

**Minutes of East Stour Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019  
in East Stour Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs B Edwards, (Chairman), Mrs L Bennett, R McConnell, R Robson and Mrs J Uden. Also, Clerk Mrs M Cox and six members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** – Cllr P Gould, (Chairman, Stours Parish Council) M Hibbert (RoWLO) and DCCllrs Val Potheary and Belinda Ridout, Mrs F Austin-Jones and D Little.
2. **MINUTES** – of the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were **agreed** and duly signed.
3. **MATTERS ARISING.** – Legacy from the late Hannah O’Sullivan, the bench has been installed along Witch Lane. The telephone kiosk, by the Crossroads (which Keith Harman offered to restore) could not be adopted as it is on BT land and will be removed.
4. **STOURS PARISH COUNCIL, TWO CASUAL VACANCIES EAST STOUR WARD**  
These can now be filled by co-option at the next Stours Parish Council meeting. The Chairman made a plea for new councillors.
5. **HIGHWAY MATTERS.**  
**SID** – Mr Guy Gilding said that the deployment of the SIDs are progressing normally. One VarioSID is swapped with a basic SID from West Stour (one VarioSID is the property of the Stours Parish Council). The solar panel on the pole by the Crossroads has been replaced.  
**Speedwatch** – Guy Gilding has taken over the co-ordination role from Tony Jones. Guy said that he is happy to volunteer this role and the police have been informed of the changes. He has asked the local police to arrange training sessions for the CSW team.  
**Knapp Corner** – is a very narrow stretch of the highway and pedestrians do take their life in their own hands, as vehicle drivers do not slow down or acknowledge the presence of pedestrians. Guy Gilding said this was brought up a few years ago at the Gillingham Southern Extension meeting. A pinch point was wanted, however at the time there was insufficient traffic to warrant any kind of work. Clerk to ask Roger Bell to see if he can visit the site and see if anything can be done as a warning to drivers about the bend and narrowness of the road and to liaise with Cllr McConnell.
6. **CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS**  
Land At E 378449 N 121922, Higher Farm, Fifehead Magdalen Construct solar farm and associated development, including perimeter fencing, CCTV cameras and landscaping, refused.  
Hawthorne Cottage, erect two storey extensions (demolish existing single storey extension), permitted.  
10 Witch Close, erect single storey extension (demolish garage), permitted.  
Cornerways erect 2 No. single storey extension, permitted.  
Little Meadow, erect 1 No. dwelling with ancillary accommodation (demolish existing), refused.  
Stoneleigh, erect 1 No. dwelling, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and 2 No. parking spaces, awaiting decision.  
Land east of Bakers Cottage, erect a pair of semi-detached dwellings, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and form 4 No. parking spaces. (Variation of Condition No. 2 of Planning Permission 2/2018/0742/FUL to alter external materials, internal floor layouts and amend elevations), withdrawn.  
Primrose Fields, convert Building to form 1 No. dwelling (part retrospective). (Variation of condition application to vary condition 2 on planning permission 2/2018/1397/FUL to allow

change of wording to demolish the existing barn and rebuild new dwelling using existing materials). Application Reference Number: 2/2018/1397/FUL Date of Decision: 29/11/2018 Condition Number(s): 2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out strictly and only in accordance with the following approved drawings and details: GMA- 0047-08A, GMA- 0047-11B forming the approved application. Conditions(s) Removal: due to structural and safety reasons the barn was rebuilt instead of a conversion to exactly the same size and shape using all the existing materials. We would like the wording to be changed to the following: Demolish the existing barn and rebuild new dwelling in the existing materials, awaiting decision.

White Cottage, Bleet Lane To New Road, Madjeston erect 1 No. single storey garage extension and associated alterations, permitted.

Primrose Fields, erect detached double garage, awaiting decision.

18 sites in North Dorset removal of 18 No. telephone kiosks, awaiting decision.

#### 7. DORSET COUNCIL MATTERS

Clrs Val Potheary and Belinda Ridout sent their apologies. No report received however they gave full reports at last week's Stour Parish Council meeting.

#### 8. GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Guy Gilding gave an update on Phase 1 and said that nothing happening at the moment despite that Wellbeck Land & C G Fry have got permission to build 1595 houses. The Government has provided the grant for the infrastructure and this should be starting soon. Wellbeck will own the land and will employ developers approved by Dorset County. There is a delay as there has been an archaeological find at Madjeston (Roman stone buildings), which will affect the planning decisions.

#### 9. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Martin Hibbert gave his apologies and sent in the following report:-

- i) Footpath 24 across fields behind the village hall is blocked by new fencing and a ditch (and has been impassable for many years anyway). Most villagers appear to use the farm track, which is not the legal line, but we have had a number of complaints from other walkers who couldn't get through. We have now met the landowner and agreed that either a new bridge will be installed, or the path will be diverted. These options are being investigated.
- ii) Footpath 11 runs from Sandilands Close to Browns Lane. At Browns Lane the bridge across the ditch was collapsing. We agreed last time that if necessary we could spend some parish funds to improve this, however we now have agreement from Dorset Council that they will replace it. There is no funding for that this year and so a temporary repair has been made to make it safe. I will keep the pressure on replace it next year. Incidentally, I do feel that this footpath nearer Sandilands Close is now in good shape.
- iii) Ruth has mentioned that a stile on footpath 13 near Lambs House is in poor shape. I haven't had time to investigate this yet
- iv) A stile to footpath 22 opposite Hill Top on B3092 has now been replaced with a field gate. This has now been padlocked, rendering the path impassable. This is being investigated.

