

EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

SPRING 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR EAST STOKE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

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Facebook: East Stoke Community

East Stoke and Wool Community Chest

Closing Date for applications is
5th November

This community fund was set up to administer money given by Good Energy who operate the Solar Installation at Woolbridge. £5000 is donated each year over a 25 year time period to be distributed to support all not for profit organisations (except with those sole political or religious purposes) based in and for the people within East Stoke, Wool, Bovington and East Burton.



Memorial Benches

In November a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on the common land off Binnegar Lane where we unveiled a memorial bench and information board commemorating the Auxiliary Units of World War 2 (Churchill's Secret Army). A second bench was installed along the bridleway further to the east and its information board was erected in February.

The benches were constructed using timber and materials salvaged from the ruins of the Operational Base in the nearby woods and erected by volunteers from the Parish. The information boards also recognise the contributions made by local businesses to the success of the project which was coordinated by the East Stoke History Group.

Village Hall Update

We completed our survey of the residents at the beginning of February and the summarised results are posted on the Parish Council Website as an appendix to the March Parish Council minutes.

We received responses from around 35% of the occupied properties and results showed the majority of people were supportive of the need for a hall for use by the Parish Council and the residents of East Stoke.

The survey was not prescriptive and invited additional comments, and we did get some interesting responses both positive and negative. To pick up on a few points raised, the fact that we haven't had a village hall for fifteen years doesn't mean we don't need one. The Parish Council has continued to function as other organisations have kindly allowed us to use their facilities on a temporary basis for monthly meetings but tenure is not guaranteed. Also, other groups identified in the survey including the East Stoke History Group do not have anywhere in the Parish to meet. In response to a suggestion of site other than as part of the Farrer development, the former hall site was not available with a long lease which is essential to any investment. The rebuild committee also actively tried to find another site within the Parish by writing to various landowners without success.

At the March Parish Council meeting the draft Heads of Terms were agreed although further discussion will be required as the legal documents are prepared. A draft floor plan for the proposed hall has been tabled for discussion. This is similar in area to the old village hall but incorporating a mezzanine type floor to provide two smaller meeting/storage rooms. A working group has engaged with the managers of other local halls to learn from their experience and best practice which can be fed into the final design.

If the planning application is approved then we will seek to involve those who expressed a willingness to serve on the management committee to progress the project. This would include the procurement of furniture and other essentials to kit out the hall.

Annual Parish Council Meeting 7pm

Thursday 6th May at Longthorns Campsite

Are you interested to know what your Parish Council has achieved over the past year?

All East Stoke residents are welcome to attend.

The evening will include updates from various village organisations.

When East Stoke last got a village hall

1921, a sum of £40 was raised to cover the cost of the purchase, dismantling, and re-erection of a hut from Worgret army camp. At that time, there were a succession of sales as the camp was slowly

reduced in size, although it remained open until 1925.

The hut very quickly became the venue for local events, one of the first being a fete (of course !) and was administered by the village club committee. It served its purpose for some 90 years until beyond repair, and so we lost our hall, and also one of the last vestiges of the former army camp.

Trash 2 Go

Over the last five years or so, my wife and I have been sporadically picking up general rubbish on Binnegar Lane. For some obscure reason, we find it very rewarding, and it has always been part of our daily walk anyway! This lane runs between Puddletown Road and the A352. It has become a bit of a “Rat Run” with two layby areas which attract a lot of discarded household items.

During this time I have reported several instances of fly tipping (fifty large tyres, various white goods, engine parts etc.), to East Stoke Parish Council, who have been very helpful in arranging the collection and disposal. Needless to say, these items are extremely detrimental to the environment the flora and fauna and the local wildlife.

Recently, two small yellow warning signs have been erected, one at each end of the lane. These signs warn that video cameras are in operation. To date, no fly tipping has occurred, but the verges are still a magnet for discarded rubbish.

A few weeks ago, I discovered a group called “LitterFree Purbeck”, which coordinates various groups in our area (Swanage Beach Buddies for example). After attending a very informative meeting with them, I decided to form a group which would concentrate on keeping the East Stoke area as rubbish free as possible

Needless to say, I had to come up with a suitably catchy name.....hence “Trash 2 Go”!

After advertising for helpers on Facebook, I have now gathered ten eager volunteers poised to pick up rubbish. So what is my cunning plan?

Firstly, arrange a meeting at the Black Dog for liquid refreshment, and to go through all the associated paperwork and safety advice. Make sure the team are armed with the right equipment, and are suitably galvanised to “Get on with it”!

Secondly, arrange a time and date, and spring into action after meeting at the war memorial by St Marys Church.

Thirdly, finish the litter picking session with tea and coffee cake at Middlefield, and take copious photographs to post on Facebook and Watts App, which will hopefully motivate others to join us.

If you would like to join the group please contact Simon @ Phoenix60@live.co.uk in the first instance.

Winfrith Update

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SHARE AND CARE



ARE YOU IN NEED OF :-

- **TRANSPORT to MEDICAL APPOINTMENT DOCTOR, HOSPITAL, DENTIST, OPTICIAN etc.**
- **PRESCRIPTIONS – delivered – weekly or occasionally when you are housebound**
- **LIGHT SHOPPING**

IF SO - CALL 07751 968944 (Leave name and number and we will call you back)

This is a volunteer service and available for residents of Bovington, Coombe Keynes, East Burton, East Knighton, East and West Lulworth, East Stoke, Winfrith, East and West Chaldon, Wool and surrounding area.

We request a donation of 45p per driver's mile to cover running costs (min. £2.00) and the service is subject to driver availability. All drivers are DBS checked. **New drivers are also very welcome – call the same number.**