

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: John Sutcliffe (temporary Chairman)

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 27th July 2020**

Please note - This meeting was held via 'Zoom' due to the Coronavirus crisis

Present: Cllrs J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman), C Williams, P Harlock, B Drammis, J Tebb & C Mc Cormick **Apologies:** Cllr K Hickson **In attendance:** Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby, Sam Smith (Clerk) & no members of the public.

- 1. Welcome & apologies:** The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. David Godden has now resigned from the PC and moved away from the village. A small gathering was held recently on the Village Green to thank him for all his past hard work and dedication to the role of Chairman of WSPC.
- 2. Unitary Councillor's report:** Andrew Kerby attended the meeting but had no news to report.
- 3. PC Officer's report:** Nothing to report.
- 4. Democratic period:** Nothing raised.
- 5. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 6. Planning applications/decisions/updates: 2/2020/0775/OUT - land north of Quarleston Farm, Clenston Road, develop land by the erection of 5 dwellings** after a lengthy discussion the WSPC decided to object to this application for the following reasons - The open land south and west of the village green and school buildings, including the meadows adjacent to the Winterborne, makes an important contribution to the setting of the village and to its overall character. The proposed development is outside the settlement boundary. The Proposed development is inside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The proposed development would be against the views expressed in the Village Design Statement and Village plan. Both documents refer to the nestling nature of the village, the importance and special quality of the surrounding hills and the water meadows. The proposal goes against The Local Plan in that the proposed development is outside of the defined settlement boundaries and should only occur if an overriding need is demonstrated for a countryside location. No overriding need has been demonstrated for a development in this location. That said, the village is in discussions for development to meet local and national needs on brownfield sites in a more appropriate site within the village boundary. The proposal is not supported by the National Planning Policy Framework on several counts. The proposed development sits on an active flood plain. The information provided by the applicant is inaccurate and underplays the risk. Evidence can be provided. Clenston Road is a busy, narrow road and access to/egress from the proposed development will introduce significant risk. Evidence can be provided. The presence of an existing exit/entrance on the West side of the road is historic and linked to farm buildings that have been developed.

This is not precedence but an unfortunate historic decision that should not be repeated. The view of this Parish was unanimous in its objection. **2/2020/0314/OUT - Tranquility, Water Lane demolish existing 2 dwellings & replace with 5 dwellings & new access** Cllrs Sutcliffe & McCormick met at the site earlier in the month, along with the developer and his team to discuss their plans for the site. Cllr Westby from WHPC also attended the site visit. It was suggested by all that 2 buildings (3 total dwellings) might be a satisfactory compromise for the development of the site. The application has since been withdrawn by the applicant at DC planning and it is assumed that a new amended application will be submitted soon.

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

- S Smith **£426.30** (Clerks salary July 2020 & expenses)
- R S Smith **£100.00** (grass cutting for July 2020)

It was decided that another Cllr should be approved as a PC cheque signatory due to the departure of Cllr Godden, this will have to wait until a time when the banks are more accessible. In the meantime all Cllrs agreed to email the Clerk to say if they are willing to be a signatory.

7.1 PC annual audit 2019/20: The internal audit of the PCs financial accounts has recently been completed by our internal auditor and Cllr Drammis has looked over them on behalf of WSPC. The following sections of the Annual Return were agreed and signed by Cllr Sutcliffe (virtually) & The Clerk - Approval of the Annual Governance statement 2019/20 section 1 - signed by the Chairman & the Clerk. Approval of the Accounting Statements 2019/20 section 2 - signed by the Chairman & the Clerk. Approval of the Certificate of Exemption - signed by the Chairman & The Clerk. The Clerk will now forward the Exemption Certificate to PFK Littlejohn LLP & publish the documents on the PC website. It was agreed to purchase a thank you gift for the internal auditor (see Clerks expenses for July 2020)

8. Matters arising -

8.1 Future PC Chairman: A new Chairman is required for WSPC, all Cllrs agreed to think about whether they would be willing to fill the role. Due to Cllr Godden's resignation there is currently also 1 vacancy on the PC for a Cllr. The Clerk agreed to advertise the vacancy on the village FB page.

8.2 Play Park: The Clerk agreed to re arrange the play park inspection that was put on hold due to Coronavirus. Cllr Williams agreed to go and look at the current situation at the play park and report back to The Clerk. It was agreed to keep the play park shut until it is officially re opened by the PC. The play park will need to be re taped and new signage made up, Cllr Drammis agreed to laminate the signs. Cllr Harlock has red and white tape & 3 signs are needed stating that - the PC is working towards it re opening, use at your own risk & that a safety inspection is pending.

8.3 Downfield track: WSPC owns the land at back of Downfield, the track needs to be cut back to enable trucks to access septic tank at the top. The Clerk will ask our village grass contractor for a quote for the work. The PC is not responsible or liable for the track maintenance only the land/foliage that encroaches on to it.

8.4 Grass Cutting: The grass contractors 3 month trial has ended, all agreed that he is doing an excellent job & that he should be awarded the full 3 yr contract. A resident had written to The Clerk with regards to grass cuttings & stream debris being left on the pump house land at the Village Green. The Clerk will ask the grass contractor if he would be good enough to dispose of the debris that was left previous to him taking over the contract.

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8.5 Stream on the Green: On the previous Saturday a group of volunteers from the village cleared the section of the stream running through the village green. This work was not organised or over seen by the WSPC. The weed & plants have now been removed from the stream.

8.6 Solar Fund: A meeting of the Solar Fund Committee was held on the 15th July 2020, 3 applications for funding were discussed. One of these applications was from the WS Croquet Club for preventative fencing and repair of lawn damage, due to rabbits. £750 was granted. It was also agreed to purchase some water retaining pellets for planters on Blandford road triangle.

9. Correspondence: All correspondence had been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Cllr Williams has the returned defibrillator at her house along with the replacement pads. The footpath bridge next to Mulberry House has been repaired by Dorset Countryside.

10. Items for the next agenda:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Next meeting - Date: Monday 24th August 2020 @ 7.30pm Venue: via Zoom

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