Stours Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at West Stour Village Hall, West Stour on the 3rd of March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman – Cllr J Watkins – Chairman, Cllr P Bowe – Vice Chairman, Cllr P Gould, Cllr M Elsworth, Cllr P Sealy, Cllr R McConnell, Cllr R Robson, Cllr H Wakeford, Cllr R King, Cllr E Scott, Cllr C Wilkins, Cllr A Stagg and Cllr P Patrick

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips – Clerk. One member of the public

**Public Consultation:**

There were no comments.

**34/21. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J Uden. Cllr J Pitman and Dorset Councillor Belinda Ridout, Dorset Councillor Jane Somper

**35/21. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

**36/21. Co-option for new members.**

Jennifer Morisetti wishes to join Stours Parish Council representing Stour Provost ward. This was proposed by Cllr Wilkins and seconded by Cllr Robson, all member in favour.

**RESOLVED**: from Jennifer Morisetti to be co-opted on to the Stours Parish Council, representing Stour Provost Ward (36/21 – no budgetary requirements)

37/21. Approve minutes from the 3rd of March 2022 and matters arising.

After one amendment on the minutes, under matters arising, it should state that Cllr King had attended a meeting with the Police Commissioner, not had been invited. The minutes were then proposed by Cllr Wilkins and seconded by Cllr Wakeford, 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 3rd of March 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman (37/21 – no budgetary requirements).

Matters arising:

Queens Jubilee celebrations – after debate, it was agreed for the Councillors to support each of their own Parishes, by grants for the organisations arranging the celebrations and also to agree areas where a tree can be planted within their Parishes. Cllr Robson stated that all grant request and funding for trees are submitted to the Clerk by the end of March, to ensure these funds are taken out for this financial year’s budget. Each Parish will be granted £200.00 for the Jubilee Celebrations.

5 Bridges matter and to arrange a meeting with Buckhorn and Western PC. The Clerk will l with liaise with Buckhorn and Western PC and Cllr P Gould, to meet to try and resolve a way forward.

38/21. Bullet Points from the report given by Dorset Council Councillors: The full report can be obtained by the Clerk and viewed on the Parish Council’s website.

Dorset Council Cllr B Ridout bullet points –

COVID update – as of 25th February 2022. Confirmed case rates have continued to fall across the county. The infection rate for the Dorset Council area is 509.0 cases per 100,000 population and for Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council area, 575.1 cases per 100,000 population (down from 747.1 the week before).

Voluntary and Community Grants -Dorset Council has launched a new round of grants to support social, voluntary and community sector organisations. Applications must be submitted on the council’s online application form. Further details can be found on the council’s website or by emailing: communities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. Applications to be received by Friday, 1st April. Awards will be made on 20th April.

Council Budget – The council’s budget for next budget year (2022-23) was approved at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday, 15th February. Council tax will increase by just under 3%, of which 1% is the adult social care precept. This is equivalent to £1.02 extra per week for a Band D property.

Local Heritage Lists – local communities can now nominate locally important buildings, structures, designed landscapes, sites and places to be considered on a new Local Heritage Lists. The idea is to make it easy for everyone to nominate and celebrate the heritage that is important to their local area. More information is available from the Dorset and BCP Council websites. Nominations are open for 8 weeks.

Libraries Consultation update – the first phase of the ‘Let us Talk Libraries’ Consultation ended in January with over 7000 responses. Responses are now being reviewed and will inform a draft library strategy, which will undergo a second public consultation in the summer, aiming for implementation April 2023.

Climate and Ecological Strategy – The results of a survey published recently by Climate Emergency UK, showed that of 409 local authorities across the UK, 84 still did not have climate action plans, while 139 had not committed to reach net zero emissions by a specific date.

On-street parking charge increase – From Friday, 25th February, on-street parking charges will increase as part of Dorset Council’s parking transformation project. This is to generate a higher turnover of cars, helping to keep on-street spaces for Blue Badge Holders and giving all residents better access to local businesses when popping into town for a quick visit. Waivers can still be purchased for tradespeople who need to park for work.

Dorset Prepared Community Resilience Workshops – this will benefit all existing voluntary organisations and community emergency volunteers. The Dorset Local Resilience Forum will be hosting several community resilience awareness raising sessions, running between 7th and 11th March, 2022, a weeklong series of online events and awareness raising with partner organisations. To find out more and register your interest, go to Dorsetprepared.org.uk/community-resilience-week-march-2022/

Dorset Council Cllr J Somper bullet points-

Land searches (When moving House) - The number of working days to respond to land search requests shot up during the pandemic. The response rate is now down to 28 days from 63 last October. It is still some way off the target of 10 days, but work continues to achieve that soon.

