

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: David Godden

Clerk: Mrs Sam Smith: Hill Cottage, Milton Abbas, Blandford Forum, DT11 0AZ

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MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 24th August 2015.

Present: Councillors D Godden (Chairman), J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman), V Manners, S Phillips & P Kennea **Apologies:** Cllrs J Tebb, K Hickson & S Webb, District Councillor A Burch **In attendance:** Sam Smith (Clerk) & 9 members of the community.

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr Burch did not attend the meeting and had sent her apologies in advance.
- 3. PC Officer's Report:** Cllr Manners reported a very quiet month with nothing to report.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th July 2015 were **agreed** and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 5. Clerk's update/actions:** The actions arising from the Parish Council meeting held on the 27th July 2015 were reviewed and updates given.
- 6. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 7. Planning applications:** Proposed plans for a single storey extension at **Garden Bungalow, Dunbury Lane** were discussed. A formal planning application has yet to be submitted to NDDC, the applicant attended the meeting and spoke of his proposed plans for the property. It was **agreed** by all Cllrs that should this application be subsequently submitted as a formal application to NDDC it would be supported by the WS Parish Council.
- 8. Planning applications - decision notices:**
0807/HOUSE Spinners, West Street erect conservatory (remove existing) **granted by NDDC.**

9. Matters Arising:

9.1 Sports Club update: The final utility bills have been received by the Sports Club Committee Treasurer and these have all been paid apart from the water & electric. Once the final water bill is paid the remaining funds will be approximately £500 short to pay the electric bill. It was discussed who is ultimately responsible for the £500 shortfall and the answer does not seem to be clear cut. The Clerk will liaise with Geoff Brown (Treasurer) and speak to Southern Electric to see if a compromise can be found. The Club has no assets to sell apart from the lawnmower which is needed to maintain the grass. A small working party has been set up headed by Sean Phillips & Paul Kennea with a view to re establishing a sports club in the village. Volunteers have cleared the site and so far funded a skip and materials out of their own money. It is estimated that approx £4 - 5,000 would be need to completely refurbish the pavilion to modern standards. The WS Parish was asked if they would consider contributing towards the cost of paint and materials to enable the volunteers to keep working. They were advised that first they would need to put together a business plan to include expected revenue and expenses etc to present to the Parish Council before a decision could be made. They were also advised to approach the Solar Fund Committee and to request funding help from the Village Solar Benefit Fund. The WS Parish Council has added the Sports Club building on to its own insurance (**£233.66** pro rata until 31/05/2016) so it is covered against fire, theft etc and public liability.

9.2 Trees near Kersin - maintenance: The Clerk has received 2 quotes for the tree maintenance and these were shown to Cllrs. It was **agreed** to asked David Judd of Judd Tree Care to complete the work. A large tree at the village green is also in need of removal as it has died and could become a danger if not removed. The Clerk **agreed** to ask David

Judd, Charles Lovell and an another contractor to provide a quote for the work.

9.3 PC website: At the last meeting Kevin Oakley had **agreed** to ask the Pamela Hambro Committee to re think their decision not to share a website with the WSPC, so far no progress has been made. Cllr Gooden has spoken to John Close in W Houghton re the possibility of W Stickland sharing Houghton's website. The Clerk **agreed** to put the proposal to W Houghton at their next PC meeting. W Stickland does not at present have a village website and if any resident is interested in volunteering to set one up the Parish Council would be very supportive of this idea.

9.4 Benches - war memorial & burial ground: The Clerk has spoken to Pamela Lody and she is more than happy for the new PC bench to be sited on the concrete slabs where the Lody families previous memorial bench stood. It was **agreed** with Mrs Lody that her memorial plaque would not be placed on the new bench and this new bench would be for all visitors to the burial ground to use. The Clerk presented Cllrs with some quotes for a long life bench. It was **agreed** to purchase a 2/3 seater bench at a cost of **£213.45 (ex VAT)**. The bench once delivered will be sited by Cllrs Phillips & Kennea. The War Memorial bench - This bench has reached the end of its life and is beyond repair. The Clerk has measured the existing bench and it is 8 foot long and has a plaque with half the information faded away. It was also **agreed** that this bench be replaced with a 2/3 seater new long life bench at the same cost as the burial ground bench. The old bench will dismantled and disposed of.

