

**Minutes of East Stour Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018  
in East Stour Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs B Edwards, (Chairman), Mrs R Blacklock, G Gilding, R Haddon and R McConnell. Also, Clerk Mrs M Cox, M Hibbert (RoWLO) Mrs T Bagnall (Tree Warden) and ten members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced Cllr Richard McConnell to the meeting. Also introduced were Mrs Lilian Bennet and Mrs Judy Uden, whom have shown interest in becoming councillors for East Stour. They will be co-opted respectively at the January and March parish council meetings.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – Cllr P Gould, (Chairman, Stours Parish Council) and NDDCllr Jane Westbrook.
2. MINUTES – of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were **agreed** and duly signed.
3. MATTERS ARISING. – Legacy from the late Hannah O'Sullivan. Hannah's wishes are for a bench with the necessary foundations to be placed along Witch Lane at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference ST72 785241. Steve Watridge has agreed to install the bench when purchased by the Stours Parish Council. At present Steve is busy with playground repairs.
4. STOURS PARISH COUNCIL. TWO CASUAL VACANCIES EAST STOUR WARD  
These can now be filled by co-optation at the next Stours Parish Council meetings.
5. HIGHWAY MATTERS.  
East Stour Crossroads – nothing to report.  
SID – the parish is purchasing the recommend VarioSid as well as showing the speed of the vehicle it will also say thank you and slow down. This will be ordered from Morelock an approved supplier. Phil Brown was thanked for deploying the SID.  
Speedwatch – There is a need of a co-ordinator and more volunteers, also it is difficult to get people together at a mutually convenient time. It was agreed it is an effective way of slowing drivers down, so are the yellow high Vis jackets.  
Browns Lane Fingerpost – has been replaced and a grant of £100 was made by Dorset CPRE.
6. CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS  
Little Meadow, East Stour Erect replacement agricultural building and siting of polytunnel (retrospective), permitted. Cllr Haddon said that he attend the Planning Committee meeting in respect of this application and gave a brief resume of the meeting. The decision made by the Committee was that permission was given for the building of barn but for storage purposes only and on condition that it not be used for housing livestock at any time. The actual barn was not deemed to be too big or obtrusive and was in line with the requirement of a small holding of this size.  
Roselea, Head Lane, East Stour Erect single storey extension, permitted.  
Land East of Bakers Cottage, East Stour Erect a pair of semidetached dwellings, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and form 4 No. parking spaces, permitted  
Church Farm, East Stour erect agricultural building to house calves, permitted.  
Land At, Stoneleigh, East Stour develop the land by the erection of 1 No. dwelling together with associated access and 2 No parking spaces, (outline application to determine access), permitted.  
Hartgill Farm, East Stour Erect 1 No. single storey sun room on side elevation, permitted.

Little Meadow, East Stour erect 1 No. dwelling with ancillary accommodation (demolish existing), refused.

Primrose Fields, East Stour, convert 2 No. attached dwellings to form 1 No. dwelling (part retrospective).awaiting decision.

The Spinney, Common Lane, East Stour, demolish existing dwelling and erect replacement dwelling with detached garage/study. Form new vehicular and pedestrian accesses and 4 No. parking spaces, awaiting decision.

Primrose Farm, East Stour Erect 4 No. dwellings and convert barn into 2 No. dwellings. Form new vehicular and pedestrian access and create 13 No. parking spaces. (Removal of Condition No. 10 - Footpath - see footway report – from planning application number: 2/2018/0043/FUL), awaiting decision.

7. DORSET COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Cllr Jane Westbrook sent her apologies and sent in the following report - there is very little else for me to report on at the moment, as all energy is being focussed on forming the new council and Dorset Councils Partnership, or NDDC that was, is being wound down and there are very few meetings or actions being taken.

8. GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Phase I has been approved for 90 homes, 18 of which will be affordable at Lodden Lakes and it is anticipated that the work should start early next year.

9. WAR MEMORIAL AND EXTENSION OF FOOTPATH

Cllr Gilding said that after 4 years of many meetings, discussions and hard work this has come to fruition. "On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the new war memorial was formally dedicate and handed to The Stours Parish Council whose responsibility it now becomes". Following the dedication of the new war memorial, there has been an offer to named brass plaques, free of charge. This kind offer was accepted on the proviso that the plaques, being sacramental, do not go anywhere from the memorial. The war memorial inside the hall is quite unusual because as well as displaying those that died in the war it also names those who served. A service will be held annually on the anniversary of the dedication day, so as not to coincide with Armistice Services.

Members present agreed that Cllr Gilding had done a marvellous job for the wonderful new war memorial. Also he was complimented on the organisation of the dedication service. Cllr Gilding proposed that the footpath by the new war memorial be extended in a loop around the field. Originally it was proposed to have a scoot track, which would be accessible for all. This would have cost approximately £22,000 and we were unsuccessful for funding. Fortunately through the private donations raised for the new war memorial there was sufficient monies (£500) for the path in front of the new war memorial. Mr & Mrs Bagnall, Cllr Gilding and Steve Watridge volunteered their services to lay the path. The new costings for labour and materials for the extension would be approximately £5000. The path would be made over a 2/3 year period. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs R Blacklock and agreed by all.

10. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Mr Hibbert said that weekly maintenance continues, weather permitting. Two issues are still not resolved. One at East Stour Common, the sleepers across the ditch. There is livestock and an electric fence obstructing part of the footpath at Summerleaze Farm, along the A30. The Landowner will be contacted to resolve the issue.