Dorset to host first ever Tour of Britain stage in 2022 - Dorset will play a starring role when the Tour of Britain, the UK’s most prestigious cycle race, heads here for the first time in 2022. The full route for stage seven, including the start and finish locations, will be revealed in due course. So please put September 10th in your diaries and expect some roads to be closed. More information as and when it becomes available.

Maintenance of highway verges - Maintenance of highway verges is an important but costly undertaking for Local Authorities. It is necessary for safety as well as aesthetic reasons. By reducing soil fertility through the collection of grass cuttings, introducing species of flowering plant, the result, slow growing, beautiful wildflower verges which attract and sustain pollinating insects, and lower costs as the need to cut verges is reduced.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/countryside-management/verge-cutting/verge-cutting-information-dorset>

Climate Change - Dorset Council is delighted to welcome Steven Ford as new Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability. Steven’s primary objective at Dorset Council will be the successful delivery of our vital Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Strategy, ensuring that ecology and sustainability are placed at the centre of shaping and influencing the climate debate.

Enforcement - There is little publicity given to enforcement. An East Dorset resident was recently successfully prosecuted for ignoring Planning Enforcement Notice for putting a building on the Green Belt. This followed repeated requests to remove it and was only done as a last resort. Hopefully, this will dispel the myth that the Council do not prosecute people who break planning laws.

What can you do to help people who need to leave Hospital? - As health and social care services continue to be stretched due to the exceptional pressures of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and seasonal impact of winter, the role of relatives in supporting patients is key. Relatives play a key role in enabling patients who are medically ready to leave hospital to do so, helping them to recover more quickly in the comfort of their own home.

Dorset Tourism Award - Moors Valley - Moors Valley in Ashley Heath won the Dorset Tourism Awards Large Visitor Attraction of the Year <https://www.dorsettourismawards.org.uk/winners>.

Vulnerable women – help available from the Pause Project - I am delighted and proud that a project I have worked on with a highly skilled team will help vulnerable women in Dorset benefit from a new scheme which supports them to develop new skills and responses that can help them create a more positive future.

Beacon Lighting Event - The Chairman, Cllr Val Pothecary, will be hosting a Beacon Lighting event on the evening of 2nd June 2022 at Durlston Country Park to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

New Government resource to help keep children safe from sexual abuse - All children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse, and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe. It is estimated that one in ten children in England and Wales will experience sexual abuse before they turn sixteen. The Government’s new Stop Abuse Together website can help you learn to spot the signs and have regular conversations with your child which can help keep them safe. If you feel something is not right, then you can call the NSPCC hotline (0808 800 5000). No matter what has happened, there is always someone who will listen to you and take what you say seriously

A Local Plan that is right for Dorset – Statement from Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council - Local Plans are a key component of the planning system. I am seeking reform of this framework and proposing that Dorset could be a pilot for a new way of creating Local Plans, based on sustainability and local needs over the next 30 years, that also recognises the ambitions of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. We must have a Local Plan in place: without one we face the risk of unmanaged development in Dorset, but it has to be the right plan. Our hard-working and innovative planning officers have ensured the draft Local Plan is the best it can be, but it is constrained by current planning legislation.

Capital Leverage Fund - Dorset Council - Dorset Council has recently launched a new grant fund for voluntary and community groups who are looking to secure funding towards the development, improvement or refurbishment of their facilities. Details can be found on the Dorset Council website.

39/21. Finance

To confirm payments agreed by email for January 2022. This was confirmed.

The Clerk had circulated a request for payment of holiday not taken in 2021-2022 and had also circulated the latest Clerks salary award for 2021-2022 from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) to be agreed.

The Clerk tabled the Payment Schedule for February 2021 for the sum of £1437.40. It was proposed by Cllr Sealy to pay the invoices on the Payment schedule and also the request for Clerk holiday pay and salary award, this was seconded by Cllr King, all in favour.

RESOLVED: to pay the invoices for the sum of £1437.40 and approve the Clerk unused holiday allocation and agree with the NALC salary award for 2021-2022 (back dated) (39/21 current account/clerk wages)



The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any grant applications from local organisations.

The following donations from each Parish were proposed by Cllr Sealy and seconded by Cllr Wilkins, all in favour. The funds had been allocated on the budget 2021-2022

* Todber Church donation £200.00 plus £70.00 donation for use of Church
* West Stour Church £1000.00
* West Stour Village Hall £500.00
* Stour Provost Church £500.00
* East Stour Church £500.00
* East Stour New letter – grant £250.00
* Dorset Citizens advice £200.00
* Dorset and Somerset Air ambulance £200.00

**RESOLVED:** to award the above grants and donations for the financial year 2021-2022 (39/21 – Grants/donation)

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

P/FUL/2021/05580 Yew Tree Farmhouse – Change of use – No objection

P/FUL/2021/02046 Land at Park Farm - Construct solar photovoltaic farm – information only

P/LBC/2022/00213 4 The Street - Create opening within internal wall – No objection

P/HOU/2021/05728 Hill Farm Stable - Extend and alter existing barn conversion – No objection

P/FUL/2022/00250 Land adjacent Thomas's House - Form new vehicular access - No objection

P/FUL/2022/00265 Trade Winds - Siting of a stand-alone solar array – No objection

P/FUL/2021/03629 Coking Farm – Amended plans – No objection

An up-to-date list of applications for this financial year can be seen on the Parish Council’s website.

