West Stour Parish

Minutes of West Stour Parish meeting

Held on the 13th of October 2022 at 7.30pm

at West Stour Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Sealy – Chairman, Cllr M Elsworth, Cllr P Gould and Cllr J Watkins (Stours Parish Council Chairman) and 9 elected members of the Parish

Cllr P Sealy welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting.

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips - Clerk

**1/22. Apologies for Absence**

Pat Fowler, Margaret Cartwright and Michelle Cox

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

There were none.

3/22. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 5th of April 2022

With an amendment to note that the Clerk opened the meeting the minutes were then proposed by Cllr Sealy and seconded by Cllr Elsworth, 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 (3/22 no budgetary requirements)

4/22. Matters arising.

Conservation area – everyone were reminded that a large part of the village is in a conservation area. The Clerk will produce a clearer plan than the one tabled and also add the areas that have trees with TPO’s to put on the notice boards to remind residents where these areas are. If you live in the conservation area or have a tree with a TPO and need to do tree works, you need to contact Dorset Council tree officers to obtain permission for the works. If you do not follow the correct procedure, Dorset Council can impose fines.

Footpaths - Andrew Marshall reported that the footpath are clear and broken gates/styles are being reported directly to Dorset Council rangers for their action.

Telephone Box refurbishment – Diana West requested that the phone box has new signs put in to indicate it also holds the defibrillator, book exchange and village map. The cost is estimated at £90.00 plus vat. It was agreed to use the reserved funds for the Parish to purchase these signs. The signs will be put up, Road Map facing the A30, defibrillator towards the village and book exchange facing towards the village hall. Melonie Marshall asked for permission to paint the phone box. This was agreed. Both matters will be ratified at the Parish Council meeting in November.

Review notice boards – It was agreed that the notice boards are being used as agreed.

Update on road safety – the Clerk will be meeting with Dorset Council road safety team in the new year to discuss ideas to improve the speeding traffic through the village on the A30. It was asked that a request to move the 30MPH up to the 30MPH speed limit at East Stour, or if not possible to move it past the Garage and past the bridge. It was also noted that Dorset Council are looking into a policy where they will consider village requests for 20MPH limits if certain criteria can be met. This will not include A roads, unless under special circumstances.

5/22.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). Cllr Gould reported that the area around a redundant water hydrant needs maintenance urgently and also Enrico from Dorset Council had agreed to supply scalping for Lynch Lane, which Cllr Gould has agreed to lay. The Clerk will follow this up with Wessex Water and Dorset Council. **Action - Clerk**

Rights of way/trees liaison officer – it was confirmed that a request for tree work next to the phone box has been submitted to Dorset Council tree officers, as they are responsible for the trees. It was also noted that as the Parish Council do not receive tree works applications for the area, if anyone has any concerns over works being undertaken in the village, please contact the Clerk.

Representative to Village Hall

* The majority of the work on updating and refurbishing the Village Hall was completed in 2021. There are a few minor improvements still on the committee’s ‘to do’ list. Application has been made to the ‘National Lottery Awards for All’ for funding to level and re-surface the car park.
* The hall is starting to be used more since the refurbishment. The Railway Society has resumed its weekly Monday meetings; the village book group has met on a number of occasions; and a series of coffee mornings has taken place. In addition, there has been the church bazaar; the village meal (at The Ship) organised by Diana West; an Arts & Crafts weekend exhibition; an Easter Extravaganza; Refresher training on the use of the defibrillator by Mike Powell; a spud lunch; ploughman’s lunches; a pudding afternoon; and a meeting to look at book themed events. Over the weekend of the 4th / 5th June we held events to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. On the 4th there was an exhibition of all things 1950s together with a ‘guess who the child is’ fun competition featuring village residents. The climax of the weekend was a ‘bring and share’ lunch and music event, attended by around 40 people, on Sunday 05 June 2022 featuring Tom Clements in the garden of Ashley House, courtesy of Sarah and Vyn (who also supplied sparkling wine). Our thanks to Sarah and Vyn and to Tom.
* Thanks mainly to government grants the village hall is in a healthy financial situation even managing to ring fence a reserve of just over £10k as a contingency fund.
* The Village Hall AGM is on Wednesday 19th October starting with drinks and nibbles at 7.30 p.m. with business starting at 8 p.m. All residents welcome and ideas for future events also welcomed.

Planning Applications – the following planning applications had been received for West Stour parish from April 2022 to October 2022.



6/22. Finance

To consider budget and precept for 2023/2024 – the Clerk had circulated a detailed proposal for setting the precept for 2023/2024. After debate it was agreed to keep the precept at £2000.00. This was agreed and will be proposed at the Parish Council meeting in November for resolution.

Action – Clerk

The Clerk reported that at the Parish comes under the umbrella of The Stours Parish Council, they only are legally requited to meet one a year between April and June. After debate the residents present agreed that they wish to continue to hold two meetings a year.

7/22. Agenda items to be agreed for the next Parish meeting on Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7.30pm

AGM

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40pm

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