

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 26th of July 2021

Present: Cllrs S Jubb (Chairman) K Hickson, E Peachey & P Harlock

Apologies: PC Cllrs C Mc Cormick (Vice Chairman) & C Williams, Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby

In attendance: Sam Smith (Clerk) & 3 members of the public

- Welcome & apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Approval of the minutes of the PC meeting held on the 28th of June 2021:** The minutes of the meeting were approved & signed by The Chairman.
- Co-option of a PC Councillor:** There are currently 3 Cllr vacancies on the PC. A resident has come forward to potentially fill one space. The Clerk will post the vacancies again on Facebook. Operating on reduced Cllrs slows down project progress and can make forming a quorum problematic for meetings.
- Unitary Councillors report:** Cllr Andrew Kerby did not attend the meeting or send a report in advance.
- Democratic period:** A resident attended the meeting to update the Parish Council with several planning issues at Chalky Path. Dorset Council Planning have confirmed that prior approval (planning permission) should have been sought before boundary fences were erected at the Old Malthouse. The owner is in contact with the planning department as to the next required actions.
- Declarations of Interest:** None.
- Planning applications/decisions/updates: P/VOC/2021/01276 – The Old Farmhouse, Chalky Path, DT11 0NS –** erect 1 dwelling, amendment to previous plans – this application has now been withdrawn.
Churchill Court – Sovereign Housing have spoken to all the current residents. They are to be re housed over the next 12 months and compensated for the upheaval. A pre planning application has been submitted to DC by Sovereign, the PC has not seen this application as it is at the pre planning stage only. The application will seek permission to demolish the existing building & replace it with affordable housing for families. At a later stage in the process the PC will invite a Sovereign representative to a PC meeting to present their plans for the site, this will enable residents to attend and ask questions. **Tranquility –** several complaints have been received from Houghton residents with regards to the condition of the road outside the site, large lorries blocking the road, size of properties, safety etc. The Clerk has contacted DC Enforcement and requested a site visit. Plans for a PC planning subcommittee are moving forward, currently we have 3 volunteers. PC Cllrs will still have the final say with regards to the PC supporting or objecting to an application, but all applications will be studied by the subcommittee initially. Each application will be looked at by the PC and the subcommittee, hopefully giving a more all-round opinion and representing the villages future needs for housing/redevelopment.
- Financial Report: Cheques for payment were agreed as follows:**
 - **S Smith £413.55** (Clerks wages & expenses for July 2021)
 - **R Smith £85.00** (grass cutting July 2021)
 - **Home Front £14,565.00** (50% deposit, new play park equipment)

The Clerk has transferred £8,000 from the play park savings account & £7,000 from the Solar Fund account into the main PC account, this is to cover the Play Park cheque. It was agreed that a SO will be set up for 85.00 to automatically pay the grass cutting every month. The Clerk will contact the contractor and request that the Orchard is cut. The balance in main PC account is currently **£18,066.69**.

230/Minutes 2021

9. Matters arising:

9.1 Play Park: The installation of the new equipment has a provisional start date of 6th September 2021. The Clerk will post an update on Facebook mid-August to keep residents informed.

A working party will be needed to clean up the site & existing equipment, the provisional date set for this is 4/5th of September. The FB post will also make a plea for volunteers to help with the clean-up.

Progress of the PC application for a funding grant was questioned as the Clerk has been unable to contact Andrew Kerby. Pending the PC receiving confirmation of its successful application for a funding grant from an external source the SF has agreed to cover the balance of funds needed. When the grant is received the monies will be paid back to the SF account. The Clerk has sought confirmation of the VAT situation via DAPTCs financial advisors, it been confirmed that the PC can recover all the VAT in relation to the equipment. Picnic benches also need to be purchased, but these might have to wait until spring next year to allow the PC to budget for these.

9.2 River/stream: Cllr Jubb met with Richard Marchant on the 5th of July to discuss the way forward for the river/stream. The River Management plan still stands but the group currently has no active members. Cllr Jubb has also met with a resident who has requested permission to clear the stream at the Village Green. The PC has put in writing that they have agreed for the stream at the Village Green to be cleared to avoid any village confusion over possible unauthorized work. The provisional date for the clearance of the stream at the village green is 31st July 2021. Weed waste disposal will need to be arranged.

9.3 War memorial: The large bushes have now been removed and this has left some large stumps. The Clerk has obtained a quote for £300 inc VAT to remove these as it has become obvious that the correct machinery is needed for the job. All Cllrs agreed for the contractor to be given the go ahead and remove the stumps. Cllr Jubb has obtained another quote for an assessment of the war memorial itself, the cost being £600 approx (time, mileage etc approx. costs) 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. We will need to purchase some bricks for the flint wall, some concrete posts and chain. To date costs are still under £500 which the PC had budgeted previously for the wall. The PC has also previously agreed that any further spend will be drawn from capital held currently. Hopefully new benches can be funded from the Solar Fund. The damaged sections of the flint wall are currently being repaired. The waste bin will be re located & the grass restored.

9.4 Adopt new DC Code of Conduct: DAPTC training has been completed by 3 Cllrs and it was agreed to adopt the DC recommended Code of Conduct. It was agreed that all the current WSPC policies should be reviewed and updated - Standing Orders, Financial Regulations etc. The Clerk will forward these in turn to the Chairman for review, with amended policies being adopted at future PC meetings.

10. Correspondence: A memorial bench is planned for the Village Green; this will be generously donated by the relative of previous Stickland resident. A resident has again raised the issue of the newly planted willow trees, Cllr Harlock will check that they have been removed adequately.

11. Items for the next agenda: Play Park

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm. Next meeting 23rd August @ 7.30pm 2021
Venue – Pamela Hambro Hall

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