



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT Cllr Rebecca Cady, Chairman
 Cllr Neill Child, Vice Chairman
 Cllr Tib Axon
 Cllr Barry Quinn (District Councillor)
 Cllr Christine Evans
 Cllr Tessa Wiltshire

APOLOGIES County Cllr Mike Lovell

IN ATTENDANCE 5 Members of the Public
 Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. Public Participation Time.

a) Mr Topp on behalf of Mrs Topp informed the meeting that the bridleway signpost at the top of Binnegar Lane has been knocked down.

Action: The Clerk will report it on the Dorsetforyou portal.

b) Mr Burdon has noticed a lot have motorists have found it necessary to turn around at the Holmebridge due to the uncertainty of whether the crossing is actually working. There has been a time delay from when the barriers close to the trains passing it can sometimes be up to 8 minutes. When the eastbound and westbound trains pass in close proximity the barriers are not lifted between the trains which then causes some of the confusion among motorists. There have been incidents of cars reversing onto the A352 which could cause a serious accident. Mr Willgress said that the barriers were closed for two hours last week. The Police were not initially notified of the problem so they were unable to put up warning signs for an hour and a half. Also, signs were not put up on the Southern side. Cllr Quinn reported that there was a failure on the 29th August and Highways have been notified. There will be a meeting to discuss the various problems at the crossings involved in the Poole to Wool re-signalling project. Ideally, PDC should be represented as well as County as there has been a significant impact on businesses in the local area. Mr Burdon questioned why the highway has to be closed instead of the railway when there is a fault with the crossing.

The Office of Rail Regulation has been monitoring the Holme crossing by a camera over the Festival period and it was monitored by Highways the week commencing the 25th August although not all Highway's employees were aware of this.

Cllr Child asked if the set procedure of raising the level crossing barriers were decided at national level. Cllr Quinn said that the barriers are controlled from Basingstoke therefore the barriers need to go down for longer intervals. Cllr Wiltshire asked if a matrix sign system can be investigated to let motorists have a minute by minute update.

c) Mr Willgress asked if the ramps will be removed at the crossing. Cllr Quinn said that they were due to be taken down over Bestival but were told it was an inappropriate time due to the amount of traffic. It was then going to be completed at nighttime but Network Rail was let down by the Contractor. It has now been advised that the works need to be carried out in the autumn when the holiday season is over.

d) Mr Willgress inquired as to whether there has been an updated meeting on Bestival. Cllr Quinn confirmed that a meeting has not taken place yet.

e) Mr Burdon has observed that there has been a build-up of silt by the old bridge and the ditch along the railway has not been cleared. Cllr Quinn explained that there has not been a site meeting yet to inspect what work needs to be undertaken.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from County Cllr Mike Lovell.

3. Granting of Dispensation

No applications for a dispensation had been made.

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7th August 2014

a) Cllr Quinn stated that Co-opted can be taken off behind Cllr Wiltshire's name now that the election has taken place.

b) An amendment was made to 207/6b the word "Snergy" was changed to "Synergy", 207/13b was changed from "Opposite the Parish Land" to "Opposite the Footpath by the S Bend" and 207/16b the phrase was added "Not to become Heathland and to retain the remaining tree line screening".

After these amendments were made, it was **then resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th August 2014 were approved and signed.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

7. Planning Applications or Planning Information received

EA6/2014/0446 – The Holme Estate, Stokeford Farm, East Stoke, BH20 7AN. The proposal is for the construction and operation of a solar PV installation capable of generating up to 15 Megawatts (MW) including ancillary developments such as fencing, landscaping, substations and access.

