

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 24th February 2020

Present: Cllrs D Godden (Chairman) J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman) K Hickson, J Tebb, P Harlock & B Drammis **Apologies:** Cllr C Williams **In attendance:** Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby & Sam Smith (Clerk) & 9 members of the community.

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** Cllr D Godden welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Godden also informed the PC that the sale of his house is moving forward, should this lead to completion then unfortunately he will be leaving the village as he is relocating out of the area. Therefore, there could be a vacancy arising for a Chairman on the PC in the next couple of months.
- 2. Unitary Councillor's Report:** Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby reported on the recent Dorset Council budget briefing for 2020/21. More funds have been allocated for Children's Services & Adult Social Care. Steps are being undertaken by the DC to increase its revenue, business opportunities are being investigated. Residents Council Tax charges for 2020/21 will be increased by the full 4% allowed. Funding of the voluntary sector after 2021 is currently being discussed by DC who currently fund a large proportion of these services. Climate change emergency continues to be a hot topic at DC.
- 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, there is currently a replacement machine in its place. No news has been received on the defibrillators return date, Cllr Drammis agreed to chase this matter up.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2020 were agreed and signed by Cllr Godden.
- 5. Clerk's update/actions:** The current tenants of The Crown have reached an agreement with Admiral Taverns and fortunately for the village Colin & Ash will be continuing to manage the Pub. A new menu is set to be introduced & unavoidably there will be price increases to cover the changed financial arrangements and the costs of the new menus. The annual safety report of the play park will take place in March 2020. Sticklebacks Nursery has recently been awarded a rating of 'Good' by Ofsted. The Solar Fund Committee have received 3 applications for funding and they will be meeting soon to discuss the merits of these.
- 6. Democratic Period:** A resident raised the issue of flooding in the village. At the beginning of the winter a group of residents had sent a letter to the Cabinet Member for Highways stating their concerns re the flooding in Stickland. A reply has never been received to this letter. Cllr Kerby agreed to chase this up. Cllr Gooden had also written to Highways requesting that they visit the village and look into improving some of the groundwater drainage. This year has been slightly better than previous years as Highways did visit the village in the Autumn and the drains & gullys were cleared.
- 7. Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Tebb - joint owner of Hustings Cottage.
- 8. Planning applications received: 2/2019/1789/HOUSE The Hollow, Chalky Path DT11 ONS erect extension to garage** - the applicant attended the meeting and spoke to Cllrs of his plans for the garage. Cllr Godden stated that although there is a long history behind this application, the current application should be reviewed as it is, previous applications now being irrelevant. The Clerk had received an objection by email from a resident but

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this could not be read out as the objecting attachment letter was not attached. Cllrs discussed the application, the dormer window was highlighted & the overlooking aspect was questioned. All Cllrs agreed to support the application. **2/2019/0532/FUL Royal British Legion Clubhouse, Legion Lane DT11 0NQ demolish former Legion Club premises & erect 1 dwelling & garage** - the applicant attended the meeting to talk of his plans for the site. Since the last application was submitted the plans have changed slightly, the mass of the proposed property has been reduced & earth will now be dug out to allow the property to be set into the hillside. The view (from the field) of the proposed new roofline was discussed, it was felt that this should be set below the surrounding hedge line. 5 Cllrs agreed to support this application, with 1 Cllr objecting.

2/2019/1542/HOUSE Hustings Cottage, North Street DT11 0NL erect 1 1/2 storey rear extension (demolish existing) the applicant (Colin Tebb) attended the meeting to answer any questions Cllrs had. It was noted that the plans have already been altered to ensure that near neighbours are happy and their privacy maintained. An overlooking window has been moved and obscure glass proposed in another area. All Cllrs agreed to support this application.

9. Planning applications decision notices & progress updates:

2/2019/1619/HOUSE Millmead, West Street DT11 0NT - erect 1st floor side extension & rear conservatory - approved by Dorset Council

10. Financial report: Cheques for payment were agreed as follows:

- S Smith **£370.53** (Clerks salary February 2020 & expenses)
- C Lovell **£100.00** (grass cutting for February 2020)
- Valley News **£17.00** (grass cutting contract ad)
- D Godden **£46.94** (Travis Perkins sand bags)

A payment was received from BSR in January 2020 of **£9,782.46** our annual solar Fund payment. Cllr Godden signed the final copy of the WSPC 2020/21 annual budget.

11. Matters arising:

11.1 Condition of the road at Chalky Path: A discussion was had over whom is responsible for the maintenance and cleansing of debris at Chalky Path. A resident stated that historically the path had always been cleared by a local farmer with his tractor. Cllr Kerby checked online and confirmed that the path was DC Highway responsibility. He will request that Highways visit Chalky Path and that clearance of debris left from the recent storms is undertaken. A new gate that has been installed at the top of the path, was raised as an issue. This new gate now prevents vehicles from turning round at the top of the path. It was agreed that the while this gate was contentious, it is within the landowners rights to erect it, especially as the public footpath is not being impeded.

11.2 Grass cutting contract: An ad has been placed in the March Valley News advertising the work. All quotes received will be discussed at the March PC meeting and the contract awarded to the most suitable contractor for the job.

11.3 WSPC Standing Orders: A copy of the Standing Orders has been amended & had been circulated by the Clerk in advance of the meeting. It was agreed by all to adopt the updated version.

11.4 Riverbank Repairs: Recently a DWP lorry had driven into the river causing significant damage to the verge. It has been finally been confirmed, that this year, the stretch of road from Stickland to Houghton (Water Lane alongside the river) will undergo engineering works by DC Highways to repair & support the road. Engineers have visited the site but it has not yet been confirmed the scale of the works that are planned to take place.

12. Correspondence: All correspondence had been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. There are plans for the closure of Clenston Road (Echelon) to enable BT to complete some works on the 3rd - 5th March 2020.

13. Items for the next agenda: Grass Cutting contract

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm. **Next meeting - Date: Monday 30th March 2020 @ 7.30pm Venue:**
Pamela Hambro Village Hall Signed.....Presiding Chairman Date.....