

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 October 2016.

Present: Councillors D Godden (Chairman), V Manners, K Hickson & K Cowan **Apologies:** Councillors J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman) & J Tebb **In attendance:** District Cllr A Burch, Liz Sellen (Clerk) & 1 member of the community.

1. Welcome & Apologies: Cllr D Godden welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. District Councillor's Report: District Cllr Audrey Burch expressed her hope that everyone had submitted a response to the "Reshaping Dorset Councils" proposal. Cllr Godden advised that a Parish Council response was to be composed tonight under item 9.3. Cllr Burch advised that personal responses are equally important. Cllr Burch is lobbying Mr Simon Hoare MP to visit the village as quizmaster for an event to be held at the Village Hall or Sports Club early in 2017.

3. PC Officer's Report: Cllr Manners had nothing new to report.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2016 were **agreed** and signed by Cllr Godden.

5. Clerk's update/actions: Cllr Godden advised that he had walked the village with Highways Officer Mr R Skeats and District Cllr Hilary Cox to consider both the ownership of the verge at Chalky Lane and the potential effects of proposed cuts in services. There is no evidence to support Parish Council ownership of the verge at Chalky Lane and Highways have confirmed that they do not own it (whilst they retain a statutory right to manage verges in the interest of highway maintenance). The resident concerned was on hand during the visit and therefore the matter can be considered closed. With respect to proposed cuts in Highway's services, Mr Skeats was keen to emphasise that core services will be maintained and therefore the village should not experience a marked decline in conditions. Services which will not be performed will include sign cleaning and non-essential verge cutting for example, but Councils can purchase additional services from the Highway's department if required. Cllr Godden suggested that since gully emptying equipment can be hired (including operator) for £450 per day, it would be beneficial to include the cost of one additional day in the precept. Cllr Cowan provided his signed "Disclosable Pecuniary Interests" document to the Clerk. Cllr Godden reported that the advertisement for a Play Park Maintenance person was submitted to the Blackmore Vale magazine on 21st October and interest has already been shown. The closing date for interest is 4th November 2016. Cllr Godden confirmed that a letter had been sent to NDDC with respect to the "Call for Sites" SHLAA database as agreed.

6. Declarations of Interest: None

7. Planning applications received for review: 2/2016/1495/HOUSE Gurneys Cob DT11 0NT - Erect single storey rear extension, new canopy over side door and install 1 No. new first floor side window. Erect retaining walls and detached double garage. Form new vehicular access (Demolish existing garage and block up existing access). Cllr Godden has spoken to the Planning Officer at NDDC with respect to this application, which appears to be the same as a previous application 2/2016/0834/HOUSE (later withdrawn), with the addition of a canopy over the porch. At the PC meeting on the 25th July 2016 it was unanimously agreed to OBJECT to application 2/2016/0834/HOUSE on the basis that – "The use of glass in the extension is excessive and will create light pollution. The new drive may create a flooding issue as flooding has occurred in this area previously, work completed at the existing driveway previously was to

alleviate a drainage problem. The building materials used for the new garage and extension should match the existing house - thatch or slate. The rear window in the original wall may have a historical value and this should be checked.” It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should **OBJECT** to the current application repeating the original grounds for objection.

8. Planning applications - decision notices: 2/2015/1129/PAEIA - BSR Ltd appeal to Secretary of State, Down House Estate, Blandford St Mary - Solar Farm. At the meeting on the 28th September 2015 this application was discussed and no objections were raised. Cllr Godden advised that it had been turned down by the District Council. It is next door to Canada Farm and further concealed by its location in a dip. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should repeat its previous comment of **NO OBJECTION** with the added observation that Canada Farm has been up and running without any adverse effect being reported to the Parish Council.

9. Matters Arising:

9.1 WSPC Cllrs vacancies: Cllr D Godden announced Cllr Sean Phillips resignation and advised that there are now three existing vacancies. It was recommended that the vacant seats should be considered at the November meeting.

