East Stour Parish

Minutes of East Stour Parish meeting

 Held on the 12th of October 2023 at 7.00pm

at East Stour Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Wilkins – Chairman of East Stour Parish meeting, Cllr J Uden, Cllr R McConnell, Cllr J Pitman, Cllr H Wakeford, Cllr P Stride and Cllr M Kirkham– 3 members of the public

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

**1/23. Apologies for Absence**

Dorset Council Cllr Ridout, Cllr Walsh and Cllr V Pothecary

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

There were none.

3/23. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 18th of April 2023.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pitman and seconded by Cllr Wakeford, 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 (3/23)

4/23. Matters arising.

* To consider standalone Council – The Councillors are looking into the positives and negatives for setting up a standalone Parish Council for East Stour. The Clerk will arrange a Public Meeting in the new year, giving details of the positives and negatives of a standalone Parish Council to be able to obtain if the residents of the Parish views.
* 20MPH Scheme – speed watch – East Stour would not reach the criteria for a 20MPH speed limit. The Speed Watch team have a large number of volunteers and hold regular watches. The Speed Watch team cannot locate the old speed watch gun. A new gun will be purchased for the village.
* To consider purchasing a Dorset Flag for paying field – a request to purchase a Dorset Flag that can be left up on the flagpole when other flags are not being used. After debate it was agreed to purchase the sturdier flag for, he estimated sum of £130.00. This was agreed by all and that the funds will be taken from Hannah Legacy.

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:

Council Tax Bill – there is a consultation running at the moment on proposed changes to Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working aged people. Consultation can be found at <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/consultation-and-engagement/counciltax/>

Polling Stations Review – Dorset Council is required by law to review all polling district, polling places and polling stations in the Dorset Council area. The consultation documents can be found online. Note: no changes can be made to existing ward or parish boundaries during this review and any recommendations need to be in alignment with existing parliamentary constituency, ward and parish boundaries.

Dorset Council Budget – the first of a series of ‘Budget cafes’ has taken place, giving the opportunity for all members to be involved with building next year’s Budget.

Mico-surfacing roads – work continues in October to preserve more roads using a preventative treatment called micro-surfacing.

Dog related PSPO consultation (Public Spaces Protection Order) – the recent consultation attracted 4,221 responses, 80% from local residents, with 62% of responses from dog owners. The full report and recommendations will go to the Place and Resources Overview Committee and Cabinet on 7th November. If recommendations are agreed, the new dog related PSPO will come into effect on 1st January 2024.

Belinda Ridout, Councillor for the Gillingham Ward Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 07496413114

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* Tree liaison officer –The Parish Council once again now receive tree application from Dorset Council for the Parishes. If a tree application is received it will be circulated to the relevant Parish for their Councillors comments. Cllr Wakeford reported that a tree has been purchased for the King Coronation and will look at the best position to plant it in the recreation field.
* Playing/recreation Field officer – Cllr McConnell reported that the works to the play equipment has been completed. A request for a small toddler swing was tabled. The Clerk will look into the possibility of obtaining one, either second hand or cost to purchase a new one. Action -Clerk

Cllr McConnell also noted that a request was received from Fast Feet that the grass is cut shorter for the recreation area. The Clerk confirmed that the grass cutting contractor has agreed to do this. The Clerk will also remind Fast Feet that the path has to be covered if being crossed by footballers, so it does not get damaged by their studded boots. The path will also be treated for weeds again. Action - Clerk

* Representative to Village Hall – Cllr McConnell reported that the works to the village hall roof has been completed. There will be a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the hall, where residents of the village are welcome to attend free of charge and outsiders of the Parish will be charge £5.00 entrance. Cllr McConnell proposed that funds from the Parish budget could be donated to help with the cost for the celebration for the sum of £100.00, this was seconded by Cllr Wakeford and all in favour for £100.00.
	+ RESOVLED: to donate £100.00 towards the village hall celebrations (5/22 – donations)
* Planning – the Clerk tabled the application received from April 2023 to October 2023, which are listed below:



6/23. Finance

To consider budget and agree precept for 2024/2025

The Clerk had circulated a detailed proposal for the budget for 2024/2025 and for setting the precept against the budget. Cllr Stride proposed, Cllr Pitman seconded that the precept/budget for 2024/2024 will be set at £6680.00 for 2023/2024, an increase of £180.00 against the precept 2023/2024. This was agreed by all.

 RESOLVED: to set the Parish budget/precept for 2024/2025 at £6680.00 (6/23 budget)

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

Other matters – The lower branches around some of the tress around the recreation area need to be removed. The Clerk will instruct the Parish Council’s contractor to get them removed. Action – Clerk

Cllr Pitman raised the possibility of having a wind turbine in the village, which has previously been discussed. Cllr Pitman will contact Cllr Morisetti to discuss this further.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.55.

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………

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Should you wish to contact any Councillor please us the address

clerk@stours-pc.gov.uk