

## 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 25th September 2017

**Present:** Councillors D Godden (Chairman) J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman) J Tebb, K Hickson & V Manners **Apologies:** Cllrs P Harlock & K Cowan **In attendance:** District Cllr A Burch, Sam Smith (Clerk) & 4 members of the community.

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** Cllr D Godden welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. District Councillor's Report:** Audrey Burch reported that we are still waiting for a decision from the Secretary of State with regards to the formation of a Unitary Authority. The Dorset County Partnership has set up a 'brownfield site' register for residential planning use and to help meet current council housing needs. Cllr Sutcliffe again raised the issue of the 'call for sites' operated by NDDC council. This is where landowners can put forward pieces of land for proposed development, whether they are suitable for this purpose or not. It was felt by Cllr Burch that this system is a useful tool to aid in the planning of new future housing developments.
- 3. PC Officer's Report:** Cllr Manners stated that crime had been low in the villages recently. Police alerts have mostly been with regards to missing people.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st August 2017 were agreed and signed by Cllr J Sutcliffe.
- 5. Clerk's update/actions:** Ownership of the failing wall (war memorial) still needs to be ascertained before a repair can be carried out. The Clerk will write to the owner at The Old Chapel, update her with events and ask her if she can help us with confirming who is responsible for the maintenance of the wall. It was also suggested by Cllr Godden that the British Legion should be contacted as they may have some information on the memorial and the surrounding wall. The 2 Yew trees have also been trimmed at the memorial. The new replacement platform for the play park slide has been ordered. It was agreed that once delivered the platform could be stored at the Sports Club. The old platform will need to be removed and the new one installed by volunteers. The Clerk agreed to contact the 'Dads' who replied to our play park article in the Valley News and see if they would be willing to help. The Parish Council is still looking for volunteers from Stickland to form a play park committee with a view to refurbishing the Stickland play park.
- 6. Democratic Period:** Nothing raised
- 7. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 8. Planning applications received: 2/2017/1153/FUL Church View, North Street DT11 ONL - change of use - shop to residential.** The new owners of the property attended the meeting and talked to Cllrs about their plans for the property. It was agreed by all Cllrs that there were no objections to this development.
- 9. Planning applications decision notices:** None

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### 10. Matters Arising:

**10.1 WSSCC - Solar Fund application:** A discussion was had with regards to the Parish Councils responsibility for the Sports Club versus the Sports Clubs own responsibilities. It was felt that although the PC is responsible for the main fabric of the building the Sports Club should take responsibility for items which do not benefit the Parish Council eg: CCTV which would protect the Sports Clubs assets, although it could be argued that it would also protect the Parish Asset. Normally a landlord would use its rental income to maintain a building but as the Sports Club only pays a nominal rent at present this is not possible. A Sport Club application to the Solar Fund has been successful and £2,450 has been allocated to the club to repair the back wall and replace some guttering. The application for CCTV will be discussed separately at the next Solar Fund Committee meeting. The Solar Fund still needs another committee member to join them. The veterans football is now up and running at the Sports Club along with the tennis.

**10.2 Village sign BBC2:** The Clerk has heard from the BBC that the village sign will be returned to the village on the weekend of the 14/15th October 2017. The BBC plan to film the unveiling on the morning of Monday 16th October. All residents are invited to attend and take part in the filming. The Clerk will liaise with Kevin Oakley with regards the reinstallation of the sign.

**10.3 Village fingerposts:** Cllr J Tebb gave an update to the PC on the costs involved with regards to refurbishing the village fingerpost (at the end of the village, turning to Blandford) Cllr Tebb explained that the roundel on the existing post was a poor previous replacement and ideally a traditional one should be included in the refurbishment. All Cllrs agreed to purchasing the new roundel at a cost of £150.00. It was also agreed to replace the brackets that hold the fingerposts with the more traditional ones at a cost of £250.00. Cllr Tebb will go ahead and authorise the work to commence on the fingerposts at a total approx cost of £1,250. The PC has agreed to fund the refurbishment of this one fingerpost but further village posts will need to be paid for by either fund raising or from the Solar Fund.

