

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 27th July 2015.

Present: Councillors J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman), V Manners, S Phillips, K Hickson & P Kennea **Apologies:** Cllrs D Godden (Chairman), J Tebb, S Webb & District Councillor A Burch **In attendance:** Sam Smith (Clerk) & 14 members of the community.

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** The Vice Chairman (J Sutcliffe) chaired the meeting in The Chairmans absence and 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 of the meeting.
- 3. PC Officer's Report:** Cllr Manners reported that the Police had a received a report of silver 4x4 and its occupants acting suspiciously in the area. The vehicle had been spotted driving along remote farm tracks for no apparent reason.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meetings held on the 29th June & the 10th July were **agreed** and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 5. Clerk's update/actions:** The actions arising from the Parish Council meeting held on the 29th June 2015 were reviewed and updates given. Cllr Godden and The Clerk are visiting HSBC on the 18th August 2015 to set up a Solar Fund bank account. The Police have confirmed that the SID (speed detector) will be situated at end of Fair Mile Road sometime in July/August to hopefully reduce speeding along this road. The Clerk has written to Spectrum Housing re the overgrown hedges along North Street and has received a reply to say Spectrum will look into the issue.
- 6. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 7. Planning applications:**

0659/HOUSE Cross Tree Cottage, The Triangle, erect wooden shed, repair driveway (retrospective) **Agreed with no objections.** **0719/FUL** The Old Farmhouse, Chalky Path, erect 1 dwelling - Cllrs had previously visited the site with the applicant and had no objections to the proposed plans. As with the previous application for this site it was noted that a boundary dispute is ongoing between the applicant and his neighbour. Cllrs **Agreed to this application with no objections** but stated that a compromise must be sort between the 2 neighbours regarding ownership of the disputed land. **0903/FUL** Land North of Quarleston Farm, Clenston Road - form bridge access & gateway - A lengthy discussion took place which included a number of residents that attended the meeting. It was stated again that historically this site has never provided an access point to the meadow as the applicants claim, and therefore the proposed works would be for the creation of a new access rather than the reinstating of a previous gateway. It was felt that works to the land would create flooding issues and environmentally works would damage wildlife and destroy the habitat of water voles. Traffic concerns were also raised and road safety issues. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would **OBJECT** to this application. Cllrs Sutcliffe **agreed** to provide The Clerk with some notes to submit to NDDC planning re the decision.

8. Planning applications - decision notices:

0742/HOUSE 24 Downfield, DT11 ONE - single storey extension, loft conversion with dormer windows **AGREED** **0767/HOUSE & 0673/LCB** Bourneside House, West Street DT11 ONT - raise height of chimney, internal flue, remove & replace 13 windows **AGREED** **0792/HOUSE 37 North Street DT11 0HN** - erect 2 storey rear extension **AGREED**

9. Matters Arising:

9.1 Sports Club update: A Parish Council meeting had taken place on the 10th July 2015 at the Sport Club site. This meeting was attended by 18 members of the community. Earlier that evening the Sports Club Committee had been disbanded and the Club wound up. The

meeting was also attended by WHPC & W Clenston Parish meeting who also own a share in the land/premises. Simon Kevern (Blandford Tennis) had attended the meeting and was keen to set up tennis coaching and lessons at the W Stickland site. Since this meeting (10th) he has corresponded with The Clerk and is now in touch with the current organiser of the tennis club. It was **agreed** that The Clerk would add the sports pavilion on to the W Stickland PC insurance. We are automatically covered for public liability but fire, theft etc would be extra. It was **agreed** that if the extra cover was in the region of £150 for the year The Clerk should go ahead and arrange this. A group of 4 residents (headed by Cllr Kennea) have got together with a view to restoring the Sports Club. The Railway pub in Blandford is closing down and has a very large skittles following, it was thought that some of these teams might be interested in playing at W Stickland. The Parish Council was asked about funding availability to help get the activities off the ground. It was confirmed that the PC would be able to help with reimbursement of some costs incurred by individuals and it was also stated again that the Solar Fund Committee could be approached with a funding proposal.

