



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF EAST STOKE
HELD ON THURSDAY 4th MARCH 2021

PRESENT Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chairman)
 Cllr Neill Child (Vice-Chairman)
 Cllr Barry Quinn
 Cllr Tessa Wiltshire
 Cllr Chris Evans
 Cllr David Purshouse
 Cllr Graeme Langley

APOLOGIES None
IN ATTENDANCE 1 Member of the Public
 Dorset Councillor Cherry Brooks
 Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. Public Participation Time

- a) A Member of the public has submitted a written question as to whether there has been an update on Rowan Lodge name change. There is currently no further news.
- b) A complaint was made about the number of deer carcasses along the A352, as her daughter will have to step over one in order to catch the school bus. She has contacted the Council but to no avail. The policy for disposing of carcasses, is to put them in the nearest hedgerow to decompose. Along this stretch of road, there isn't adequate hedging as the public path is on the other side of the hedgerow. **Action:** Cllr Brooks will arrange for it to be disposed of.

2. Apologies

No apologies received

3. Granting of Dispensation

No applications for a dispensation had been made.

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4th February 2021

A couple of "typos" will be amended. It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th February were approved as a true account.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- a) Cllr Wiltshire has been in contact with the Wild Purbeck Project Co-ordinator to ask if the public footpath leading near the River Laboratories lies in the eligible area. Unfortunately, it is just outside the target area, but the project may be able to qualify for the round of

funding that is available at the end of the year.

- b) Cllr Quinn will have a site meeting with a resident of the Tower on Friday 5th March to discuss a suitable boundary marker and it has been agreed that a gate can be installed to access the war grave.
- c) It was agreed that the Local Plan needs to be publicised again on Facebook.

7. Planning Applications or Planning Information received

None received.

8. Update on Previous Applications or planning information

No updates.

9. Report from Dorset County Councillor

- a) Cases of Covid 19 continue to fall however, it is still necessary for everyone to remain diligent. The Mortality Support Facility has now been stood down. The message continues to stay local unless your travel is essential.
- b) The transformation plans for Poole Hospital can be viewed on their website.
- c) The Dorset Council budget has been considered and approved.
- d) A public consultation has started on 4th February to seek views on the future use of St Mary's School near Shaftesbury. Dorset Council's preferred option is to use the site as a school to provide high-quality education for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). One of the other proposals is to use it for adult social care as well and to sell off some of the land for housing. The purchase was funded from the capital budget and Cllr Brooks will confirm that the refurbishment costs will also be financed from this. It was asked if the business case is confidential and Cllr Brooks will find out this information.
- e) The Council has held public assemblies on climate change to hear people's views. There has also been a consultation whereby 3000 people have responded.
- f) The census will take place on Sunday 21st March.
- g) The first stage of the four-step plan to ease the lockdown will start with the schools reopening on Monday 8th March.
- h) Funding will cease of Tourist Information Centres and alternative ways to provide these services are currently being investigated. Research has shown that 90% of the people using the T.I.Cs are local, as tourists now tend to use websites. There has been a suggestion to relocate the Wareham branch to the Post Office. It was discussed that a lot of retail units in the town have now become residential. It was noted that this is becoming a nationwide problem due to the increase in online shopping. It was asked if the T.I.Cs could be run by volunteers, Cllr Brooks will put forward this idea.

10. Police Issues to report

No issues to report

11. Hethfelton Woods

- a) The new access to Hethfelton House is continuing to be built. It was commented upon that the hedge is still quite high and limits visibility.
Action: Cllr Brooks to check the sightlines with Highways.
- b) The timber has now virtually all been collected.
- c) Up to six cars are parking at the entrance to Hethfelton Woods.

12. Spring Newsletter

Cllr Wiltshire will provide an update on Hethfelton. Suggestions for articles include vaccinations, updates on covid, and to thank the community for how they

all pulled together. The deadline for submissions will be on 26th March and the newsletters will be circulated over the Easter weekend. Paper copies will be required for households without internet access and for the new residents of the Farrer Estate. **Action:** The Clerk to Contact Holy Rood Church to see if they would be able to print off the newsletters. It is envisaged that approximately 40 copies will be required.

13. Highways

a) **Update on issues reported**

No updates

b) **Woolbridge resurfacing**

The works have been publicised on social media and electronic signs are being displayed at the roundabout.

c) **Deer carcasses**

Discussed 288/1/b

d) **Camp Festival**

Cllr Quinn attended the meeting and circulated an update. 80% of the tickets have now been sold. Cllr Brooks will find out what the licence capacity is for this year.

e) **Damage fence next to Wood Street culvert.**

The Clerk and Cllr Brooks have both reported it and it is currently being dealt with.

f) **Other Issues**

Works are currently being carried along the A352 by Worgret Hill and Hethfelton. Highways have been digging out the grips and have been litter picking along the "A" roads. At this time of year, litter is more visible due to the verge cutting and 4 sacks of rubbish have been picked up from Hethfelton.

