

EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady, Chairman Cllr Karen Barnes, Vice Chairman Cllr Tib Axon Cllr Neill Child Cllr Damian Cullinane
APOLOGIES	Cllr Barry Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE	PCSO Stuart Hann County Cllr Mike Lovell Judith Baker, Biodiversity Project Officer, Purbeck Keystone Project 7 Members of the Public Mrs Julie Wright (Parish Clerk)

1 Public Participation Time

Mr Pete Burden stated that he had already spoken about the more technical aspects of the Keystone Project and that this was just to reiterate the effects the Project is having on properties in the area.

The Project was based on theoretical information, but now 3 years down the line we can see how it works and we are experiencing problems they said couldn't happen. The ground water levels have risen over the last two years resulting in standing water around properties taking longer to drain away, drainage from septic tanks is affected and walls on properties are becoming damp. All these problems have been noticed by residents from Holmebridge to East Stoke and they all arise when the water is held back on the fields on the Keystone Project.

If you look on the RSPB website and read some of the documents it shows that this is not a suitable site. The Environment Agency has relied on studies commissioned by the Keystone Project without proving any facts on the site themselves.

Mr Burden's insurance company (the NFU) now no longer covers him for damage caused by rising water levels and other companies are following suite. He will have to sue whoever built the sluices, which would be Purbeck District Council.

This has all been done for the benefit of wildlife, when we live alongside one of the largest natural harbours in the world and have hundreds of hectares of wetland all around us suitable for all species of bird. In fact, from observation, the bird sitings on the Keystone site haven't increased over the four years and some species have declined.
Please do not pass this application as it stands

A letter was handed to the Parish Council from Mr Hearne, Beehive Cottage, objecting to the application 6/2006/0666.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr Barry Quinn were accepted and approved.

3 Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda

Cllr Karen Barnes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 4c) planning application 6/2010/0531 as the applicant was a relative and a neighbour.

4 Planning Applications

- a) **6/2006/0666** – Floodplain east of Holme Bridge to Railway Line, East Holme.
Installation of 8 water level control structures and 4 clay bunds on floodplain ditches.
Creation of shallow scrapes and grips.

Judith Baker, Biodiversity Project Officer from the Keystone Project was asked to explain the application to the Councillors. The purpose of this application is to improve the habitat for birds and to help keep the ground damp with some surface water to aid breeding and to improve the grassland for farmers. A report has been Conducted by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust. This project is too small to affect water levels except locally.

Response to Cllrs questions on flooding there is a risk in the worst case scenario or if the sluices are shut all the time. Opening/closing sluice gates - the farmer is supplied with operating guidelines for the sluices. A bird analysis has not been done.

The Chairman thanked Judith Baker.

The Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds that the area has increased flooding.

- b) **6/2010/0494** - Holme Lane (Luckford Cottage), East Stoke Demolish existing detached garage and outbuildings and erect detached garage, pool plant room and agricultural implement store.
This application is smaller than the previous application and is only one storey.
The Parish Council have no objections to this application.

- c) **6/2010/0531** - Church Lane (Manor Farm Caravan & Camping Park), East Stoke.
Repair and improve internal track.
Cllr Barnes withdrew whilst this application was considered.

The Parish Council have no objections to this application.

Cllr Barnes returned to the meeting.

5 Previous Planning Application Updates

There was no report from Purbeck District Council on the outcome of previous planning applications.

6 Keystone Project

This was to inform those present of the planned meeting on the 28th/29th September with representatives from the Keystone Project and Environment Agency. A form was circulated and completed by those interested in attending this meeting.

7 Reports from County and District Councillors

- a) **County Cllr Lovell**
County are making further cuts.

b) **District Cllr Quinn**

Cllr Quinn read out District Cllr Quinn's report.

i) **Regional Spatial Strategy**

This has been dropped but the Core Strategy is still going ahead to replace the Purbeck Local Plan.

ii) **Dorset Funding**

Cllr Quinn had a meeting with Richard Drax on Monday 23rd August and along with a couple of other PDC/County members stressed that Central Government can't keep inflicting more cuts on Dorset as we have been under funded for years and there needs to be a more equal distribution of pain to tackle the national debt.

iii) **Transport Infrastructure Liaison Meeting**

This annual meeting between DCC and PDC has been cancelled by County as there is no money to implement any schemes at the moment. This will impact East Stoke footpath extension to Binnegar Hall and dual use to Stokeford.

iv) **Licensing Panel Review**

This is now complete and has been a useful exercise. Key issues arising:

Ward members and Parish Councils to be notified of new or amended licence applications. Need for continuous training for both District Councillors

Briefings to be given to Parish Councillors.

