

EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 4th OCTOBER 2012

PRESENT Cllr Rebecca Cady, Chairman
Cllr Tib Axon
Cllr Karen Barnes
Cllr Neill Child, Vice Chairman
Cllr Christine Evans
Cllr Barry Quinn (District Councillor)

APOLOGIES Cllr Adrian Naylor
PCSO Stuart Hann

IN ATTENDANCE County Cllr Mike Lovell
9 Members of the Public
Julie Wright (Parish Clerk)

1 Public Participation Time

The Chairman opened the meeting by stating that a copy of the recent presentation given by Network Rail for the new East Stoke and Holme level crossings was available at the back of the room.

- a) Helen Crow reported that a statutory judicial review has been requested due to the Planning Inspector's approval of the application for the four turbines at Master's Pit.

The application for the single turbine at Masters Pit has been approved and Ms Crow has asked Dorset County Council (DCC) if they have followed the correct procedure and the legality of their decision.

This approval does not mean three large and one smaller turbine can be built.

There are paragraphs in the Planning Officer's report that includes additional turbines. There is no reason why further application(s) for additional turbines could not be submitted.

County Cllr Lovell informed Ms Crow that the single turbine was determined by DCC as it was related to the minerals at Masters Pit and DCC deal with minerals. Other applications for turbines would not be for the minerals plant.

- b) Ms Crow asked if the Parish Council had commented on the Navitus Bay Wind Park Consultation. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had made the comment that the Wind Park would have an indirect impact on this area's tourism.
- c) Cllr Lovell reported that there is many other renewable energy sources being looked at which are much more efficient i.e. solar photovoltaic.
- d) Complaint regarding train horns. County Cllr Lovell will raise this at the Rail partnership meeting. The Parish Council have complained to Network Rail about receiving no feedback about the train horns reported to them.

- e) Mrs Sue Burden reported that the hedge is encroaching onto the footpath at the B3070/A 352 junction. The nettles need cutting back by the post box.
Action: The Clerk will report these issues.
- f) Mr Ady Pitman, Village Hall Committee Chairman, stated that the Village Hall made a profit of £528 at the Village fete in September. Next year the Village Hall may have an evening event too.
- g) The Village Hall Committee's next fundraiser will be a quiz at the Stokeford Inn on 28th November. Cost £10.00 for a team of four.
- h) A query was raised about the lights changing quickly at Rushton crossing to indicate an approaching train. The lights do change quickly here. The new gates planned for Rushton level crossing will make this better.

2 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted and approved for Cllr Adrian Naylor.

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

None.

4 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 6th September 2012**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th September were approved as a true account of the meeting and were duly signed.

5 **Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

6 **Register of Members Interest form**

Completed forms have been received from Cllr Evans and Cllr Child.

Action: The Clerk will send a reminder for all Cllrs to return their forms.

7 **Planning Applications**

- a) **6/2012/0556** – Retention of minerals screening, processing and washing facility including conveyors, power generation plant and electrical switchgear/control rooms. Binnegar Quarry, Puddletown Road, East Stoke, BH20 6AH.

It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.

- b) **6/2012/0565** - Continue use of land as a caravan & camping site & agriculture use; change of use of cow shed to multipurpose teaching meeting room; demolish existing storage building & erect replacement building for agriculture storage, toilets, showers & washing up facilities. Longthorns Farm, Longthorns, BH20 6HH.
Cllr Barnes and Cllr Child had made a site visit to Longthorns.

It was resolved that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.

The clerk will make the comment that the Parish Council wants Purbeck District Council to police the campsites in the District to ensure that they operate within the terms of their licence.

- c) **6/2012/0624** – Erection of 7 sponsorship acknowledgement signs. Burton Cross & Tout Hill Roundabouts, Wool.

A comment was made about the size of some of the signs at roundabouts.

Action: The Clerk will ask for a copy of these plans with the correct name for the 'Toul Hill' roundabout as it is called 'Woolbridge and it is within the East Stoke parish and not Wool.

Action: The Clerk will write to DCC to enquire about their roundabout policy and enquire why planning applications are being submitted before this policy has been adopted.

Cllr Barnes left the meeting.

