The Stours Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE STOURS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on the 3rd of July 2025 **at 7.00pm at Stour Provost Village Hall, Stour Stour Provost**

Present: Cllr B Bowe – Vice Chairman, Cllr C Wilkins, Cllr P Matcham, Cllr P Patrick, Cllr Judy Uden, Cllr P Matcham

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Dorset Councillors, Cllr J Somper and Cllr Carl Woode, 6 members of the public.

**Public Consultation:**

25/16. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr J Watkins, Cllr A Stagg, Cllr Pat Mitchell, Cllr Estelle Edwards, Cllr David Amlot MBE, on military duties, Cllr P Stride, Cllr R McConnell, Cllr R King and Dorset Councillors Cllr B Ridout and Cllr V Pothecary sent their apologies.

25/17. Receive declaration of interest and dispensations

There were none.

25/18. Co-option for new Councillors for East Stour

This agenda item will be placed on Stour Parish Council meeting in September

25/19. To approve the minutes dated the 22nd of May 2025

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Matcham 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 Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman (25/19 – no budgetary provision.

 required)

To do list for works – the main items raised are as follows.

Proposed Solar Farm – the Clerk has had a lot of problems getting any response from Pennymore Solar Team, they have not responded to any emails. After hours trying to find a contact number, which comes under aecom, she is still waiting to speak to someone who can give the Parish Council an update on the project. Dorset Councilor Jane Somper will investigate what contact details Dorset Council have and forward them on to the Clerk.

Pavilion refurbishment: the Clerk confirmed that a grant application has been submitted for refurbishing the Pavilion at Stour Provost. Cllr Jane Somper noted that she had been contacted by Dorset Council to see if she supported this project, which she confirmed she does. The Clerk is waiting on more detailed quotes from the Cricket Club, which has been requested by Dorset Council.

SID deployment for West and East Stour Parish – It was noted that the West Stour SID is faulty again and that no one has come forward offering to deploy the SID. East Stour have also not had anyone come forward. It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain quotes from Dorset Council for them to manage the SIDS in both Parishes. It was also agreed to look at costs to update the SID for West Stour. Action - Clerk

Update from each Parish:

West Stour – Cllr P Mitchell gave the following report.

* Planning

 Land North of Foxgloves. Objection. Sustainability, open countryside etc.

Land North of Ploughmans Rest (Design Amendment) – Supported with comments on modern external materials in the conservation area.

Change use and conversion of stables building to dwelling (C3). Approved.

* Dorset Council have finally agreed it is their responsibility to manage the tree next to the Phone Box and they have scheduled the work for later in July.
* The Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire has been sent out, further updates will be given once replies are in.
* The SID’s situation was covered earlier in the meeting.
* Graham Stanley – Ranger for Dorset Council is contacting the relevant land owners regarding replacing the styles on the footpaths.
* Dorset Council have started to clear the footpaths; this will be monitored.
* Waiting for update on the diversion of a footpath from Dorset Council.
* It was agreed to progress on the proposed 20MPH areas within the village, the Clerk will organise the speed survey with Dorset Council. Action – Clerk
* Traffic Calming on the A30. Cllr Amlot has sent highways proposal to extend 30mph to the bridge and sought advice on what if any traffic calming measures could be adopted on the A30 in West Stour. Awaiting response

Stour Provost/Stour Row – Cllr P Matcham and Cllr P Patrick reported the following on the proposed speed limit change along the B3092, including Todber and within Stour Provost village.

* It has been proposed that the 40MPH from East Stour Crossroads all the way to Marnhull has been submitted to Dorset Council for their consideration.
* Dorset Council have already agreed to reduce the speed limit at the crossroads at Stour Provost and within Stour Provost.

East Stour – Cllr J Uden reported the following.

* A petition has been circulated to see if the residents of the village would support a zebra crossing outside the village hall. A good response has been received to date.
* The new dog signs for the recreation area, giving the conditions for dog walkers, which are enforceable by Dorset Council have arrived and will be put up in due course.
* A group of volunteers have come forward to re-paint and update the phone box.
* The Clerk and Cllr McConnell will arrange a site visit to discuss the play area inspection report.
* The Clerk confirmed that permission has been granted for a few more saplings to be planted at the Pleck replacing the ones that were accidentally cut down. This matter will be discussed in more detail at the Parish Council meeting in September.

Todber – the following report was tabled.

* Cllr Matcham reported that the Millennium green at Todber is being maintained well.
* Concerns were raised that a new resident moved to the village and has taken on them selves to cut back trees and foliage along Church Track public footpath. There has been communication with the new residents, Cllr Bowe and the Clerk. The new residents informed the Clerk, on the phone, that they have legal document stating that they have right of way along the footpath and would like to meet with Cllr Bowe and Graham Stanley – Ranger at Dorset Council, to discuss this in more detail. Unfortunately, it was noted that the residents in question have already started cutting trees down and cutting foliage back, without meeting with either party. After debate it was agreed to arrange a site visit with Graham Stanley, Cllr Bowe and the Clerk. Action – Clerk

25/20. 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.

The main item raised was the changes Dorset Council are making in some of the recycling centres in Dorset, where they will be introducing a booking system for residents useing the recycling centres. Cllr Somper expressed her disappointment that there had been no consultations with Councillors or the public before this decision was taken, and there is not enough information of why this they have taken this action. Dorset Councillors have requested a full consultation on this project.

Dorset Local Plan is progressing forward and should be out for consultation in August.

25/21 Finance

To record: Payments paid between meetings – The Clerk had circulated payment schedule for May 2025 for the sum of £4419.79 which had been approved via email for payment.

To agree: Payment Schedule for June 2025 - The Clerk had tabled the Payment Schedule for June 2025 for the sum of £25361.12. This was proposed by Cllr Bowe and seconded by Cllr Uden all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed.



RESOLVED: to ratify the May and agreed the May payments (25/21 – current account)

The bank reconciliation had been circulated and agreed.

25/22 Planning: review of applications received (DC = Dorset Council)

Application no Address Description PC decision Dorset Council



25/23. Chairman’s report

Nothing to report.

25/24. Clerk Report- correspondence – all correspondence has been circulated.

25/25. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. Update to do list – SIDS – Traffic Management

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 4th of September at East Stour Village Hall at **7.00pm**.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.11pm

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