Introduce new Service Delivery Statements as Annex to Licensing Policy

Formalise process for Safety Advisory Groups for major events such as Bestival.

More joined up approach and process within PDC departments for Temporary Event Notices and other small community events. This will be aligned with the recent letter from Eric Pickles to remove much of the red tape and costs.

v) **Septic Tanks**

This is linked to the Keystone Panel Review but could affect all Parish Councils.

Following the recent complaints at PC Meetings about water table impact on septic tanks, the Environment Agency has said that none of the septic tanks in the Holmebridge area have consents. There is some new retrospective legislation that applies. Cllr Quinn has asked Bill Davidson at PDC to investigate and provide an update. Information on this is in September's Council Bulletin.

vi) **Keystone Panel Review**

The initial part is now complete and again has been a useful exercise. Key issues arising:

The Planning issues have been addressed separately in a report to Overview and Scrutiny Group as well as referral of the 2006 application to Planning Board.

A Public Meeting will be held at PDC to:

enable public to raise concerns;

the Council and stakeholders to allay concerns, clarify issues, and provide feedback from the consultant's reports;

landowners/farmers to explain their involvement and any benefits of the scheme.

A Briefing update to be circulated to the PC(s) and Residents by Nov 2010.

Correspondence from the Flood Warden channelled through the Parish Council Flood Warden to be invited to meet with the Review Panel and discuss the draft report.

PDC liaise with Environment Agency over consents for septic tanks (see September PDC bulletin). Operating guidelines are updated and more comprehensive to address the responsibilities of the operators.

The Report will not be finally completed until the actions above are addressed and the planning applications have been to the Planning Board.

vii) Hedges at Binnegar Lane

There has been some trimming back along the bank at Moorcroft Cottage. The hedges and trees still need to be done as the road sign and sightlines on the A352 are still obstructed.

viii) Rail Crossing

The consultation should start this month. The funding for the signalling upgrade to Worgret Junction to enable the Swanage reconnection was approved by Council on 29th July the main Network Rail funding is due to be signed off this month. There is an embargo on doing any work during the Olympics so the work will be completed in a 4 day period over the Mayday Bank holiday weekend 2013. This will shut down the line for the 4 days. There is contingency built into the budget and plan to cover new barriers but we need to make sure NR produce realistic usage data.

ix) Purbeck Housing Trust Garages

Residents occupying garages in Moreys Close, West Lulworth have been informed that these have to be demolished because of the Asbestos hazard. From a reply sent to Bere Regis PC it is because they were criticised by the Audit Commission for not tackling this "problem". Synergy is not prepared to allow residents to erect their own garages. They will however provide a disabled bay for Blue Badge holders.

8 Police Update

PCSO Hann reported that Inspector Weekes is keen for local representation at the de-brief meeting on the traffic issues and management from this year's 'Camp Bestival'. It was agreed that Cllr Quinn as the District Cllr for the West Purbeck Ward would be the Parish Council's representative at this meeting.

An East Stoke resident had enquired about the Community Speedwatch initiative. They wished it to be carried out in the 50mph area, these speed checks can only be carried out in the 30 or 40mph areas. The Speedwatch has been piloted in Warmwell and the local resident monitors the speed of passing vehicles and passes this data back to the police.

It was noted that there was an accident at the beginning of the week near the Puddletown Road junction and that traffic was diverted onto Holme/Bindon Lane.

9 Highways Issues

a) Parish Maintenance Unit (PMU)

The bracken is growing into the road along Holme, Bindon and Church Lanes. Moorcroft Cottage road sign is obscured by the hedge.

b) Other Highways Issues

Pothole (A352) opposite the Churchyard entrance

10 East Stoke Crossing Update

This was in District Cllr Quinn's report at item 7b).

11 Finger post at East Stoke Crossing

The broken oak fingerpost and pointer will be replaced by a new sign and will be provided by PDC and the DCC Ranger Service.

Action: To keep this item on future agendas until fingerpost has been replaced.

12 The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th August 2010

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th August were approved and signed.

13 Matters arising from the above minutes.

The Standing Orders will be an agenda item for the next meeting on 7th October.

14 Application(s) for Parish Council vacancy

No response received. The Chairman asked if any of the public present would consider becoming a Parish Councillor or if they knew someone who may be interested to ask them to contact the Council.

15 Reports from Councillors on Meetings and Training attended

No meetings or training has been attended.

16 Training Seminars, & AGM,(PDC & DAPTC & DCC)

- a) Clerks' seminar 15th September. The Clerk will attend this event with the cost shared between all the Parish Councils the Clerk works for.
- b) Councillors Update, 28th September. Cllr Barnes will attend and report back at the next meeting.
- c) Chairman's Seminar, 12th October. Cllr Cady will inform the Clerk if she will be available to attend this Seminar.

