The Stours Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE STOURS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on the 7th of November 2024 **at 7.00pm at West Stour Village Hall,**

Present: Cllr J Watkins – Chairman, Cllr B Bowe – Vice Chairman, Cllr C Wilkins, Cllr P Matcham, Cllr P Patrick, Cllr A Stagg, Cllr Estelle Edwards, Cllr Pat Mitchell, Cllr Peter Stride, Cllr Judy Uden, Cllr Helen Wakeford, Cllr Marine Kirkham and Cllr R King.

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Dorset Councils, Cllr Carl Woode, Cllr Jane Somper and Cllr V Pothecary two members of the public.

**Public Consultation:** there were no questions raised.

24/38. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr D Amlot MBE, Cllr J Pitman, Cllr R McCconnell

24/39. Receive declaration of interest and dispensations

There were none.

24/40. To approve the minutes dated the 5th of September 2024

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Stride and seconded by Cllr Wakeford, all agreed that the minutes 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 (24/40 – no budgetary provision.

required)

To do list for works – the Chairman went through outstanding items for each Parish. A copy of the to do list is available from the Clerk.

Update from each Parish:

Stour Row/Stour Provost: nothing to add to the to do list.

East Stour

* Cllr Wakeford reported that officers from Dorset Council Highways team attended an open meeting with some Councillors and members of the public at East Stour Village Hall. Information on what traffic control tools could be available to the Parish was discussed. It would be wonderful to have fourway traffic lights at the crossroads at the bottom of the village and a crossing outside the village hall. The Clerk will send information to Cllr Wakeford of the criteria for applying for a crossing and Dorset Councillors confirmed they would support an application for traffic lights. This matter will be discussed in more details at the next Parish Council meeting.

Todber: nothing to add to the to do lists.

West Stour

* Dorset Council Enforcement Officer has been chased up regarding the Land used behind Stour Cottage and the track creation on Church Farm Estate behind Foxgloves in the Lynch. Awaiting a report back on both.
* Councillors for West Stour have or are continuing to attend relevant training sessions with DAPTC.
* The service level agreement for the footpaths has been agreed and strimming will start next spring. The stiles and gates are being checked for maintenance.
* Cllr Amlot is collating names for volunteers to take the proposal for the a Neighbourhood Plan for the village forward.
* Wessex Internet have donated £300.00 towards a new notice board for the village. The Village Hall committee have also agreed to donate a further £300.00. Cllr Amlot will investigate cost for the notice board.
* Working to obtaining prices to get the faulty SID repaired.
* The sign-up for the email distribution list is growing. It was agreed to keep the information for the residents relevant to West Stour and not circulating Dorset Council and Ward reports which are for the other Parishes..
* Footpath to Riverside Garage – a suggestion for a footpath from the village to Riverside Garage was tabled. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to Julian Trim who owns the land that could be used, asking if he would consider a Permissive Right of Way, and Tom Hawtree, from Riverside Garage, to see if he has any suggestions. Action – Clerk
* State of Road Signs – complaint over the state of road signs. Advised people to report street signs directly to Dorset Council, here is the link <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/traffic-management/road-signs-and-markings/road-signs-and-markings>
* Speed in Church Street – concerns were raised that residents living on Church Street do not feel safe stepping out their front doors onto the street and have near misses when managing their front gardens. Here is the link for reporting an incident, no matter how small they are. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/road-safety>

24/41. Reports from Dorset Councillors.

Dorset Councillor reports had been circulated and can be seen on the Parish Council’s website or a copy can be obtained by the Clerk

Main bullet points follow that are not covered by reports sent.

* Cllr Somper is meeting with local farmers to discuss their concerns over the impact the recent national budget has had on them.
* A meeting for Chairman, one other Councillors and Clerk has been arranged for the 7th of December to listen and rase concerns over planning process at Dorset Council.
* It was noted that around 900 planning enforcement have not been resolved, these go back as far as 10 years. This is another matter that needs urgent attention at Dorset Council planning services.
* Dorset Council are preparing their proposed budget.
* A public consultation has been arranged at Melbury Abbas Village Hall on the 29th of November, to discuss proposals for the works at Dinah’s Hollow.

24/42 Finance

Budget/precept 2025-2026 – the Clerk had circulated the proposed budget/precept for 2025-2026. It was noted that all Parishes had agreed to their precepts at their Parish Meetings in October. Cllr Matcham proposed that the following precept is approved, to increase the precept from £29110.62 to £36387.00. This will be an additional £9.00 a yea, on a band D property for residents in all Parishes, this was seconded by Cllr Stagg, all in favour.

To record: Payments paid between meetings – The Clerk had circulated payment schedule for September 2024 for the sum of £2859.05 which had been approved via email for payment.

To agree: Payment Schedule for October 2024 - The Clerk had tabled the Payment Schedule for October 2024 for the sum of £5473.65. This was proposed by Cllr Bowe and seconded by Cllr Watkins all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed.



RESOLVED: to ratify the September’s payments and agreed the October payments (24/43 – current account)

The bank reconciliation had been circulated and agreed by all.

24/43 Planning: review of applications received (DC = Dorset Council)  


24/44. Chairman’s report

The Chairman had attended the Big Conversation event for Town and Parish Councils to hear their proposals to make a difference in the future for the following areas:

* Communities for all
* Respond to the climate crisis
* Provide high quality housing
* Grow our economy

24/45. Clerk Report- correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated.

The Clerk confirmed that the external audit has been returned, there were no issues, and the details will be advertised on the Parish Council website and local notice boards.

24/46. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. Update to do list and Budget

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 9th of January 2025 at Stour Row Village Hall at **7.00pm**.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.10pm

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](mailto:clerk@stours-pc.gov.uk)