

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: David Godden

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

Email: wsticklandpc@gmail.com

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 28th September 2015.

Present: Councillors D Godden (Chairman), V Manners, S Phillips, P Kennea, J Tebb, K Hickson & S Webb **Apologies:** Cllr J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman)

In attendance: District Cllr A Burch, 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 Audrey Burch reported that plans for the Tri Council Partnership are progressing well and currently staffing of the 3rd tier of management is being restructured. The North Dorset Local Plan is now out of the latest consultation period and the revised edition will be available to view in 2016. Cllr Burch has been contacted by Steven Clark (NDDC Planning) re the proposed new bridge access to the field at Clenston Road. There was concern that this application might be given the go ahead against the wishes of the village. Cllr Gooden **agreed** to contact Steven Clark to reiterate the Parish Councils view on the proposed plans.

3. PC Officer's Report: Cllr Manners reported a quiet month with only a warning received regarding some bogus text messages being sent, purporting to be from Dorset Police.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th August 2015 were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

5. Clerk's update/actions: The actions arising from the Parish Council meeting held on the 24th August 2015 were reviewed and updates given. The tree maintenance has been completed near Kersin/play park. The Clerk presented 3 quotes for work to remove a dead tree at the village green, the cheapest quote was chosen. The Clerk **agreed** to contact the contractor and arrange for the work to go ahead. Two new replacement village benches have been delivered (burial ground & war memorial) and will be erected in the next few weeks by Cllrs Phillips & Kennea. The overhanging hedge at The Old Rectory has been cut back further following a letter sent to Highways by the PC.

6. Declarations of Interest: None for Planning - Cllrs Phillips & Kennea for Sports Club

7. Planning applications received for review: Down House Estate, Blandford St Mary Installation & operation of a Photovoltaic Park & associated infrastructure. After a discussion it was **agreed** that there were no objections to this application. **Clerk to inform NDDC.**

8. Planning applications - decision notices:

Cross Tree Cottage, The Triangle DT11 0NW erect wooden shed & repair driveway (retrospective) **granted by NDDC.**

9. Matters Arising:

9.1 Sports Club update: A presentation was given by Nick Hendy who is the newly appointed Treasurer of the current sports club committee. He talked about future plans for the club, fundraising ideas and plans to change the official name of the club/committee. Urgent works needed to secure and improve the building were discussed. To date a figure of around £1,500 is needed to start off the works. Locks would cost in the region of £600, waste/skips approx £350. The new committee requested a sum of money from the Parish Council to enable them to get the works underway and to repay money that has already been paid from their personal funds. After a lengthy discussion it was **agreed** (subject to receipts and satisfactory paperwork) that £800 would be set aside from PC funds to help the sports club. At present the new committee does not have a bank account or constitution and no money will be paid out until these are in place. The Clerk **agreed** to liaise with the sports club committee and obtain another quote for the proposed works, to ensure that the PC is getting

value for its money. The Clerk has contacted SES re the outstanding electric bill and has requested Geoff Brown pays as much as he can from the outstanding bill asap, there has been no reply received from Geoff to date. Until a sum has been paid the Clerk cannot negotiate a further possible payment plan with SES. Nick Hendy also requested permission from the PC to investigate the possibility of providing caravan pitches throughout the summer months at the sports field. Permission was given. The Motorcycle Club has again requested to use the sport field for a rally (2nd weekend in April) Cllr Phillips (sports club secretary) **agreed** to follow this up and organise.

9.2 Solar Fund - release of funds: The Sports Club has successfully secured a payment of £6,000 from the village Solar Fund on the condition that any profits made on activities funded by this money to be returned to the solar Fund bank account. It was **agreed** that the PC (who controls the Solar Fund bank account) would not write a cheque for £6,000 in one go. It was suggested that a sum of £1,500 could be released initially after receipts and paperwork have been received. There is still no legal agreement in place with BSR with regards to the future solar fund payments but a Deed of agreement has been received by Cllr Gooden. It was **agreed** that once amendments had taken place this agreement would be signed by Cllr Godden & Cllr Tebb on behalf of the PC. BSR have requested that, if requested, the PC provide them with information regarding the projects that the solar money has funded for publicity uses etc.

9.3 PC website: DAPTC have provided information with regards to a grant that has recently become available to help the Parish Council with the cost of funding a website. Due to the Transparency Code the PC must now publish certain information online, agendas, minutes & expenditure etc. The PC has received 2 offers of help with the setting up of a website. The Clerk **agreed** to investigate these offers and report back. It was **agreed** that initially £100 should be set aside to get the website up and running.

9.4 River Management: A heated discussion took place with regards to management of the stream. Ron Dawson expressed his dissatisfaction that no 'thank you' had been forthcoming from the PC following his and other volunteers clearance of the river at the village green. Mr Dawson again stated his concern for the wildlife and appearance of the stream. Cllr Godden appealed to Mr Dawson to work alongside the River Management Group . It was stated at the August PC meeting that a deadline of Spring 2016 should be afforded to the River management Group to put its procedures in place. Mr Dawson presented a proposal for management of the stream at the village green which included asking the grass cutting contractor to tidy the river banks. The Clerk **agreed** to contact Charles Lovell and discuss this and obtain estimates for the PC to consider further. The River Management Group is organising a winter stream clearance for the 24th Oct 2015. DWP will collect the waste, Tim Martin will cut the brambles & Highways are to provide some 'work underway' signs. It was **agreed** to buy Tim Martin some wine as a thank you for allowing weed to be dumped in his field throughout the summer.

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

- Clerk £246.25 (salary Sept 2015 & office expenses)
- C Lovell £85.50 (grass cutting for Sept 2015)
- NBB Recycled Furniture £512.28 (2 x village benches)

11. Correspondence: Received as follows: All correspondence emailed to Cllrs in advance. Email from Dorset Highways re grit bin refills - Cllrs to inform the Clerk if any bins are empty. There is a Winterborne Division meeting in Milton Abbas on 27th Oct 2015, the

Clerk will send Cllr Godden's apologies as he is unable to attend.

12. Democratic period: A resident questioned a funding decision that had been made by the Solar Fund Committee, this was with regards to the proposed solar panels on the Pamela Hambro Hall roof. The resident was advised to write to Chris Holbrook the Chairman of the Solar Fund to ask for the decision to be reconsidered. The Pre-school and Nursery is now up and running in Stickland. This is known as the Stickleberries which will complement the toddler group, Sticklebacks. It is now up to the local communities to use this facility so that it can be sustained. Although the company is working closely with the Dunbury Academy, it is an independent organisation and will therefore not be propped up financially by the school.

13. Items for the next agenda:

- Sports Club
- PC website

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Next meeting Date:

Monday 26th October 2015 @ 7.30pm **Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall, W Stickland.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman.

Date.....