East Stour Parish

Minutes of East Stour Parish meeting

 Held on the 6th of October 2022 at 6.30pm

at East Stour Village Hall

Present: Cllr Bobbie Edwards – Chairman of East Stour Parish meeting, Cllr J Uden, Cllr R McConnell, Cllr R Robson, and Cllr P Stride – 6 members of the public

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips – Clerk, Dorset Council Cllr B Ridout and Cllr D Walsh

**1/22. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J Watkins – Chairman Cllr H Wakeford and Mr Pitman sent their apologies.

**2/22. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

3/22. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 13th of April 2022.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Robson and seconded by Cllr Uden, 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 (3/22)

4/22. Matters arising.

Consider play area project – Some of the Play Area equipment is needing some maintenance and some equipment will need to be replaced in the near future. It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain a cost for the remedial works needed on the existing equipment and also to obtain a design/idea for replacing equipment in the play area, that can be circulated around the village for their comments. Action - Clerk

Confirm policy and agreement for recreation area hire – The Clerk had circulated an agreement for people/organisations that use the recreation area for their own gains. It was agreed that this agreement will be adopted.

Confirm recreation ground being registered with land registry – The Chairman reported that the Title Deeds had been allocated at Lloyds Bank in London and now the Clerk has applied for the land to be registered with land registry. The Chairman also confirmed that the land that the Village Hall leases includes the area that the Chairman was considering for a dog park, which will now not be investigated further. The Parish Council do now have a copy of the original lease between the Parish Council and the Village Hall, which will be kept on record.

Confirm wildflower meadow and Pleck management – Mr Bob Partridge expressed concerns that there are not enough volunteers in the village to be able to manage the Wildflower Meadows and Pleck. It was also noted that at the previous Parish Meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council will look into the maintenance of these areas. It was requested that a Councillor in the village should take the lead on this project and try to promote volunteers to manage the areas. None of the Councillors came forward to lead on this and after further debate, it was agreed for the Clerk and Mr Bob Partridge to meet and discuss what maintenance these areas require, so a maintenance schedule can be produced to see what contractors Dorset Council and volunteers can do to keep these areas looking at their best. A note of thanks will be sent to Jane Chimes for help with some of the maintenance.

A member of the public asked if anything has been put in place to improve the communication in the village. Cllr Robson confirmed that he had looked into social media platforms, but as these require a fixed phone number to be attached to, nothing further has been done at the moment.

5/22.Officers report:

Dorset Councillor B Ridout had circulated her report, which can be found on the Parish Council website. The following are bullet points from that report:

* Cost of living help – information on cost-of-living support can be obtained at Dorset Council at Dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/cos-of-living-help and Citizens Advice can be contacted at citizensadvicedorset.org.uk
* 08001448848. If you are over 55, Age UK is there to help at ageuk.org.uk/northsouthwestdorset 01305269444.
* AONB Community Tree Scheme has recently invited all town and parish councils to make their views known on the kind of support the new Community Tree Scheme can offer local councils.
* Verge Cutting – Dorset Council’s policy of not cutting some roadside verges for ecological reasons will not change.
* Planning Advice is available on the Dorset Council website for residents who are converting or extending an existing property as to whether the project needs planning permission or building regulation advice.
* The bus service Wyke/Peacemarsh area of Gillingham has been withdrawn and Cllr Ridout is working with Gillingham Town Council to re-establish a bus service to serve these areas.
* Dorset Council have installed solar panels on Gillingham Library as a part of an energy saving project.
* There is a consultation on libraries which is running from the 29th of September to the 22nd of December 2022. You can have your say at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/lets-talk-libraries](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/lets-talk-libraries) or call 01305221000 for a hard copy of the survey.

Dorset Councillor D Walsh reported that on the 5th of October it was announced that Dorset Council planning policy will be extended until 2026. Due to other urgent commitments within Dorset, there had not been enough time to give to the plan in its entirety.

* Highway liaison officer – Cllr McConnell reported the lines that had been put down after the resurfacing of the road at Knapp Corner, have not been put in the correct place. The Clerk has already reported this to the road safety team and will chase them up to rectify this matter. A member of the public had sent their concerns over the speed of traffic on Hunger Hill and those living on the hill that exit out on to the road are very often nearly hit by the speeding traffic. Yesterday there was another collision at the cross roads. Is there anything that can be done? It was noted that the Speed Watch team did not have enough members to continue and has been disbanded at the moment. The Clerk will speak to Cllr Wakeford, who showed interest in joining the team to see if she would be able to lead a team for the Speed Watch. The Clerk will also speak to the road safety team at Dorset Council to see if there is anything else that can be done. Action - Clerk
* Tree liaison officer –Unfortunately the Parish Council no longer receive tree applications, so it was confirmed that Mrs Terry Bagnall will keep an eye out for any tree issues within the parish and report these to the Clerk. Cllr D Walsh reported that there is a Planning Area Group meeting on the 18th of October at the Corn Exchange in Dorchester where planning matters can be discussed. The Clerk will forward this information on to Mrs Bagnall. Action – Clerk The Chairman confirmed that now Autumn has arrived, the Jubilee trees will be planting on the recreation field. It was agreed that an oak/oaks would be most appropriate for the Queen’s Jubilee and Memorial.
* Playing Field officer – Cllr Robson reported that further works to the drainage near the car park will be taking place in the near future and this will hopefully help with the surface water that has damaged the new path. The path will also be repaired. It was also noted that in the agreement for the use of the recreation area, it states that the path has to be covered if being crossed by footballers, so it does not get damaged by their studded boots.
* Representative to Village Hall – Cllr McConnell reported that the village hall committee are looking into ways to provide broadband in the Hall. Wessex Internet may be interested in supplying ultrafast broadband to the village if enough residents register their interest on the Wessex Internet website.
* Planning – the Clerk tabled the application received from April 2022 to October 2022, which are listed below:
* Application no Address Dorset Council decision
* P/PABA/2022/02730 Hartgill Farm Prior Approval not required
* P/FUL/2021/02046 Land at Park Farm Access Refused
* P/RES/2022/00263 Land SE Lodden Lake Granted
* P/FUL/2022/04066 Rivendell, Ridge Close Awaiting
* P/NMA/2022/04874 Land west of Shaftesbury Prior Approval not required
* P/RES/2022/04960 West of Shaftesbury Approved on 2/2018/0036/OUT
* P/FUL/2022/02178 New House Farm Awaiting

The clerk explained that we do not have a Planning Officer, but all councillors consider all planning applications relating to this village, and send their considerations to her by email.

6/22. Finance

To consider budget and agree precept for 2023/2024

The Clerk had circulated a detailed proposal for the budget for 2023/2024 and for setting the precept against the budget. Cllr Edwards proposed, Cllr Robson seconded that the precept/budget for 2023/2024 will remain the same as 2022/2023 for the sum of £6,500.00. This was agreed by all attending.

 RESOLVED: there will be no increase in the Parish budget/precept for 2023/2024 (6/22 budget)

7/22. Agenda items to be agreed for the next Parish meeting in April date to be confirmed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.23

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