Otherwise I think the footpaths are in reasonable state. Please let me know if you see problems".

The Chairman did say that the stile on the path opposite Sandilands Close is very high and is awkward less abled bodied people. Clerk to ask Martin if something can be done. (Martin has replied saying that he thinks it is standard height but will check. He did suggest replacing it with a gate if the parish is happy to fund it (and Henry Miller agrees).

#### 10. V E CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS

A joint meeting was held with members present from The Village Hall Committee, TESS and East Stour Parish Meeting with the general idea to organise a joint celebration for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on VE Day to take place Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020. A number of ideas, e.g. a tea dance, have been suggested with the event being free to East Stour residents. There will be some expenses and the actual costs are not known. There might be need of parish funds. Another TESS meeting has been arranged for the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

11. DORSET LENGTHSMAN

Guy Gilding declared an interest. He explained the role of the Lengthsman and the reason why he has taken this on. There are various jobs, such as Footway & Highway cleaning, SID deployment, bus shelter cleaning, Back Street A30 sweeping away of mud that require doing which Dorset CC/ highways had passed on the responsibility of certain jobs to the parish council and the parish has not been able to find anybody to do the work. The Lengthsman is specialised for these works. All waste would be disposed of through TF Plant in Gillingham. To comply with Health & Safety, Guy would need to compile a risk assessment. Cost approx. £2600.

It was commented that the bus shelter is in a poor state. Guy said he could quote to renovate it, which would be cheaper than buying a new one. Also it was suggested using local business to sponsor a panel. Though there is a fear that local buses might be not be running anymore. Also whether this is a justifiable expenditure.

It was agreed that East Stour parish use Guy as the Dorset Lengthsman, proposed by Cllr Mrs Bennett, seconded by Mrs Jacobs.

12. WAR MEMORIAL FOOTPATH

The path to Witch Lane looks wonderful and is beneficial. The aim is to link it around the top of the field to the pedestrian gate to make a complete circuit and it will not encroach on the playing field itself. The next stage would cost approximately £5500.

13. PLECK

The work is almost complete. £1700 funding has been raised, with the majority by the Stour Vale Markets. Trees and saplings have and will be planted. Phil Buttress has to complete the final mowing. The rear of Pleck will be left to grow wild. The rest of the area will be managed. Phil Buttress has quoted £200 for mowing and £114 for strimming per annum. The land is owned by Dorset Council and they have been involved with the planning of the planting of trees, as they say that a 'tree lined avenue' can help to slow traffic down. It is felt that the entrance to the Village will be ascetically appealing and be contributing to wildlife. Mrs Gould was thanked for all the hard work and for her report.

14. WILDFLOWER MEADOW

David Little has requested that £250 for maintenance and seeds be included in the precept.

15. HANNAH O'SULLIVAN'S LEGACY TO TESS

There had been a suggestion that £2250 would be offered from Hannah's Legacy to TESS to purchase a toddler swing for the playing field and it would become the property of the Stours Parish Council. The Chairman did query whether a toddler swing is wanted as she had correspondence addressed to Simon Hoare MP from Jack Penny, a teenager residing in East Stour about the road, street lights and lack of play equipment for his age group. The Chairman said that she did respond explaining the budgeting of parish monies, however has heard nothing more from Jack. The Chairman did ask do we need a toddler swing or equipment for older children. Mr Ray Bennet (TESS Chairman) did say that TESS has not made any decisions about the legacy and the proposal needs to be readdressed and explored further.

16. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYING FIELD EQUIPMENT MATTERS

- Grass maintenance and mowing schedule – Clerk to get detailed quote from Phil Buttress.

- Hedge cutting – Steve Stokes is now back at work, Clerk to contact him and ask that he cuts the hedges.
- No issues arose about the equipment.

17. ACCOUNTS Balance as at 31 October 2019 - £6,275.27.

Figures were produced and the accounts were discussed for the period until March 2020 and 2020/21. Items outstanding to the year end March 2020 East Stour PCC - £300, hedge cutting £110, S Watridge -£720 for the supply and installation of the bench in memory of the late Hans Feld, P Buttress approx. £400 grass cutting, £75 - playground inspection & £100 bus shelter cleaning. Also there is £500 kept aside for footpath maintenance and £3000 highways/working together scheme (Dorset Lengthsman).

For 2020/21 as well as the normal running costs there is a need to pay £1800 to South West ambulance Trust for the defibrillator maintenance and training support for a further 4 years (as agreed upon purchase). WI newsletter - £500, hedge cutting - £120, East Stour PCC - £300, DC waste service - £130, WFM - £250, Pleck - £314, kiosk maintenance - £50, playground inspection - £75 and hall hire – approx. £30, grass cutting Clerk to get a detailed quote from Phil Buttress to cut playing field, around the kiosk, the bank alongside WFM, Pleck and the grass around Hannah’s bench. Also to consider the war memorial footpath - £5500 (TESS has kindly agreed to donate £500 towards the development of the path) and VE celebrations. The meeting agreed as the precept is tax payers money we must be considerate of the amount asked for and at this present time the purchase of/towards further playground equipment such as the proposed toddler swing cannot be justified.

In conclusion it was agreed to raise a precept of £7000 for the year 2020/21. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Uden. Seconded by Cllr Mrs L Bennett.

The annual grant of £300 can now be paid to East Stour PCC.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST & INFORMATION.

- Post Office opening hours Wednesdays 10am – 12pm. Also running at the same time is the First Class Coffee Morning.

There being no further matters, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date