



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST
STOKE HELD ON THURSDAY 5th JANUARY 2023 AT LONGTHORNS
CAMPSITE

| | |
|---------------|---|
| PRESENT | Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chairman) Cllr Neill Child (Vice Chairman) Cllr Chris Evans Cllr Tessa Wiltshire Cllr Graeme Langley |
| APOLOGIES | Cllr Keith Evans Cllr Barry Quinn Dorset Councillor Cherry Brooks |
| IN ATTENDANCE | 2 Members of the Public |
| | Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk) |

1. Public participation period for 15 minutes

A member of the public requested that the Parish Council approaches the landowner of the fields behind Middlefield to create walking access from the Middlefield Cottages to the Binnegar Common Land. Historically, there was an informal provision but this has now been fenced over by barbed wire. This has resulted in residents now having to cross the A352 to use the pavement. The Parish Council acknowledges that the A352 is an extremely busy road and speeding is an issue. To help resolve the problem a Speed Indicator Device has been installed and vehicles do now slow down. It was agreed to request that the Police monitor speeds again near Middlefield. It was discussed that to construct a path the landowner and tenant farmer might have to be financially compensated as they might need additional insurance. It would be advisable for a path to be fenced off as there is often livestock in the field. The land is owned by the Diocese and it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to them.

Action: Parish Clerk to contact the Police and Diocese.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Keith Evans, Cllr Barry Quinn and County Cllr Cherry Brooks

3. Granting of Dispensation

No applications for a dispensation had been made.

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest had been made.

5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 1st December 2022

The minutes from 1st December 2022 were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- a) No further information has been received from the River Laboratories.
- b) The blocked drain between Binnegar Lane and Middlefield has been reported. It was commented upon that it could be a burst water pipe as water accumulates even in dry weather. The drains all along the A352 from the Holmebridge Junction to Middlefield need to be blasted out. Cllr Child said he will dig out the slit along Binnegar Lane.

Action: The Parish Clerk to seek advice from Highways.

7. Planning Applications or Planning Information received

- a) **P/HOU/2022/06608 - Plot 1 Kemps Country House, BH20 6AL.** Single storey side extension.

The Parish Council objects to this application due to the following factors:

- The extension might damage the mature trees to the north and west of the development which is protected by Area Tree Preservation Order 447.
- Due to the increase in size, it is likely that more people would be residing there which will result in more strain on the utilities. There is concern regarding drainage and flood risk as it is located in a Flood Risk Zone 1 and there has been flooding on the site due to the runoff from the fields.

- b) **P/FUL/2022/06958 - River Laboratory, Church Lane, BH20 6BB.**

Change of use to dwellinghouse and curtilage.

No comments or objections

- c) **P/NMA/2022/07485 - Fair Santon, Bindon Lane, BH20 6AS.**

Non-material to reduce the size of the extension to planning permission 6/2021/0275 (Rear single storey pitched roof extension)

No comments or objections

8. Update on Previous Applications or planning information

6/2021/0360. The Appeal Hearing was held on Tuesday 6th December.

Outcome is not known.

9. To receive report from the Dorset Council Councillor

- a) The monthly report was circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) An email was received regarding Capital funding available for village halls. Unfortunately, the Village Hall Committee can't apply as it is only for repair work.

10. Any Police issues to report or update on issues reported

A Police speed check along the A352 near Middlefield will be requested.

11. Churchyard Maintenance

The Groundswoman has been away for the majority of December. He is unable to cut the grass at the Churchyard as it is too waterlogged but will do it as soon as it dries out.

12. Highways Issues

- a) **Update on issues**

The Clerk has given Dorset Cllr Brooks a list of the signs that are obscured by vegetation. Cllr Wiltshire will check the one near Holmebridge to see if it has been done.

- b) **Speed Indicator Device.**

The SID will be moved again in the next few weeks.

- c) **Other Issues**

There were no other issues to report.

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

No open consultations.

14. Correspondence Received

- a) Christmas!, Gardening & Community Support. Publicity for projects run by the Dorset Volunteer Centre. **Noted.**
- b) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Temporary Overnight Road Closure B3070 at Holme Level Crossing. It will come into operation between 23:00 until 07:00 on 19th December 2022 and remain in force for five days, however, it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 23rd December 2022. **Noted.**
- c) Tree felling applications - email from Alison Turnock, Service Manager for Conservation. The Planning Department will now notify Parish Councils from 1st December of applications where felling is proposed (with the exception of regulation 14 applications for removal of dead and dangerous trees). **Noted.**
- d) Free workshop for farmers and landowners as Direct Payments are brought to a close. The first event has now been held but further workshops will follow in the new year covering the whole of Dorset.