**10.4 Hedge cutting Dunbury Lane:** Cllr Godden has been approached by Tim Martin with regards to the overgrown hedges along Dunbury Lane. Tim Martin has offered to trim the hedges back for £150.00. It was discussed whether the PC would like to pay the £150 for the hedges to be trimmed. The hedges are the responsibility of the landowners and the cost should be borne by them. It was agreed to not pay the £150 at present and it was agreed that Councillors Harlock and Hickson should contact their neighbours about payment for the work.

**10.5 River Management Group - stream:** Richard Marchant from the River Management Group attended the meeting. He gave a presentation on the work that the group has carried out on the stream over the past 12 months. On the 14/10/2017 3 skips will be delivered to the Fish Farm in preparation for the big winter clear up. On the 28/10/17 DWP will be collecting the waste from the village. 2016 was the year for tidying up the stream and removing large amounts of weed, 2017 has been more about preservation, maintenance & up keep. The river is healthy with water voles having been sighted and the kingfisher is back. Himalayan Balsam & Cress have been removed The aim is to achieve a narrow stream with a clear bed & no silt. Swallow holes (swallets) have been a big problem and 18hrs this year has been spent on repairing the holes that appeared in May & June. We are still waiting for DCC Highways to come & repair the road/river bank along Water Lane. Parts of the road are not supported and it is only a matter of time before the road collapses. The group has also been supporting new residents to the village and helping them to get to grips with their responsibilities as riparian owners. The River Management Group has requested that the WSPC allocate some funds to the group as some work on the stream may have to be paid for. The Clerk stated that £150.00 had been set aside in the 2017/18 PC budget for weed removal/stream work. It was agreed by all Cllrs that this money should be available for the RMG to use immediately. Cllr Godden has contacted DCC Highways to obtain a quote to clear the village drains in time for Winter & at the same time also ask if the same machine can clear the silt in the stream at the bridge (Pam Ham Hall) and on the Green but has not received a reply to date. The PC thanked Richard Marchant, Will Bowan and all volunteers for all their hard work with regards to the stream.

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**10.6 Replacement village tree for grass verge:** the dead tree on the grass triangle has been removed. The metal tree cage is at present in Cllr Manners garden and it will be given a new coat of paint. A replacement tree was discussed but the soil is poor and other trees in the same position have died. Cllr Godden agreed to discuss with Phil Poulton the type of tree that might be suitable.

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

- S Smith **£230.71** (Clerks salary September 2017 & expenses)
- C Lovell **£100.00** (grass cutting Sept 2017)
- D Judd **£265.00** (war memorial Yews & dead tree)
- Sovereign **£476.64** (play park slide platform)
- R Marchant **£29.76** (sheeting for stream)
- BDO LLP **£396.00** (2017 audit fee - from solar Fund account)

The completed 2017 Annual Return has been received back from BDO LLP. The completed return was shown to Cllrs. The Annual Return and Certificate was approved and accepted by the PC. The Clerk presented a 6 month report detailing the PCs current financial position to Cllrs. This included the PCs income and outgoings since April 2017 & a bank reconciliation. Bank balances are as follows - PC Main Account **£14,280.25**, Play Park account **£5,004.35**, Solar Fund account **£52,652.28**. The bank statements were signed as a true record by the PC. The Clerk will be unable to attend the October PC meeting and has arranged for Liz Sellen (MA Clerk) to cover the next meeting.

**12. Correspondence:** received as follows - A planning session for Cllrs is being held at SW House, Dorchester on 26/10 at 6pm. Hilary Cox is holding a Division meeting in Oct in MA - date TBC. DWP have issued a Cllrs guide. A DCC Highways satisfaction survey needs to be completed by 27/9/17 online.

**13. Items for the next agenda: None**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm **Next meeting Date:** Monday October 30th 2017  
**@ 7.30pm Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman

Date.....