



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST
STOKE HELD ON THURSDAY 7th MARCH AT LONGTHORNS CAMPSITE

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chair) Cllr Chris Evans Cllr Barry Quinn Cllr Graeme Langley Cllr Neill Child Cllr Tessa Wiltshire Cllr Keith Evans Dorset Cllr Cherry Brooks
APOLOGIES	None
IN ATTENDANCE	5 Members of the Public Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. Public participation period for 15 minutes

- a) The Flood Wardens gave an update on the flooding situation around Holmebridge. On 16th November, they reported flooding by Meadow Lane. However, Highways did not take any action because it was not completely over the whole road. On 20th February, the Environment Agency did a site visit and was informed about a culvert that had been deliberately blocked by a farmer. The EA wrote to the landowner, but unfortunately, forgot to include the necessary actions to take. The culvert is quite large and is as big as a car. The Flood Wardens have been attempting to clear some debris themselves, but it is in a very dangerous location. A tree blocking the river was reported over two years ago, but it has still not been cleared. **Action:** Dorset Cllr Brooks will investigate the issues raised.
- b) The tenant farmer who manages the field where the proposed SANG land will be is not in favour of the application due to the negative impact it will have on his income. He was unable to upload his concerns onto the Planning Portal and was advised to email his comments to the Planning Department instead. He explained that the location is not suitable for a SANG as the residents of the Farrer Estate will not be able to use it without having to cross a busy road. Councillor Cady clarified that the Parish Council prefers the land adjacent to the site, but Natural England is opposed to it.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received

3. Granting of Dispensation

No applications for a dispensation had been made.

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st February 2024

The minutes from the 1st February 2024 were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

The minutes contained an error regarding the water from Hethfelton Woods. It was stated that the water was going over the road, but in fact, it passes under the road through a culvert. Also, the delay in opening the parking area at Hethfelton is not due to the purchase, but rather due to the collection process.

7. Planning Applications or Planning Information received

- a) **P/FUL/2023/07467** - Proposal: Use of land as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) with associated access, landscaping, infrastructure and alterations to road. Location: **Land South Of A352**
The Parish Council's concerns that have been raised previously still need to be addressed:

The proposed road layout would be inadequate for the safe passage of large vehicles and will damage the verges. The presence of pedestrians on the refuge is a cause for serious concern, especially when tanks, which are up to 3.8 metres wide, pass by. The situation would be further exacerbated if combine harvesters and tanks cross each other's path. The Parish Council seeks clarification regarding whether the MOD has submitted a formal response and if they have been designated as a Consultee.

The Parish Council would like the developers to undertake another traffic survey. The previous survey was conducted on a Sunday, during which the frequency of HGVs is low and no Army movements occur.

The Parish Council maintains its opposition to the proposal of locating the SANG at the South of the A352. The primary concern is the need for people to cross the A352, and the fact that there is no direct link between the bridleway and the proposed location, making it difficult to create a circular path. It was questioned if the developer has considered buying mitigation credits and having the SANG at a safer location.

b) P/FUL/2024/00700, Orchard Cottage, Highwood, BH20 6AR.

Erect agricultural building for livestock and the storage of fodder and bedding.
No comments or objections.

