

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2010**

PRESENT Cllr Rebecca Cady, Chairman
Cllr Karen Barnes, Vice Chairman
Cllr Tib Axon
Cllr Damian Cullinane
Cllr Neill Child

APOLOGIES Cllr Barry Quinn (District Councillor)

PRESENT Rod Turner, Highways Manager Dorset County Council, Les Evans, Highways Superintendent, Dorset County Council, 18 members of the public and Sharon Sheppard Parish Clerk.
Apologies were received from Cllr M Lovell, PCSO Stuart Hann and Mr J Barnes

1&2 Presentation from DCC and Public Participation Time

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the representatives from Dorset County Council and the public for attending and gave the following back ground information.

The Parish Council has received several complaints regarding the parking of vehicles in Church Lane. Enquiries were made of Mr Ackerman and Mr Mair of Dorset County Council as to whether there was anything further the Parish Council could do or should complaints be referred directly to DCC. Previously the Parish Council has included a section on parking on verges in the Newsletter and had also sent individual letters to residents in Church Lane, both requesting that it did not occur. Following a conversation with DCC it was requested that a representative attend a meeting of the Parish Council to explain the options.

Subsequently an e-mail was received from Mr Hamer (DCC) stating that there were no options, the only way to stop parking would be to erect a physical barrier. Included with this correspondence were photo samples of the barrier.

This information was relayed to Councillor and members of the public, who had requested that a representative from DCC attend a future meeting

Mr Turner stated that DCC were content for the current position to prevail, eg no barrier to parking . With respect to the current posts they would see no reason to request change, they had been installed to deal with a specific problem and providing the land was maintained see no reason for change.

Both white posts and parked vehicles may be seen as obstructions. As long as passage is protected DCC do not see that this is a problem.

A resident stated that there are problems for people with caravans and farm vehicles, concerns were also expressed as to whether Emergency Services vehicles would be able to pass.

Residents stated that they had no alternative but use the verge area due to restricted parking facilities within their property.

Mr Evans advised that the highway is not there to provide parking/ storage facilities and they would not encourage parking on the verges.

If the safety of Highway users such as pedestrians or horse riders was compromised due to parking DCC would have issues.

Mr Evans reminded those present that damage to verges have to be paid for by the whole community.

A suggestion was made that signs be installed stating that there should be no parking on the verges, Mr Turner said that this could be considered but could be ignored. Comment was also made that this could make the area look untidy

A suggestion was made as to whether passing places could be installed, this could be proposed to DCC, but in light of the current funding issues was unlikely to be an option. The local community could consider funding these themselves.

DCC advised that residential parking permits would be unlikely to be supported in rural areas. That they must look to act in the general interest of the public rather than a few. Comment was made that DCC own very little land. Most Highways and verges are privately owned with a right to use.

DCC would look to protect right to use the Highway, with parking seen a legitimate use, but storage not.

Various comments were made that residents have always parked in Church lane and that local businesses had added to the problems, it was identified that both the Parish and Purbeck District Council had raised concerns regarding increased traffic.

Residents stated that they would proactively look to increase the parking that they have within there property to reduce parking on the verges.

It was suggested that DCC could take whatever action they wish to alleviate the problems.

It was suggested that the moving the existing white posts could help to alleviate the problems.

The Chairman thanked Mr Turner and Mr Evans for attending.

3 To receive apologies for absence

As noted above

4. **Declarations of interest**-to record declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda
None

5. Formulation of Parish Council response regarding the parking issues in Church Lane

Three members of the public approached the Chairman requesting the opportunity to speak
It was **resolved** that Standing Orders be suspended to hear their comments (8:20pm)

It was suggested that the existing posts be moved back 1 metre
A resident offered to purchase a 'no parking' notice

The Parish Council meeting reconvened at 8:25pm

The Parish Council **resolved**

To request that the existing posts be moved back 1m, no stickers etc to be attached to them.

That no additional posts be placed for the time being

Residents to be asked to notify Parish Council of abuses of parking on verges, this information be passed on to DCC

The Parish Council are mindful that they do not have any powers to stop residents parking and that they are reliant on individuals to respect Highway and laws and for these to be applied and administered by Dorset County Council.

6. Matters for discussion and or inclusion on the next Agenda

Councillors were asked to consider whether, in view of the Planning Application for the Wind farm being submitted, an additional meeting, for planning application only be scheduled for March.

Councillors were also asked if they wished to attend a workshop with Infinergy.

7. Date of Next Meeting 4 March 2010

CHAIRMAN

4 MARCH 2010