West Stour Parish

Minutes of West Stour Parish meeting

 Held on the 7th of October 2021 at 8.00pm

at West Stour Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Gould – Chairman, Cllr P Sealy, Cllr M Elsworth, Cllr J Watkins (Sours Parish Council Chairman) and ten elected members of the Parish

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips - Clerk

**1/21. Apologies for Absence**

Mrs D West, Mr P West and Mrs J Parker sent their appologies.

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

There were none.

3/21. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 21st of May 2021

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman (3/21 no budgetary requirements)

4/21. Matters arising.

* Five Bridges – Dorset Council legal team have succeeded in moving on the travellers off the site. The Clerk will be speaking to Dorset Councillor B Ridout to find out if there is any further update on the registration of the land in question. Action – Clerk
* Notice Boards – Diana West sent a report to be read out at the meeting. Diana West wished for the Parish Council notice board to be used for public notices, Church notices and Village Hall notices, not just for Parish Council notices. The Clerk confirm that the notice boards in question is owned by the Stours Parish Council and that the Council have every right to just have information related to the Council advertised on the board. The Clerk suggested that the notice board is split into two, one side for Parish Council’s information one for village information. The minutes will be shorted to just bullet points and information of how to obtain a full copy of the minutes if required. The same applies to planning applications, as there is not a lot of room for large poster, it was agreed that the excel document will be produces to show the planning application number, details of the application and where resident can obtain full details and also send their comments too. This was agreed by all. Action – Clerk
* Planning – The following applications has recently been received for the Parish:

The planning applications above had been advertised on the Parish Councils notice board for anyone so see and send their comment to Dorset Council planning team. The Councillors representing the Parish made their decisions, as above, by email, which was duly sent to Dorset Council planning team for their consideration. It was noted that the process for advertising planning application from Dorset Council is, the applicant is sent a notice, which they are legally required to advertise near the area of the proposed site. The applicant is required to send a photo to prove this has been done. Dorset Council no longer inform the neighbours of the applicant of the application.

5/21.Officers report:

* Highway liaison officer – as the Parish does not have an official Highways liaison officer, it was agreed that if there are any highways matter arising, it will be reported to the Parish Council or directly to Dorset Council Highways team, using Dorset Council website [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)
* Rights of way/trees liaison officer – Martin Hibbert remains the rights of way/foot path officer and Cllr Elsworth agreed to be the flood warden for the village.
* A resident of the village has offered to be the tree liaison officer for the village, reporting matters of concern over any trees in the village to the Parish Council or Dorset Tree officer for action. Cllr Sealy will inform the resident that the member present area happy for him to be the tree liaison officer. Action Cllr Sealy
* Martin Hibbert had agreed at the meeting in May to continue the post for both Stour Provost and Stour Row.
* Representative to Village Hall – Mr J Parker – Chairman of the Village Hall Committee tabled a the following report: Post CoVid 19 restrictions and refurbishment, the hall re-opened on 7th August this year with an event to celebrate the refurbishment. The Railway Society have resumed their weekly use of the hall and there has been a village hall committee meeting in the hall and the church held a Harvest Lunch there.

Record of works undertaken is displayed in alcove opposite front door. With the hall now modernised and with improved facilities we hope to see its usage increase and the committee already have a number of events planned. These include: -

 Weekly coffee mornings

 Spud lunch

 Easter Extravaganza

 Quiz night

See village hall newsletter for more. In consultation with the Charities commission, we have made changes to the constitution – removing the appointed members for the Mothers Union, PTA, WI and replacing with elected members. The committee is now 9 elected members, 1 appointed member (Church) and one ex-officio member (Chair of West Stour Parish Meeting). This will allow the committee to be fulfilled.

Mr Parker thanked all the members of the committee for their work at what has been and continues to be a busy time for the development of the village hall. I would like to thank in particular, our treasurer, Michelle Cox, for her skills and commitment to sorting us out in relation to the receipt of the legacy money so that we get benefit from credit balances and for the establishing of restricted funds to ensure we use our funds for the purposes intended.

The Village Hall AGM will be held next Thursday 14th October at 7.30 pm with drinks and nibbles from 7 pm.

6/21. To consider grants allocation

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council now have grant procedure, which entails, organisations within the Parish can apply for a grant for by requesting an application form from the Parish Clerk. This will be advertised after the next Parish Council meeting, ready for applications to be considered in January ready to be paid out in March. The Parish are still able to award donations to the Church and Village Hall as previously done.

7/21. Finance

To consider budget and precept for 2022/2023 – the Clerk had circulated a detailed proposal for setting the precept for 2022/2023. After debate it was agreed to increase the precept from £1800.00 to £2000.00. This is due to future projects and contingency for the Parish. This was agreed and will be proposed at the Parish Council

meeting in November for resolution.

The following matters were raised by an elected member of the Parish Council:

* that he is concerned over the stones being placed on the verges within the Village. It was reported that Dorset Council highways team reported that it is an offence to have the stones on the verges if they are closer than 70cm from the highways. The Clerk will ask Dorset Council if they have a policy in place that residents can follow to ensure they are within the legal boundaries if putting a stone on the verge. Action – Clerk
* the matter of the Showground lights were raised and the owner suggested that he is happy to receive positive comments or ideas for use of the area, rather than just receiving complaints.

8/21. Agenda items to be agreed for the next Parish meeting on Monday the 5th of April 2022 at 7.30pm

TBA

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.00

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