8. Update of Previous Applications or planning information

No updates

9. Dorset Council Report

- a) The local elections which also include the Police and Crime Commissioner elections will take place on Thursday 2nd May. People are being reminded to register to vote and photographic identification is now a mandatory requirement for everyone voting. Various forms of photo ID are accepted, including a driving licence, passport, Older Person's Bus Pass, a blue badge or Disabled Person's Bus Pass. Residents can also use an expired ID as long as the photograph is still a good likeness.
- b) Bike It Plus, which is funded by Dorset Council and run by the charity Sustrans, has been working with schools across Dorset to help encourage more young people to walk, cycle or wheel to school. In the past year, the project has supported over 36 schools. The sessions have proven to be very popular and last year were attended by over 15,000 children, staff and parents.
- c) Micro-surfacing works are taking place over the next three months to extend the life of roads. Road closures will be in place but advance notice signs will be displayed before the work starts.
- d) Properties classified as Long-Term Empty and Unoccupied will have a 100% premium, from 1 April 2024 and this will be applied after one year rather than the existing 2 years. The introduction of the 100% council tax premium on second homes will come into effect on 1 April 2025, making a total council tax charge of 200%.
- e) The Dorset Council budget was approved by councillors at the Full Council meeting on 13 February.
- f) The flooding issues at Highwood has been resolved by clearing the ditch.
- g) The problem of flooding by the speed camera was discussed and it was commented upon whether this is the result of either the Energy Farm, a horse pond that has now been cemented over or the ditches which used to be over 5 foot deep. It was suggested by Cllr Cady if a maintenance plan can be put in place. A local farmer said that the culvert that runs from the solar farm to the railway is blocked. **Action:** Dorset Cllr Brooks explained that an Enforcement Team will look to see if the Energy Farm has caused any of the issues.
- h) It was discussed that a comprehensive study of the entire valley is needed. The Keystone Project, which began over fifteen years ago, was designed to manage water levels and restore floodplain grazing marsh in the lower Piddle and Frome valleys. However, the Flood Wardens have suggested that this scheme may have raised water levels in this part of the Frome Valley. As part of the project, sluice gates were operated, but it is unclear who is now responsible for their management, as the water now flows

around the sluices. It is believed that either Dorset Council or Natural England is monitoring them.

10. Police Issues to report or update on issues reported

Hard copies of the Police leaflet will be delivered alongside the Spring Newsletter to residents who are not on the email mailing list.

11. Nomination Papers for the Parish Council

The Clerk must receive all the nomination papers by Tuesday 26th March and they will then be hand-delivered to Worgret House. The local elections will take place on Thursday 2nd May. The deadline for signing the Declaration of Acceptance form in the presence of the Clerk is 10th May. The Clerk will organise an informal meet up on this day. The Annual Council Meeting will be on 16th May.

12. Hethfelton

The timber harvesting process has been completed, and the logs are now waiting to be collected. It was agreed that Councillor Langley will act as the point of contact for any Hethfelton related issues and will liaise with the Wareham Beat Officer. The "For Sale" sign that was placed on the field has now been removed, and it's unclear whether the land is still on the market. The concrete near the gate was actually placed there by the farmer to prevent any unauthorised vehicular access.

13. Aster Housing

The Aster Neighbourhood Officer is unable to attend the Parish Council meetings but she has suggested that questions be emailed to her. It was agreed to ask that due to a lack of parking, would it be permissible for residents to park on the grass or even make that area hard standing. Various trees need to be maintained as they are deemed to be in a dangerous state. **Action:** The Clerk to email the Neighbourhood Officer and Cllr Quinn to take photographs of the trees.

14. Maintenance of noticeboards - Wareham Mens Shed

The noticeboard on Church Lane has been reinstalled and the one at the Highwood junction is currently being worked on. The noticeboard at Holme Garden Centre is the only one that still requires work. The new noticeboard for the Farrer Estate is in the process of being made.

15. Grounds maintenance tender.

The tenders will be opened at next month's meeting.

16. Installation of the defibrillator outside Holme for Gardens

The defibrillator has been delayed although it has not yet been installed.

17. Spring Newsletter

It was suggested that there could be articles about D-Day and the flooding photos will be included.

a) Hawkins Trust deliveries

This will be arranged via email.

16. Flooding and Mains Sewer Proposal for East Stoke

The consultation regarding the main sewage supply to East Stoke will be included in the upcoming newsletter. There will be a few changes made to the draft and the physical copies will be returned to the Clerk. A footer will also be added, containing GDPR information

a) It was commented upon that there are lots of illegal soakaways and the nearest main sewer is located two miles away by the garage in Wool. It was suggested that it is needed for a large part of East Stoke as the population is increasing due to new properties including the mobile homes along Church Lane.

b) Wessex Water has not provided any information regarding the minimum number of houses required for them to install mains sewers. This consultation is an expression of interest and would not mean that the resident responding is committed financially to the scheme.

c) It was suggested that more nitrates are going into Poole Harbour due to individual soakaways rather than using a main sewer.

