The Stours Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE STOURS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on the 6th of March 2025 **at 7.00pm at East Stour Village Hall, East Stour**

Present: Cllr J Watkins – Chairman, Cllr B Bowe – Vice Chairman, Cllr C Wilkins, Cllr A Stagg, Cllr P Matcham, Cllr P Patrick, Cllr Estelle Edwards, Cllr Peter Stride, Cllr R McConnell, Cllr Judy Uden, Cllr R King.

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Dorset Councillors, Cllr B Ridout, Cllr J Somper and Cllr Carl Woode, 4 members of the public.

**Public Consultation:** member of the public asked why the agenda and minutes has not been displayed on the notice board at West Stour. The minutes had been displayed and then the notice board was replaced, perhaps the minutes has not been put on the new notice board in error, also the agenda was put on the notice board and then was amended so an updated agenda was put up just before the meeting. The agendas and minutes are advertised on the Parish Council’s website, which is the legal requirement.

A member of the public asked if permission had been given, from Dorset Council planning to fell the trees at the Land North of Church House, West Stour. The Clerk will check the approved application and if the trees were not included in the approved application the Clerk will report

A member of the public asked for an update on the saplings that had been cut down in error at the Pleck. The Clerk confirmed that all of the saplings that had protection around them are fine, the saplings that had no protection, were growing amongst long grass/weeds and the contractor could not identify them. The Clerk had asked the contractor to make sure the saplings were not damages but thought that the saplings that were protected were the ones in question. This matter will be raised at East Stour AGM in April.

24/57. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr Pat Mitchell, Cllr David Amlot MBE and Dorset Councillor Cllr H Wakeford sent their apologies. The Chairman reported that Cllr M Kirkham, Cllr H Wakeford and Cllr J Pitman have resigned from East Stour Parish and would like to thank them all for all of their hard work and support whilst serving as a Councillor for the Stours Parish Council and representing East Stour Parish

24/58. Receive declaration of interest and dispensations

There were none.

24/59. Co-option for new Councillors for East Stour

This agenda item will be placed on East Stour Parish AGM in April.

24/60. To approve the minutes dated the 9th of January 2025

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Stride and seconded by Cllr Patrick, 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 (24/60 – no budgetary provision.

 required)

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

Cllr Matcham gave an update on a report that is being produced to use for applying for a speed reduction along the B3092 from West Stour crossroad, to Marnhull. Stour Provost and Todber Councillors are working together to produce this document, which will be circulated to the Parish Council before submitting to Dorset Council Road Safety Team.

Update from each Parish:

Stour Row/Stour Provost

* Cllr Watkins reported that the hedge,trees and vegetation in the recreation area and around the Pavilion at Stour Provost are to be cut back and the quote had been circulated to Councillors and all agreed.
* The works on the phone box in Stour Row will commence from the 25th of March 2025.
* Cllr Watkins has received a request from the Cricket Cub to look at renovating the Pavilion at Stour Provost. This will be discussed in more detail at the Parish AGM.

East Stour

* The Councillors for East Stour will be producing a list of work that need to be done in the village and those outstanding. This will be tabled at the East Stour AGM in April.
* An email from Terry Bagnall had been circulated asking for updates and reporting matters that need to be looked at in East Stour. Cllr Uden will respond to Terry Bagnall and other matters will be raised at the Parish AGM.

Todber

* Cllr Matcham reported that the Millennium green at Todber has been worked on and look forward to seeing the spring flowers in bloom.
* Cllr King reported that he will be attending a meeting with advisories to discuss the best action to request the alteration of the Church in Todber to include a community hub.
* The Clerk confirmed that all of the broken signs in the village has been reported to Dorset Council. These works are not on Dorset Council priority list. This will be discussed at Todber Parish AGM in April.

West Stour

Planning - Land North of Church House. Non material amendment - to enclose the carport and use the attic space with rooflights to planning permission P/FUL/2024/05295 (Erect 1 No. dwelling and garage). Refused.

Cllr Amlot received a phone call from North Dorset Planning Enforcement, they will maintain a watch on the creation of a track behind Foxgloves on the Church Farm Estate, no action to be taken at this time whilst it remains for the purpose of farm vehicles only.

Church Street Tree Cutting IVO Phone Box. Update requested from PC Clerk to North Dorset Council, awaiting a response.

Neighbourhood Plan - Inaugural meeting held in February. 12 participants discussed the process for forming a committee and the steps to create a Neighbourhood Plan. No volunteers for committee roles. Instead a request for a briefing from a member of the Buckhorn Weston Kington Magna team to understand the commitment in more detail. This had been previously requested without success. Thankfully one of their committee members has now come forward to brief at the next meeting. Original date 13 March being postponed to 20 March to maximise availability subject to the availability of the speaker.

SID - Request that Cllr Watkins invites West Stour parishioners to volunteer to run the SID scheme in West Stour when she chairs the Parish Meeting.

If no volunteers come forward at that meeting, propose that the Clerk advertise for a SID lead (including other Parishes if required) in the Blackmore Vale Magazine to be paid at the same rate we paid Guy Guilding. It was agreed that this matter will be discussed at each Parish AGM in April.

Asked if the battery replacement been ordered and or received. The Clerk has ordered the battery, as she was waiting for confirmation on what battery was required. Action - Clerk

The Clerk was asked of she had received the deployment schedule from Guy Guilding. The Clerk has not received any deployment schedule from Guy Guilding. The Clerk will contact Guy Guilding. Action - Clerk

Cllr Mitchell will store the West Stour SID in West Stour Village Hall until repaired.

Parish Council Noticeboard - After many coats of varnish and stain, the new noticeboard has been erected by a group of volunteers from across the village, at the same time they cleared up the path and area around the bench, trimmed backed the hedgerow, planed and painted the phone box door.

Cllr Amlot will provide an invoice to cover the cost of the wood stain, lettering, backboard paint, posts, postcrete and ballast. He has donated varnish, paint and the necessary brackets and screws to the project.

Wessex Internet have been contacted to let them know that this is now up so that they can take photographs for any internal/external media. Request made to ensure that they acknowledge that this was co-funded between Wessex Internet, the West Stour Village Hall Fund and the West Stour Parish Precept.

Footpath to Riverside Garage. - There has not been any response from Mr Trim,

24/61. 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

24/62 Finance

To consider grant application – there were no new grant applications.

To record: Payments paid between meetings – The Clerk had circulated payment schedule for January 2025 for the sum of £3433.57 which had been approved via email for payment.

To agree: Payment Schedule for February 2025 - The Clerk had tabled the Payment Schedule for February 2025 for the sum of £2298.71. This was proposed by Cllr Stride and seconded by Cllr Wilkins all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed.



RESOLVED: to ratify the January and agreed the February payments (24/62 – current account)

The bank reconciliation had been circulated and agreed.

24/63 Planning: review of applications received (DC = Dorset Council)



24/64. Chairman’s report

Nothing to report.

24/65. Clerk Report- correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated.

24/66. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. Update to do list – SIDS – Traffic Management

*The Chairman closed the meeting and went into private section to discuss Clerk wages scale.*

After debate the Parish Council agreed to award the Clerk a pay scale increase from 35 to 37 for 2025-2026

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd of May Stour Row Village Hall at **7.00pm**.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.20pm

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