East Stour Parish

Minutes of East Stour Parish meeting

 Held on the 21st of May 2024 at 7.00pm

at East Stour Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Wilkins – Chairman of East Stour Parish meeting Cllr J Uden, Cllr J Pitman, Cllr H Wakeford, Cllr P Stride and Cllr M Kirkham– 12 members of the public

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips – Clerk

**1/24. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr R McConnell, Dorset Council Cllr Ridout

**2/24. Welcome by the Chairman of Stours Parish Council.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3/24. To agree the Minutes of the meeting dated the 12th of October 2024.

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 (3/24)

4/24. Matters arising.

To consider standalone Parish Council for the Parish – The Clerk was asked to give an update on taking this proposal forward. The Clerk gave information on the positives and negatives for the Parish to have their own Parish Council in detail. All the information given can be obtained from the Clerk in a leaflet which explains everything. The main thing is that 172 electors need to support his proposal before it can be taken forward to Dorset Council.

Update on Speed watch – the Speed watch team are up and running and are looking at additional areas in the village to do their speed watching. The local Police have also attended a watch, where 3 people were caught speeding and as it was the Police doing the speed watch, these people will be automatically fined. It was reported that in a space of 1 hour, 200 cars were registered going through the village. It is a great thing that these volunteers do for the village and thank you to Phil for leading the team.

Update on Village Fete – the Fete will be held on Sunday the 26th May starting at 10am. There lots of stalls, refreshments raffles and games to play. Any profit made from the Fete will be given to the Village Hall and the Church. It is a great thing that the village continue with the Fete, it is a great way to get the local community together.

5/24. Representative from Wessex Internet – Christine O’Grady -Community Engagement Manager – Wessex Internet, introduced herself and gave the following information to the public:

* Wessex Internet is a local company based in Blandford Forum, who have been awarded the contract from Central Government to supply broadband services to rural areas. They will be having a stall at the Village Fete giving details of the benefits to local people.
* Works are under way to lay fibre around the village using small trenches to lay the fibre to a connection point, which will be later linked to properties that sign up for Wessex Internet. This should be completed by July and if anyone is interested in a faster broadband connection, please put your name down, either at the events where Wessex Internet are or on their website. You are not committing to anything at that time, just confirming you are showing an interest.
* Wessex Internet will be providing broadband to the Village hall and the Church, at massively reduced cost as a gesture of goodwill for the village. Wessex Internet will also consider supporting small community benefit projects.

Christine O’Grady was thanked for taking time to come and give and update and information on this project.

After debate, it was agreed that ideas for community benefit projects will be considered and forwarded to the Clerk, who can then put them forward to Wessex Internet. Some projects were raised, New Notice Boards, maintenance for the phone box and equipment for Moviola. The Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council also have grants available for Community Benefit, so this could also be applied for. Details of cost for these projects will be sent to the Clerk for action. Action - Clerk

6/24. Reports given by representatives from local organisations and Councillors

There were none.

7/24. Dorset Councillors report. There were none.

8/24. Planning – the Clerk tabled the application received from April 2023 to April 2024, which are listed below:



9/23. Finance – the Clerk tabled the end of year cashbook summary for 2023-2024, as below:



10/24. Matters of interest & Information – there following was noted:

* Some of the saplings at the Plaque had been cut down and the daffodils had been cut back too early. The Clerk will speak to the new grass cutting contractor to ensure the saplings are replaced and that next year he waits longer before cutting the daffodils down. Action – Clerk
* Confirmed that the remaining funds in Hanna’s legacy will be spent on one or two benches for the village. Action – Cllr Wakeford
* There was a report that the defibrillator was required over the weekend, but the person trying to use it could not get the case open. Cllr Uden went and checked the case and defibrillator; both are in good working order. There is no number required to open the case, there is a red button that needs to be pressed to get access to the defibrillator, as well as ringing 999 for their guidance.
* The footpath, where the gate had to be repaired needs clearing. Information will be sent to the Clerk to find out who is responsible for the footpath, as it was felt it was not a Right of Way listed with Dorset Council. On the same footpath, there is a small bridge, which needs some maintenance. It was suggested that the Parish Council had built the bridge years ago and therefore are responsible for its upkeep. The Clerk confirmed that she had nothing about the bridge on the Parish Councils assets but will look into it. Action - Clerk
* The road signs need attention, a member of the public will be taking photographs of the signs. These can be sent to the Clerk who will forward them on to Dorset Council road safety team, for action.
* Request to update the Village Action Plan was tabled. The Councillors will look into this. Action – Clerk
* Request for the hedge in front of the benches in the recreation area should be cut back as they are blocking the view. The Clerk will ask the contractor to do this. Action - Clerk

11/24. Agenda items for the next Parish Meeting in October 2024 – Budget, Village Action Plan – Go alone Parish Council

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.00.

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

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