East Stour Parish

Minutes of East Stour Parish meeting

 Held on the 18th of April 2023 at 7.00pm

at East Stour Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Watkins – Chairman of the Stours Parish Council. Cllr Bobbie Edwards. Cllr J Uden, Cllr J Pitman, Cllr R McConnell, Cllr Wakeford, two members of the public and Dorset Councillors Cllr Ridout and Cllr Walsh

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips

**1/23. Apologies for Absence –** Cllr Peter Stride

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

There were none.

**3/23. Election of Chairman**

At this point, the Clerk had sent the following information to all Parishes regarding the correct prosses for Parish Meetings, where Parishes come under a Parish Council.

*Parish meeting may be convened by the chairman of the parish council or any two parish councillors, or in a parish that does not have a separate parish council by the chairman of the parish meeting or by any representative of the parish upon the principal council. (LGA 1972m Sch 12, para 1.5(1)(a)-(c). or in either case by six electors for the area for which it is to beheld, (LGA 1972 Sch12, para 1.5(1)(d). The parish council may also convene it but is under no obligation to do so unless its consent is required before the parish council does certain acts.* Therefore, an election of Chairman was not necessary. It was agreed for the Chairman of the Parish Council to chair the meeting.

4/23. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 6th of October 2022.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Wakeford and seconded by Cllr R McConnell, all agreed they are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved (4/23)

**Matters Arising from those minutes.**

**Vacancy –** The Parish have room for one more Councillor to join the Stours Parish Council. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk or Chairman.

**Update on Play Area –** The Clerk reported that the contractor is just waiting for the new zip wire seat to be delivered, which should be in the next few weeks, then the works will commence.

A member of the public asked for details on how much the Parish Council charge the Fast Feet for using the recreation area. The Clerk did not have the figures to hand, but it was confirmed that Fast Feet are under an agreement to donate funds towards the upkeep of the recreation area. The member of the public asked for the Clerk to find out how much Fast Feet charge the children for the football training, as he felt this should be taken into consideration when charging for the use of the recreation area. The Clerk, Chairman and Councillors reminded everyone that this is a public open space for anyone to use at any time and that if Fast Feed did not donate funds towards the grass cutting, the cost would refer back to the precept of the residents in the parish. For clarification, the Clerk will obtain this information for the next Parish Meeting.

Cllr Church asked for everyone to consider the proposal to put up a dog exercise area at the far end of the recreations area, that will be secured off by fencing to ensure that children and dog are kept apart. The remaining funds in Hannah’s legacy could be use toward the costs. After debate, it was agreed for the Clerk to obtain quotes for the necessary works. It was also agreed that once this proposal is resolved, the Clerk will apply for a Dog Order on the recreation/play area, to make it illegal to walk dogs in these areas. **Action – Clerk**

**Kings Coronation-** Cllr Wakeford reported that the village hall committee and volunteers have this event in hand.

5/23. Election of officer’s roles

The following roles were agreed.

Play Area/ recreation ground Cllr McConnell

Village Hall Representative Cllr McConnell

Footpaths/rights of way Cllr Wakeford and Parish Council

Trees- Dorset Council now send any tree applications to the Parish Council, these will be circulated to the relevant Parish Councillors for their comments. If anyone is concerns over any tree work, please report them to the Clerk or Dorset Council tree officers direct.

Highways matters – if anyone has any highways issues, please report them to the Clerk or Dorset Council Highways Team direct.

6/23. District Councillors report

Cllr B Ridout’s full report can be seen on the Sours Parish Council’s website.

The following are the heading from that report:

* RiversMeet Leisure Centre, Gillingham- RiversMeet is one of 200 community organisations now reaping the reward of reduced energy bills with the help of low energy schemes installed by Low Carbon Dorset since 2018.
* Family Hubs - Department for Education funding over 2 years will enable Dorset Council to set up Family Hubs across the council area, with the aim of creating a clear and simple way to access physical or virtual help.
* £4.3 Home Upgrade Grant - energy efficiency project.
* Round 4 of the Household Support Fund - Dorset Council, BCP Council and Public Health Dorset have been awarded £4.3 by central government to upgrade homes and off-grid households with energy efficiency measures.
* The Takeover Challenge 2023 – 3-14th July - opportunities for young people in Dorset aged 11+
* Dorset Council and LitterLotto- LitterLotto app in Dorset will be given the opportunity to win an additional £100 each month to encourages people to dispose of litter properly.
* Community Cup Scheme - event organisers across the county to help make events as sustainable as possible by encouraging event organisers to consider the waste hierarchy, prioritising re-use over recycling in order to reduce waste and prevent litter.
* RU, OK? - RUOK? Is a new campaign launched by Dorset’s Suicide Prevention Group –

 CALL Dorset’s round-the-clock mental health helpline for all ages, call free: 0800 652 0190.

TEXT - Free, confidential text messaging service. Text SHOUT to 85258 any time, day, or night.

CHAT ONLINE - Kooth, online wellbeing support for young people aged 11-18, including a live chat.

SEARCH -Dorset Youth – find mental health and emotional support services for children and young people in Dorset.

Dorset Council Cllr Walsh reported the following:

* The proposed Dorset Plan has been held up and new proposed date will be in 2026.
* Dorset Council Planning Engagement Session on the 19th of April 2023, seeking your views and input on some important documents that will be the subject of public consultation. Dorset Council Cabinet agreed that the following documents could be launched for consultation purposes:

• Dorset Council Planning for Climate Change: Interim Guidance and Position Statement.

• Sustainability Statement and Checklist for Planning Applications.

• Listed Buildings – what you can do for climate change.

Cllr McConnell asked if Cllr Walsh feel that the Parishes should be looking at their local areas to ideal sites for wind turbines or solar panels to encourage a zero-carbon footprint for villages? Cllr Walsh agreed that this positive approach to looking at renewable energy projects of villages. Cllr McConnell with discuss this matter with the Parish Council’s environmental officer Cllr Morisetti to obtain more detailed information.

A question was raised of why developer building new houses are not forced to use solar panels on the roofs. Cllr Walsh stated that at the moment there is no policy to ensure that developers are forced to put solar panels on new houses, but with the proposed Sustainability Statement and Checklist for Planning Applications, this will promote developers to consider including solar panels and other renewable energy devises on their applications.

Cllr McConnell asked Cllr Walsh if Neighbourhood Plans for villages are still looked at in a positive way when Dorset Council consider their decisions on planning applications. Cllr Walsh stated that at the moment, Neighbourhood Plans are in place for 2 years and after that time, they are still considered when looking at a planning application, but if it has not been updated, it may not be as strong as a tool a if it has been updated. It was being discussed that new or updated Neighbourhood Plans should be in place for a 5-year period.

7/23. Current Planning Applications

The following was tabled.



8/23. Officers’ reports

Nothing further to report.

9/23. Account for the end of the year

The end of year accounts were tabled, and Cllr McMconnell proposed to approve the account, this was seconded by Cllr Wakeford, all in favour.

 RESOLVED: to approve the accounts for the end of the year (9/23 – Accounts)



10/23. Matters of Interest & Information

Cllr Watkins – thanked everyone for their hard work for the achievements within the village.

The matter of the Parish having its own Parish Council was raised and the Clerk was asked to supply information on necessary cost that a Parish Council have over a grouped Parish. Action - Clerk

11/23. Agenda items to be agreed for the next Parish meeting in October 2023 – Budget – Hanna’s Legacy

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.15.

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