



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST
STOKE HELD ON THURSDAY 11th JANUARY AT LONGTHORNS
CAMPSITE

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chair) Cllr Keith Evans Cllr Chris Evans Cllr Barry Quinn
APOLOGIES	Cllr Graeme Langley Cllr Neill Child Cllr Tessa Wiltshire Dorset Cllr Cherry Brooks
IN ATTENDANCE	6 Members of the Public Adam Bennett Senior Associate Planning Consultant at Ken Parke Planning Consultants Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. **Public participation period for 15 minutes**

- a) One of the residents questioned about the fingerpost located at Holmebridge. The resident was interested in walking to Wareham but noticed that the sign no longer indicates that the path leads to the destination. The Parish Council suspects that the change may have been made for road safety purposes. **Action:** The Clerk will ask the Footpath Liaison Officer.
- b) A resident has made a request that the Parish Council contact Wessex Water regarding the supply of wastewater drainage along A352, from the Farrer Estate to the Black Dog Inn. The resident explained that having this connection would alleviate the pressure on the Frome Valley Flood Plain and reduce the amount of nitrates and unprocessed sewage that seeps into the river and its associated SSSIs. The Parish Councillors agreed to read through the documentation provided by the resident and discuss it at the next meeting.
- c) There was flooding in numerous locations on Thursday 4th January. A resident has said that properties in Stokeford were affected, potentially due to a blocked culvert that goes under the road. It has also been observed that the stream near the pub may have some contamination as the plants have died. The Clerk has raised a job with Dorset Council to jet out all the gullies and culverts along the A352.
- d) During the wet weather a dog walk observed water being pumped into Hethfelton Woods from the quarries. It was questioned whether this breaches any regulations as it increases the likelihood of properties being flooded. **Action:** The Clerk to contact Dorset Cllr Brooks to investigate.
- e) The little footbridge to the West of the Mill Paddock Campsite has been broken and has been replaced by two planks of wood. A resident raised concerns that this is not safe. **Action:** The Clerk will contact the Rights of Way Officer to close the footpath until a more substantial structure has been installed.
- f) Highways have been out trying to alleviate the flooding in Highwood and it is now planned to install a larger pipe.
- g) There is a broken fence near the entrance to the Parish Land. **Action:** Cllr Quinn to investigate.
- h) Residents at Middlefield are facing a parking issue, as Aster has requested them not to park on the grass anymore. However, this may result in a shortage of parking spaces, forcing people to park on the A352. Although garages are available, their rent has recently doubled. Consequently, the garages are now being rented out to the general public for storage purposes. **Action:** Aster will be invited to the next meeting, where topics such as parking, allotments and trees will be discussed.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Langley, Cllr Child, Cllr Wiltshire and Dorset Cllr Brooks.

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 5th December 2023

The minutes from the 5th December 2023 were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

A cheque from the Village Hall was given to the Parish Council for £750. **Action:** The Clerk to contact London Hearts Organisation to order the defib. Also, the Clerk will correspond with Holme for Gardens to determine when the area will be ready for the installation.

7. Planning Applications or Planning Information received

a) **P/NMA/2023/07165 - The Forge Holmebridge, BH20 6AF.** Non Material amendment - Change number of window panels in dormer window from 5 to 4 on planning application P/HOU/2023/00580 - Single storey side extensions, replace existing rooflights with dormer, new window to side elevation, form new front entrance door, replacement windows and replacement access gates. **No comments or objections.**

b) **Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order - TPO/2023/0042.** Dorset Council (Land south of A352, Binnegar, BH20 6AH). This application relates to the SANG. **No comments or objections**

c) **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 to the south of A352.**

i) Mr Bennett explained that the planning application for the SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) is separate from the Farrer Estate application, but they are linked together as part of the Section 106 agreement. The SANG will be located on the southern side of the A352 and will be open to the public. Visitors can park at the village hall and access the SANG by taking a footpath through the woodland and crossing the A352 by using the pedestrian refuge. The land will have natural features, including play items such as boulders, logs, and bug hotels.

ii) The housing development will have its own private treatment. This is because Wessex Water is hesitant to develop the sewer network in the area due to the problem of nitrates in the Poole Harbour Catchment Area. As the location is not close to any existing sewage treatment plants, there is no legal requirement to connect to them. Additionally, there is no extra capacity available in either the Wool or Wareham works.

iii) Concerns were raised about the safety of the pedestrian refuge. It was also questioned if they could change the speed limit to 40mph from the Holmebridge junction as in this current plan there will be a very short distance before the crossing when the speed limit drops to 40. Another issue is that walkers may want to do a circular route which would involve using the pedestrian gate near the railway crossing and then to walk along the road to meet up with the bridleway on the northern side of the A352.

iv) The management of the SANG will be handled by the Bonds, and this includes the task of emptying the bins. The specifics of this arrangement will be determined in the Section 106 agreement. During the meeting, it was mentioned that the MOD is content with the alterations made to the pedestrian refuge plan. However, no documentation has been received to confirm this.

Action: The Parish Council will submit comments regarding the speed limit,

check to see if the MOD has responded and raise concern over the southern pedestrian gate.

8. Update of Previous Applications or planning information

No updates were received.

9. Dorset Council Report

None

10. Police Issues to report or update on issues reported

Cllr Quinn has been in contact with the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner who has said that they will publicise a new initiative called Parish Watch whereby Parish Clerks meet every few months. This will be instead of PCSOs attending parish council meetings as there are too many councils to attend. A new leaflet has been published and copies of these will be put on the noticeboards.

