

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14th May 2015

PRESENT Cllr Neill Child (Vice Chairman)
 Cllr Barry Quinn
 Cllr Christine Evans
 Cllr Tessa Wiltshire
 Cllr Julie Wright

APOLOGIES Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chairman)
 Cllr Christine Evans
 Cllr Cherry Brooks
 District Cllr Laura Miller
 County Cllr Mike Lovell
 PC Claire Jepchott

IN ATTENDANCE 3 Members of the Public
 District Cllr Graham Brown
 Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. Election of Parish Council Chairman for 2015/16

a) Election of Chairman for the coming year

Cllr Rebecca Cady was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Child and this was seconded by Cllr Quinn. No other nominations were made. It was resolved that Cllr Cady was elected as Chairman.

b) Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Cady has sent her apologies and will sign the Declaration Of Acceptance of Office Form at the next meeting.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2015/16

a) Election of Vice-Chairman for the coming year

Cllr Neill Child was proposed as Vice Chairman by Cllr Quinn, this was seconded by Cllr Wright. There were no other nominations. It was resolved that Cllr Child was elected as Vice Chairman.

b) Vice-Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Child duly signed his declaration of acceptance of Office form.

3. Public Participation Time.

a) Mr Barnes asked for an update on when the dead elm trees and overhanging branches will be removed by Mr Hedgeman as it is still causing an obstruction for large vehicles travelling along the A352. The Parish Clerk stated that a letter was sent to him three weeks ago, but when the issue was first raised it was a couple of months ago, it was not highlighted that it was the trees were on his land. It was recommended by Cllr Child that another letter should be sent with a seven day deadline and for it to be copied to both Dorset Highways and Purbeck District Council.

Action: The Clerk to write to Mr Hedgeman

b) i. Mr Burdon stated that the railway crossing is still an ongoing

issue. He witnessed five tank transporters travelling northward waiting at the barriers for a long period. Eventually the barriers were lifted, but it draws attention to the fact that if there was a problem then this type of vehicle would find it impossible to turn in the road. Mrs Burdon said that motorists need information as to whether the barriers are broken or if they are down for a long time due to waiting for the next train.

ii. Cllr Brown added that the crossing at Wool has had the same problems and there has been incidents of emergency vehicles having to wait as it depends if the operator at Basingstoke is watching the crossing at that precise moment. Cllr Quinn confirmed that the software upgrade is now scheduled.

iii. Cllr Wiltshire suggested that there should be a matrix sign system making motorists aware that there is a train coming or if there is a problem. She also recommended that the Police should be more proactive and whether it would be possible to take photographs as evidence.

iv. Mr Barnes said that the timing of when the lights flash to the barriers going down is too fast especially when driving a tractor. He had an incident when this happened and the barrier clipped the load he was towing. Cllr Child agreed as it could also cause problems for drivers of caravans or slow moving vehicles.

- c) Cllr Wright notified the meeting that the footpath along Bindon Lane to East Stoke is closed off due to the bridge being of disrepair. It is believed that the Dorset Wildlife Trust owns the bridge. It was questioned if Gillian Topp is aware of this and the Right of Way Officer at County needs to be informed.

Action: The Clerk to ask Gillian Topp if she has more information and to report it to the Right of Way Officer.

4. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Rebecca Cady, Cllr Cherry Brooks, Cllr Christine Evans, District Councillor Laura Miller and County Cllr Mike Lovell.

5. Granting of Dispensation

No applications for a dispensation had been made.

6. Declarations of Interest

None

7. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2015

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th April 2015 were approved as a true account of the meeting and were duly signed.

8. Matters arising from the minutes

- a) The correction in 6c was noted that it should have been Geoff Edwardes instead of Jeff Edwards.

- b) The tank speed limit was changed nationally in 2013. Cllr Quinn is of the opinion that the local speed limit will stay the same as the authorities would like to put it back to where it was originally.
- c) A new bin has been put at the Highwood junction. Although, a dog sticker will need to be purchased for it. Previously, this was brought from Glasdon.