The field gate is difficult to open along the footpath to the Udder Farm shop, Martin will talk to Brian Down.

The next Stour Vale Village Walk is from Ship Inn, West Stour at 10.00am and on 29<sup>th</sup> December from the Stapleton Arms. Martin said that he is a walks leader for Walking for Health. These are shorter walks of about 90 minutes.

Some stiles might be replaced with pedestrian gates. The cost of a pedestrian gate is approximately £150. This will be looked into. The parish has £500 set aside for footpath maintenance.

The illegal parking is still an issue, there is at least 1 car obstructing the path and gateway. The gate does open inwards and the vehicle(s) block the pavement not the footpath. This has been reported to the Police but they have not shown much interest. Martin said as it is a pavement not a right of way he cannot do anymore. It was agreed not to leave the matter. Any footpath issues please contact Martin Hibbert. Martin was thanked for all the hard work, which is really appreciated that he does with the footpaths.

Trees, Mrs Bagnall reported that the Williams family are planning to plant their Lime tree on the playing field on the weekend of 24/25 Nov. The position has been agreed, not far from the existing Lime.

11. WILDFLOWER MEADOW

A letter received from John Gould saying that regrettably he is now unable to continue with looking after the Meadow. John has been involved with this project as part of the Village Action Plan since the start 4/5 years ago. It was agreed that John has worked very hard on the Meadow and has done a lot of work on it. So it does not revert back to its original bad state there is a need for another volunteer or the parish will have to pay somebody to keep it up. It was agreed to send John a letter of thanks and to ask him what needs to be done to keep it maintained.

12. NOTICE BOARD BY THE CROSSROADS

The board is on the Mr Keith Harman's wall and he needs to repoint his wall. The board is falling to bits and when it is removed it is likely to disintegrate. Mr Harman is not keen on having the board there, also access to the board is difficult because of the rubbish bins and parked vehicles. It was agreed to remove the board and not replace it, as there is one by the Hall. Cllr Haddon will let Mr Harman know of our decision.

13. PURCHASE OF TELEPHONE KIOSK BY EAST STOUR CROSSROADS

Mr Keith Harman contacted the Chairman asking if the parish could purchase the kiosk, he is not allowed to as an individual and he would refurbish it. The Clerk contacted BT to adopt the kiosk (like the one opposite the Crown Inn), however BT has come back saying that the council objected to the removal of the service in 2016, (because of poor/lack of mobile reception) so we cannot adopt it. The phone line should be working, which it isn't and the poor condition of the kiosk has been reported to BT. We await to hear from them. The Chairman will let Mr Harman know about this.

14. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYING FIELD EQUIPMENT MATTERS

- Tree maintenance - Mrs Bagnall said that in the spring she had in mind to apply a feed and some mulch to some of the newer trees to try and help them potentially get through another hot dry summer if we have one like this year. This was agreed.
  - Grass maintenance and mowing schedule - it was agreed to continuing using Phil Buttress for the 2019/20 season, fortnightly cuts and should there be a need to do extra cuts and also to continue to cut the edge of the Wildflower meadow along the A30 and around the kiosk opposite The Crown. Agreed that he could do a last tidy up before sending the final bill this year.
  - Hedge cutting – Steve Stokes is very ill so there is a need to use another contractor. Agreed to us Andrew Gould from West Stour his charges will be similar to Steve's.
- Play equipment – Cllr Gilding said that Steve Watridge is working through the repairs that have been identified. He already has put new runners on the rocking horse and the multi-gym has had new slats. The birds nest swing needs the bolts tightening and an area will be dug out ready for rubber matting. The zip wire will be refurbished and the seat, chain and tyre will be replaced. In addition he has supplied and installed a new main gate at a

cost of £162. The gate will need treating, Cllr Gilding will ask Mr Wattridge if he will do that and let us know.

15. ACCOUNTS Balance as at 31 October 2018 - £12,625.92.

Figures were produced and the accounts were discussed for the period until March 2019 and 2019/20. Approximately, the normal running costs are:- WI newsletter - £500, grass cutting £1600, hedge cutting £110, playground inspection - £75, East Stour PCC - £300, Somerset PFA - £7.50, hall hire - £20, DCC waste service - £110, bus shelter cleaning - £48, footpath contingency - £500 and working together - £3000. Also, there is now a need to make an allowance for election costs of £1840 and £3000 toward the memorial path. It was also agreed to buy paint for the telephone kiosk (library) opposite the Crown. Included in the balance is £2500 + vat for the VarioSID, which can be purchased having received the precept monies. It was agreed to raise a precept of £6000 for the year 2019/20. Proposed by Cllr R Haddon, seconded by Mr D Little.

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

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST & INFORMATION.

- Post Office opening hours Wednesdays 10am – 12pm. Also running at the same time is the First Class Coffee Morning.
- Cllr McConnell agreed to be the Village Hall representative following the resignation of Phil Brown.
- A reminder to use Dorsetforyou to report any highway problems, e.g. blocked drains.
- Phil Brown reminded members present at the last meeting of the suggestion of a walk through the Village to see what needs to be done to tidy up the Village. Mr Little, Mr Jones, Cllrs Gilding and Haddon agreed to join Phil.
- The next meeting will be the annual meeting, probably May 2019. When a date is set to let Ann Morphew know.

There being no further matters, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date