

**Minutes of East Stour Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on
Thursday 30th May 2019 in East Stour Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs B Edwards (Chairman), R McConnell, R Robson and Mrs J Uden. Also the Clerk, Mrs M Cox, Dorset Councillors Val Potheary and Belinda Ridout, Mrs T Bagnall, (Tree Warden), G Gilding and 5 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed our new Dorset Councillors Val Potheary and Belinda Ridout (Gillingham ward) and everyone present.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mrs B Edwards was elected as Chairman and Proposed by Cllr McConnell, seconded by Cllr R Robson and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** – Cllrs P Gould (Chairman Stours Parish Council), Mrs L Bennett and R Haddon, DCCllr D Walsh, Mr M Hibbert (RoWLO), Mrs A Morphew, Mr & Mrs T Jones. Peter Caulfield sent his apologies and has resigned from the Council as he is unable to make the meetings in time on a Thursday also for personal reasons. There is a now a vacancy for the East Stour ward.

3. **MINUTES** of the meeting of 22nd November 2018 (previously circulated). Cllr McConnell said that the grid reference regarding the positioning of the bench is incorrect, the gr quoted is miles away. The reference quoted is what is written in Hannah's will. The minutes were agreed to be a correct record and duly signed. Cllr McConnell said he will inform us of the correct grid reference.

4. **MATTERS ARISING.**

Hannah O'Sullivan's legacy. Hannah left money for the council to purchase a seat especially for dog walkers, along Witch Lane at a specific place. Steve Watridge hopes to install the bench in June.

5. **ELECTION OF RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICER AND TREE WARDEN.**

Mr Martin Hibbert agreed to continue to be the Rights of Way Liaison Officer. Cllr Mrs Bagnall agreed to continue to be the Tree Warden. Both were proposed by Cllr R McConnell, seconded by Mr G Gilding and agreed by all.

6. **ELECTION OF VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr R McConnell was proposed by Cllr Robson, seconded by Mr D Little and agreed by all.

7. **ELECTION OF PLAYING FIELD OFFICERS**

Mr G Gilding and Cllr R McConnell proposed by Cllr Mrs Edwards, seconded by Cllr Robson and agreed by all.

8. **DORSET COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Cllr Belinda Ridout introduced herself to the members present. She said that she was a Town Councillor for 8 years and a District Councillors for 4 years. The new Dorset Council is a steep learning curve and the new members have all met for the first time. She is on the Northern Area of the Planning Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee (a new position) and the Mineral and Waste Policy Joint Advisory Committee. Dorset Council has recognises that climate change is happening and there is a Climate Change Emergency. The Council needs to be as green as possible a council can be. Also, she said that she is also on the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Transport Forum. Belinda will send out a monthly report for Gillingham ward. Also Belinda is well aware of the recent planning application for the solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen. If there are any questions do contact Belinda by e-mail.

Cllr Val Potheary also introduced herself to the members present. She is the Vice Chairman of Dorset Council and is still a Gillingham Town Councillor and has been for 20

years, also she was a District Councillor for 5 years. Val said that she feels honoured to be elected. The new Dorset Council has had their first annual meeting, which was lively and different. She said that she is on the same Planning Committee and Scrutiny Committee as Belinda. Cllr Pauline Batstone is the Chairman of Dorset Council. Part of the Council's remit is Adult & Children Social Care and Education. She said that her outside interests are the Women's Refuge and Gillingham's tourism & transport. If there are any problems/questions please contact Val by e-mail.

Belinda and Val plan to attend the parish council meetings between themselves.