Action: The Clerk will book these Seminars.

17 Fyler and Butler graves

The work required on the corner on the Butler grave will be carried out by Albert Marsh and is included within their quotation.

18 Fisherman's Stone bench in Water meadow

Cllrs Cady and Quinn had not had the chance to look at the bench.

Action: The Clerk will add this item to the next agenda.

19 Consultation and Discussion Papers

- a) Purbeck District Council review of electoral cycles
The next opportunity to change how voting occurs in Purbeck is in 2011. The consultation on electoral cycles is should the PDC electoral cycle stay as it currently is (elections by thirds) or should PDC move to elections once every four years.

The Parish Council agreed that there should be no change to present cycles.

- b) Dorset Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Consultation
Cllr Barnes had looked at the consultation and stated that there are 5 pharmacies in Dorset that are open for 100 hours. It was queried where the nearest one to East Stoke was?
No comments were made from the Parish Council.
- c) Purbeck Community Partnership review – online survey. This was not discussed.
- d) Communities and Local Government Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases.

It was noted that NALC had responded to this consultation.

- e) Draft Countywide Common Housing Allocations Policy
Cllr Child will complete this consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

20 Invitations

- a) Purbeck Community Partnership on Monday 13th September 2010.
No one was available to attend. The Clerk will send the Parish Council's apologies.
- b) HealthWatch consultation event 29th September 2010 13.00pm – 16.30pm Poole
No one wished to attend.
- c) Draft Countywide Common Housing Allocations Policy, consultation events are being held to discuss the draft policy - Upton Park, Poole 13th October, 9.30am – 1pm
Or Town Hall, Dorchester 19th October, 9.30am – 1pm

Cllr Child will try to attend one of these events as he is responding to the consultation.

- d) Purbeck Forest Design Plan consultation, Wareham Forest, 18th September
It was noted that this is a drop-in session.

21 Correspondence Received

- a) Letter from Mr J Barnes
Cllr Barnes read out Mr Barnes' letter.
The Clerk had been in contact with Mr Hamer. Mr Hamer would not be responding to the letter as it was addressed to the Parish Council.

Action: The Clerk will write to Mr Barnes stating that the Parish Council has no powers over highways and send it for approval to the Chairman prior to sending.

- b) Citizens Advice Bureau Review of the Year 2009 – 2010 and an extract from their Annual accounts. New out of hours number 08444 77 20 22. These were noted.
- c) Purbeck District Council – Weed killing
DCC will no longer carry out weed killing due to cuts in budget.
In principle the idea of parishioners taking pride in their community and tackling weeds was a good one. In East Stoke the safety of the residents was highlighted as the parish is on a main road (A352) and the residents keep their verges clear.
Action: The Clerk and Cllr Barnes will write to PDC with these comments.
- d) No Need for Nuclear – a letter asking for the Parish Council to write to their MP asking them to support the early day motion calling for an enquiry into whether nuclear power stations are required. Noted.
- e) Nildram (broadband supplier) will soon become Opal.
- f) Mr J Barnes requesting information under the FOI Act from DCC was noted.
- g) Dorset County Council Rights of Way problems can be reported online using an interactive map. This is similar to that used to report highway problems.

22 Finance

a) Annual Return year ending 31st March 2010

It was resolved that the Annual Return year ending 31st March 2010 was approved. The issues arising report which stated that the Parish Council had incorrectly answered 'Yes' to the trust funds question in Section 2 was noted.

b) Payments Received

Wool PCC Herbert Sidney Parfitt (Cremation plaque) £45.00

c) Invoices and payments for Consideration

The following payment schedule was approved for payment.

Nildram (yearly mailbox fee)	£42.30
AOS Online (Stapler/staples & ink cartridge)	£45.05
Wessex Water DD	£7.76
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP (external audit)	£158.63

d) Cashbook and bank reconciliation to 30th July 2010

The bank reconciliation to 30th July was approved and signed. The Cashbook and the reconciled bank account agreed showing the balance at 30th July 2010 of £15,574.11.

23 Matters for discussion and/ or inclusion on next Agenda

Two planning application from the Keystone Project had been received (6/2010/0534 and 6/2010/0535) that needed a response by the 17th September. The Chairman convened an extraordinary meeting to discuss the planning applications on Thursday 16th September at 7pm.

Exempt Business

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the public and accredited representative of the newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item

24 See confidential minute 155a

25 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Thursday 7th October 2010 at 7pm.

Chairman:

Date: