

## 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 20th February 2017.

**Present:** Councillors D Godden (Chairman), J Sutcliffe (Vice Chairman), J Tebb, V Manners & K Hickson **Apologies:** Cllr & K Cowan **In attendance:** District Cllr A Burch, Sam Smith (Clerk) & 2 members of the community.

**1. Welcome & Apologies:** Cllr D Godden welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr Audrey Burch reported that on Tuesday 21st February 2017 the last meeting of the full Council will be held at NDDC, Norden. In the interim period future meetings will be held in Durweston Village Hall. Cllr Burch spoke of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign which is to be held on the 3-5th March 2017, this led onto a discussion about fly tipping and the new charges for dumping certain waste materials at the Blandford Recycling Centre. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Dorset Waste Partnership/DCC and express the PCs concerns with regards to the rise in fly tipping recently in our area.

**3. PC Officer's Report:** Cllr Manners reported that we will soon have a dedicated rural Police Team for our area mostly made up of PCOS with a Sergeant. They will concentrate on combating rural crime.

**4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meetings held on the 28th November 2016 & 23rd January 2017 were agreed and signed by Cllr Godden.

**5. Clerk's update/actions:** It was agreed that the Clerk could purchase a portable hard drive to back up the files on the PC laptop. A spend of up to £55.00 was agreed for this. It was agreed that for future PC meetings the democratic period would be moved to the top half of the agenda. In this way residents can have their say, but not necessarily need to stay for the whole duration of the meeting. The war memorial bench is still waiting to be installed at the war memorial site. The Clerk agreed to purchase some ground fixings for the bench at the burial ground, Nick Young who attended the meeting, agreed to then fix the fittings to the bench.

**6. Declarations of Interest:** None

**7. Planning applications received for review:** **2/2017/0192/HOUSE Spindrift West Street Winterborne Stickland DT11 0NT** - replace 2 white UPVC windows with UPVC bow windows - no objections, agreed by all Cllrs **2/2017/0280/CATREE 1 West Street, Winterborne Stickland Dorset DT11 0NT** - fell Pine tree **2/2017/0265/CATREE 3 West Street, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0NT** - fell 3 trees to create a grassed area. **2/2017/0187/CATREE The Linchet, West Street, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0NT** - fell 2 trees & replace 1. The issue of supporting the pruning of trees, unless the trees are unsafe, and in which case replacements should be planted was discussed but it was agreed by the majority of Cllrs to support these proposed tree applications. **2/2017/0312/CATREE Hustings Cottage, North Street Winterborne Stickland DT11 0NL** – approved for pruning

**8. Planning applications - decision notices:** None

**9. Matters Arising:**

**9.1: Additional parish councillors:** The 2 'Notices of Vacancy' which are on the village noticeboard have now expired. Once the Clerk has had the situation confirmed from Election Services, the PC will be able to go ahead and co-opt new members on to the PC. The PC currently has 3 vacancies for Cllrs and any residents wishing to find out more should contact the

Clerk. The PC would be particularly interested in any younger member of the community who may wish to get involved.

**9.2 Sports Club rental agreement:** The Sports Club held its AGM on the 8th February 2017 and the Club is still looking for a secretary to join the committee. The Sports Club rental agreement is still in the hands of the committee and awaiting signatures on behalf of the Club. Some changes to the document have been requested by the Sports Club before signing and these need to be submitted for approval.

**9.3 Solar Fund entry to Dorset CC:** Cllr Godden had contacted BSR to confirm that the inclusion of benefit details, on the DCC web page, would not conflict with any conditions imposed by them. BSR have confirmed they have no objection to public disclosure of the solar benefit payments. Cllr Godden agreed to go ahead and complete the DCC community benefit questionnaire.