Both Belinda and Val were thanked for attending the meeting.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- Highway issues, the Chairman said that Guy Gilding was marvellous at keeping the council informed with highway matters in East Stour, whilst a councillor. The Chairman said that she would like people councillors and non-councillors to liaise over highway issues. Members present were reminded of Dorsetfor you and Cllr Ridout reminded us of using Roger Bell, Community Highways Officer, Dorset Highways, if need be.
- East Stour crossroads – The Clerk had just received proposed interim safety messages from Emma Baker, Project Engineer – Highway Improvements, D C. A few issues arose: - 1) Why is the existing illuminated bollard to be replaced with a non-illuminated Knock down bollard? 2) Could STOP signs be placed at junction with A30? 3) Could all white lining be refreshed, apart from where being replaced with ladder hatching? 4) With regard to possible traffic signals scheme, could Head Lane be considered in the proposal for measures to reduce it becoming a rat run short cut? Cllr Ridout said that she would follow this up.
- SIDs – The present basic SID does have few problems showing vehicle speeds. The new Vario SID displays "Thankyou" & "Slowdown". Another Vario Sid has been ordered for East Stour, which will replace the basic SID which will be used in West Stour. It was agreed that SIDs do have an effect. Solar panels have been ordered for each pole, which will save charging the batteries at home. Guy Gilding said that he is happy to continue to deploy them. Phil Brown also has been deploying them.
- Community Speedwatch – Guy Gilding said that he might resurrect the team and should anybody be interested in joining please contact him. There is a bit of training that has to be done.

10. CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS

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

Primrose Fields, convert 2 No. attached dwellings to form 1 No. dwelling (part retrospective), permitted.

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

Primrose Farm, 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), permitted.

Primrose Farm, erect 1 No. 3 bay garage, permitted.

Christ Church, replace roof of covering vestry, permitted.

Land east of Bakers Cottage, erect a pair of semidetached dwellings, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and form 4 No. parking spaces. (Variation of Condition No. 2 to change end gable walls from stone to face brickwork. Alter internal floor layouts and amend elevations), permitted.

Pennymoor Pit Farmhouse, erection of a pig rearing and finishing unit with associated feed bins, hardstandings and upgraded access, permitted.

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Barn at Hunger Hill convert barn to form 1 No. dwelling, permitted.
Green Acres, East Stour erect 1 No. single storey garage, permitted.
The Udder Farm Shop, erect single storey extension to restaurant area, permitted.
Cole Street Farm, erect 2 No. polytunnels (retrospective), permitted.
Hawthorne Cottage, erect two storey extensions (demolish existing single storey extension), awaiting decision.
10 Witch Close, erect single storey extension (demolish garage), awaiting decision.

Land at E 378449 N 121922, Higher Farm, Fifehead Magdalen construct solar farm and associated development, including perimeter fencing, CCTV cameras and landscaping, awaiting decision. East Stour was consulted on this as part of the Village will be affected because the panels will be easily visible. Cllr McConnell said that should be a new ecological report and also an archaeological report as there is evidence of Roman activity. For this application to be refused there must be a material planning/technical reason and not a case of "NIMBY". As this is a large application it will go to Committee and planning guidelines will be adhered to.

1. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Footpaths - Mr Hibbert sent in the following report I'm happy to continue as footpath officer, but also would welcome anyone who would like to join me. The main issue at this time of year is spring and summer growth. Please let me know if you see any footpaths that are overgrown. As you know, we do volunteer work to keep footpaths clear and to do some repair work. The main issue at the moment is the path at Browns Lane, where the boards over the ditch are giving way. This becomes impassable in winter because of water draining off the field, so I have asked the Dorset Council rights of way team to give me a cost to improve it. As you will remember we have money put aside for work such as this so we may need to use some of it. We continue our monthly walks of about five miles with Stour Vale Walkers. Next walk is Saturday June 29th from Kington Magna church to Nyland. If five miles is too much, why not join us for shorter walks with the Walking for Health programme in Gillingham or Shaftesbury? And for longer walks, the White Hart Link project will complete the link from Blandford to Shaftesbury later this year.

Trees -Mrs Bagnall said there is nothing to report.

12. GILLINGHAM SOUTHERN EXTENSION

Phase I has been approved, also the funding for the link road and funding for improvements for Gillingham. East Stour is very concerned about the increase in traffic through the Village, especially along the B3092.