9.2 Stream Maintenance: A lively discussion took place between Cllrs and a small number of residents re the management and clearance of the stream. It was again stated that Dorset Wildlife Trust had recommended a 'little & often' approach rather than a large clearance of the stream all on one day. Richard Marchant from the River Committee explained the work that the committee had already completed, a winter flood plan is now in place and flood wardens have been appointed. The River Committee has applied to the Solar Fund for some money to help with the costs of disposing of the weed once taken from the stream. An Autumn clearance was in the process of being planned to insure that the village is not flooded in the winter ahead. A small number of residents expressed their dissatisfaction at the pace of the WSPC and River Committee with regards to organising clearing the stream. A request was made by Mr Ron Dawson if he could be co-opted onto the committee. Mr Dawson was reminded that this was a matter for the River Management Committee and he was encouraged to discuss his thoughts and request with the current members. As requested at a previous meeting Cllr Sutcliffe had cleared a large amount of weed from the stream running through the village green with the assistance of Michael Trevett and Cathy Westby in preparation for the village fete. Mr Dawson expressed his discontent with the amount of work that had been done and was referred to Michael Trevett of the River Management Committee who had already agreed an additional package of work with Cllr Sutcliffe to further improve the "look" of the stream in advance of the event.

9.3 PC website: It was hoped that the WSPC would be able to host a PC page on the Pamela Hambro Hall website. Although initial enquiries looked promising at a Pam Ham Hall Committee meeting it was voted that we could not be able to share the website. Kevin Oakley **agreed** to look into this as he felt there was no reason why the PC could not share the website and he was quite surprised by the Pam Ham Hall Committees decision.

9.4 Fingerposts: No progress to date, to be forwarded to Augusts agenda.

9.5 Trees near Kersin - maintenance: Cllr Phillips has met with the property owner and discussed the pruning of the trees. A quote has been obtained but was felt by the PC to be on the excessive side. Cllr Phillips **agreed** to contact another gardener/tree person and obtain another quote in order for a decision to be made at the next meeting.

9.6 War memorial bench: The war memorial bench is the property of the WSPC and is included on our asset list. It was **agreed** that the war memorial bench is coming to the end of its life and a replacement should be sought. The Clerk **agreed** to obtain a quote for a new, long life, no maintenance bench.

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

- Clerk £245.78 (salary July 2015 & office expenses)
- C Lovell £85.50 (grass cutting for July 2015)

The Clerk confirmed that **£1,000** had been transferred from the PC main account into the Play Park savings account. **£128.00** has been received from Colin J Close Funeral Service for a headstone at the WS burial ground. Cllrs **agreed** to the design and size etc. The WSPC **agreed** to going ahead with the annual Play Park inspection at **£62.50 + VAT** this will take place sometime in Sept 2015.

11. Correspondence: Received as follows:

- The Clerk had received a phone call from a resident concerning the possible vandalism of a memorial bench at the burial ground. Some confusion had taken place because another bench had appeared in its place. Neither the WSPC or the PCC (church) have any information or knowledge regarding the removal of the original bench. It was concluded that any claim of vandalism was a matter for the owner of the bench and the police and that the Clerk should advise the owners to report the crime to the Police if they believed a crime had been committed in order that it could be properly investigated. The second bench has been removed and placed in another spot at the burial ground, The Clerk will try to trace the owners and explain the situation. The bench issue prompted a discussion about seating provision at the PC burial ground. It was **agreed** that the PC should provide a bench at the ground for all visitors and The Clerk **agreed** to look into the options, price etc. The Clerk will ask the family if the new community bench can be sited in the same position as the original memorial bench.
- The Clerk had received a phone call from a resident at Downfield concerned about the use of the track along the back of the houses and adjacent to the newly purchased PC land. Cllr Phillips 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.
- A new Post Office service has started at the Pamela Hambro Hall Mondays & Fridays 2 - 4pm Local public consultation for this service runs from 24th July - 11th September 2015. To register your views on this service go online to postofficeviews.co.uk and enter the code 21351899.
- The Clerk has been contacted with proposed changes/cuts to the Dorset Mobile Library service. At the moment the W Stickland service will remain un touched.
- Highways have confirmed that they have now agreed a budget for substantial works to be done to the road leading to W Houghton and they are presently applying to the EA for a licence. No dates have been set yet for the work.

12. Democratic period: Nothing

13. Items for the next agenda:

- Fingerposts
- Benches - war memorial and burial ground
- PC website
- Trees near Kersin
- Sportsclub

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Next meeting Date:

Monday 24th August 2015 @ 7.30pm **Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall, W Stickland.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman.

Date.....

