

EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10th JANUARY 2013

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady, Chairman, Cllr Tib Axon Cllr Neill Child Cllr Christine Evans Cllr Barry Quinn (District Councillor)
APOLOGIES	Cllr Adrian Naylor County Cllr Lovell PCSO Stuart Hann
IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Mike Masson, Network Rail 6 Team members from Network Rail Mr Chris Collett, Office of Rail Regulator Mr Andrew Brown, DCC Highways 9 Members of the Public Julie Wright (Parish Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mike Masson, Chris Collett and Andrew Brown.

1 East Stoke Crossing

- a) Mrs Gillian Topp enquired about the other members who were present. Mike Masson who works for the Poole - Wool re-signalling project team introduced the members of his team Christina Walker, Mr Masson's immediate Superior, Paul Corporate Affairs, Katheryn Welch, Route organisation, Andy Screen, Project Signalling Engineer, and John from Salisbury, Route Asset Manager and Teresa, Health and Safety Representative. Chris Collett from Office of Rail Regulator. Mr Brown introduced himself.
- b) Mr Malcolm Barnes stated that he thinks that the East Stoke crossing is as safe as it can be. The road network approaching the level crossing. What has changed? More traffic on road? Crossing used by farmers moving cattle, Mr Barnes has storage facilities and used by camping and caravan sites.
When level crossing closed at Wool this crossing will be used as a rat run.
Mr Brown responded in that the road layout is safe and correct Highways have worked closely with Network Rail. There will be more signage, there is sufficient width at the crossing for vehicles to pass. The approaches to the crossing are safe. Traffic surveys will be carried out once new crossing is installed to see if the perceived rat run issue is occurring. Caravan parks are signed from B3070 and not directed via East Stoke level crossing and it is not encouraged. Additional risk of grounding signs will be placed on A352 and Church Lane.
Bindon/Holme Lane used as a rat run when Wool level crossing closed. When new crossing installed Church Lane will be used as a rat run and it is only a single track road from Level crossing to bridges. Use of level crossing will increase dramatically. Sat Nav directs people over the East Stoke crossing. Highways cannot do anything about this.
15 years ago DCC were asked to upgrade the road for health and safety reasons. Network Rail has not asked for this road to be upgraded this time.

- c) Concern over safety. East Stoke is just one of two level crossings of this type in the whole of the network. In last four years there have been four incidents at this crossing i.e train just missed hitting someone or train had to pull up in an emergency. This is not acceptable as it relies on an individual operating the level crossing. The new crossing will be fully interlocked with all the signalling. Nationally upgrading crossings like East Stoke.

At public consultation in May 2010 - the level crossing as it is at the moment is a risk of E6 and the new crossing B3. These values are the way the risk is assessed at a level crossing. The collective risk is the letter and the average risk of the users - the number.

The crossing being installed at East Stoke is the safest one. Holme 31 will be upgraded too as half barrier crossings are not as safe as the full barriers.

- d) Still concern over the people who will use the crossing towing caravans. Due to the nature of road someone may stall on crossing.

Response - when the train is approaching the crossing it activates the level crossing to lower the barriers, CCTV will show what is happening. For a train to go through the crossing the barriers will have to lower fully and the person controlling the CCTV has to press a button to approve the signal to change. Both the operator will have to see that no one is on the crossing and the barriers will have to be fully down before the signal will change to allow the train through the level crossing.

If someone is stuck on the crossing the person controlling the CCTV can stop the barriers from lowering.

- e) Cllr Cady asked if she was correct in stating that this system is in use throughout the Country – it is not totally new. This is correct.

- f) Mr Pete Burden, safety at Holme 31 crossing especially if a vehicle stops at the crossing.

The barriers will be down for longer. This will cause traffic to queue back here And at East Stoke crossing. It is only a short distance to the A352. There has been a problem with the army queued back onto the A352.

Mr David Topp - at Bestival last year NR stopped people from parking Another issue is Bestival traffic.