8 Update on Previous Planning Application(s) or Planning Information received

a) **6/2012/0402** - Installation and erection of new site offices and welfare facilities. Binnegar Quarry Wareham ECO- Park, Puddletown Road, East Stoke BH20 6AH. **Granted permission.**

b) For information only. EA1/2012/0012 – Proposed solar farm - request for a screening opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment Stokeford Farm, East Stoke, BH20 6AL. EIA Screening Opinion - Not EIA Development. **Approved.**

9 Reports from County and District Councillors

a) County Cllr Lovell

i) Cllr Lovell was asked for an update regarding the closure of East Stoke crossing as Network Rail could not get the staff to man the crossing. DCC cannot do anything about this as it is an operational problem. The Parish Council must let Highways know if this happens again.

b) District Cllr Quinn

i) The report from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) will go to the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 9th October. The Parish Council has not received official notification of the LGBCE report. The next stage is for the report to be laid before Parliament and the MPs will then have forty days in which to object to the report.

Action: The Clerk will write to Mr R Drax MP as the LGBCE has not taken on board the evidence. In the 1997 report it was not a good idea to join East Stoke parish to that of Wool and now they are of a different view.

ii) Vanessa Ricketts is the new Democratic Services Manager at PDC.

iii) Cllr Quinn attended a Renewable Energy Road show at Christchurch. This looked at other renewable energy sources e.g. photovoltaic. These have less visible impact on the countryside. PDC needs to develop a renewable energy policy.

In addition the National Farmers Union (NFU) is looking at micro-generation around farms using renewable energy sources so that farms could become self-sufficient for their own energy needs.

iv) Cllr Quinn is on the liaison committee at Binnegar Quarry.

10 Police Update

A telephone scam reported from India calling themselves 'Consumer Refunds'. A bogus email is circulating pretending to be from HMRC.

Action: The clerk will inform PSCO Hann of these scams. The Clerk will ask PSCO Hann for the leaflet the Police wanted to distribute with the next newsletter.

11 **East Stoke and Holme Level Crossings**

The presentation from Network Rail regarding their plans for these crossings was available at the meeting.

Cllr Cady reported that Network Rail had only carried out a leaflet drop in Church Lane and the Stokeford areas. Fifty residents attended the presentation at the River Laboratory on Thursday 20th September.

Issues have been raised by the farmers about how cattle can be stopped from getting out onto the main road as the level crossing gates will be open whilst cattle are being moved.

Residents will be informed in advance of the works that will be carried out.

12 **River Frome Issues**

a) Mr Burden reported that weed cutting has taken place upstream of Holme Bridge. The river level is very high.

b) Mrs Sue Burden has contacted the Environment Agency (EA) to report that one of the arches at Holme Bridge is blocked. The EA will be coming to take a look.

c) The ditch opposite the B3070 culvert has started to be cleared.

13 **Footpaths/ Bridleways**

a) Update on issues reported

The Clerk has asked for an update about the wet bridleway but there has been no response from Steve Kourik.

14 **Highways Issues.**

a) Decisions made by the County Council on filling grit bins and the Community Self-Help Snow Clearing Scheme.

The parish's grit bins are still full of grit.

b) Any highways issues to report

i) Slippery surface signs have been put up at Binnegar Lane where the mud came onto the road.

ii) Cllr Quinn will report the twisted sign opposite the Churchyard.

iii) Cllr Quinn gave feedback from the briefing at PDC from DCC Highways. The East Stoke projects on the list for improvements are the dual use footpath along A352. There is only guidance regarding signage for dual use footpaths. An aim of the Parish Plan was to extend this footpath to Binnegar Hall. This path would get used. Funding may be available for this from Paths 4 Communities.

For safety of pedestrians there should be a path at Tout Hill to Monkey World.

Action: Cllr Lovell will arrange a meeting with Mr Stephen Mephram to discuss the highways problems in the parish and the plans for the footpaths.

c) Update on previous issues reported

The hedges in Bindon Lane have been cut back as has the reflective bollard which was overgrown with bracken.

15 **Parish Land**

The claim by the Parish Council of adverse possession was incorrect as the Parish Council owned the land.

The next step is to apply for initial registration but first a valuation of the land needs to take place. Once the application for registration is submitted the Land Registry will notify DCC.

Action: Cllr Child will arrange for a valuation to be carried out.

16 Maintenance of St. Mary's Ruins

The post has been installed.

