

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF EAST
STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 20th October 2016

PRESENT Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chairman)
 Cllr Neill Child (Vice Chairman)
 Cllr Cherry Brooks (District Councillor)
 Cllr Barry Quinn
 Cllr Christine Evans
 Cllr Tessa Wiltshire

APOLOGIES Cllr Julie Wright
 County Cllr Mike Lovell

IN ATTENDANCE 2 Members of the Public
 Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Cady explained that due to time constraints Items 5 and 6 would be postponed until the Parish Council Meeting to be held on the 3rd November.

- 1. Public Participation Time.**
No items were discussed.
- 2. Apologies**
Apologies were accepted and approved for Cllr Wright and County Cllr Lovell.
- 3. Granting of Dispensation**
No applications for a dispensation had been made
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
None.
- 7. Complete the Reshaping your councils- Consultation on unitary proposals for Dorset**
 - i)** Cllr Quinn reported that responses from both the Public and Parish Councils have been low. The biggest response, however, has been from Poole. DAPTC have run workshops and at the end of the sessions they conducted a straw poll and it has come out in favour of 2B which is split Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole as one and then the rest of Dorset. Many of the financial difficulties which have arisen in Bournemouth and Poole due to the increased amount being spent on adult social services. To help with these costs, the future unitary budgets for items such as planning might be affected. Within Purbeck it is not known if the Wareham Planning Department will be maintained.
 - ii)** It was questioned which way round the Council Tax is distributed. Purbeck District Council is the collecting authority and it then passes on the allocated money to the County Council and the emergency services. Due to the changes there will be a boundary review. The number of County Councillors will change and District Councillors will be down to about half in Purbeck. County are responsible for planning regarding minerals, highways and their own assets, while District look after the remaining. There maybe a merging of planning authorities and they might form local planning committees. There could be potential job

losses in Planning and Electoral Services. It is believed that the Combined Authority will probably still go ahead. It will be important to have a council tax equalisation as the Bournemouth and Poole tax is a lot lower than the rest of the County but to achieve this it will take years to balance itself out.

- iii) The assumption is more work would be put on Town and Parish Councils, but the problem that this entails is that they do not have the expertise, funding and resources. To do additional services such as grass cutting it maybe necessary to employ a lengthsman. It has been agreed that County could provide the trained person and the HR will be done by them, but they will be actually employed by the Parish Council.
- iv) The Parish Council agreed that it is difficult to make a decision due to not enough information being available. The District Councils will have briefings and Purbeck District Council will then have a vote on it on the 31st January. It is not known if District Council buildings will be sold or how the money would be distributed. Some of the assets like public conveniences and car parks could go to the Parish Councils. It was asked what would happen to the pension schemes and was confirmed that all the pensions are centralised into the local government pension. The councillors will need to be evenly distributed as each councillor should have roughly the same amount of electorates give or take 10%.
- v) The Parish Council then completed the online consultation.

8. Finance

a) Payments	Amount	Cheque No
Audit – BDO LLP	120.00	000525

It was **resolved** that the above payment schedule was paid.

9. Items for Information or next agenda

There were no items to report.

10. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd December 2016 at 7pm.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:02hrs.

Chairman:Date.....