- g) Mr David Topp Sat Navs send large lorries (45T) down Church Lane.

Mr Brown stated this is greater than the legal limit and that even if there is a weight limit restriction on this lane HGVs will still need to have access to the local businesses at the River Laboratory and farms.

- h) There are no archives why the previous crossings were refused..

Mr Brown the difference now is the improved safety measures.

- i) Mr Pete Burden at Holme 31 crossing by long vehicles have to ask permission to use crossing, there is not enough length of road to handle the queue of traffic. Convoys of traffic causing queuing. As barriers down for longer this issue will get worse.

Mr Brown will take a look at this issue. Bestival does only happen once a year.

- j) Cllr Quinn – this parish wants East Stoke crossing will remain open.

Improvements in technology for both East Stoke, Holme 31 and Rushton Crossing.

Cannot legislate for how people drive. Army have to manage traffic (army convoys).

The road layout at East Stoke crossing is similar to that at East Burton. East Burton is used as a rat run too.

- k) Mrs Gillian Topp enquired if there were plans for DCC to install passing places in Church Lane between the laboratory and railway line. Large vehicles use this lane i.e. septic tank lorries and people towing trailers.

There are no plans to install passing places – if there were this could exacerbate the rat run problem.

A passing place does need to be installed. Mr Brown will look at this. Lorries will get stuck if there is nowhere to turn when the road is flooded.

Highways asked if there were flood signs erected at A352 junction to let people know of the flooding.

No signs were erected

- l) Mrs Vicki Haskell asked about moving cattle over the railway and what is to be done so they don't wander down the railway track on the wooden slats.
Network Rail (NR) changed footprint for cattle grids and NR is going to install anti-friendly cattle grids.
- m) Mr Mike Masson asked if there were any other issues in the future to send these to the Parish Clerk who will forward the queries on. Use the helpline number to complain or any other issue with the railway.
- n) The Chairman thanked Network Rail and Highways for their attendance at this meeting.

The Chairman left the meeting.

2 Public Participation Time

- a) Mrs Topp has not walked any of the footpaths as they are too wet.
- b) Mr Barnes reported overhanging branches in Holme Lane. There is also the issue of the dead trees on land at Hethfelton – it was unsure who the owner of this land was.
Action: The Clerk will write requesting that these hedges are cut back and dead trees are removed. Mr Barnes will be informed of the properties in Holme Lane that have been written to.
- c) Mrs Burden asked for an update on when the hedge at the B3070/A352 junction will be cut back. The Clerk has informed Highways that this work has not been carried out.
- d) Mrs Topp reported the flooding at the bend just after Wood Street. Highways have been informed and they will be jetting this drain.
During the last heavy rainfall the stream that runs under the road from Hazel Loge – Copseside overflowed flooding the road and knocking down the brick wall. The wall remains are left on the highway verge and there is nothing to stop vehicles coming off the road and going into the stream. Highways have been informed.
- e) Mr Barnes reported that Bindon Lane was flooded. This too has been reported.
- f) Mrs Vicki Haskell reported that the water by Middlefields. It has now moved onto the other side of the road. It is the land owner's responsibility to dig out the ditches.
- g) Cllr Quinn has arranged a site meeting on 24th January with the Environment Agency (EA), DCC Highways, Synergy, Flood Risk Management Team, Network Rail and the Flood Warden Looking at the general flooding in Frome Valley and the flooding at Middlefield, Rushton and Holmebridge.

There are two areas to be addressed particularly, the wider flooding problems in the Frome Valley and the localised effects of run-off at Middlefield Cottages.

Frome Valley

- Consider the general issues from this location

- Move to the Worgret/Furzebrook railway off Holme Lane to look at the culverts and bridges under the line.
- Return to Holmebridge to look at the ditches at Holmebridge crossing
- Move to Rushton Crossing

Middlefield

- To revisit the issues affecting the properties particularly No 5 and 21-23 (Synergy 5 and 22).
- Look at the run off affecting the highway in Middlefield and on the A352 including the withy beds.

