West Stour Parish

Minutes of West Stour Parish meeting

 Held on the 12th of April 2023 at 7.30pm

at West Stour Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips - Clerk

**1/23. Apologies for Absence**

Diana West and Viv Jefferies.

**2/23. Declaration of interest and dispensation**

Cllr M Elsworth declared an interest under planning.

**3/23.** **Election of Chairman**

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman for West Stour Parish. Cllr Sealy was nominated by Cllr Elsworth, this was seconded by Mr Trim, all in favour.

 **RESOLVED**: Cllr Sealy elected as Chairman for West Stour Parish (3/23 no budgetary requirements)

4/23. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 13th of October 2022

The minutes were 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 (3/23 no budgetary requirements)

Matters arising.

Conservation area – Produce a map showing conservation area – it was agreed to contact Martin Hibbert to request he updates the map, so that a new version of the conservation area can be printed. Action – Chair and Clerk

Update on road safety – proposed 20MPH scheme – The Clerk reported that Dorset Council have released their new policy on 20MPH speed limit request. There are a lot of conditions that need to be met before Dorset Council will consider a 20MPH speed limit through the village. There will also be costs to the Parish for the surveys that need to be done to supply data for Dorset Council to consider. The estimated cost is the sum of £300.00 per speed survey, where there would be a minimum of two required, one in different parts of the village. After debate it was agreed for the Clerk to request that an article is put in the newsletters, asked for resident to comment if they felt the village would benefit from a 20MPH speed limit or not. You can obtain more information at Dorset Council website using the following link <https://www.dorsetview.co.uk/councils-in-dorset-can-apply-for-20mph-speed-limits/#.ZDfK7LrMK3A>. It was also noted that there used to be a speed watch team in the village and to try and promote a group of people to re-instate the speed watch team. The Clerk will ask Mr John Parker to put a request in the News Letter.

Rubbish/dog waste bin – the Chairman has been approached by quite a few residents, requesting an additional waste bin for Lynch Lane in the village. After debate, the Clerk will obtain the cost for an additional bin, including Dorset Council to empty it, as Dorset Council will not supply additional bin and empty them free of charge. It was also noted that it this is agreed, consideration need to be taken of where the bin will be placed, to ensure it is away from the houses. It was also requested to remind residents that you are able to take your dog waste home and put it in your land fill bin. Action – Clerk

5/23. Election of officer’s roles:

* 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 – Andrew Marshall remains the rights of way/foot path officer and has reported any concerns regarding the footpaths to Dorset Council Rangers. It was noted that the Rangers are understaffed, and Andrew has been asked to prioritise his list, so that the Rangers can concentrate on the most important safety issues. It was reported that there has been fly tipping on the A30 entrance to the field opposite the layby. The Clerk will report the fly tipping. If anyone sees any fly tipping, they can report it directly using the following link.
* Tree Officer – the Clerk reported that Dorset Council now send through any tree works applications for the Parish Councils comments. If any resident has any concerns over tree work happening in the conservation area in the village, please contact the Chairman or the Clerk, who will contact Dorset Council to see if they have approved these works.
* Representative to Village Hall – Cllr Sealy will continue to attend the village hall meeting, representing the Parish Council.
* Assets and monuments – The Chairman read out the assets that the Parish Council are responsible for in the village. The management of the defibrillator was raised, and it was agreed for the Clerk to contact the management company to request that the batteries are replaced. Action – Clerk

The Chairman raised concerns that the new signs for the phone box have not been put in the positions that had been agreed at the meeting in October 2022. After debate, it was agreed that it would be more beneficial for the defibrillator sign to be facing the A30, the map sign to be towards the village, the book exchange facing towards the village hall. This was not an amendment to the minutes of 13th October; this was a new proposal which looked at the importance of advertising the defibrillator. It was also suggested that another sign could be made saying map for the village, which can be put under the defibrillator sign. It was also reported that the top of the phone box door is in very poor condition and Andrew Marshall has volunteered to try and repair it. If the door is in too bad of a condition to repair, Andrew will report it to the Chairman and a replacement frame will be priced.

6/23. District Councils officer report.

The full report can be found on the Parish Council website under meetings in March or a copy can be obtained by the Clerk.

7/23. Current Planning Applications.

The following applications were tabled:



A recommendation was tabled, that when the Councillors consider planning applications within the village, that consideration is taken on sustainability of the village when making decisions on applications and to ensure that responses have the details of the village being listed unsustainable in the Dorset Plan where necessary.

It was agreed for the Clerk will produce information on what is classed as sustainable or unsustainable villages, which includes infrastructure within the village and will request it is published in the Newsletter. Action – Clerk

8/23. Officers’ reports

No further reports were given.

9/23. Account for the end of the year.

The end of the year accounts were tabled, and Mr Sealy proposed to approve the accounts, this was seconded by Cllr Elsworth, all in favour.



 RESOLVED: to approve the end of year accounts for West Stour Parish (10/23 – no budgetary requirements)

The Clerk reported that the Stours Parish Council have agreed to donate funds to each village towards any Coronations Celebrations. If West Stour have any proposals, please forward them to the Chairman or Clerk.

10/23. Matters of interest and information

The following was reported:

* Fish and Chip van comes Friday nights to Riverside Garage and when events are held on at the show ground a Pizza van attends.
* The village plant sale will now take place a week after King Charles lll Coronation.

11/23. Agenda items to be agreed for the next Parish meeting in October – date to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.55.

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