

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 30th October 2017

Present: Councillors D Godden (Chairman), K Hickson, V Manners, P Harlock & K Cowan

Apologies: Cllrs J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman) & J Tebb, District Councillor Audrey Burch

In attendance: Liz Sellen (Clerk) & 2 members of the community.

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** Cllr D Godden welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. District Councillor's Report:** Audrey Burch did not send a report in advance of the meeting.
- 3. PC Officer's Report:** Cllr Manners reported that he had heard a recent report of oil stolen from a domestic tank (not locally) and recommended that people keep an eye on their oil tank - given the time of year there will likely be more incidents reported.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th September 2017 were agreed and signed by Cllr Godden.
- 5. Clerk's update/actions:** On return from her holiday the Clerk will visit the property owner at the Old Chapel to discuss ownership of the War Memorial wall. Ownership of the wall needs to be ascertained before work can commence on repairing the failing wall. The replacement Play Park slide platform has been ordered, the Clerk to chase after her holiday. A replacement tree for the grass triangle - Cllr Godden advised that he had spoken briefly with another village resident who has some knowledge of trees. It was considered that a small tree would not be appropriate and that as no maintenance would be anticipated for about 20 years the tree size would not be a primary concern. A Lime tree was suggested, but it remains to be considered whether the soil conditions are right. The overgrown hedge along Clenston Road - the Clerk has contacted the owners requesting that they trim it.
- 6. Democratic Period:** A resident informed the Council that from his window he had observed a high proportion of the traffic from Blandford taking a wrong turn at the junction by the sports club, he thought this was because traffic has committed to a direction before it reaches the junction. Invariably this leads to large vehicles, including articulated lorries having to back up in an area inhabited by vulnerable (elderly) residents - Churchill Court. The resident suggested that DCC Highways should place a temporary sign in place of the removed finger-post and since this was an issue prior to the removal of the finger-post, the resident suggested that an additional sign should be located further back towards Blandford to allow traffic the appropriate time to select their destination. Cllr Godden had spoken to Mr Paul Starkey (DCC Highways) and had been advised that Highways have never been asked to locate temporary signs before, however Cllr Godden agreed to request a temporary sign to replace the finger-post and an additional sign further up the road at Cllr Mrs Hilary Cox's Divisional meeting on 31st October. It was agreed that speed of traffic is a contributing factor to the problem, however Cllr Godden also confirmed that previous efforts to control speed in the area had not been fruitful as there is no support for a 'Speedwatch' initiative. The same resident advised that pot holes outside Churchill Court resulted in alarmingly loud noises in the early hours of the morning as lorry trailers slammed back onto the road surface. Mr P Starkey has already offered to try and sort them "asap" but the pot holes still remain. Cllr Godden recommended that pot holes should be reported online or by telephone to dorsetforyou.gov.uk however he agreed to raise the matter of the pot holes with Mr P Starkey on 31st October.

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7. **Declarations of Interest:** Not required as no planning applications.
8. **Planning applications received:** None.
9. **Planning applications decision notices: 2/2016/1318/OUT Wyvern Bungalow, Legion Lane DT11 0NQ** - appeal dismissed by The Planning Inspectorate.

10. Matters Arising:

10.1 Village sign BBC2: Cllr Godden remarked on the outstanding standard of work by "The Repair Shop" (BBC2) and acknowledged the sterling work of Mr Kevin Oakley and Mr John Felstead who had co-ordinated with the production company, raised scaffolding, removed the sign, transported it to Chichester, brought it back and relocated it, resulting in a village sign that looks as good today as the day it was first installed. Communications between Cllrs had ensued by email to agree a fitting tribute to the efforts of Mr Oakley & Mr Felstead and this could be facilitated through the Chairman's Fund. It was proposed by Cllr K Hickson, seconded by Cllr P Harlock and unanimously agreed to raise the Chairman's Fund by £200, in part, to organise a plaque to commemorate the restoration work by The Repair Shop and to recognise the organisational assistance of Mr Oakley & Mr Felstead. It was proposed by Cllr Cowan and Cllr Manners that the Chairman should also purchase a bottle of Malt Whisky each for Mr Oakley & Mr Felstead.

10.2 Village fingerposts: Cllr J Tebb did not attend the meeting, but had forwarded various correspondence in advance to Cllr Godden. It appeared that future fingerposts would be more expensive as quotations received failed to take into account the costs of works by Dorset Men's Shed and Normtec of about £600. It was agreed to request an update to the estimated time of return of the finger-post undergoing restoration from Cllr Mrs Tebb. It is possible that the return is being held up pending agreement of the name to be cited on the roundel. Cllr Manners advised that Mr John Gill's book cites the location as "White Way", previously also known as "Ninety Acres", neither of which could be confirmed by Peter (village resident). Cllr Godden agreed to discuss this with Mr J Gill so that a decision could be made at the next meeting.

10.3 River Management Group: Around 6 members of the River Management Group had undertaken the winter weed clearance on the weekend 28th & 29th October 2017. Two crews from DWP arrived to support the work and remove the weed and Cllr Godden gave a £40 gratuity to them from the Chairman's Fund. Cllr Godden was concerned to hear that the DWP received abuse from passing motorists who were inconvenienced by the congestion. Cllr Godden had also met with a lecturer from Kingston Maurward College who agrees that the natural chalk stream would provide an interesting project for their students and suggested a day visit may be feasible to provide assistance and carry out some monitoring work.

10.4 Resolutions for DATC AGM: The resolutions had been circulated in advance by email. Cllr Godden advised that in the past, the Councillors have voted on an agreed response, however following the extensive debate at the 2016 AGM, the agreed response was not always valid and therefore Cllr Godden was unable to contribute to the vote in all cases. Cllr Godden suggested that it would be more practical for Cllrs to give him permission to vote appropriately on behalf of Winterborne Stickland Parish Council. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Godden should be free to vote as he saw fit at the AGM, given the outcome of any debate on the day.

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

S Smith **£230.71** (Clerks salary October 2017 & expenses)
C Lovell **£100.00** (grass cutting October 2017) A Ross **£90.32** (website hosting)
D Godden **£40.00** (reimbursement of gratuity to DWP personnel)
WSSCC **£2,450.00** (to be reimbursed by solar fund)

It was unanimously agreed to reimburse Cllr Godden for the gratuity to DWP. It was unanimously agreed that a cheque for WSSCC should be written from the Parish Council account and reimbursed from the Solar Fund as the acting Clerk was unable to access the Solar Fund cheque book.

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12. Correspondence: received as follows - a **letter from Bryanston PC** re grass cutting; Cllrs had received a copy of the request by email and failed to perceive what the request was for. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Bryanston Parish Council and request clarification of their intention. **Hilary Cox Winterborne Division meeting 1/11/2017 @ 7pm MA RR.** Cllr Godden confirmed his intention to attend. A **letter from Blandford Town Council;** request for contribution to upkeep of the public toilets. It was agreed that this should be included in the November budget discussion. Cllr Godden agreed that representatives from the Parish Council should be in attendance at the Remembrance Service. Cllrs Harlock & Hickson agreed to represent the Parish Council. In previous years the wreath has been provided by the Sports Club (because of the connection with the British Legion) however it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should fund the wreath this year. Cllr Manners confirmed that Mrs H Lappin would be happy to make one on behalf of the Council and the anticipated cost will be about £20.

13. Items for the next agenda: 2017/2018 Budget

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.06 pm **Next meeting Date:** Monday November 27th 2017 @ **7.30pm Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman

Date.....