Property Level Protection Scheme forms will be sent out to those affected by flooding. Deadline to return the form is 28th January.

- h) Mrs Rose Green - Weeding of the river? Harry's Cottage was flooded. PDC will distribute sand (gel) bags Mrs Burden stated that the EA will not be cutting weed or digging out silt. Last time weed cut at Holmebridge three years ago.
- i) Mr Richard Drax MP will be touring around the district. Will get Mr Drax MP to visit Woolbridge as it is his property. Mr Drax MP is the one who can speak to the EA through the appropriate Minister.

3 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Adrian Naylor.

4 Grant of Dispensations and Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda.

a) Grant of Dispensations

Six written applications had been made for a dispensation from Cllrs Rebecca Cady, Neil Child, Christine Evans, Adrian Naylor and Barry Quinn. The Clerk granted dispensations to all of the above Councillors as so many members of the Parish Council have a disclosable pecuniary interest that it would impede the traction of the business as the meeting would be inquorate.

b) Declarations of Interest

None.

The Chairman returned to the meeting.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 6th December 2012

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th December were approved as a true account of the meeting and were duly signed.

6 Matters arising from the minutes

184/1/ c) ii) A litter bin should be in position at Woolbridge.

7 Register of Members Interest form

Completed forms have not been received from Cllr Naylor. The Clerk will send a reminder to Mr Naylor.

Action: The Clerk will write to Mr Fairbairn, PDC Solicitor, to find out what happens if a councillor does not complete a Register of interest form.

8 Update on Previous Planning Applications

- a) **6/2012/0636** - Binnegar Quarry & Environmental Park, Puddletown Road, East Stoke, Wareham, BH20 6AH. Alterations to improve the existing access junction layout & access visibility at Binnegar Quarry & Binnegar Environmental Park. **Permission Granted.**
- b) **6/2012/0694** - Highwood (Chicks Hill Farm), East Stoke, BH20 6AR. Change of use of land from agriculture to mixed use of agriculture plus campsite for 28 days a year. **Approved.**

9 Reports from County and District Councillors

- a) County Cllr Lovell
No report.
- b) District Cllr Quinn
 - i) Boundary Review. This will go to the Statutory Instrument Cllr Quinn and Cllr Barnes will be attending. Mr Richard Drax MP will be arguing the case for not implementing the changes. Only one of these committees has taken place before, last year, and that was unsuccessful but in this case they did not implement all out elections.
 - ii) The Community Governance Review has been launched.
 - iii) Parish precepts and funding. Currently there is a grant passed from the Government to PDC to help offset the reduction in the precept. This grant to PDC is not guaranteed. The Parish Council needs to be aware of this when setting the precept. The Parish Council needs to think about putting money aside. The Parish Council may need to increase the precept to get the amount of money needed from the precept.
 - iv) There is planning training at PDC.
 - v) High hedges i.e. Leylandii on your boundary. Initially need to ask the person to cut back their hedge if causing a lack of amenity. If that does not work you will need to write to them. Then have to go to mediation to get the issue resolved. For £520 fee PDC will come out to look at it and decide if they can take any action. This is a standard fee across the County. It really is a civil dispute between neighbours. Guidance note will be issued to parishes

10 Police Update

There was a fatal accident on B3070 near . Cllr Quinn reported that there will be improvements at West Holme crossroads, B3070. This is usually where the accidents occur.

There were no issues to feedback to the Police.

11 Flooding in the Parish

Issues reported during public participation.

12 River Frome Issues

Bird watchers have been regular visitors at Holmebridge and between the Laboratory and railway line but they wander out in to the main road.

13 Footpaths/ Bridleways

No further update has been received.

14 Highways Issues.

- a) Highways issues to report

- i) A352 needs resurfacing from Kerroo Mooar to where last resurfacing ended.
- ii) A large lorry was seen using Binnegar Lane.