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

- a) Have your say on Dorset Council's Local Plan. Dorset Council's Local Plan consultation began on 18th January 2021 and will last for eight weeks.

Noted.

- b) Former St Mary's School site, Shaftesbury Consultation. Dorset Council is seeking your views on its idea to create a new school for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) on the former St Mary's School site in Shaftesbury. This consultation runs from Thursday 4 February to Thursday 18 March 2021. **Noted.**

- c) From Dorset AONB: Agricultural Transition questionnaire, workshops, and a limited £500 advice offer. They are researching attitudes and readiness to the government's transition for agricultural support, and interest in developing farm income strands around environmental management. The closing date is 5th March.

- d) Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority - Consultation of draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24. With future financial insecurity, they need to conduct a review in order to continue to provide a high level of service. The consultation period runs from 17 February until 13 May 2021.

Action: Cllr Langley to respond.

- e) NEWS: Have Your Say on Transforming Cities Fund's Sustainable Transport Routes. A public consultation on plans for 78km of new cycling and walking routes and bus infrastructure improvements across southeast Dorset, to be jointly delivered by BCP and Dorset Council. There are two phases to the consultation with the first phase closing at the end of March. **Noted.**

15. Correspondence Received

- a) Confirm Report: Road works report - Purbeck. This includes work to be carried out by BT near the Black Dog. **Noted.**
- b) Camp Bestival 2021 - Community & External Partners Meeting. This took place on Thursday 18th February. **Noted.**
- c) Proposed temporary closure of A352 at Wool Level Crossing. The closure has been requested to allow Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd to carry out maintenance works. They are programmed to take place between 00.01hrs and 05.00hrs on Sunday 2nd May 2021. **Noted.**
- d) Dorset Prepared Flood & Winter Preparedness on-line Event, 17 and 18 February, for Flood Wardens and Community Emergency Volunteers. **Noted.**
- e) Beaver Fever. An open meeting hosted by Planet Purbeck with the National Trust Wed 24th February 7:00-8:30 pm on Zoom. About the project, looking at reintroducing beavers to Purbeck. Invitation sent to Flood Wardens.
- f) Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for Woolbridge Roundabout. The road will be closed for resurfacing from 9:00 am Friday 23rd April to 6:00 am Monday 26th April. **Noted.**
- g) Council proposes to stop funding its Tourist Information Centres, looks at future options. Dorset Council cannot afford to continue to fund TICs. There are five other TICs in Blandford, Bridport, Shaftesbury, Swanage, and Wimborne which are run by other organisations, such as Town and Parish Councils. **Noted.**
- h) New Free Parking Policy. To support the local economy, Dorset Council will give a total of 6 free parking days in Dorset Council car parks each year. **Noted.**
- i) Full Fibre Broadband to Holmebridge and West Holme areas of East Stoke. Faster broadband is now available in the following postcodes: BH20 6AF, BH20 6AH, BH20 6AQ. **Noted.**
- j) DAPTC E-News 26th February '21. It includes courses for new councillors and there is still no news on virtual meetings beyond 7th May.
Action: Clerk to contact River Laboratories to check availability for June through to August.
- k) Latest news and information from Dorset Council, 26 February. Over a quarter of a million local people have had at least one dose of the vaccination. Unpaid carers can now request free PPE. **Noted.**

16. Finance

- a) The following receipts were noted.

Fyler and Butler dividend	£142.89
Burial Fees	£296.90

It was noted that the headstone still needs to be repaired.

- b) The following payments were duly approved.

	Amount	Chq Number
Miss E Maidment February Salary	£226.26	000792
Dorset County Pension Fund	£65.84	000793
Water2business	£15.61	000794

- c) To review and approve the 2021 Risk Assessment.
Cllr Langley has produced a draft version and a meeting to discuss it will be held via zoom with Cllr Langley, Cllr Cady, and the Clerk.
- d) To review and approve banking protocol and financial regulations
A meeting was held to examine the practices required to carry out online banking. It was agreed that two councillors would authorise the transaction in order for the payment to go through. It was proposed by Cllr Purshouse and seconded by Cllr Wiltshire that Councillors Cady, Quinn, and Child would be

the named Councillors who would have access to the system. It was suggested that some of the money should be transferred into the deposit account, but the precise amount needs to be agreed upon. It was commented upon that it might automatically include access to both accounts. Once the payments have gone through, the printout of the transactions would be noted at the next meeting. It was agreed that the protocol should be reviewed by the auditor before a final decision is made.

17. Items for Information or next agenda

The footpath leading to the St Mary's ruins is always waterlogged except during extremely dry summers. **Action:** Cllr Child to report it online.

18. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday 1st April at 7 pm.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.47.

Chairman: Date.....