

# 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 Annual Parish meeting held on the 18th May 2015.

**Present:** As AGM **Apologies:** As AGM **In attendance:** As AGM & 2 members of the community.

- **Welcome & apologies:** As AGM
- **A review of the year:** The Chairman gave a review of the year which covered the following -
- **Land at Downfield** - The land is now in the PCs legal possession and a covenant in the Land Registry document states that it must be used as a public open space. Cllr Godden will enquire whether Milton Abbey School could take up the opportunity to use the land as a wildlife project. There is a possibility that the covenant could be lifted but permission will need to be sort first from NDDC. Hopefully the future up keep of the land will be of a minimal cost to the PC.
- **Canada Farm Solar Park** - The Solar Farm is now up and running and the village has received its first Community Benefit payment. A Solar Fund Committee is in place to discuss funding applications and distribution of the money to the successful applicants. A legal agreement to safe guard future payments still needs to be put in place, the details are at present are being finalised by the PC and British Solar Renewables.
- **Stickland River Management Group** - This group was formed in 2014. Flood Wardens have been allocated to various village locations and residents have been informed of whom to contact in a flooding emergency. Sand and bags are being stored at Hedge End Farm thanks to the generosity of Scott Bagwell and emergency signs have been provided by Highways. We have obtained a licence to remove weed from the stream for the next 3 years and plans are being made for this year's weed clearance of the stream. Cllr Godden thanked Richard Marchant & Michael Trevett for all their help in setting up the management group.
- **The Sports Club** - The 35 year lease expired at the beginning of this year, a proposal from the Sport Club Committee and the Football Club at first looked promising but the future of the Club now looks uncertain.
- **Village Amenities** - The village Post Office has closed and is a loss to the village but there is a possibility that an outreach service will be set up. The Stickland base of the school is still shut but there are plans by The Dunbury Academy to open a preschool and nursery at the site. The Crown pub seems to be thriving and is a vital village asset.
- **Challenges for the coming year:** The Chairman presented the Parish Councils plans for 2015/16 -
- **The Sports Club** - The future of the site will need to be decided. Residents will be encouraged to come forward with proposals and their views sought. The Sports Club will only survive with help/support from the local community. The cost to update and refurbish the Club House will be high and money will need to be found to maintain the site.
- **Village Fingerpost refurbishment** - Funding for this project has been set aside in the PC 2015/16 budget along with some match funding from Dorset County Council.

This project will need to be taken forward in 2015 with work hopefully starting soon.

- **Recruitment of another Cllr to the PC** - there is still a vacancy on the PC for another Cllr.
- **Matters raised by the community: None**

**Closing remarks from the Chairman:** Cllr Godden thanked the Clerk and all the Parish Councillors for their support over the past year.