

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 March 2020

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

Present: Cllrs D Godden (Chairman) J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman), J Tebb, C Williams

P Harlock & B Drammis **Apologies:** Cllr K Hickson & Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby

In attendance: Sam Smith (Clerk) & no members of the public.

1. Matters arising:

1.1 Powers of delegation: After a discussion, all Cllrs agreed to add the following to the W Stickland Parish Councils Standing Orders -

This policy applies to Parish Councillors and the Clerk. While the Parish Council creates, implements, monitors and reviews this policy, the Clerk is also responsible for implementing its requirements. Records Minutes of decisions will be retained in line with the Data Retention Policy. The Parish Council agrees to arrangements being established to deal with any urgent business arising between formal meetings where they: -

- Could not be held due to suspension of public meetings due to Covid-19
- Arise out of request for further information
- Are time sensitive
- Are outside the general or specific authority delegated to the Clerk

Any decision will require at least three members to be consulted, one of whom must be the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Decisions that may be taken outside of Parish Council Meetings will not require a deviation from policy, decisions taken by the Parish Council and should not place any aspect of the Parish Council at considerable risk. The Clerk will firstly discuss the matter with the Chairman or Vice Chairman. The Chairman or Vice Chairman will make contact with a minimum of two other Parish Councillors. The Clerk shall only inform the Parish Council of the outcome once the Chairman or Vice Chairman has relayed the outcome of their deliberations to the members, with a majority decision being acceptable of two members. The Chairman may decide to call an Extraordinary Meeting if required to make a decision. Any decision taken must be reported to the Parish Council at their next public meeting and the decision formally ratified.

1.2 Solar fund: The Solar Fund Committee had recently met to discuss to 2 applications received requesting funding. Both these applications were from churches, St Marys in Stickland & St Nicholas in Clenston. Both these applications were requesting funding for repairs/electrics, it was felt by Cllrs that due to Covid 19 these were not urgent immediate requests, the churches are closed at present and workman would be in short supply to complete the works at this time. It was agreed to put these 2 applications on hold. Using some of the Solar Fund monies for sections of the community affected by Covid 19 was raised. Funds cannot be given to individuals, but it was suggested that some funds could be used for community projects, food bank etc. It was agreed that this year's payment from BSR £9,782.46 should be set aside for this purpose as a reserve, should the need arise.

11.3 Grass cutting contract: The Clerk had received a number of quotes for the work and had emailed the details to Cllrs for review prior to the meeting. A contractor for the 3 year contract to start on the 1st May 2020 was agreed. The Clerk agreed to contact our current contractor to inform him of the outcome.

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1.4 Play park: The Stickland Play Park has been closed to the public as advised by the Government adhering to current Covid 19 isolation guidelines. Cllr Harlock has taped off the area & play equipment. The Clerk will produce some closed posters for the equipment, informing residents to stay away from the park. The annual safety inspection of the play park is due this month and this will be placed on hold until a time when the play park is re opened.

1.5 Erosion of the bank opposite the village hall: the erosion of the bank is an issue for Dorset Council Highways to deal with. DC Highways are only attending to emergencies at present as they have been seconded to complete other jobs in the community, delivering medicine etc. The issue of the breached bank in front of Rusholme was raised. Cllr Godden stated that the River Group would like to leave it breached for a little longer until the water level has dropped further at the bore hole at Delcombe Wood. We are waiting for Highways to repair the long stretch of Water Lane, the verge where a DWP truck went into the river & the bank opposite the village hall, the Clerk will contact Highways/Andrew Kerby to remind them that these tasks are outstanding but no further action is likely be taken by Highways until the Covid 19 crisis is over.

1.6 Co option of a 8th Cllr: All Cllrs agreed to co opt Chris Mc Cormick on to the WSPC.

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

S Smith **£370.53** (Clerks salary March 2020 & expenses)

C Lovell **£100.00** (grass cutting for March 2020)

£305.00 has been received from Colin J Close Funeral Service for a recent burial at the PC burial ground.

The Clerk agreed to contract HSBC with regards to WSPC signing up for internet banking. In the meantime cheques will still need to be signed, it was agreed that the Clerk will write the cheques & leave on a Cllrs doorstep to be signed, with the cheque book then being passed to another Cllr for signing, and then returned to the clerk for action.

3. Correspondence: All correspondence had been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting.

A resident had contacted the Parish Council with regards to removing/trimming some hedges and trees alongside the PC burial ground boundary. Cllrs Godden & Harlock had both visited the site and confirmed that they could see no issue with the works proposed but Cllr Drammis will also visit the site. A resident has informed the Parish Council that he has lodged a complaint with the Local Government Ombudsman against the PC, this is with regards to a long term dispute regarding a planning application.

4. Any other business: It was agreed to leave the SID in Milton Abbas for the time being, due to Covid 19 the traffic on the roads has significantly decreased and this will be the case for the foreseeable future. It was agreed that What'sApp is not sufficient to enable a virtual PC meeting to be held, especially with an 8th Cllr now co opted. It was suggested that 'Zoom' maybe used at a cost to the PC of £11.99 a month to enable a meeting of longer than 40 mins. A trial run 'Zoom' meeting was suggested for Monday 6th April to test its suitability.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Next meeting - Date: Monday 27th April 2020 @ 7.30pm Venue: TBC - maybe via 'Zoom'

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