The Parish Council **objects** to this application due to the following reasons:-

a. Firstly consideration must be taken into account the amount of excessive overdevelopment that has either taken place or is at the planning stage within the Parish to the north of the A352. The urbanisation includes an existing solar farm, Monkey World, gravel extraction at both Binnegar and a

potential site in Hethfelton Woods. This is in addition to the wind turbines that have had the planning approved. The landscape of the area will dramatically change from a rural setting to a more industrial environment and with this installation it will mean there will only be a very small percentage of land to the north of the A352 that will still be used for agricultural and forestry purposes.

b. It was questioned whether the installation could be reduced in size to lessen the impact of industrialisation.

c. The Council would like clarification that there is a stringent requirement laid out in the Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative that farmers need to reduce the level of nitrates and if so what are the exact amounts. As this was one of the main justifications for erecting a solar installation due to it elevating the nitrate problem.

d. The planning application must ensure that after the 25-30 year lifespan of the Solar PV panels that the land must be reverted back to agriculture.

e. Confirmation is required as to what and how much screening will be used.

f. It was suggested that the installation would be better suited on the Ridge as that land has already been permitted to be developed.

Cllr Cady read out a letter from the Tennant Farmer at Heath View who expressed his concerns over the development. Cllr Cady stated that whatever occurs the land should not be taken out of agriculture.

d) Update on Previous Planning Applications

There were no further updates.

8 Reports from County and District Councillors

a) County Cllr Lovell

No report

b) District Cllr Quinn

Cllr Quinn warned the meeting that telephone shopping surveys are currently being conducted on behalf of PDC. There has not been a successful response as many respondents are worried that it is either scam or a company trying to sell products. It was felt that the initial question needed to be reconstructed in order to reassure people of the purpose of the survey.

9 Any issue to report to the Police or, Update on Issues reported

Unfortunately the Police were unable to attend this meeting.

Concern was raised on 12th August regarding caravans at Hethfelton Woods. Police investigated the site and they discovered that the occupiers were the on-site contractors.

Police have undertaken speeding checks for 40-50 mins in the layby near Binnegar. This was initiated due to a resident who was searching for their missing cat and was worried about speeding vehicles.

10 Maintenance of Parish Land and Churchyard

a) It was agreed that Cllr Quinn's Yew Tree would not be suitable as it was

too small. Cllr Cady suggested that Holme for Gardens could be approached to see if they would like to donate a tree and compost.

Action: The Clerk to contact Simon at Holme for Gardens

- a) The holiday lettings company who manages the properties at the Old Church were contacted to see who cutback the trees. It was found out that they employ a gardener, but they are of the understanding that he did not do the work, however, they will speak to him to find out if he knows more.

11 East Stoke and Wool Community Chest

There has been no further information regarding the Community Chest. DAPTC have asked Cllr Cady to give a presentation on setting up a solar benefit community fund at the Parish Clerk's Annual Meeting. The income has not been allocated to the fund yet as still waiting for a reply back from Hugo House. Any potential new projects which are located in either parish will come under the East Stoke and Wool Community Chest as all the administration and financial matters will be incorporated under one big umbrella.

12 River Frome Issues

An update was provided during the public participation period minute 208/1d

13 Autumn Newsletter

The newsletter will be distributed to residents at the end of October.

Items to be included in the newsletter are the East Stoke and Wool Community Chest, Holmebridge Crossing, advertising for volunteers to become a Parish Councillor and a thank you to the Holme Saw Mills for kindly donating the posts for the new noticeboard. Cllr Wiltshire will write an article about the proposed mineral development in Hethfelton Woods. Cllr Quinn will do a short piece on the First World War and over sequential newsletters will write about residents who were killed. There were no fatalities in 1914 but there were in the following years and the obituaries will be written in the centenary year of their death. The Village Hall Committee will be asked if they would like to submit any articles.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Village Hall Committee

14 Review of New Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were amended to incorporate the new Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 legislation. A draft copy of the new Standing Orders was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that some of the Unitary authorities terminology needs to be changed to localise it in order for it to be relevant to East Stoke.

It was resolved that the new Standing Orders were provisionally adopted.

A new amended copy will be distributed to the Councillors before the next meeting.