17 Autumn Newsletter

Items for the newsletter:

Remembrance Day – Sunday 11th November. Cllr Axon will inform Cllr Barnes of the time.

The newsletter will go out on the 27th October.

Action: The Clerk will inform Chris McDermott and Ros Ham of this date.

Action: The Clerk will contact PCSO Hann about the leaflets he wants distributing with the newsletter.

18 Consultations or items for consideration

a) Draft joint Health and Well-being Plan for Dorset 2012 - 2015.

Cllr Cady has responded to this consultation.

b) Communities and Local Government Consultation Localising support for council tax - Council tax base and funding for local precepting authorities.

The Clerk will respond with the following comments on the Chapter 3 Questions:

The Parish Council agrees that the council tax base for local precepting authorities should be calculated excluding council tax support reductions in order to provide certainty for local taxpayers and for the funding of local precepting authorities.

The Parish Council agrees that the Secretary of State should also direct billing authorities to transfer an amount they estimate to be necessary to offset the cost of reductions attributable to local precepting authorities from their general fund to the collection fund.

c) Consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule.

The Parish Council made no comments on this consultation.

d) Purbeck District Council Consultation on the Localisation of Council Tax Benefits.

The poster advertising this consultation has been placed on the notice board at Middlefields. Pensioners and vulnerable groups will be protected.

The Parish Council made no comments on this consultation.

e) Motions for the DAPTC AGM

None would be attending the DAPTC AGM so the motions were not considered.

f) Department of Communities and Local Government. Technical Reforms to Council Tax - Empty homes premium: Calculation of council tax base Consultation.

No comments were made on this consultation.

19 Correspondence Received

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

- a) Planning Training Plan from Purbeck District Council.
- b) A notice regarding the temporary closure of Holme No 31 level crossing. It will come into operation 23.30 Hrs on Saturday 22nd September to 08.00hrs on Sunday 23rd September 2012.
- c) Dorset Community Safety Partnership newsletter.
- d) Information regarding funding from the Dorset Social Care Innovation Fund and the Dorset Carers Support Project Fund.
- e) Raise funds for the local area with a community calendar. These details were passed to the Village Hall Committee.
- f) Funds available from Dorset County Community Fund and Santander's £250,000 community fund to boost good causes. Details passed to the Village Hall Committee.
- g) Local Government Boundary Commission for England report on the electoral arrangements for Purbeck.

20 Finance

a) Receipts

It was **noted** that the second half of the Precept has been received - £3,000.00.

b) Payments

| Payee | Amount | Cheque Number |
|---|---------|---------------|
| Mrs J Wright (August/September salary) | £333.11 | 000364 |
| Wessex Water | £11.04 | 000365 |
| BDO LLP (External Audit) | £144.00 | 000366 |
| Garden Services (Purbeck) Ltd (Quarterly invoice) | £757.20 | 000367 |

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

c) Second quarter budget report – 30th September 2012

The second quarter budget report was **noted**.

d) Annual Return year ending 31st March, 2012.

The external auditor's report was **noted**.

The Clerk reported that the initial issues arising report was incorrect and she had contacted the auditor to report this. They issued a new report.

The external auditor's second issues arising report gave a note to the readers of the accounts regarding the restatement of the assets.

It was **resolved** that the Annual Return year ending 31st March 2011 was accepted and approved.

21 DAPTC Training Courses

- a) Chairmans Seminar, 15th November, Dorchester Youth Association, 7pm -9pm, £20.00
Cllr Cady may attend this training course.

- b) Councillors Update, 22nd November, Dorchester Youth Association, 7pm -9pm , £20.00

No one will be attending this training.

- c) Local Government Pension Scheme Workshop for Dorset Parish and Town Councils to be held on Tuesday 11th December at 9.30a.m-12.30pm, Dorchester Youth Association. FREE.

No one will be attending this training.

22 Items for Information or the next agenda

- a) Item for next agenda – Data Protection and registration with the Information Commissioner's Office.
- b) Camper vans have been staying overnight at Holme Bridge. In the past they have stayed at Woolbridge too. Mr Mc Straw will be looking into this as he has a meeting with Highways.
- c) Cllr Evans gave her apologies for November's meeting.

23 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Thursday 1st November 2012 at 7pm.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....