

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: David Godden

Clerk: Mrs Sam Smith: Hill Cottage, Milton Abbas, Blandford Forum, DT11 OAZ

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MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19th January 2015.

Present: Councillors, D Godden (Chairman), V Manners, S Phillips, K Cowan & J Tebb.

Apologies: J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman), S Webb, K Hickson & Sam Smith (Clerk).

In attendance: District Councillor A Burch & 6 members of the community.

1. Welcome & Apologies: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk was absent from the meeting due to a last minute emergency at home.

2. District Councillor's Report: District Cllr Burch gave a finance briefing on Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP). The treasurer to the DWP presented this statement to the cabinet in response to their concerns on the overspend of the DWP. Five major factors contributed to the overspend:

- Greater tonnages - £970k more cost
- Recycling income (cost) - £477k more cost
- Bournemouth MRF delay - £174k more cost
- Operational staffing - £672k cost
- Vehicle hire £252k cost

These factors have now been adjusted in relation to the proposed 2015/16 budget as follows:

- Tonnage predictions have been increased by 5.3%
- The falling value of recycling has been adjusted accordingly
- Bournemouth MRF now expected to open in 2016/17
- All key vehicles will be purchased by July 2015

He explained that minor external influences can result in major ramifications for the DWP budget.

3. PC Officer's Report: Cllr Manners reported that an alert has been issued by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (Dorset Police) regarding cold calling (knocking on doors) and the advice given is to always check the callers ID.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2014 were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

5. Clerk's update/actions: The actions arising from the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st December 2014 were reviewed and updates given. The Clerk has been given access by NDDC to the extended part of their online planning system, a direct link to the Councils back office system. Our response to planning applications can now be submitted via this system and the relevant case officer will be notified immediately with our comments. The Clerk has contacted Highways re the drainage issues at Chalky Lane and these have now been resolved. A burial took place on Thursday 22nd January at St Marys Church for Mr Peter Steele of Meadow View.

6. Declarations of Interest: Cllr J Tebb is the owner of Hustings Cottage (see below).

7. Planning applications: 2/2014/1625/CATREE The Old Rectory, DT11 0NT - tree works - agreed no objections.

8. Planning applications - decision notices:

2/2014/1337/HOUSE Hustings Cottage, North Street DT11 0NL - application withdrawn.

2/2014/1251/HOUSE Spinners, West Street DT11 0NT (retrospective) - conservatory refused.

9. Matters Arising:

9.1 Precept/Budget 2015/2016: The proposed budget/precept figures were circulated for all Cllrs to comment. It was suggested that the Sports Club lease renewal fees should be taken from the PC reserves as this is a one off fee. £150 should be set aside in the budget for weed clearance from the stream and grass cutting increased to £200. It was **agreed** that the precept figure would stay the same as in 2014/15. The Clerk will submit the final figure of **£7,785.08** to NDDC before 30th January 2015.

9.2 Fingerpost refurbishment project: It was suggested that fingerpost refurbishment could be a possible community project and that the PC should invite volunteers from the village community. There is an approximate cost involved of £700 per post. ANOB & DCC have offered to contribute towards funds. £400 has been set aside in the 2015/16 budget for this project. Cllr Phillips volunteered to take this project forward.

9.3 Sports Club update: Cllr Manners provided an update on progress at the Sport Club. The building needs some urgent remedial work, mostly for safety issues. Paul Kennea has submitted an estimate for these repairs at £4 - £5,000. A decision will be made at the March PC meeting as to whether to go ahead with the issuing of a new lease. The Clerk needs to contact Libby (Sports Club) and find out which possible grants/funding she has investigated and to obtain a progress report. New keys for the bike park and gate have been received by the Clerk, to be passed onto Charles Lovell.

9.4 Post Office closure - outreach service: The Post Office will be officially closing on 21st February 2015. Graham Case outlined the arrangements that were being discussed to try and provide a PO service in Stickland. This would involve an outreach service being provided twice a week for 3 hours each on a Monday and Friday, using the PHH. Progress was being made towards this goal. One difficulty could be with the payment of the hall hire charge – whilst the committee were keen to assist in the provision for the benefit of the community it was not possible that a ‘free’ let could be provided. Possible ways to overcome any shortfall from what was required was considered, with discussion around possible levels of PC funding and the Community Benefit Fund. It was not possible to reach a conclusion at this time owing to the lack of finite discussions with the potential provider of the service (who has to pay for the hall hire personally), but the PHH committee would return to the PC if necessary to further the discussion. G Case agreed to keep the PC apprised of developments as they might occur. It was agreed that a token of thanks from the village (via the PC) should be presented to the Sprackling family, Cllr Godden to organise.

9.5 Water Lane road condition: A date has been set for Cllr Godden, Highways & W Houghton PC to walk this route and discuss the issues. Feedback will be given at the next PC meeting in February.

9.6 Speeding traffic - Water Lane & Stickland to Blandford: Concern for safety along this road was raised, especially at night. Cllr Cole (WHPC) explained the '20 is plenty' campaign that is being investigated in W Houghton and agreed to keep W Stickland PC updated with progress. All speeding incidents should be reported to the Police.

9.7 Repairs to boundary fence on village green: Kevin Oakley will attempt to fix the fence and report back if it cannot be repaired.

9.8 Clenston meadow letter response: A draft letter written by Cllr Sutcliffe was raised and alterations discussed. Cllr Godden will amend the letter and forward to the Clerk to send in the post.

9.9 Solar Park update & payment of community benefit: Cllr Godden has contacted British Solar Renewables solicitor. BSR are reluctant to pass on the benefit payment commitment to the new owners but may make use of their new sites to allow the legal agreement to be finalised. BSR have transferred £8,700 into the W Stickland Parish Council bank account. The Clerk is to confirm this has been received at the next PC meeting in February. A first meeting of the Community Benefit Committee has been arranged by Cllr Sutcliffe for the end of January.

10. Financial Report: Cheques for payment were **agreed** as follows:

- Clerk £451.96 (salary December 2014, January 2015 & office expenses)
- C Lovell £85.50 (grass cutting contract, December 2014 & January 2015)
- D Judd £50.00 (removal scrub along Winterborne)

11. Correspondence: Received as follows:

- Emails received from NDDC & DAPTC concerning the May 2015 elections - Cllrs to think about standing again for election.
- Email received from Linda Bryan - permission has been given by NDDC to site a nameplate at 'The Triangle' It was suggested that near the telephone cabinet would be a good location.
- An email estimate from Paul Kennea for the possible works to the grassy slope at the cemetery. Cllrs discussed and deemed the work to be cost prohibitive.
- An email update re Downfield - the transfer of land was completed on 19th Nov 2014. An application has been made to the Land Registry to register the transfer, this may take them a few months to deal with.
- An email re DAPTC subscription increase £182.28 to £186.47 noted in the budget 2015/16.
- Email newsletter from Came & Co re seasonal issues - snow & grit.

12. Democratic period:

A member of the Community suggested that some additional work should be undertaken on the Village Green section of the River.

13. Items for the next agenda:

Tree Officer - Volunteer

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Next meeting Date: Monday 23rd February 2015, 7.30pm

Venue: Pamela Hambro Village Hall, Winterborne Stickland.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman.

Date.....