

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 28th November 2016.

Present: Councillors D Godden (Chairman), J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman), J Tebb, V Manners, & K Cowan **Apologies:** District Cllr A Burch & Cllr K Hickson **In attendance:** Sam Smith (Clerk) & 5 members of the community.

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

2. **District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr Audrey Burch did not send a report.

3. **PC Officer's Report:** Cllr Manners reported that the local Police are alerting residents to the possibility of an increase in burglaries over the festive season. Mike Ford reported that his trailer had been stolen recently in W Houghton.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th October 2016 were **agreed** and signed by Cllr Godden.

5. **Clerk's update/actions:** The funeral of Audrey Walters, who ran the shop in W Stickland for many years, took place on the 14th of November at St Mary Church. The Clerk raised the issue of the replacement war memorial bench that has been purchased by the PC, but as yet has not been sited at the memorial. It is understood that the bench is at Sean Phillips Mother's house in the village. Cllr Manners agreed to visit Mrs Phillips and organise the installation of the bench. It was agreed that if security fixings are required then up to £150.00 could be spent to purchase the fittings needed. The Clerk agreed to arrange some chocolates & wine for Tim Martin as a thank you for his help, again this year, with the stream weed clearance. The Clerk agreed to write to Richard Marchant on behalf of the community and the PC and thank him for all his hard work on the River maintenance over the year.

6. **Declarations of Interest:** None

7. **Planning applications received for review:** None

8. **Planning applications - decision notices: 2/2016/1318/OUT** - Wyvern Bungalow, Legion Lane DT11 0NQ - Develop land by the erection of 1 dwelling and form vehicular access - **Refused by NDDC.** A UPVC porch that has been constructed at a house in Downfield was discussed, it was felt that unless any neighbours or residents come forward with objections the PC do not need to look into the matter further.

9. **Matters Arising**

9.1 **Provisional Budget for 2017/18:** A draft 2017/18 budget had been emailed to Cllrs by the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Due to rising costs and the extra responsibilities being passed down from Dorset County Council to Parish Councils, a rise in the Precept is very likely. Adding a contingency fund into the budget was discussed, more cuts over the next 12 months will probably see the Parish Council being asked to fund more local services than before. It was agreed to finalise the budget at the next PC meeting in January in time to submit the PC Precept request by the end of January 2017.

9.2 **Sports Club rental agreement and landlords responsibilities:** The meeting was attended by Mike Ford & Miriam Leigh from the WSSCC. They both talked of the condition of the sports club building, works that they thought needed to be done in order to progress the sports club

103 / Minutes 2016

forward, and to ensure the future stability of the building. The proposed rental agreement was approved by all Cllrs and then signed by Cllr Godden and the Clerk. The agreement was then given to Miriam & Mike who felt that they were unable to sign it on behalf of the WSSCC. Miriam took the agreement with a view to presenting it to the WSSCC at their next committee meeting for signature. Simon Barnes (WHPC) had emailed Cllr Godden with WHPCs views on the rental agreement after their own PC meeting on the 14th November. Cllr Godden agreed to write and reply to Simon Barnes. WHPC have requested that WSPC provide some written evidence of the ownership split of the sports club between the 3 Parishes. The Clerk will check her archives for this. Landlord's responsibilities were discussed and it was agreed that the 3 parishes are responsible for the structure and safety of the building, despite Houghton Parish indicating their wish to avoid any financial responsibility. Mike Ford raised an issue with the back wall of the building but did not produce any evidence to support his concerns. Cllr Godden advised Mr Ford to seek provisional advice and produce a quote for the expected costs to fix the wall. Seeking possible grants and funding was discussed with the Milton Abbas Street Fair and Hall & Woodhouse fund being suggested by the Clerk. Cllr Sutcliffe offered to help WSSCC to put together a business plan which they can then use to apply for funding.

