

Winterborne Stickland Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Simon Jubb (Chairman)

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

Email: wsticklandpc@gmail.com **Website:** winterbornestickland.org.uk

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 29th of March 2021

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

Present: Cllrs S Jubb (Chairman) C Mc Cormick (Vice Chairman) P Harlock, C Williams, E Peachey & K Hickson **Apologies:** None **In attendance:** Unitary Cllr Andrew Kerby, Sam Smith (Clerk) & 2 members of the public.

- Welcome & apologies:** Cllr Simon Jubb welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Cllr resignations & current PC Cllr vacancies:** Jo Stephen & Gary Critchell have recently resigned as Cllrs from the PC. The Clerk will contact Dorset Council Democratic Services and advertise the 2 vacancies as legally required. It was also agreed to post a notice of the vacancies on the village FB page. Any resident expressing an interest in joining the PC as a Cllr should email the Clerk in the first instance. At present there are 3 vacancies in total.
- Unitary Councillor's report:** Cllr Andrew Kerby reported as follows – the planning page on the 'Dorset 4 You' website has now been fully amalgamated to include all the former District Councils records. The consultation period of the latest draft copy of the 'Dorset Local Plan' has reached its closing deadline for public comments. A large number of comments, many controversial, have been received. The results will need to be collated and a final 2nd draft copy put out again for consultation. The final copy will then go before the Planning Inspectorate for agreement. The River Stour has been sprayed this year to hopefully suppress the Blandford Fly.
- PC Officer report:** It was decided to drop this item from future agendas, news of crime normally travels faster than our monthly PC meetings. It was agreed that social media is a more efficient means of alerting residents to village crime.
- Democratic period:** Nothing raised
- Declarations of Interest:** None
- Planning applications/decisions/updates: P/HOU/2020/00483 Hillview Bungalow, Clenston Road DT11 ONP – erect single storey extensions.** Install dormer window to front elevation & extend existing rear dormer. The proposed plans were shared on screen during the Zoom meeting. After discussion, all Cllrs agreed that they had no objects to this application,
- Financial report: Cheques for payment were agreed as follows:**

S Smith £434.70	Clerks wages & expenses for March 2021
R Smith £85.00	Grass cutting for March 2021
Pamela Hambro Hall £122.50	Post Office room hire 6 months up until March 21

It was agreed to go ahead and sign the PC up for internet banking, the Clerk will circulate the bank forms to Cllrs, 2 signatures will be needed.
The Clerk gave a report on the current balances in the PC bank accounts as follows -
Play park account **£8,030.20**
Main account **£16,763.41**
Solar Fund **£69,903.31**
- Matters arising -**
 - 9.1 Solar Fund update:** A meeting of the Solar Fund Committee was held on 5th March 2021. Two applications for possible funding were discussed. It was agreed that a grant of £9,000 should be awarded for improvements at the Play Park. The other application from WSSCC is on hold until more quotes and information has been obtained to allow an informed decision on funding to be made.

219/Minutes 2021

9.2 Play park: Cllr Williams has obtained 3 quotes with regards to improvements at the play park, these were circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Along with the £9,000 from the Solar Fund, the Parish Council has approx £9,000 of its own funds to contribute to the project. Projected total expenditure at the play park is in the region of £25,000 and it is hoped that the shortfall can be made up with matched funding. Cllr Andrew Kerby agreed to help Cllr Williams to obtain the extra funds. It was agreed that a site visit should take place later in the week to measure up the footprint of the proposed new equipment and agree its positioning. It was agreed that the bike track should be dismantled with the wooden fencing being removed. The Clerk will check with Dorset Council planning to confirm that there are no planning implications, and the Clerk will also contact the PC's insurance company to inform them of progress and enquire as to whether our premium will need to be amended.

9.3 Downfield track: The Clerk has received a call from the company that empties the septic tank at Downfield. They have reported that the track is overgrown again and impeding access for the lorries that empty the tank. Cllr Harlock had visited the site and reported back that the track and foliage did not appear to be an issue at present. It was agreed that the track itself is not the responsibility of the PC, only the surrounding land/foliage. The Clerk has since been contacted again by the service company and they have agreed that they will clean the track themselves and widen the corner to make access easier for the trucks, at no cost to the PC.

9.4 The stream/river: Cllr Jubb has been monitoring the ground water levels at the bore hole at Delcombe, the levels are dropping rapidly. Cllr Jubb has also spoken to some of the current flood wardens, who are still willing to carry out their role. The current village River Management Plan needs to be re-activated with a flood plan put in place. Cllr Harlock has been to Hedge End Farm and the sand & bags are still stored there. New volunteers from the village will need to be sought. The Clerk agreed to write to Hedge End Farm to thank them for their help with the storage of the bags, sand & signs etc. Several small, young willows have been planted along the riverbank opposite the Pamela Hambro Hall. None of the residents facing the willows have asked for them to be removed. Concern was raised by PC Cllrs over future maintenance, possible damage to the riverbank, riverbed and road. Trees were planted here before & eventually they were asked to be removed by the Environment Agency. It was agreed that although the willows cause concern it was not within the PC's remit to ask for them to be removed.

9.5 Water Lane roadworks: Water Lane will be closed to traffic on the 7th of June – 11th 2021 to enable works to take place, strengthening the road and rebuilding the riverbank. Eventually the whole stretch of Water Lane will be repaired, but the work is being completed in stages. Traffic will be diverted up the Hollow in Houghton by the phone box and around Turnworth. Andrew Kerby will chase DC Highways for a more detailed explanation of the works planned.

9.6 Dog waste: An increase in dog waste in the village and throughout all of Dorset has been noticed. This is mainly due to Covid & lockdown as the area has seen an increase in dog walkers and outsiders visiting the village for exercise. The Dorset Council Dog Warden is aware of the problem in the village. Cllr Andrew Kerby agreed to locate some more dog signs for the village. The dog waste bin situated towards Clenston has been closed and the bin not emptied. Cllr Harlock has chased this up with Dorset Council and requested the bin is emptied asap.

10. Correspondence: All correspondence had been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Simon Hoare our MP is hosting a round table catch up session on 15th April via Zoom – Cllr Jubb agreed to attend on behalf of the PC. The Clerk has been contacted with regards to a burial plot reservation, a deposit of £305.00 will be requested to reserve the space. Ground works are nearly finished at the PC graveyard. The newly cleared area will be sown with grass seed and this improved area will create more space and potential plots. The PC tree guard is still waiting to be taken to Cllr Harlock's house for repair and storage. Cllr Jubb will attend the 'Dorset in the Summer' briefing via Zoom on the 31st of March 2021.

11. Items for the next agenda: Play park, War memorial

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32pm. Next meeting 26th April @ 7.30pm 2021.