

Minutes of the Todber Parish Annual Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th April 2018 in St Andrew's Church Todber

PRESENT: Cllrs R Cowan (Chairman), P Bowe, R King, Mr M Hibbert, Rights of Way Liaison officer, and 13 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Cowan was nominated by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Bowe and agreed by all. Elected unopposed.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Mrs B Edwards, (Chairman, Stours Parish Council), NDDCllr Jane Westbrook, Mrs M Cox, Clerk (unwell), Felicity Herring, Jacintha Bowe and Barbara Sheppard. The members present sent their good wishes to Mrs Cox.

3. MINUTES of the meeting of 7th December 2017 (previously circulated) were **agreed** to be a correct record and duly signed. Proposed by Mike Wells and seconded by Pam Spicer.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters which would not be dealt with under tabled agenda items.

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

Mr Martin Hibbert said that he would be happy to continue as footpath officer. Proposed by Cllr King seconded by Maurice Perks and agreed by all. Martin was thanked for continuing this role.

Tree Warden – subject to his agreement members agreed that Paul Matcham should remain in this role. The Chairman will contact Mr Matcham accordingly. (Mr Matcham kindly confirmed on 20 April that he would be happy to remain as Tree Warden.)

6. FOOTPATH AND TREE MATTERS

Footpaths - Martin Hibbert reported -

- i. Paths are drying out at last! The path from Church Close towards the fishing lakes has been wet in spite of the stone we put down. We've probably reached the limit of what is practical though.
- ii. Beyond the fishing lakes the land planted with linseed has been very wet. The crop was not harvested last year so not sure if it will continue.
- iii. Towards Tile House Farm the footpath has been blocked for many years because of missing footbridge. This will be installed shortly.
- iv. Mike Wells had mentioned that the path from Trill Bridge to Butts Lane at Stour Provost is frequently blocked and currently being sprayed with slurry. Martin will investigate.
- v. Footpath at corner of Shave Lane by postbox had been blocked by informal gate. We have found, buried in the hedge, a kissing gate that was installed for the Millennium. Thanks to Robert Candy and Richard King, we uncovered it and found it in good shape. We've done some minor repair to the fencing and it is now usable.
- vi. We are continuing to do the monthly Stour Vale Walkers walks. Next walk is April 28 from Kington Magna to Buckhorn Weston.
- vii. There is no Stour Vale Walkers walk in May, but there are two walks to launch the next section of the White Hart Link walking route. On May 7 there will be circular walk from Gillingham to Motcombe via King's Court Palace, and on May 28 a walk from Motcombe to Shaftesbury via Kingsettle Wood. Contact Martin for details.

viii. Note also that on Sunday April 29 the Ramblers walking charity will be walking from Church Close in Todber via Stour Row and Duncliffe Wood, so there will be cars parked at Church Close.

Martin was thanked for his continuing hard work on behalf of the Parish, and the Chairman also expressed the Parish's thanks and appreciation to Robert Candy and Richard King for their work in restoring the kissing gate.

Trees – Nothing to report.

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

It was agreed that Cllr Jane Westbrook's reports should be tabled under specific agenda items.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

The B3092

The Chairman reported that we received the promised £500 donation from Mrs Hoof, proprietor of Redlands Quarry, towards the cost of the Village gateway signage. Cllr Bowe has written to thank her.

Trevor Harrison cleaned the sign at the northern end of the Village after it became very grubby with spray from traffic. Many thanks to Trevor, who also very kindly continues to deal with litter around the Village. Gordon and Pam Spicer have twice cleaned the northern signs, once a few days ago and they look very smart again. We are most grateful to Gordon and Pam.

The highway edge lines have now delaminated in a number of places. The Stours parishes have been cooperating with neighbouring parishes, including Marnhull, Fifehead Magdalene, Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna, The Orchards and Margaret Marsh and Hinton St Mary, jointly to ask DCC to take measures to address traffic speeds through villages. For our Parish, we requested a 50mph speed limit from Marnhull to East Stour and will be asking for the edge lines to be properly restored. A site meeting with DCC has been arranged for 23 April.

Mike Wells asked if there had ever been a Give Way sign at the junction of Shave Lane and Church Lane. No-one could remember one, but it was agreed such a sign could contribute to road safety, as drivers, especially those unfamiliar with the area, did sometimes emerge from the junction too quickly. The Chairman said he would raise the matter with DCC at the imminent site meeting.

Community Speedwatch

Cllr King (co-ordinator) reported that there is a new website www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk where all the CSW sites will be marked.

The small Pocket Radar device we use for measuring speed looks like a mobile phone. Consequently we have had some abuse from motorists who think we're taking their picture. The larger device (Bushnell) which looks like a speed gun (hairdryer-shaped) costs around £200 and we have to pay for it. The Pocket Radar is adequate for our use.

Todber CSW team rested during the winter. This was because the only effective times for us to speed check are AM and PM peaks when traffic flows are at their highest through the village. PM was too dark and, mostly, AM was too cold or wet. We have two sites: Red Lane by the SID pole and at the junction of Church Close and Church Lane. A minimum of three team members is required for a session with a maximum of four. Thanks to the team for their efforts. We will be starting again soon.

Statistics for CSW in Dorset during 2017 are:

Sessions held: 894

Total vehicle checked: 241,699

Number speeding: 8605

Letters sent: 6687

Deployment of Speed Indication Device (SID)

Cllr King went on to report that we share the SID with West Stour. DCC recommends deployments of six weeks at each site. The device is easy to manage, just requiring two people dressed in the correct reflective jackets and wearing protective footwear to change the battery. DCC have evaluated the effectiveness of SID deployment in Littlemoor Road, Weymouth and found that speeds did reduce when the SID was operating. The latest advice is that CSW and SID can operate together so that motorists can see their speed. We report 36 mph and over.