41/21. Chairman’s report.

The Chairman expressed how nice it is to get back to some kind of normality now the Covid restrictions have been lifted.

The Chairman would also remind Councillor to check their emails, as the Clerk may send requests that need to be answered before the next Parish Council meeting.

42/21. Ward and Officers’ Reports

Stour Provost – The following was reported:

* The Clerk is obtaining quotes to erect new fencing on the south end of the playing field and to replace the one large gate for two gates that join up, for easier opening.
* Some of the hedges have already been cut back, but some have not been done due to access and height for the tractor. These areas will be managed by hand. The trees will also be managed before the birds start to nest.
* The cost for a new notice board for the Pavilion has been obtained. Measurement need to be confirmed to make sure it fits.
* Works to the Pavilion are being looked at and quotes will be obtained.
* Will confirm areas of where trees can be planted to commemorate the Queens Jubilee

East Stour – The following was reported:

* The Notice Boards in the Parish have been repaired, a big thank you to Mike Wakeford for competing this project.
* The new footpath still has 25% of works to be completed. A message to the Football club, to please not use the path for people to wipe their football boots on, as it is damaging the surface.
* Hannah’s bequest of a bench has been ordered.
* The Clerk is still in talks with the Solicitors to try and obtain a copy of a grant of deed for the land at East Stour Village Hall. Until the land has been registered with the Land Registry, the suggestion of a strip of land behind the Village Hall for use of a Dog Park will be put on hold.
* The large metal bus shelter does not get used, as the bus does not stop outside it, therefore request it is removed. The Clerk will look into options, as other Villages that could make use of the Shelter. Action – Clerk
* In the storm, a large tree had fallen, and a large log and other debris were put on the Wildflower Meadow. The Clerk will speak to Dorset Council to see if the large heavy log can be moved off the daffodils. Action – Clerk
* One of the post boxes in East Stour is in a very difficult position to be used. It was suggested that the post box is moved to another more accessible area in the Village. The Clerk reported that this is not an easy option but will speak to the Royal Mail to see what can be done. Action – Clerk
* Witch Lane Road and drains need to be cleaned. The Clerk will ask Dorset Council to do all the drains and for the road sweeper to do all of the Parish Councils Parishes. Action – Clerk
* Play Area safety inspection showed a few items that need to be addressed. The Clerk had already obtained a quote for some works in the play area but will now go back to the company and ask them to look at the safety report and quote any additional works required. Action - Clerk

Todber – The following was reported

* Are looking to make the Millennium Green a wildflower meadow with support from a local resident who is helping to design the landscape.
* The notice board needs to be repaired and moved to a more suitable site in the village. Cllr Wakeford will ask if her husband could volunteer his time to help with this project.

Cllr King reported the following on Highways

* SID was taken down on the 2nd of March after 6 weeks of deployment. The speeds (mph), max 68, average 31, 85% 36. 36mph is the reportable speed for a Community Speed Watch.
* Attended the Community Speed Watch (CSW) co-ordinating meeting with the police via Teams on the 2nd of February. As a result, an advert for a new team has been put in the Octavo. Community Speed Watch are very active in Dorset and a significant help to the Police. Todber Community Speed Watch is not yet active.
* Will be accompanying the Clerk to meet with Dorset Council’s road safety team, to see how road safety can be improved throughout the villages.
* Road surface damage in Shave Lane has been reported and marked for repair.
* To request an agenda item for May meeting, to propose a survey of traffic speeds on the B3092.

West Stour – The following was reported:

* For the Clerk to speak to the Highways officer to chase up road repairs by Lynch Road. Action – Clerk
* Highlighted the continued increase in inflation, which is affecting everyone from Farmer’s business to everyday life.
* The notice board and bench have been painted
* The new garage services building is well underway

43/21. Clerk Report and correspondence:

All correspondence gets circulated to Councillors and actioned.

44/21. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – AGM – Improve Carbon Footprint within the villages – update on 5 bridges – consider traffic survey on the B3092.

 Parish Council meeting will be held on 5th May 2022 at Stour Row Village Hall at 19.30

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40

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