Action: The Clerk to purchase a dog sticker.

9. Planning Applications

No planning applications were received this month.

10. Update on Previous Planning Applications or planning information

- a) **6/2015/0005 Kemps Country House Hotel** - Change of use of Kemps Country House to 6 dwellings with associated alteration works, extension to the coach house, parking and landscaping. **Not determined**

This application was approved by the Planning Board. Cllr Quinn expressed facts from the Local Plan that objects to the planning permission but this was not taken on board. In the Local Plan it states that it is the policy for tourist facilities to be preserved. The Board had to support the application as the marketing of the property isn't time restricted as the nine months of marketing could have been done at any time. The property was marketed in January 2013 but it was felt that due to there currently being a more positive housing climate there might now have been more interest. The Profit and Loss Account was not shown as the information was deemed too personal. The question of sewage was ambiguous and was dismissed. Due to the new policy from DCLG the development does not require to provide for social housing as the number of residential units is under ten.

- b) **6/2015/0131 & 0132 Manor Lane (Manor Cottage)** - Erect single and two storey rear extensions. **Refused**
As the application was for a listed building the Planning Department deemed the extension to be too big.

11. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a) **County Cllr Lovell**

No report

- b) **District Cllr Brown**

There are three new Councillors Graham Brown, Cherry Brooks and Laura Miller. It is their intention to split the responsibilities. Cllr Brown suggested that there should be a "Get to know you" meeting for the Parish Councils in the Wool ward which are Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle, East Holme, East Stoke, Moreton and Wool.

The District Council now consists of 20 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent. There will no longer be a hard copy of the Tourist Information Brochure as it will now only be online. It was reported by the Housing Officer that people in social housing now have the right to move to a different area if they have secured a job there. This will entitle them to jump

up the list to the silver band. Cllr Quinn would like Fiona Brown, the Housing Manager to do a housing brief.

12. Any issues to be reported to the Police or, update on issues reported

Since the 1st April there have been the following crimes: 1 theft from an unattended motor vehicle, 2 criminal damages, theft of fencing panels, theft of sheep and theft of gates. The Police would also like to remind members of the public not to leave valuables unattended in cars and to be aware of cold calling scams.

13. Annual Parish Meeting/Annual General Meeting

David Willey, the Curator at the Tank Museum has been contacted as a potential speaker. However, we have not received a response yet. Another possibility is to get someone to speak about the Holton Heath Cordite Factory.

14. River Frome Issues

a) Action points from the meeting with the Environment Agency

The action points from the meeting will be kept on record. Mrs Burdon feels that the agencies had a negative opinion about removing the silt. A reply was received from the Environment Agency stating that they would waive the fee if it was done as a community effect. Cllr Quinn suggested that the Parish Council should fill out the paperwork. However, the work could become very expensive to do. A combined effort with other Parishes could be a more effective approach to dealing with the Agencies.

15. East Stoke and Wool Community Chest

Nine applications were received and the money will be allocated as follows: Wool Pre School £407.88, Ladies Football Team £710, Cologne Rd Community Hall £1750, Wool Library £1248.62 and a Boxing Day lunch for the elderly £150. The Village Hall Committee was initially going to apply for money to go towards an ISO container, tables and chairs but in the end they didn't. The idea was to use the container to store items such as the tables and chairs.

No applications were received directly from East Stoke but the Community Chest Committee felt that the grants that were awarded would benefit the residents of East Stoke as many of the facilities/groups are used by them.

16. Railway Crossing Issues

a) The railway crossing closure takes place on 16th to 17th May.
Cllr Quinn will contact Cllr Peter Wharf about potential signage. There are currently discussions with Will Bond to use part of his land to widen the junction.

17. Highways Issues

- a) Update on issues reported
Cllr Child commented that the new cats eyes are effective as they seem very bright. The new surface should be a lot quieter. Mrs Burdon asked if it is possible to have a bus stop on the A352 junction to Holmebridge as she feels that there would be a demand for it.
- b) Other Issues

There are potholes along Church Lane to the River Labs.

