

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 23rd May 2016.

Present: As AGM **Apologies:** As AGM **In attendance:** As AGM & 3 members of the community.

- 1. Welcome & apologies:** As AGM
- 2. A review of the year:** The Chairman gave a review of the past year which covered the following -
Canada Farm Solar Fund - The Solar Fund and Committee is now up and running. A number of projects have benefited from the fund this year, including the WS sports club (WSSCC) and the solar panels at the Pamela Hambro Hall. New applicants are still encouraged to apply for funding help and new committee members are also needed. A legal agreement with BSR has been signed and a 5 year payment will soon be made into the Solar fund bank account - 2 payments of £8,700 have already been received. **WSSCC (sports Club)** - a small number of enthusiastic volunteers have managed to get the sports club up and running again. A new committee is now in place with a written constitution. Recently there have been some well attended events and the future for the club is looking promising. The Parish Council now need to finalise a rental agreement and, looking forward, a lease. **River Management Group** - progress had been made over the past 12 months and the health of the river has improved. A rolling programme of work has been agreed and already started. A new member Will Bown has joined the group and a particular thank you must be given to Richard Marchant for all his hard work. **Post Office** - Sadly the village Post Office closed but an outreach service at the Pamela Hambro Hall seems to be doing well. **Local Farmers** - A thank you must be given to Scott Bagwell from Field Farm/Hedge End Farm. Scott has in the past cut the sports field and hedges, he has always been willing to undertake work for the Parish. Tim Martin's help with disposal of weed from the stream is also much appreciated. **Church** - Coffee Pot is thriving and providing a good community base. A number of community events such as the Afternoon Tea & Dog Show have been a success. **Dunbury School** - the school appears to be thriving and improvements have been made. Stickleberries has opened in the old Stickland school base and seems to be well used and supported by parents. **WS Parish Council** - Cllr Godden thanked all Cllrs for their support and work over the past 12mths, he particularly wanted to thank Sid Webb for his PC work, Sid recently resigned from the PC after many years of service.
- 3. Challenges for the coming year:** The Chairman presented the Parish Councils plans for 2016/17 - The future of the Parish Council needs to be thought about, we need new members to take over from departing Cllrs and to bring new ideas to the PC. Rural services are under threat from government cuts, the buses & the mobile library are the latest targets. More responsibility is being handed down to Parish Councils, therefore squeezing our own budget tighter.
- 4. Matters raised by the community:** A resident highlighted an issue within the village with regards to disputed ownership of grass verges. The Clerk **agreed** to contact Highways to ask them to investigate the verges and to see if they are in fact Highways responsibility. A discussion was had over the ownership of the pump house on the Village Green, the PC **agreed** to not investigate this issue further.
- 5. Closing remarks from the Chairman:** Cllr Godden thanked the Clerk and all the Parish Councillors for their support over the past year.