13. WILD FLOWER MEADOW

The land belongs to Dorset Council, but is maintained by East Stour parish with Dorset Council's agreement. This was part of the Village Action Plan (VAP). John Gould has been doing a marvellous job with the meadow, but has now stepped down. Mr David Little said despite an appeal for volunteers in their newsletter nobody has come forward, so David has stepped in. Phil Buttress cuts the verge. John used his own strimmer on the meadow, which has worn out. The meadow required strimming, hence why a replacement strimmer suitable for the meadow was purchased. The Chairman reiterated the correct protocol that a request to the Clerk & or Council be made before any goods/services are purchased. Funds are precepted for in the November before the following financial year which commences in April. If it is an emergency to contact the Clerk, who can authorise up to £500. The Chairman said that she is delighted that the Wild Flower Meadow is still being maintained, it was a pity that there has been a lack of co-ordination & communication.

14. PLECK

This is third phase of the Village Action Plan, headed by Julia Gould. It is agreed that it is a vast improvement. However, there are concerns that Travellers might illegally camp here since the area has been tidied up, some trees have been crowned also rubbish has been

cleared away. The land is owned by Dorset Council. Mr R Skeats, Dorset Highways has suggested that posts be installed by the Parish Council (for insurance purposes) to prevent illegal encampments. The lane is too steep for caravans. In November tree saplings will be planted (provided by the Woodland Trust). Daffodils will be planted in the autumn. The project has been funded by Stour Village Markets. The Chairman said requests for funding if required should be made at the November meeting.

15. TELEPHONE KIOSK BY EAST STOUR CROSSROADS

When the opportunity arose to adopt the kiosk, the parish council wanted to keep it as a working telephone kiosk because it was situated at the crossroads, which was a poor mobile reception area. North Dorset Planning therefore objected to the proposal. Following our request to adopt the kiosk it has now come to light that as it is on BT's land it could be complicated to adopt the kiosk. It was discussed whether to try and adopt it or for BT to remove it. A vote was taken 4 to have it removed & 3 to keep. Resolved that BT remove the kiosk.

16. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYING EQUIPMENT MATTERS

Mr Gilding said that Steve Wattridge has done a lot of work on playground maintenance. There are still just a few minor repairs to be carried out. New signs are in place following the playground inspection report. The concrete pad is now a hopscotch. War memorial, the paint on the time stones is flaking off. Guy has asked Ian to address this. The first stage was installed voluntarily by Mr & Mrs Glen Bagnall and Guy. The next stage of the path from the war memorial will be laid. Will ask Henry Miller to remove the spoil as this will save costs. It is estimated that the work will be completed within 2 years as it is being done bit by bit. The cost will be approximately £5,000. Unfortunately Steve Wattridge couldn't make the meeting to ask questions.

17. TIDYING UP THE VILLAGE

At previous meetings it was highlighted that the Village needed tidying up. The parish has funds set aside for these types of works. Guy said that there are various jobs that used to be carried out by Dorset Highways, however due to funding cuts, they have been passed on to parish councils. Guy is now the Dorset Lengthsman and has the relevant insurance and environmental license (for waste, including contaminated waste). He is happy to quote for works along the footways/highways. It would be very expensive to use Dorset Council as charge for manpower and travel costs.

18. ACCOUNTS

Balance as at 31st March 2019 - £6941.42. The precept for 2019/20 is £6,000. It was agreed to reimburse Mr D Little £236.21 in respect of purchasing strimmer to use on the Wildflower meadow. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Uden, seconded by Mr Gilding.

19. MATTERS OF INTEREST & INFORMATION.

East Stour Post Office opening hours Wednesday 10.00am – 12pm. Also open is First Class Coffee.

It was commented that it appeared that the bus shelter looked dirty. It is supposed to be cleaned every six months by Clearstone Solutions. This to be investigated.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman.....Date.....