Action: The Clerk to report it on the dorsetforyou portal.

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

a) Impending SYCL upgrade to the East Stoke website

There is now an option to choose the banner colour on the homepage. A hit counter is now in operation by using Google Analytics however, it was found out that most of the visits were spam.

b) Flood Signs for parishes.

The letter asked Parishes if there is a need for flood signs to be put out at various spots and if there would be volunteers to erect them. Mrs Burdon asked where people would store them and it was agreed that the best solution would be for people to store them at their own properties. It was questioned that there would be potential implications such as who is legally responsible for them and what would be the health and safety regulations for it. Mr and Mrs Burdon agreed to complete the form. Cllr Brown commented that this sort of role could be done by a lengthsman who could be employed jointly by the Parishes that make up the Wool Ward. It was agreed that this subject along with discussions on the cycling events, river and railway crossings should go on the Agenda for the joint meeting.

Action: The Flood Wardens will formulate a response to the Flood Signs letter. Cllr Brown will arrange a suitable date for the joint Parishes meeting and will email the details to the Chairs.

19 Correspondence Received

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

a) Thank you letters from the Purbeck Film Festival, Purbeck Citizens Advice and Victims Support. **Noted**

b) Recently amended legal notes, LTN 15 - Legal Proceedings has been revised and LTN 31 – Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1971 and LTN 79 – Staff Pensions have been revised. **Noted**

c) Dorset Community Action Funding Fair on Monday, 18 May. **Noted**

d) Advertising request to use Parish Council newsletters and websites from the Purbeck Sports Centre.

It was agreed that they can put information on the website and they could submit articles to the newsletters.

e) Wareham Post Office, which will be closing from 25 April until 14 May for extensive refurbishment. **Noted.**

f) Request To Promote Community Ownership & Management of Assets Prog. (COMA). **Noted.**

g) News release - Swanage and Purbeck Holiday Guide to go online. It was asked if they could advertise the fete. It would be possible, but they may have to pay for it.

h) Jurassic Beast Sportive 10 May 2015. **Noted.**

i) Notification of retirement from Cynthia Starkey, Chief Executive of DAPTC. **Noted.**

20 Finance

a) The following receipts were noted:		
1st half-year precept 2015/16		£4250.00
Council Tax Support Grant 2015/16		£195.00
Burial (Norman Littlecott)		£272.00
Monument (Alice Wadsworth)		£116.00
Fyler and Butler Trusts		£126.26

b) Payment	Amount	Cheque No
Miss E Maidment Apr 15 Salary	£165.73	000461

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

- c) Internal Audit**
Mrs Paula Harding will carry out the Internal Audit from 17th May.
- d) Quotations for the Parish Council Insurance**
The following quotes were received from Zurich Insurance £363.53 or three year agreement of £348.66, Came and Co £359.90 or three year insurance of £341.91, Norris and Fisher, emailed to inform us that they would be unable to compete with Came and Co as their quote was working out to be over £600. It was proposed by Cllr Child and seconded by Cllr Wright that the insurance should be renewed with Came and Co. It was suggested by Cllr Wright that next year it would be useful to obtain a quote from AON as they have very competitive rates.
Action: The Clerk to contact Came and Co

- e) Risk Assessment Year Ending 31st March 2015.**
The risk assessment document was circulated prior to the meeting.
No queries were raised.
The risk assessment document was approved and signed by the Vice Chairman

- f) Fourth Quarter Bank Reconciliation**
The fourth quarter Bank Reconciliation and Cashbook were circulated prior to this meeting. The Receipts and Payments cashbook balance agreed with the reconciled bank statements. The cashbook balance at 31st Marcy 2015 was £23,696.57.
Cllr Quinn questioned if any interest was received on the accounts. The Clerk confirmed that it is received, but it is a matter of pennies.

21 Items for Information or next agenda
There were no matters arising.

22 Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting.
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th June 2015 at 7pm.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Chairman:Date.....