

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: David Godden

Clerk: Mrs Sam Smith, Hill Cottage, Milton Abbas, Blandford Forum, DT11 0AZ

Email: wsticklandpc@gmail.com **Website:** winterbornestickland.org.uk

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 20th January 2020

Present: Cllrs D Godden (Chairman) J Tebb, P Harlock, C Williams & B Drammis

Apologies: PC Cllrs J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman) & K Hickson & Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby

In attendance: Sam Smith (Clerk) & 3 members of the community

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** Cllr D Godden welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Unitary Councillor's Report:** Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby did not attend the meeting or send a report in advance.
3. **PC Officers Report:** No local crime to report. The SID is presently sited on the Blandford Road. The defibrillator at The Crown has been removed as it has developed a fault, it will be sent away to be repaired. There is currently a replacement machine in its place. Cllr Drammis reported that he had recently attended some defibrillator/1st aid training run by the South West Ambulance Service at the Brewery site in Blandford.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th November 2019 were agreed and signed by Cllr Godden.
5. **Clerk's update/actions:** No further news on The Crown. The tenants are still waiting to hear from Admiral Taverns as to their future at the pub. A decision is not expected until the end of February 2020.
6. **Democratic Period:** The Pamela Hambro Hall Committee have contacted Cllr Godden with regards to the Post Office service which operates in the hall 2 days per week. Mondays is quite busy, but it seems that Friday is not as popular. There had been a suggestion that the service was not financially viable as a charge is made to the Post Office per session. The Hall Committee have enquired whether the WSPC would be able to pay the charge per session. It was agreed that the Post Office Service was valuable to the village and that the PC will pay the session fee .
7. **Declaration of Interest:** Millmead borders Cllr Godden's property.
8. **Planning applications received: 2/2019/1619/HOUSE Millmead, West Street DT11 ONT** - erect 1st floor side extension & rear conservatory - it was agreed by all Cllrs (Cllr Godden abstained) that the PC had no objections to this application.
9. **Planning applications decision notices & progress updates: None**
10. **Financial report:** Cheques for payment were agreed as follows:

S Smith	£741.06	(Clerks salary December 2020 & January 2020 & expenses)
C Lovell	£200.00	(grass cutting for December 2019 & January 2020)
D Godden	£20.00	(re issue of a lost cheque - British Legion wreath donation)

10.1 2020/21 PC Budget - a draft budget document was prepared by the Clerk & circulated to Cllrs. Each item listed for expenditure was discussed in turn. It was requested by Cllrs that £250 should be added under the heading PC website as improvement work will need to be completed on the PC website in the near future. It was agreed to make the same precept request to Dorset Council as last year, therefore there

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will be no increase this year for Stickland residents. Although we are slightly over budget, the PC does have a healthy balance in the bank account and it was felt that any over spend or spending on potential future village projects could be taken from the reserves held.

11. Matters arising:

11.1 Play Park: Simon Jones attended the meeting to talk about the play park. Simon had circulated a village survey in 2019 to the village and had sought residents views on a possible replacement play park. While support for a new park was high, unfortunately volunteers & residents willing to come forward to take the project forward was low. Without a play park working group & a significant amount of volunteers a new park is just not viable or possible. It was agreed to continue to maintain the park as it is for now, remove the existing equipment as it fails or it reaches the end of its life. The Clerk will arrange for the existing equipment to have its annual external safety inspection in March 2020.

11.2 Grass cutting contract: The current PC grass cutting contract expires at the end of April 2020. The work will be put out to tender again. The Clerk will place an ad in the Valley News to advertise the work. The ad will go in the March edition with the closing date for applications being Friday 27th March. The received tenders can then be discussed at the March PC meeting on Monday 30th March. The Clerk will contact Charles Lovell and remind him that his current contract is due to expire & invite him to tender again for the work. It was agreed that the burial ground would be removed from the contract as from 1st May 2020, this area is now being well maintained and cared for by a group of volunteer residents.

11.3 WSPC Standing Orders & Financial Regulations: The Financial Regulations had been amended by Cllr Godden & Drammis & the final copy circulated to Cllrs. These Regulations were adopted by the PC at this meeting. The Standing Orders had been amended & circulated by the Clerk but not everyone had managed to read them. It was agreed to adopt the updated Standing Orders at the February PC meeting.

11.4 Solar Fund payment: The Clerk has not yet received the PC January bank statement, but when it arrives she will check it to see if our annual solar fund payment has been received.

11.5 Highways: Cllr Godden has spoken to Paul Starkey about a number of highway issues including the outstanding bank repairs along Water Lane and possible drainage improvement works at the Triangle, a progress report has not yet been received from DC Highways on either issue. After the recent bad storms Dunbury Lane was cleared very quickly by the 'sweeper. ' Drainage along West Street was discussed, there was concern that the water flowing down the street could freeze and become very dangerous. It was agreed that some 'danger ice' road signs maybe a good idea, Cllr Godden agreed to follow this up.

11.6 River Management update: An email had been received from a Houghton resident concerned with the Stickland management of the stream. A reply was sent explaining that the stretch of water up to the Fish Farm is within the Stickland boundary and has main river status. The RM Group has applied for a 'Flood Risk Activity Exemption' and this has been given & received from the Environment Agency. Work can therefore start on repairing the damaged river bank near the ford.

12. Correspondence: All correspondence had been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. BT are planning to close Clenston Road on 3rd March to the 5th March 2020, outside Echelon to the Old Malthouse for works.

13. Items for the next agenda: Grass Cutting contract

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Next meeting Date: Monday 24th February 2020 @ 7.30pm

Venue: Pamela Hambro Village Hall

Signed.....Presiding Chairman Date.....