

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Simon Jubb (Chairman)

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

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MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd of August 2021

Present: Cllrs C Mc Cormick (Vice Chairman), E Peachey & C Williams

Apologies: PC Cllrs S Jubb (Chairman) K Hickson, P Harlock & Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby

In attendance: Sam Smith (Clerk) & 8 members of the public

- Welcome & apologies:** Cllr C Mc Cormick chaired the meeting in Cllr Jubbs absence.
- Approval of the minutes of the PC meeting held on the 26th of July 2021:** The minutes of the meeting were approved & signed by The Vice Chairman.
- Unitary Councillors report:** Cllr Andrew Kerby did not attend the meeting or send a report in advance.
- Democratic period:** 2 residents from the village triangle area attended the meeting. They distributed to Cllrs a handout that they had compiled detailing an idea for the drainage pipe at the village green. They expressed their concerns about flooding in the village. The removal of the built-up silt/grit in the stream was discussed. Removing some established weed clumps in the stream (by the drain exit) was suggested as a priority too. By removing the clumps & build-up of silt hopefully the risk of flash flooding could be lessened. The culvert at the bottom of chalky path also needs some clearance work. The River Management Group needs to be reformed and members of the public suggested that funds from the Solar Fund could go towards this. Do we need to start thinking about paying someone to manage the river? The PC suggested that a village meeting to solely discuss the stream could be a start, with attendance from DC Highways and the Environment Agency. Poor village communication was raised, not everyone has Facebook, and it also seems to have recently become a platform for abuse. The PC stated that village communication was something that they are currently working on, how can this be improved? The Solar Fund Committee have recently met, and they would like to award 2 grants. In doing so this would take the grants allocated for 2021/22 over the amount of income received into the Solar Fund account in the same period. It was agreed by the PC that the 2 grants could go ahead as the Solar Fund has a reserve balance of funds in the account to cover such a situation.
- Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Williams is a neighbour to the planning application discussed below.
- Planning applications/decisions/updates: P/HOU/2021/01769 The Hollow, Chalky Path, DT11 0NS – erect single storey extension.** A PC planning subcommittee has been formed to assist the PC with gathering background information & the initial assessment of village planning applications. This committee is in its infancy stages and is a work in progress. The final decision on the planning comments submitted to Dorset Council will always be that of the PC, not the subcommittee, their views are to be guidance only. A resident raised his objection to the application, and he has submitted his thoughts to Dorset Council. It was agreed that the PC had no objections to the proposal of a single storey extension at The Hollow.
- Financial Report: Cheques for payment were agreed as follows:**

S Smith £413.55	(Clerks wages & expenses for August 2021)
R Smith £85.00	(grass cutting August 2021) paid by standing order
Felstead £100	(war memorial wall materials, bricks etc)
Custom Tree Care Ltd £300	(tree stump removal at the war memorial)
DAPTC £30.00	(Code of Conduct training)
S Jubb £73.98	(replacement fence at the war memorial)

The balance in main PC account is currently **£17,589.59**.

Play Park savings account **£1,030.40**

Solar Fund account **£62,873.83**

232/Minutes 2021

8. Matters arising:

8.1 Play Park: The installation of the new play park equipment had a provisional start date of 6th September 2021, but this has been pushed back to the 20th as there are now some timber supply issues. The Clerk will post an update on Facebook to keep residents informed. A working party will still be needed to clean up the site & the existing equipment before the 20th. Cllr Williams has taken over the funding grant application due the absence of Cllr Andrew Kerby.

8.2 River/stream: The River Management plan still stands but the group currently has no active members. The stream was successfully cleared at the village green section by a volunteer group on the 31st of July 2021. They have done a fantastic job with the village green now looking so much tidier. A resident had highlighted to the PC that following the clearance work roots from a toxic plant had been found on the stream bank, these have now been removed and burnt. The same resident had also contacted the Environment Agency for further advice as there are still some of these plants left growing in the riverbank. The Environment Agency has suggested that the rest of the plants should be removed. The PC stated that it was hesitant to ask volunteers to clear a toxic plant. The Clerk agreed in the 1st instance to ask the Environment Agency for support with clearing the plant or at least supervising its removal. Cllr Peachey raised the issue of the autumn stream clearance along Water Lane, when would this take place? Clearing the Clenston road section was also discussed.

8.3 Village green: It was suggested that a small fence could be erected around the pump house with some new plants (maybe a wild grass area) put in front of it. The Clerk agreed to contact the owner of the pump house in the 1st instance to see if she was in agreement with this idea.

8.4 War memorial: The area is now looking great, a big thank you was said to John Felstead who repaired the flint wall in his own time. The memorial needs to be assessed to enable the PC to access a grant for refurbishment from the War Memorial Trust. The grant will fund restoring the memorial, polishing the stone and re lead the names etc. Cllr Jubb had obtained a quote from a company who would complete the survey in return for a donation to Help the Heroes. The Clerk has checked, and it has been confirmed by DAPTC that this arrangement would not be good business practice. The large tree stumps have now been removed. Total costs spent so far have reached the £500 which the PC had budgeted previously for the wall. A new figure will need to be agreed and any further spend will be drawn from the PC capital held currently. Hopefully new benches can be funded from the Solar Fund.

8.5 Lime tree at triangle: A resident had expressed concern at the overgrown lime on the triangle, several large suckers are growing from bottom. The tree has been pruned quite hard in the past couple of years and it was thought that DC would not be in a rush to come out again. A PC Cllr had looked at the tree on behalf of the PC. It was decided that the tree is ok for the moment and maybe in the future our grass contractor could be asked to prune it.

9. Correspondence: The memorial bench planned for the village green has been ordered, this will be generously donated by the relative of a previous Stickland resident. The bench will be engraved and currently has a 20-week time lead time. The failed road repairs at Water Lane have been reported to DC Highways numerous times by the Clerk & residents.

10. Items for the next agenda: Play park, village communications, sports club, river/stream, co-option of a Cllr.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm. Next meeting 27th September @ 7.30pm 2021
Venue – Pamela Hambro Hall

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