Council meeting will be held on 4th November at 7.30pm at Stour Row Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.37

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………

Website address http//: www.stours-pc.gov.uk

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please us the address

clerk@stours-pc.gov.uk