11. Hethfelton

No issues to report

12. Maintenance of noticeboards - Wareham Mens Shed

The organisation is still working on the one from Middlefield. Once that is complete, they will begin working on the others.

13. Advertise grounds maintenance tender.

The documentation was circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that no changes need to be made. The tender will be advertised on social media, the noticeboards and by email. Research needs to be carried out to find out if the Old Pound is registered. Once this has been done, quotes will be obtained to clear the overgrown vegetation.

a) Update on issues

No updates

b) Speed Indicator Device

The Speed Indicator Device will be moved on Wednesday 17th January.

c) Other issues

i) A substantial amount of black bags filled with what appears to be compost have been fly-tipped just to the west of the tank turning area on the Puddletown Road. Cllr Quinn has reported it to Dorset Council but they have said it is not their land. **Action:** The area is on the Bere Regis boundary therefore their Parish Council will be notified.

ii) A resident has organised a community litter pick which will take place on Saturday 20th January at 9am outside the Old Church.

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

a) Admissions policy consultation. Wessex MAT has entered into the statutory consultation on its School Admission Arrangements for 2025/2026 running through to the 26th January 2024 about the proposed new Trust Admissions Policy 2025-26 that will replace the current arrangement of individual school policies. Please note, there are NO changes to the Published Admissions Number for any Trust Schools. This can also be viewed on the Trust Website: www.wessex.ac. This policy will apply to various schools including the Purbeck School. **Noted.**

b) Active Travel Infrastructure Plan. Dorset Council's Active Travel Infrastructure Plan is a long term strategy for improving the network for walking, cycling and wheeling - that is, using a mobility scooter, wheelchair or similar mobility aid to get around. The plans include the network of prioritised routes based on which parts of the network would be most useful to improve.

<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/transport-policy/active-travel-infrastructure-plan/consultation/subpage.2023-11-29.0102144940/> Closes 18th Jan. **Noted.**

15. Correspondence Received

a) DAPTC E-News 1 December 2023. N THE NEWS THIS WEEK - NATIONAL PARK FOR DORSET? | The government announced a pledge to boost access to nature and the BBC News highlighted the possible creation of a new National Park with locations being the Chilterns, the Cotswolds and Dorset. **Noted.**

b) NRS Recruitment Campaign. The Nuclear Restoration Services have announced they are recruiting over 30 level 2 – 6 engineering and business apprentices. Apprentice Careers - Energus

This information will be circulated on social media.

- c) NEWS: Grant funds for businesses, community groups and organisations set to launch. Dorset Council has been allocated just over £6 million via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for use within the county, with funds available until completion in March 2025. Community groups and organisations can apply for grants between £1,000 and £15,000. Local business grant awards are from £2,000 to £20,000 per business. **Noted.**
- d) Working Together Webinars - Dorset Council's Recycling Team 14 Dec @4pm.
- e) Tax Base 2024/25. The Tax Base for East Stoke has increased by 8.2%. The council tax base is the number of properties in a parish that are liable to pay council tax. **Noted.**
- f) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Temporary Closure Of Bindon Lane, Wool. It will come into operation on 20th Dec between 09:30 and 14:30 and remain in force for five days, but it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 20th December. **Noted.**
- g) Dorset Council's latest news - Grant funding, future tech, and more local news. Over £1 Million Awarded to Dorset Council to Help End Homelessness. **Noted.**
- h) Important Message from the Highways Team at Dorset Council. For emergency highways issues, <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem/highway-emergencies>, or call us on 01305 221020, 24 hour Wessex Water line: 0345 600 4600, 24 hour floodline: 0345 988 118, Environment Agency National Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/flooding/sandbags-and-local-flooding-advice> **Noted.**
- i) PTAG Meeting. The next meeting of the Purbeck Transport Action Group will be held online (by Zoom) on 9 January 2024, starting at 6.30 p.m. **Noted.**
- j) DAPTC E-News 15 December 2023. There will be a webinar in January about the Multi-Authority Devolution Deal. Dorset Council are in discussions with Wiltshire, BCP, Somerset and North Somerset. **Noted.**
- k) Citizens Advice Housing Project Fundraising Campaign. They are looking to raise funds to support their Housing Team who provide essential support to local people who are at risk of homelessness. **Noted.**

16. 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
- b) **To receive the Third Quarter Bank Reconciliation**
The Receipts and Paymetns Cashbook balance of £34131.10 agreed with the reconciled bank balance as of 15th December 2023.
- c) **To agree the Third Quarter Budget Report.**
The Third Quarter Budget Report was noted and £9275.17 has been spent in this financial year.
- d) **To agree the Budget for 2024/25 and to agree the Precept.**
It was proposed by Cllr Cady and seconded by Cllr Quinn to increase it from £9000 to £9500. The tax base which is the number of properties in the parish that are liable to pay council tax has increased by 8.2%. Therefore even by increasing the budget by £500, it will mean a 2.41% (-£1.12) decrease per Band D property. The budget has changed to allocate funds for the web hosting and maintenance of the defibrillator.

17. Items for information or next agenda

The next agenda will include discussing Wessex Water, Aster and the Sring Newsletter.

19. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Longthorns Campsite on 1st February

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:00

Chairman:

Date.....