19. Highways Issues

a) Update on issues

Discussed 2024-3-326 Item 9

b) Speed Indicator Device

The Speed Indicator Device is working well.

c) Other issues

None

20. Consultations for consideration or New Items for Discussion/Consideration

Letter of resignation from Tessa Wiltshire

Cllr Wiltshire was formally thanked by Cllr Cady for her ten years of service to East Stoke

Chairman's Initials

2024-3-326

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Parish Council. Her hard work is very much appreciated particularly regarding Hethfelton Woods.

21. Correspondence Received

- a) Election 2024 Resources - Dorset Council Area. A series of videos have been made to publicise the elections. DAPTC have suggested that small Parish Councils donate £30. **Noted.**
- b) News release: Round 4 of the Household Support Fund reopens for applications. This was opened on 10am on Tuesday 6 February. **Noted.**
- c) DAPTC E-News 2 February 2024. The Councillor Networking Event will be held on 7th March. **Noted.**
- d) Tomorrow! Facebook Live - our budget explained. This was held on Thursday 8 February at 6pm. **Noted.**
- e) Citizens Advice February 2024 Quarterly Newsletter. Over the last quarter, 4,971 people have asked them for advice. **Noted.**
- f) Buckingham Palace Garden Party - 8th May 2024 - Nominations are required to be received at DAPTC no later than Monday 26th February 2024. The winner was Cheselbourne Parish Council. **Noted.**
- g) Customer Update - Accessibility And More. Confirmation that the East Stoke website is WCAG2.2AA compliant. **Noted.**
- h) Important Info – Changes to email addresses. All former Magnox email addresses ...@magnoxsites.com, will become ... @nrservices.uk. **Noted.**
- i) Proposed temporary closure B3070 , West Holme. Between Manor Lane and Holme Lane (in both directions), a distance of approximately 340 metres. The closure has been requested to provide Wessex Water with safe access to install a new connection. These works are programmed to commence from 25th March 2024 until 27th March 2024, the road will remain closed 24 hours a day until completion. **Noted.**
- j) County of Culture Opportunity. A new initiative has been launched whereby one place in the Dorset Council wards will be selected to become the creative hub of Dorset in 2025, and thanks to Dorset Council, up to £30,000 will be awarded. **Noted.**
- k) CIL Reporting in Dorset. Templates for Community Infrastructure Levy records. **Noted.**
- l) Proposed temporary closure A352 at Wool Level Crossing. These works are programmed to commence between 23:30 and 06:00 from 8th May until 10th May. **Noted.**
- m) Dorset Council's latest news - local news and more. Five towns and villages have the approval to proceed with the introduction of 20mph zones or speed limits. **Noted.**
- n) DAPTC E-News 23 February 2024. Local (parish and town) councils can now apply for a free portrait of His Majesty The King. The closing date for applications is 28 March 2024.
It was agreed that the Parish Council would apply.
- o) Proposed temporary closure B3070 Main Road, West Lulworth. These works are programmed to commence between 09:30 and 15:30 on 15th April. **Noted.**
- p) Proposed temporary closure B3070 at Holme Level Crossing. These works are programmed to commence between 00:15 and 05:00 from 20th April 2024 until 22nd April. **Noted.**
- q) Hustings - are you planning any when the general election is called? More information can be found on the Electoral Commission website: **Noted.**
- r) Proposed temporary closure Bindon Lane, Wool. These works are programmed to commence between 10:30 and 16:30 on 23rd April. **Noted.**

22. Finance

- a) **The following payments were duly approved and will be paid electronically. Cllr Cady and either Cllr Quinn or Cllr Child to approve payments**

	Amount
Miss E Maidment Salary	£275.97
Dorset Council Pension Fund	£78.42
Re-imburse E Maidment for Wessex Water	£33.73

- b) **To review and agree quotes for repairing the Parish Land Fence**

Two quotes were received, one for £528 and the other from Steve Brown for £100. It was proposed by Cllr Quinn and seconded by Cllr Langley for Steve Brown to do the work.

23. Items for information or next agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish will both be held on 16th May. It was suggested to hold a Question and Answer session with the Dorset Councillor instead of having a speaker.

24. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Longthorns Campsite on 4th April

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:45

Chairman:

Date.....