9.2 Sports Club rental agreement: Cllr D Godden advised that following a meeting of representatives from Winterborne Houghton & Winterborne Stickland Parish Council along with members of the Sports Club, version 4 of the agreement has been agreed for consideration at the November meeting. Cllr Godden will email the agreement to councillors following implementation of the amendments. The Chairman of Winterborne Houghton has suggested that following approval from WHPC, WSPC should act as agent going forward and report significant developments back to WHPC. WH Chairman also enquired whether Landlord Liability Insurance is required; Cllr Godden responds that the buildings are insured by the Parish Council and the Sports Club are responsible for Public Liability insurance. WHPC have stated that they do not expect to contribute to the finances of the Sports Club, however Cllr Godden disputes that this could be argued from a legal perspective and suggests that logically a 20% share of ownership would imply a 20% liability towards Landlords expenses. It was agreed that the Parish Council should consider what the Landlord responsibilities are and the potential future financial liabilities at the next meeting. It was agreed that Miriam Leigh and other responsible members should be invited to attend and identify urgent maintenance issues, before a source of funding is agreed.

9.3 Completing the survey on council re organisation: Each question of the survey was considered and a response agreed. The final agreed responses were given to the Clerk for online submission before the deadline.

9.4 2018 review of Parliamentary Constituencies - boundary changes: Cllr Godden advised that amendments to new boundary proposals would see Winterborne Stickland amalgamated with Shaftesbury and Warminster whilst Milton Abbas would remain with Blandford area leading to a difference in MP representation. No particular comments were expressed.

9.5 Play Park: Councillors were encouraged to keep alert for likely candidates for the maintenance advertisement and encourage them to respond before 4th November 2016. Following the impending safety inspection, it is likely that all applicants will be provided with a copy of the inspection report and asked to quote to carry out remedial actions identified.

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

- Clerk **£300.52** (salary October 2016 & office expenses)
- C Lovell **£85.50** (grass cutting for October 2016)
- A Ross **£95.00** (website hosting for 1 year)

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11. Correspondence: received as follows- All correspondence was emailed to Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Consultation on Parish Council Referendum Principles ends 28/10/16. Cllr Godden advised that the Local Government Finance Settlement Consultation proposed that for larger Parish and Town councils a referendum would be required to increase the Precept above a prescribed maximum percentage. By implication this could lead to capping for all local Parish and Town Councils. It was agreed that Cllr Godden would complete the online technical consultation and the Clerk would write to the MP (Mr Simon Hoare) asking him to support local councils and to write to Mr Marcus Jones MP to oppose these proposals. Cllr Godden explained that at this point all local Councils are being advised to raise their precepts in anticipation of the works which may become local council responsibilities and the impending threat of capping. This should be considered at the next meeting. Community Benefit Questionnaire; Cllr Godden agreed to complete a questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council relating to community benefits arising from initiatives such as the Solar Panel schemes. Two questions that require consideration by the full council at the next meeting are as follows – Should the Parish Council agree to the Solar Fund being publicised on a new DCC Community Benefit web page? Should the Parish Council apply to benefit from a three year scheme which would contribute 50% towards grants issued by the Solar Fund? DAPTC AGM 5/11/2016 10am Dorchester – Cllr Godden agreed to attend on behalf of WSPC. It was agreed that Cllr Godden should respond to resolutions on behalf of the PC following the outcome of debates arising on the day. DCC Highways salt & grit refill starts 10/10/16; the Clerk advised that any grit bins which had been temporarily stored for the winter should be relocated immediately to benefit from the initial free top-up. Consultation on NDDC budget options ends 28/11/2016. Cllr Godden advised that proposals would see funding cut to Citizens Advice Bureaus and other local initiatives such as the DT11 Forum. This should be considered at the November meeting. W Division meeting with Hilary Cox 22/11/2016 7pm MA. Cllr D Godden expressed a wish to attend but advised that a prior arrangement may make attendance in doubt. Cllr K Cowan agreed to attend.

12. Democratic period: No issues raised.

13. Items for the next agenda: 2017/2018 Budget to include a consideration of potential future devolved services and proposals to cap local councils in the future; Councillor Vacancies; Sports Club rental agreement; Landlord responsibilities arising from lease to Sports Club; to agree responses to questions arising from the Community Benefit questionnaire; to consider the effect of proposed cuts in NDDC contributions to Citizens Advice and other local projects.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm

Next meeting Date:

Monday 28th November 2016 @ **7.30pm Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall, W Stickland.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman

Date.....