9.5 Downfield Land: The Clerk & Cllr Godden had spoken to a resident at Saxon Rise concerned about vehicle use of the track along the back of the houses and adjacent to the newly purchased PC land. Cllr Godden had undertaken a site visit to investigate. It was **agreed** that no action could be taken as at this point but an eye would be kept on the situation for developments. Cllrs Phillips stated that a resident had informed him of the availability of grants that can be obtained through the Forestry Commission. These grants could be used to fund trees planted on the Downfield Land. No action could be taken as the Forestry Commission application window is now closed until April 2016.

9.6 Request for funds - stream management: The 'Friends of the Winterborne' led by Ron Dawson have made a request for a minimum £250.00 donation from the Parish Council to be used to fund the future management of the stream. This was discussed and it was felt by all Cllrs that the Stickland River Management Group should be given the time to put in place its procedures and plans before the funding of other groups is considered. A draft of their River Maintenance and Flood Plan should be available soon. It was felt that rather than 2 groups working to maintain the stream all efforts and support should be given firstly to the River Management Group. A timescale was set of Spring 2016, this will give the group time to complete what it has set out to do and put its procedures in place. Cllrs **agreed** that the funding request could be reviewed in the Spring if the SRMG were unable to carry out their plan. The Clerk **agreed** to contact Ron Dawson. Cllr Godden has written to DWP to ask if they would again as they did last year take away the weed from the next stream clearance day.

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

- Clerk £229.07 (salary August 2015 & office expenses)
- C Lovell £85.50 (grass cutting for August 2015)
- Came & Company Insurance (Sports Club) £233.66
- BDO Audit charge £156.00 (£100 fee, £30 admin + VAT)

The Clerk presented to Cllrs the Parish Councils current financial summary, this included our budget, bank balance and income/expenditure to date. The Parish Council external audit is now completed with no issues arising.

The annual return was presented to Cllrs and was approved and accepted. On the 18th August The Clerk & Cllr Godden visited HSBC in Dorchester and a separate Solar Fund bank account was set up, with its own cheque book. The signatories for this account are the same as the main PC account. The Clerk confirmed that **£8,700** had been transferred from the PC main account into the new Solar Fund account. The annual solar fund payment takes the Parish Council income over the £10,000 threshold so therefore we will be charged a fee to be externally audited. It was **agreed** that this fee should be paid by the Solar Fund.

11. Correspondence: Received as follows:

- Minutes for the 2015 annual meeting for the George Henry Hawkins and Barbara Skinner Charity have been received. Zoe Sprackling has now resigned and it is looking like a new replacement trustee has been found.
- A letter has been received from Michael Trevett on behalf of St Marys PCC Events Group. Nearly £1,800 was raised at the recent Summer Fete. Permission was sought to hold the event next year on the village green and all Cllrs **agreed** to this request.
- The Clerk **agreed** to complete the Post Office consultation online on behalf of the WSPC.
- DAPTC Summer Magazine - 2 copies were handed out.
- The new owner at Normandy Lodge is looking to install some roadside mirrors to improve road safety at the entrance to the property. All Cllrs **agreed** this was a good idea. The Clerk **agreed** to inform the property owner to go ahead and contact Highways at NDDC.

12. Democratic period: Tractor speed in the village was discussed and residents are encourage to take a note of the registration number of these vehicles and report dangerous driving incidents to the Police. The Pamela Hambro Hall has applied for solar panel funding from Marks & Spencer if you would like to support their efforts the website address is www.mandsenergyfund.com The project is listed under the halls name, and can be found using the postcode - DT11 0NT.

13. Items for the next agenda:

- Sports Club
- PC Website

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Next meeting Date:

Monday 28th September 2015 @ 7.30pm **Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall, W Stickland.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman.

Date.....