

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: Caroline Williams (temporary Chair for this meeting)

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 28th September 2020

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

Present: Cllrs C Williams (Chair) P Harlock, Simon Jubb, B Drammis & C Mc Cormick (part) **Apologies:** Cllr K Hickson **In attendance:** Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby, Sam Smith (Clerk) & 1 member of the public. Gary Critchell, Jo Stephen & Emily Peachey.

- Welcome & apologies:** Cllr Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Hicksons position on the PC would be held open as she has in the past been unable to attend meetings via Zoom. Cllr Hickson will join Cllr Harlock at his house to attend the October PC meeting via Zoom.
- The co option of 3 new PC Cllrs:** Gary Critchell, Jo Stephen & Emily Peachey were all co opted on to the Parish Council as Cllrs. The PC is now at full capacity with no outstanding Cllr vacancies left to fill.
- Chairman & Vice Chairman vacancies:** Cllr McCormick agreed to Chair the next PC meeting in November. The position of Chair will be a 'rolling one' for the next few months. Hopefully in time, someone will feel ready to take on the responsibility permanently.
- Division of Cllr responsibilities:** It was agreed to divide the PC/village tasks out amongst Cllrs to ensure that the work load is divided equally and to ease the burden on the future Chairman. Responsibilities were agreed as follows -
 - Play park & bike park** - Phil (maintenance) Jo & Emily
 - WSSCC (Sports Club)** - Chris
 - PC website** - Simon
 - SID - speed device** - Brian
 - Defibrillator** - Caroline
 - Police/crime report** - Brian
 - PC bank signatories** - Caroline, Simon, Brian
 - Accounts, finance, budget** - Brian & Simon
 - Planning** - Jo
 - Village grass cutting, etc** - Caroline & Gary
 - PR Valley News** - Simon
 - Highways, footpaths, bridleways etc** - Chris
 - Solar Fund** - Jo
 - War memorial** - Simon & Gary
 - Burial ground** - Phil
 - Stream/river & flooding** - Emily, Jo & CarolineThe Clerk is still the main point of contact for all residents issues & queries.
- Unitary Councillor's report:** Andrew Kerby gave a brief explanation of his role to the new PC Cllrs. Cllr Kerby reported that the Blandford Recycling Centre 'The Tip' will be closed from the 30th September - 9th October 2020 for cleaning, maintenance & some improvements to take place. Other 'tips' are still open. The DC planning website is undergoing a software change so the site is 'down' at the moment. The site should be much improved & user friendly when the work is finished. The demand for support due to Covid has been noted at DC especially amongst young families struggling financial & mentally. The Citizens Advice Bureau is being used as a gateway to help. Dorset Council held its first full meeting of the Council on the 3rd September. DC Staff are not likely to be back working at the Dorchester offices before March 2021.
- PC Officer's report:** The SID will be returning to Stickland at the end of September. It will be situated at the Blandford Road site first.
- Democratic period:** Nothing raised.

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8. **Declarations of Interest:** None
9. **Planning applications/decisions/updates: Tranquility, Water Lane 2/2020/1082/FUL - demolish existing & erect 2 dwellings** - all Cllrs agreed that the site should be developed. The plans have been amended by the developer from the ones initially submitted, taking on board residents & WS & WH PCs view/suggestions. It was voiced that the new plans still might not be perfect with too much glass at the front of the properties, possible light pollution, the site levels, earth works, flooding risks, ground water & roof height (pitched not flat) were all issues raised. It was agreed that the PC would submit a neutral comment to planning with regards to the application stating the PCs points of concern. **The Old Farmhouse, Chalky Path 2/2020/1140/HOUSE - erection of a detached garage (amendment to previous application approved under 2/2017/1243/FUL)** - It was agreed to request an extension from DC planning on the comment date as the planning website is 'down' currently and Cllrs had not been able to view the plans prior to the meeting.

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

S Smith **£541.21** (Clerks salary September 2020 & expenses)
R S Smith **£85.00** (grass cutting for September 2020)

On the 26th August 2020 the Clerk was awarded a pay rise from NJC and notified by DAPTC that the rise should be back dated to 1/4/2020. It was agreed to award the Clerk this pay rise. Due to the recent Cllr resignations new PC cheque signatories will need to be cleared with the bank and added to the PC bank account. The Clerk will contact the bank to arrange adding the 3 Cllrs agreed in item 4 on this agenda.

11. **Matters arising -**

11.1 War memorial: Cllr Jubb is very keen to manage a refurbishment of the village War Memorial. Cllr Critchell would also like to assist him with this matter. The memorial is listed so required permissions will need to be sought. A village resident has also volunteered to help and has spoken with Cllr Jubb about this. The green & blue books need to be located hopefully they will contain an old photo of the memorial for reference. Cllr Stephen informed the PC that she has copies of these books. It was mentioned that the war memorial only listed casualties from WW1 & WW2. It was agreed that parishioners who had died in other conflicts should be included. Cllr Jubb will look into this matter. It was agreed that Cllr Jubb could move this matter forward and update the PC at the November meeting with progress and the estimated costs involved etc.

11.2 The stream/river: Due to the recent resignation of Richard Marchant from the River Management Group, Cllr Dramis has started to arrange the autumn clearance of the stream (Water Lane) from the Fish Farm to West Street. Tim Martin has agreed to cut back the hedges & DWP will provide bins to remove weed waste. It was agreed that this work needs to take place to alleviate flooding in the winter. The clearance day should be advertised on the village FB giving residents the chance to volunteer. The Covid rule of 6 will need to be adhered to with people working in small groups. The Clerk agreed to contact the Environment Agency and clarify the permit issue and stress that this work would be vital to prevent winter flooding. Saturday 17th October was agreed as the clearance day.

12. **Correspondence:** All correspondence had been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. The Clerk had received an email from a volunteer wishing to help with the stream management. The Clerk will follow this up. The play equipment inspection is still pending, the Clerk has chased this matter. At the burial ground some ground work is taking place. A resident has planning permission for a new house to be built. Currently hedges and trees are being removed to clear the site. The PC has agreed that some extra trees at the burial ground can be removed, opening up the burial area and improving the space. Top soil from the dugout section will be spread over the area at the far end of the burial ground, enlarging the area and providing more room for the future.

13. **Items for the next agenda:** PC budget 2021/22

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.34pm. Next meeting 26th October 2020.