- Noted.**
- e) Community & Culture Project Funding information and a Questionnaire on Street Trading - up and coming deadlines! Voluntary and Community sector groups can apply in this round. However, applicants should note that round 4 will prioritise applications from the VCS that support the cost-of-living challenges that affect local communities. **Noted.**
 - f) How to report abandoned vehicles. Vehicles can be reported online at https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Abandoned_Vehicles
 - g) Dorset Council latest news - cost of living help, Local News and more. The Energy Price Guarantee is still in place, so the average household energy bill will remain at around £2,500 until 31 March 2023 and around £3,000 until 31 March 2024. **Noted.**
 - h) DAPTC E-News 2 December 2022. The deadline for the precept submission is 31st December. **Noted.**
 - i) Notification of external auditor appointment. The auditor who has been appointed for the next five years is BDO LLP. As the Parish Council is under the £25K threshold the proceedings and fees are the same. **Noted.**
 - j) 2023/24 Precept Request. The Tax Base for East Stoke for the next financial year has changed by 7.6%. **Noted.**
 - k) DAPTC E-News 9 December 2022. Various "Working Together" webinars will be run in the New Year. **Noted.**
 - l) Citizens Advice Grant Letter. A letter requesting a donation from the Parish Council.
To be discussed in April.
 - m) Proposed temporary closure Tout Hill, Longthorns. These works are programmed to commence from 6th March 2023 until 24th March 2023. **Noted.**
 - n) NALC/SLCC Civility & Respect Project - Supporting Guidance for the LGA Model Code of Conduct and Standards in Public Life. It is recommended that Parish Councils adopt the new Code of Conduct which was published in 2020. **Noted.**
 - o) Christmas and New Year public transport. The X54 bus service will run as normal up to Friday 23rd Dec, then there will be no X54 buses until the service resumes on Tues 3rd Jan. **Noted.**
 - p) Dorset Council latest news - cost of living help, local news and more. Residents under the age of 16 are able to access free swimming from 17 December to 1st January in many of the leisure centres across the county. **Noted.**
 - q) Request from a resident to have a walking route from Middlefield Cottages to the Bridleway by Binnegar Lane.
Discussed 2023/1/312 Item 1
 - r) East Stoke Parish Council - Application Ref. 6/2018/0228 - Binnegar Hall, Worgret Road, East Stoke, BH20 6AT. Letter from the Senior Associate Planning Consultant about the proposed village hall.
Cllr Quinn would support it going to the Parish Council. It was discussed that other Parish Councillors would prefer it to stay as a separate committee due to the liability implications. The Parish Council will still however support the hall and £18k is ringfenced for the project. For long-term budgeting, funds need to include wages for a booking clerk/caretaker.
Action: The Clerk to write to the Consultant explaining that he will need to contact the Committee.

- s) Update on the Financial Settlement for 2023/24. The council tax referendum principles will not be set for local (parish and town) councils in 2023/24. **Noted.**

15. Finance

- a) **The following payments were duly approved and will be paid electronically.**

Cllr Cady and Cllr Child to approve the payments.

| | Amount |
|----------------------------|---------|
| E Maidment Salary | £252.78 |
| Dorset County Pension Fund | £73.56 |
| T. Lee Landscaping | £942.50 |

- b) **Receive the 3rd Quarter Bank Reconciliation**

The Receipts and Payments Cashbook balance of £34973.24 agreed with the reconciled bank balance as of 22nd December 2022 and was duly signed by the Chairman.

- c) **Receive the 3rd Quarter Budget Report**

The third quarter budget report was noted and £10963.42 has been spent in this financial year.

- d) **To agree the Budget for 2023/24 and to agree the Precept**

With the new developments, the population has slightly grown therefore the tax base rate for East Stoke has increased by 7.6%. The Clerk recommended that the precept should be increased by at least £500 which would be a 1.91% decrease to a Band D Equivalent charge or by £700 which would be a 0.15% (£0.08) increase. Cllr Langley proposed that due to the cost of living crisis, it should stay at £9000. It was proposed by Cllr Langley and seconded by Cllr Evans for the precept to be £9000.

16. Items for information or next agenda

The Flyer headstone still needs to be repaired. It was suggested that it can be glued back but it would have to lie flat with a brace. Another idea would be to contact the BBC Repair Shop. It was agreed to apply to the programme and Cllr Cady will fill in the online form.

The next meeting will be held at Longthorns Campsite on Thursday 2nd February 2023.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:38