East Stour Parish

Minutes of East Stour Parish meeting

Held on the 14th of October 2021 at 7.00pm

at East Stour Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Watkins – Chairman of the Stours Parish Council. Cllr Bobbie Edwards – Chairman of East Stour Parish meeting, Cllr J Uden, Cllr J Pitman and Cllr McConnell.

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips – Clerk

Cllr Edwards – Chair for the Parish Meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1/21. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr R Robson sent his apologies.

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

There were none.

3/21. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 24th of May 2021.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Uden and seconded by Cllr McConnell, 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)

4/21. Matters arising.

* Vacancies for Councillors to join East Stour Parish - There has been two people interest in joining the Stours Parish Council from East Stour Parish. Thy will be both invited to attend the Stours Parish Council meeting on November the 4th at 7pm to be held at Stour Provost Village Hall.
* East Stour Sid Management – this matter will be discussed in more details at the Stours Parish Council meeting, where a full report will be given.
* Rights of way – the Chairman reported the Mr Martin Hibbard will be stepping down as the Parishes Rights of way officer. Thank you went out to Mr Hibbard. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish should not be paying for repairs to the rights of way/footpaths, these are the responsibility of Dorset Council Rangers, and the new Rights of way officer will only be asked to walk the routes and report back to the Clerk any matters that need attention. The Clerk will also obtain the schedule of works from Dorset Council Rangers for the rights of way maintenance. Action - Clerk
* Playing Field officer - the Clerk confirmed that she will produce a safety inspection check list for Cllr Pitman and Cllr McConnell to complete when they do their inspections. Action – Clerk
* Hanna’s Legacy – the Chairman had ordered the bench months ago and can not get an answer from the person providing the bench. The Clerk will take this matter over. Action – Clerk

5/21.Officers report:

* Highway liaison officer – Cllr McConnell reported the working group has not formally met since earlier in the year when it resolved to investigate a number of issues raised over the course of several meetings.
* In the intervening period, Back Street has been resurfaced up to Knapp Corner and this included associated measures relating to pedestrian safety and slowing traffic. These comprise yellow road stripes along with new or refreshed SLOW signs painted on the surface; a thickening of the white lines around Knapp Corner for better pedestrian safety (the centre line was not re-painted so that it would give the appearance of a narrower road); and repair or renewal of the 30mph signs through the village. For reference, there are over twenty signs between The Crown Inn and the crossroads, and this conforms to Highway’s criteria for signage.
* A new Speed watch location on Hunger Hill has been approved by Dorset Road Safe and Dorset Police following an offer by Jerry and myself to provide our shared pull-in for use by the Speed watch team. This compliment’s other locations in the village, near the village hall and around the crossroads. The team will be using the Hunger Hill spot in late November and early January and February in the first instance. We are grateful to Guy Gilding for his work in establishing this new site and co-ordinating the team. The Speed watch team a in need of new members, so if you are able to give a few hours as month up for this very worthwhile cause, can you please emial the Clerk who will forward your information on to Guy Gilding.
* Rights of way officer and trees liaison officer – The Rights of way was discussed under agenda item 4. There was nothing to report on trees.
* Playing Field officer – Cllr McConnell reported that it was recently reported at the Stours Parish Council meeting that an anonymous donor has come forward via Rupert to fund the upgrade to the playing field footpath at a cost of £7,152.00 plus VAT. Dorset Council were appointed as contractors for the work after a competitive tendering process and Cllr Robson had a meeting with their Highways representative in late September. An extra sum for weedkilling prior to the work will be met from reserves of the parish council. We have just heard that work is due to commence on 1st November. There are no plans to extend the path at this time, and there is a consensus that we should now concentrate on investigating other projects that will benefit the community. The Play equipment is in good working order and the issues regarding parking when the fast foot football is taking place, has not been reported as an issue. It was noted that the contact details on the notice board needs to be updated, the Clerk will organise this. Action – Clerk
* Representative to Village Hall – Cllr McConnell reported that the village hall committee resumed in-person meetings in May and is marching towards business as usual in their well-organised fashion. It was also reported that the materials for improving the acoustic’s have arrived. The Clerk reported that after investigations with Land Registry, they have confirmed that the land that the Village Hall is built on and the surrounding recreations area, which was gifted to the Parish Council, has not been registered with Land Registry. The Clerk will investigate where the gift of deed is being held, so that the Parish Council can register with Land Registry.
* Wildflower meadow and pleck – it was reported that the wild meadow grass is getting very strong, which will not help with the growth of the wildflowers. This area is too much for volunteers to manage. The Clerk was informed that the Wildflower meadow and pleck are on Dorset Council land. The Clerk will investigate when permission was granted for the village to manage these areas. As the Parish Council pay for these areas to be manged, Dorset Council highways department should agree to pay some costs towards its management. Discussions will also take place under agenda item 6 – budget, to agree an increase of management for these areas. Action - Clerk
* Planning – nothing to report.

6/21. Finance

To consider budget and agree precept for 2022/2023 – the Clerk had circulated a detailed proposal for the budget for 2022/2023 and for setting the precept against the budget. After debate, which included additional grass cutting and removal of allocations for rights of way repairs and to considering future projects that need to be reserved for, Cllr Uden proposed to set the precept for 2022/2023 to the sum of £6500.00, this was agreed by all attending. This will be an increase of £500.00 which will be an increase in the sum of = £1.35 a year based on a band D household. This was agreed and will be proposed at the Parish Council meeting in November for resolution.

The village will be asked if they have any suggestions of projects that they feel would enhance the Village. A notice will be produced for the Village Magazine. A few suggestions raised was to increase the size of the footpath through the recreation area and additional swings in the play ground area.

7/21. Agenda items to be agreed for the next Parish meeting on Monday the 14th of April 2022 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45

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

Website address http//: [www.stours-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stours-pc.gov.uk)

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please us the address

[clerk@stours-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stours-pc.gov.uk)