**9.4 Speed limits in Stickland:** 2 issues regarding speeding have been raised with the PC. The first is the Water Lane stretch alongside the stream to W Houghton. W Houghton PC has been working towards achieving a speed limit in W Houghton for the past 2 years. DCC have agreed that introducing a speed limit is appropriate but due to funding issues this must be paid for by the W Houghton community. WSPC has been asked by WHPC if it would like to campaign for the 30mph speed limit in West Street to be continued beyond the last houses in the village and along Water Lane to Houghton. It was agreed that the PC would not like to pursue this idea and that the 30mph limit in West Street was adequate but concerns were expressed about the limit being ignored. The second speeding issue was raised by Nick Young who lives in a bungalow past the triangle, leaving the village to Blandford. Nick has been in contact with the Police re speeding and dangerous driving of traffic on approach to the triangle from the Blandford direction. Cllr Godden requested that the Clerk contacts the Police to arrange a meeting with himself & the local Police officer to discuss this matter further. A Community Speed Watch scheme was discussed but of course volunteers would be needed to run the scheme. The Clerk agreed to contact the Milton Abbas speed watch team to see if they would be able to visit Stickland to share their knowledge and test the viability of the scheme in Stickland.

**9.5 Play Park repairs:** Following an advertisement that the PC placed in the Blackmore Vale Magazine, a number of handyman replied with a view to completing some maintenance at the Play Park. Unfortunately, after surveying the site, quotes for the work were not forthcoming and the PC is still looking for a handyman/company to complete the work. The Clerk agreed to contact a number of play park suppliers and obtain some costs for repairs or replacements, this will of course incur higher costs to the Parish Council. Refurbishing the play park with the money from the Solar Fund was discussed and a proposal to the fund will need to be made, if a community member would like to put this idea forward for consideration.

**9.6 Adoption of freedom of information policy:** DAPTC have contacted all PCs in Dorset to request them to update their FOI Policy or update an existing one if they have it. The Clerk presented a proposed FOI Policy document to Cllrs and this was accepted as the official WSPC policy. A resident has requested a copy of some PC documents being held at Blanchards & Bailey, the Clerk will contact the solicitors and enquire as to the costs involved in locating these documents.

**9.7 Adoption of river maintenance and flood plan:** Cllr Godden and the River Management Group have put together a 'River Maintenance & Flood Plan' which had been circulated to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting. It was agreed to adopt this plan and the Clerk agreed to get the plan loaded up on to the PC website. Cllr Godden will also need to complete a risk assessment for the group to enable volunteers to be covered under the PC insurance.

**9.8 Community shop & transport:** Cllr Godden had been approached by a member of the community with a view to setting up a community village shop and/or some sort of community bus transport to Blandford/Dorchester. Cllr Godden had obtained some information from the internet (Plunkett Foundation) with details of setting up community funded projects. It was felt that the

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main barrier to both these schemes would be engaging enough village volunteers to make the projects viable. Cllr Godden agreed to pass the details of the Plunkett Foundation on to the enquirer and it was agreed that a shop and transport is not something that the PC would like to pursue at this time.

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

- S Smith £246.56 (Clerks salary Feb 2017 & expenses)
- C Lovell £85.50 (grass cutting for Feb 2017)
- Valley News £96.00 (advert for 12mths, Solar Fund) - paid from Solar Fund account.

On 22nd December 2016 a further payment from BSR of £8,925.23 was made into the Solar Fund account, this brings the total in the Solar Fund account to £55,408.28. The 2017/18 PC Budget which was agreed at the January 2017 PC meeting, was signed by Cllr Godden. The Clerk has completed a VAT refund claim for the PC. Confirmation is needed from the WSSCC Treasurer that some of the receipts are from the refurbishment of the Sport Club on behalf of the PC before the claim can be sent on to HMRC.

**11. Correspondence:** received as follows - Audrey Burch will be hosting a quiz on the 3rd March 2017 in the Pamela Hambro Hall. The Capital Highway Programme 2017 has been received by the Clerk, no works are due to be completed in W Stickland in the next 12 months. An email has been received from a resident requesting that Solar Fund Committee look into the possibility of re surfacing North Street. It was agreed that the Solar Fund money is not available for completing works that are DCCs responsibility. A Winterborne Division Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21st February @ 7pm in Milton Abbas, Cllr Godden to attend. The Clerk circulated a hard copy that she had received from Dorset Highways detailing re -classification of a bridleway (no9) to a Restricted Byway in the Parish. Cllr Tebb agreed to attend Planning training at DCC on the 5th April 2017.

**12. Democratic period:** Speeding which was covered in point 9.4

**13. Items for the next agenda:**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm

**Next meeting Date:**

Monday 20th March 2017 @ **7.30pm Venue:** Pamela Hambro Village Hall, W Stickland.

Signed.....Presiding Chairman

Date.....