- b) Update on previous issues reported
Pot holes have been filled in Bindon Lane.

15 Individual area of responsibilities of Flood Warden, Rights of Way Officer and for the person maintaining the War Memorial Planter

Terms of Reference need to be written.

16 Notice boards

S & S joinery have been to look at the notice boards and they are better to open now.

Action: The Clerk will write a letter of thanks.

17 Parish Land

No further action.

18 Renewable energy generation projects in the parish

Solar Farm planned in field south of Monkey World. No planning application has been submitted. Mr Will Bond has plans too for a Solar Farm behind Middlefields.

There will be a Community Fund for local projects.

Concern over the glare. Sites that they are choosing are well screened. The solar farm at Sleepe is very well screened.

Hugo House, Good Energy, will be coming to the next meeting to give a presentation.

19 Local Government Boundary Commission for England Purbeck Further electoral review

See minute 185/9 b) i).

20 Consultations or items for consideration

a) Community Governance Review

This is on-going.

The briefing dates for Parish Councils have been circulated.

Anomalies are the two houses at the end of Highwood, Copseside in Bindon Lane and the farm cottage at Wood Street.

It would make sense to include Puddletown Road in the East Stoke Parish. These are disconnected from Arne Parish as Arne is centred on Stoborough.

The cottages at Woolbridge would like to remain in East Stoke.

Bovington could become a parish in its own right as it is large enough.

b) Purbeck District Council Consultations:

- i) Housing Strategy

- ii) Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

- iii) Updated Planning Application Validation List

- iv) Revised Statement of Community Involvement

These will be considered at the next meeting.

Cllr Cady asked about the Housing Needs Survey results. There were very few returns to the survey. This item will

Synergy would like to build more houses at Middlefield. Mike Goater, District Engineer, is not in favour due to the flooding issues.

21 Correspondence Received

All of the following items of correspondence were circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

- a) 'Community Safety News' the quarterly newsletter from the Dorset Community Safety Partnership.
- b) Navitus Bay Wind Park and the changes being made to the proposed wind park. Next stage of consultation February 2013.
- c) A press release from the Rural Services Network regarding the cut in funding for rural Councils following the financial settlement announced by the government on 19th December.
- d) Community Right to Bid and nominating Community Assets – further details can be found on the Dorset for You website.
- e) Dorset Wildlife Trust about the Wildlife Champion AQA Award Scheme Volunteer training. Launch Event 9th February at 10am.

22 Finance

- a) Payments

Payee	Amount	Cheque Number
Mrs PDC Planning Training	£50.00	000373

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

- b) **Third Quarter Budget Report** – 31st December 2012

The third quarter budget report was **noted**.

- c) Donation requests from Citizen's Advice bureau and Victim Support

These requests were noted and will be considered at the March meeting.

- d) Draft Budget 2013/14 and setting of the Precept

The draft budget was circulated with the papers for this meeting. Money has been added to the budget for an election/referendum. The budget headings and costs for these were considered.

It was proposed by Cllr Cady and seconded by Cllr Evans that the precept for 2013/14 would be £8,000.00. This was unanimously approved and **resolved**.

23 Training Courses

- a) **DAPTC** 24th January 2013 at 9.15am – 12.45pm Essential Finance for Parish Councils at Dorchester Youth Association

- b) **PDC Planning Training Course** 5th March 2013 at 2pm to cover planning constraints flooding, surface water drainage, Heathland and biodiversity and listed buildings and conservation areas, trees.

Action: Cllr Cady and Cllr Child will let the Clerk know if they wish to attend this course.

24 Items for Information or the next agenda

- a) Housing Needs Survey Results
- b) Terms of Reference
- c) Parish Land

25 Date of Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on the 9th May. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on the same evening.

A suggested speaker was the Purbeck Shooting School.

26 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Thursday 7th February 2013 at 7pm.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....