9.3 Solar Fund - community benefit questionnaire: Cllr Godden had agreed to complete a Dorset County Council Community Benefit Questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council relating to community benefits arising from initiatives such as the Solar Panel schemes. Two questions were considered by the PC at the meeting. Should the Parish Council agree to the Solar Fund being publicised on a new DCC Community Benefit web page? All Cllrs agreed this was a good idea. Should the Parish Council apply to benefit from a three year scheme which would contribute 50% towards grants issued by the Solar Fund? – it was agreed that further details are required. Cllr Godden agreed to write to BSR to confirm that the inclusion of Benefit details on the web page would not conflict with any conditions imposed by them. A lists of organisations that have benefited from our solar fund would need to be made public. Cllr Sutcliffe informed the PC that the Solar Fund Committee is taking a break until 2017. New committee members are needed and Charlotte Banyard who attended the meeting offered to be considered for a role. There was a discussion on whether the Solar Committee should be continued or whether the Solar Fund decisions should be bought back under the umbrella of the PC. No decision was made but will be reviewed at the next PC meeting. The Clerk agreed to organise loading some Solar Fund information up on to the PC website for resident's information.

9.4 Process for adopting new Councillors: There are currently 3 vacancies for Cllrs on the Parish Council. The correct procedure is that when Cllrs resign Democratic Services at NDDC need to be informed, a notice is then placed on the noticeboard. If 10 or more residents do not come forward and request an election then a volunteer can be co opted on to the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to inform NDDC of the Sean Phillips & Paul Keane resignations. Anyone wishing to be considered to join the PC should contact the Clerk. Liz Sellen (MA Clerk) had forwarded a copy of the Milton Abbas PC co-option policy to the PC. Cllr Godden suggested WSPC adopt a similar policy. It was agreed that this would be discussed further once the 2 vacancies had been advertised on the noticeboard. The replacement for Sid Webb also needs to be formalised.

9.5 Play Park - inspection report: The annual play park inspection has been received by the Clerk and a copy forwarded to all Cllrs. A number of repairs need to take place, mainly the repair of the wooden platform to the slide structure. An ad was placed in the BV magazine last month advertising for a maintenance/handyman to complete the works. The Clerk will email the applicants with the Play Park report requesting that they submit a quote for the work to the PC. The quotes will be considered at the next PC meeting in January 2017.

9.6 WS Parish Council meeting dates 2017: Parish Council meeting dates for 2017 have been agreed as follows: Jan 23rd, Feb 20th, Mar 20th, April 24th, May 22nd, June 26th, July 24th, Aug 21st, Sept 25th, Oct 30th & Nov 27th. Some meetings have been moved from the last Monday of the month due to holidays and the Clerks availability.

104 / Minutes 2016

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

- S,Smith **£214.32** (Clerks salary November 2016 & office expenses)
- C Lovell **£210.50** (grass cutting for November 2016 & 2 cuts of Jubilee Orchard)
- BDO LLP **£120.00** (audit fee taken from the Solar Fund ac)
- D Godden **£25.00** (DWP gift for removing stream weed waste)

11. Correspondence: received as follows- All correspondence was emailed to Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Simon Hoare MP is holding a roundtable discussion on the 9th Dec 2016 in Stourpaine Village Hall, Cllr Godden agreed to attend. Blandford Forum Town Council have again asked for a donation towards the running of the public toilets in Blandford, again the PC have decided against this. The Clerks has received an email from a resident with regards to the overgrown hedges and un- emptied dog waste bin at Legion Lane. Cllr Manners agreed to have an informal chat with his neighbours and see if some tidying up could be done. The Clerk has reported the overflowing bin to DWP. There are 2 bins at Legion Lane which maybe leading to some confusion when DWP are visiting the area. WHPC has requested that an overgrown hedge in W Stickland is cut back, Cllrs reported that this had already taken place. The Clerk has received an email from Rolly Skeats confirming that DCC Highways are not interested in the verge dispute at Chalky Lane as the verge does not belong to DCC Highways or the PC, the PC has now closed the matter.

12. Democratic period: A resident voiced her disappointment that the PC had not provided a poppy wreath at the recent remembrance service in November at St Marys Church. Cllr Godden apologised on the PCs behalf but stated that this had not been organised by the PC in recent years and it was not known who had organised it on their behalf. It was agreed by all to provide a wreath next year. A resident brought up the issue of speeding in the village and cars parking on the pavements. The Clerk agreed to forward on the details of our community Police Officer to the resident. The Police should be able to advise the resident as to what can be done. Cllr Godden informed everyone that the final touches are just being applied to the village flood plan and this will completed by the end of 2016. The Clerk agreed to up loading some flood information on to the PC website, flood warden list, flood plan etc.

13. Items for the next agenda: Budget 2017/18

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Next meeting Date:

Monday 23rd January 2017 @ **7.30pm Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall, W Stickland.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman

Date.....