15 Recycling Collections

Cllr Axon reported at a previous meeting that glass has been disposed in

the main recycling compartment of a refuse lorry. Cllr Quinn attended a meeting and it has been confirmed that co-mingling of the waste has occurred. This has happened due to a contracted lorry being hired to help out the relief crew. There should not be anymore incidents of this happening as the contractor issues have now been resolved.

Other initial incidents of the new recycling collection was that some householders were missed, but a phone call rectified it and the waste was collected promptly.

16 Highways Issues

a) Update on issues reported

- i) There has been no further developments regarding the road condition outside the Stokeford Cottages.

Action: The Clerk will contact Danny Allen

b) Other Issues

- i) Cllr Quinn will research into the construction of a footpath up to Monkey World.
- ii) The Binnegar Hall footpath has now been completed.
- iii) The hedgerows along Holme/Bindon Lanes need to be cut back

Action: The Clerk to report the necessary cutting

17 Consultations for consideration or New Items for Discussion/Consideration

a) Housing Newsletter 2013-14 – No Comments

b) Flood Risk Management

Both Mr and Mrs Burdon felt that the report lacked substance as it explained how the people involved handled flooding, but there were no details of how they would prevent future flooding. It appears that there are too many authorities who are involved in flooding issues. There is little cohesion between the organisations and a central focal point is needed to oversee the overall management of the river. Mrs Burdon has written to Mr Drax to voice her concerns by asking what the Dorset County Council flood management strategy was but is still waiting for a reply. Cllr Quinn has chased this up twice with Mr Drax's office. Mrs Burdon is contemplating writing to the local newspaper in order to get a response.

18 Correspondence Received

All of the following items of correspondence were circulated prior to the Meeting.

a) Planning Training for Town and Parish Councillors. **Noted.**

b) A National Clean Up is Coming. **Noted.**

c) Dorset Local Access Forum letter

Mrs Topp might like to attend

d) Dorset Highways Councillors Satisfaction Survey 2014. **Noted.**

e) Strengthening our Fire and Rescue Service: A Consultation by Dorset Fire Authority. **Noted.**

f) The Safer Dorset Fund. **Noted.**

- g) Equality and Diversity Training Offer. **Noted.**
- h) The Accessible Britain Challenge- Letter from the Minister of State for Disabled People. **Noted.**
- i) Outdoor Arts & Heritage Event in Dorset. **Noted.**
- j) Planning Consultation – your views are being sort by the National Association of Local Councils.
Cllr Quinn will look into this.

19 Finance

a) Payment

Payee	Amount	Cheque Number
Miss E Maidment August 14 Salary	£162.16	000432
Wessex Ground Services	£87.36	000431
Mrs R Haskell Wood Preserver for War Memorial	£13.64	000433

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

- b) The first quarter bank reconciliation 30th June 2014 was circulated at the meeting. The Receipts and Payments cashbook balance agreed with the reconciled bank statements.
- c) The following gorse clearing quotes were received. Wessex Ground Services £320, Neat and Tidy Garden Services £400 and G.P & S.A. Lunn £110.

It was resolved that the quote from G.P & S.A. Lunn was approved. In their letter they also stated that they would be interested in the maintenance contract for the Parish Land and would like to graze sheep. It was noted that the two year tender which runs until 31st March 2016 is with Wessex Ground Services. It was agreed that G.P & S.A. Lunn will be contacted near the end of the current tender to discuss the possible grazing option.

20 Items for Information or next agenda

- a) A member of the public has contacted the Clerk to ask if the Council is aware that a bankruptcy order will be issued on 8th September at 5pm to the owners, Purbeck Care of Binnegar Hall. She is concerned that the historic building will be demolished and has asked if it would be possible to have it listed. The Council was in agreement that any alteration to the building would have to go through planning.
- b) Cllr Quinn has emailed Synergy regarding the Middlefield fence to inform them that an enforcement officer will take action. The residents of Reed Cottage have taken part of the fence down.

21 Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd October 2014 at 7pm.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 pm

Chairman: Date.....