Cllr King also observed that vehicles have been grounding on the badly ridged surface of Shave Lane, and will make a report to DCC Highways accordingly.

9. CURRENT PLANNING MATTERS

Hunt's Hill Contracting Services, Well Common Yard –

The Chairman reminded members that this is a retrospective planning application for a temporary worker's dwelling justified by a calf rearing project, involving animals from the age of 4 days. A second retrospective planning application, for change of use to permit calf rearing, was subsequently withdrawn, but has been resubmitted, only to have been withdrawn once again. The application was withdrawn for the second time as it was identified that the barn subject to the application was not built in accordance with the 2008 approved plans and is therefore an unauthorised structure. Because of this the withdrawn application could not proceed. We understand the applicant/agent will now submit a new application for the retention and extension of the existing barn. It will essentially be the same development but it will be applied for and described appropriately. The first application remains undecided.

The Parish Council has reiterated its request that if consent were to be given for calf rearing it should be strictly subject to there being no stone crushing on the site, and that appropriate conditions be applied in order to minimise neighbourhood disturbance. The Parish Council has also written to the RSPCA Chief Veterinary Officer seeking his opinion about the acceptability on animal welfare grounds of operating a percussive stone crusher immediately adjacent to the building housing very young calves. We await a response.

Robert Candy expressed concern over what he saw as continuing hostility to the business at Hunt's Hill. The Chairman said the planning problems encountered were entirely as a result of the business failing to obtain required consents and comply with conditions applied. He agreed with Mr Candy that it was important for all residents to show understanding and reasonable tolerance of country businesses seeking to make a living. It was equally important that businesses were considerate of neighbours and avoided disturbance wherever possible. Mr Candy agreed, and said that in his own business he had always stressed the importance of being a good neighbour.

Shredlands, Red Lane –

Outline planning consent for a new dwelling adjacent to the J&S Car Sales site has recently been resubmitted. This follows suspension of provisions in the local plan which restrict development outside settlement boundaries as a consequence of NDDC being unable to demonstrate a five year land supply. The Parish Council has given its full support to the application, and has requested that if the Case Officer were minded to recommend refusal the application be called in for determination by the Planning Committee. To date no feedback had been received either by the applicants, Jane and Keith Wadman, or by the Parish Council.

Bushey, Shave Lane

Doreen Penn reminded the Meeting that an application had been made for an extension to Bushey in Shave Lane. The Chairman said that details had been circulated and placed on the Parish Noticeboard and the Parish Council was minded to make no objection.

10. TRAVELLERS

The Chairman said work on the Dorset Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites Development Plan Document commenced in 2012. The current draft timetable shows that the Document will be finalised in March 2019, but even this is subject to confirmation, and implementation of the Plan will presumably be some considerable time thereafter.

Jane Westbrook sent a report as follows:

The Travellers have been at Five Bridges since 29 August last year. Our Traveller Liaison officer will instigate the eviction proceedings at the end of April, which then goes to the legal department for about three weeks, and they should be moved on by the end of June. Most likely, they will return to St James's Common, Shaftesbury and upset the residents of Twyford, Compton Abbas etc.

The Stours have invited the Chairman of Kington Magna and Buckhorn Weston to their May meeting, with a view to agreeing a combined strategy. There are various other strings we can pull in to encourage our local authority to place this group, and their anti social behaviour, somewhere more suitable than beside the road. Further, I would anticipate the Shaftesbury area villages would join this strategy, and I have spoken at length with Jo Francis, our East Shaftesbury councillor, who has been working with Simon Hoare and Martyn Underhill. I have also been in touch with Wessex Water, who are always concerned that they would not be able to access their pumping station quickly, which could result in an environmental accident for which they would be heavily penalised by government.

Finally, there is much support for putting up a barrier to prevent access to the picnic area by the Travellers, but with entrance key for Wessex Water and by foot for genuine picnickers. However, from the Todber point of view, and probably for everyone, a long term site is needed for them so that they do not return.

The situation is still far from ideal and in the circumstances it was agreed to leave the Todber layby out of use in order to prevent repeated occupation.

11. MILLENNIUM GREEN

The Chairman reported that Mike Wells has very kindly coordinated new arrangements for cutting of the Millennium Green together with Hambleton green. The new contractor is Nigel Byrne, from Marnhull, and he has already started work, doing what we believe members will agree is a very neat job. The cost per cut for the Millennium Green is £40.

The Parish Council is very grateful to Mike for making the new arrangements.

12. ACCOUNTS – Balance as at 31 March 2018 – (£424.79). A VAT refund of £485.92 is due.

The annual grant to St Andrew's Church (Todber PCC) of £150 can now be paid. Also it was agreed to give £50 to St Andrew's Church (Todber PCC) in recognition of the Church being used for the parish meetings. Proposed by Doreen Penn, seconded by Phil Arnold.

The Chairman thanked Stephanie Webb, Church Warden, on behalf of the Parish, for continuing to allow the Church to be used for meetings, and for ensuring it was suitably heated during colder weather.

13. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- The East Stour Post Office at East Stour Village Hall, is open Wednesdays 10am – 12pm. Also First Class Coffee.
- Myrtle Candy was thanked for the provision of table and chairs for tonight's meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 PM and thanked everybody for attending.

.....Chairman

.....Date