

**Minutes of the Todber Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 in St Andrew's Church, Todber**

PRESENT: Cllrs P Bowe (Chairman) and R King. Also the Clerk Mrs M Cox, Martin Hibbert (RoWLO) and 14 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr P Gould (Chairman of The Stours Parish Council), DCCllr Jane Somper, Mr & Mrs J Candy, Mr P Matcham, Mr & Mrs G Spicer and Mrs J Bowe.

2. MINUTES of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 (previously circulated) were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING – The proposed solar farm at Fifehead Magdalen has been refused, though it is likely to go to appeal.

4. REPORTS FROM RIGHT OF WAY LIAISON OFFICER AND TREE WARDEN

Footpaths. Martin Hibbert said that the ground is very wet and muddy. He has swept most of the area and it is possible to walk past and beyond the fishing lake. At Tile House Farm the path has been opened up with a footbridge. The walking group has shut for the winter but will resurrect in the spring. Gillingham held its annual walking festival in September and the theme was local food and drink. There was a walk from West Stour to Stour Provost which was hosted by Luke Trowbridge which was well attended. Next year the theme is local arts and crafts.

If there are any problems with footpaths, please let Martin know. Martin was thanked for his report.

Trees. Carol gave a report on behalf of Paul Matcham. Tree Charter Day is 29 November 2019. Is there an opportunity to plant trees in Todber, e.g. Millennium Green or isolated areas? Carol warned about the Oak Moth infestation which is present in London and along the coast. It is a pest to native trees and is more active in the spring, there is a need to be vigilant. Also mentioned was Ash Dieback. If any tree saplings are wanted to ask Carol. Carol was thanked for her report.

5. CASUAL VACANCY

There is still a vacancy for the Stours Parish Council and if anybody is interested please talk to Paul or Richard.

6. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

DCCllr Jane Somper sent her apologies. The Chairman gave a brief report. There has been a climate change workshop. Dorset Council has declared a climate emergency as well as other councils in the country. The new Dorset Council is still finding its feet and their priority is working with town and parish councils. The Chairman said that he attended a workshop, which helped to kick this off. The impression received from the Leader of the Council is that this a new beginning and an opportunity for everybody to work together as a partnership. The main topic was planning and how parish and town councils are consulted. We are still restricted by planning laws, however there will be more communication and help. The Chairman concluded that the meeting was useful. There is a 5 year plan out for consultation which can be

commented on. The Local Plan, which is different is based on housing needs and infrastructure in Dorset and will take 2 years to complete.

## 7. HIGHWAY MATTERS

i) Community Speedwatch Cllr Richard King said that Todber residents are concerned about speeding in the Village. The highest speed recorded was 72mph. 85% shows speeds up to and including 36mph, which is rather worrying. At present there are 5 members in the group more volunteers are needed, even if only a small amount of time can be given, it will help to reduce speed within the village. Please contact Richard if you can help. Richard said that he attended a coordinators meeting which was informative.

ii) SID – there is just the 1 pole and SID in the Village, it would be nice to help reduce speed if we could have another pole enabling the SID to be deployed elsewhere, either Shave Lane or Church Lane, however there would need to be a site visit by Highways to see if there is a suitable place for the pole.

### iii) Proposed speed control strategies

There is an ongoing problem of drivers exceeding the speed limit along the B3092. There has been a meeting with Dorset Council Highways requesting a reduction of a speed limit of 60mph to 40mph, though it is unlikely. There is a need to gather evidence of any accidents/collisions (dash cam evidence can be sent to Cllrs Bowe and King) and or reports to the Police. There might be a need for a traffic survey. Todber parish is working with Stour Provost parish in this matter. It is a long legal process and guidelines have to be followed. Marnhull parish is also looking to reduce speed along the B3092.

## 8. PLANNING MATTERS

Field View erect 1 No dwelling and garage, create new vehicular access & 2 parking spaces (variation of condition 2/2017/0833) – permitted. Todber parish responded to this application that there be 5 metres of tarmac instead of gravel at the entrance to the drive to minimise loose chips getting onto the road as it is busy road and also used regularly by pedestrians. Development Control took note of this and was put in their conditions when granted.

## 9. QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE BENCH

The bench was rather dilapidated. Gordon Spicer spoke to his Men's Shed people and they have repaired the bench. The cost was £160 for the wood and parts. Gordon Spicer was thanked for getting the bench repaired and it look good. It was commented that 1 of the planks has come loose.

## 10. TRAVELLERS

The Chairman gave an update on Todber lay-by. The Travellers were evicted and to prevent them returning. Dorset County Council stored some scalping there as a deterrent, which seems to have worked. However the Travellers who are at present at St James Common are likely to be evicted soon. Todber lay-by is part of the highway and there have been a couple of complaints that the lay-by cannot be used and it is a recognised stop for lorries and hauliers. Drivers now use the entrance splay to Summerfield Farm to park up and this is not a lay-by. As a warning, Highways could easily re-open the lay-by. Should the lay-by be re-opened there is a need to ensure that there is a deterrent in order it is not traveller friendly, as there are concerns that there are more children living at Westminster Buildings. Five Bridges lay-by, which had Travellers in the past is still investigating ownership of the land, as Wessex Water has agreed to erect a barrier to prevent illegal encampment.

11. MILLENNIUM GREEN

Mr Nigel Byrne is doing a good job cutting the Green and has agreed to continue cutting it. It was suggested that some trees be planted and that some of the land be a wildflower meadow which would be good for the environment. The soil might be contaminated as the council depot used to be there. Agreed that further investigation is required into costs and what is involved.

12. COMMUNICATION

The Stours Parish Council website has to be reviewed because it is in need of updating and to be compliant, in line with the new accessibility regulations which are to be implemented in 2020. At present Todber parishioners are communicated to by notices on the notice board or by Mailchimp. Todber information could be put on the redeveloped Stours Parish Council website, but would it be viewed?

13. ACCOUNTS – Balance as at 31 October 2019 – £861.13

The setting of the Precept for 2020-2021 was discussed. Figures were produced by the Chairman, which included annual grant to the Church, use of Church for meetings, Millennium Green maintenance. Last year money was put aside as a contingency in case there was an election, which there wasn't. Some of these funds were used to pay £160 for the repair of the bench. Have just paid N Byrne £45 so the balance is £656.13. For 2020/21 grass cutting will be £550, grant to St Andrew's - £200 and use of Church - £70. Also there might be the cost of a SID pole and traffic survey (speed tubes) – approx. £400. It was noted that in the past there never has been a contingency fund and that it would be a good idea to have one. It was agreed that the Parish precept for 2020-2021 be £1560. Proposed by Mrs C Matcham, seconded by Mr M Perks.

14. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

The East Stour Post Office at the Village Hall, is open Wednesdays 10am – 12pm. Also First Class Coffee.

Reminder that Octavo was available collection.

Information on recycling leaflets were made available.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35PM and thanked everybody for attending.

.....Chairman

.....Date