

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2008.

PRESENT

Cllr Neill Child – Chairman
Cllr Rebecca Cady – Vice Chairman
Cllr Barry Quinn – District Councillor
Cllr Tib Axon
Cllr Karen Barnes
Cllr Damian Cullinane
Cllr Mike Lovell – County Councillor

APOLOGIES

Cllr Paul Whitmarsh

Nine members of the Parish were present

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised that if anyone present had come along to talk about planning application 6/2008/539 for M. Barnes of Manor Farm, he had just received notice that this application had been withdrawn for the time being.

Gillian Topp asked the meeting if an invoice had been prepared for her ref the costs incurred in sending her a copy of Parish minutes relating to planning meeting on 26th June. Clerk advised this would be sent to her.

Mr Charles Tuthill advised the meeting that some months ago a 30ft. trailer had been illegally parked on the verge of Church Lane in front of his property. He had asked Mr Whitmarsh through correspondence and phone calls to move this trailer. As this had not been done he considered it to be an act of intimidation and bullying. He received a letter from Mr Whitmarsh advising that the trailer had been sold. There was a notice on the trailer advising the new owner was B. Burton and giving a telephone number but the trailer still had not been collected. Mr Tuthill gave the Chairman a chronology of events that he maintained had taken place over the past months. The Police and DCC Highways had been informed and it appeared that an offence was being committed. One of Mr Tuthill's main concerns was that the verge on which the trailer was parked is soft and he produced photos of the damage that had been caused. He considered this damage could have been so easily avoided if the trailer had been parked further up Church Lane at the entrance to Mr Whitmarsh's field. He considered Mr Whitmarsh had shown no respect to his neighbours and he would continue to pursue his case with the Police and DCC. Mr Tuthill went on to say that the trailer was now not the issue as the verge could be restored but he considered Mr Whitmarsh had compromised his role as a Parish Councillor and broken the rules of the Code of Conduct. He expressed his view that the actions of Mr Whitmarsh should be considered in two ways; one as an individual and secondly by the position he holds as a parish councillor.

The Chairman advised that he would carefully study Mr Tuthill's written statement and chronology of events and take advice from the appropriate authorities. The Council would advise Mr Tuthill of the outcome.

Mr John Barnes asked if the Parish Council had a view on the development on planning application of Paul Whitmarsh which was now the subject of a court case. The Chairman advised that it would not be right for the Council to have a particular view when this was sub judice.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none for this meeting.

PLANNING APPLICATION

6/2008/539 – M. Barnes, Manor Farm – Erect a block of 6 stables and 1 hay barn. As already advised in Public Participation, advice was received at the beginning of this meeting that the application had been temporarily withdrawn due to an omission on the Planning Application Form. It would be re-submitted in the near future.

PAST PLANNING – details received from PDC

1. 6/2008/0384 – West Holme Nurseries, Rationalization of existing garden centre – Approved 28th August.
2. 6/2008/0385 – West Holme Nurseries, Erect temporary tea room – Approved 28th August.
3. 6/2008/0312 – Luckford Wood House, Change of use to convert garage into three bedroom holiday dwelling – Approved 27th August. Conditions not yet specified.
4. 6/2008/0066 – Roebuck Farm, Relief of condition 4 of planning application 6/2005/0906 – Approved 28th August.

It was unsure if the latter two applications had in fact been approved and Barry Quinn would investigate further.

MINUTES of last meeting held on 7th August as already circulated were signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Kemps Hotel – Letter written to PDC ref. consultation letters not being sent to owners of nearby properties. John Hartigan had replied saying that as required only properties that directly abut Kemps Hotel were sent the usual consultation letter. Barry Quinn offered at some stage to follow up the question of abutment.
2. Naming of Lanes – Email received from Rob Roriston advising he had prepared report on this issue to go before Planning Board at the end of August. Mike Lovell who was at this meeting said this had been approved but no direct confirmation from PDC had yet been received.
3. PCSO Meeting – Email received from Stuart Hann advising that if the Parish Council wished to site a ‘SID’ (speed indication device) on the A352, the Council would initially need to contact Rob Camp at DCC to make an official request providing an exact location and he would then make an assessment.
4. Notice Boards – These were now up. The board that was outside the village hall was in need of repair and when done would then be used at Holmebridge. The old posts would be taken out in due course. Paul Whitmarsh would use his tractor for this purpose.
5. Heritage and Historical Project – Nothing further to report.
6. Village Hall – Nothing further to report.

7. War Memorial – Barry Quinn confirmed he had responded to Katharine Clark at English Heritage ref. Her letter of 4th August. The War Memorials Trust was seeking to list all war memorials.
8. Wall at corner of Church Lane – Barry Quinn reported that he had received a complaint from Malcolm Barnes as he considered this wall encroached on to the highway. Following a site visit regarding the surface water in this area, the resident of The Tower, Gordon MacKenzie had agreed to dismantle the wall and move it back. Barry Quinn to speak to him and hasten this along.
9. New Planning Regime – Barry Quinn advised that a Policy Development Panel had been formed and are discussing this issue and will be arranging consultation evenings with Parish Councils in the future.
10. East Stoke Crossing – Barry Quinn advised he had attended meeting with PDC and Network Rail and there appeared to be some foundation to the rumours that some level crossings were to close in the future. These proposed changes are linked to the signalling upgrade to the line between Pool and Wool The plan for Holmebridge and Rushton was to upgrade these crossings on a like for like basis but the desire was to close East Stoke. All crossings were under threat and consultation would start next September for 12 months. . Barry Quinn also advised he had sent email to Simon Cross and Peter Sills outlining the situation and problems that will occur if the crossing is closed and seeking their views and comments. No reply had yet been received. At the PDC meeting Simon Goldsack raised the problem of the length of time the Wool crossing was closed before trains were due. Over recent weeks it had also been noticed that the Stoke gates were shut for a longer length of time. Mrs Topp advised that Network Rail stated that after fast trains had left Morton, gates and crossings would be closed for 10-15 minutes. It was felt this policy had been put in place to deter people from using the crossing so that they could claim low usage. This item to be put in forthcoming newsletters to inform members of the parish and hopefully collect their support to prevent closure of Stoke Crossing. The Chairman asked the Clerk to make this item a standard agenda item for future meetings in order to monitor delays. The Parish Council would not accept closure of the crossing.
11. Cemetery Gates – Not yet back from shot blasting. Paul Whitmarsh still to finish.
12. Fyler and Butler Graves – Clerk reported that she had spoken to Reverend Floate who advised that a trust fund was held by the Diocese on behalf of Wool for maintenance monies for these graves. Monies invested produced quarterly dividends and an annual statement was sent to them detailing annual income. Monies were then passed to East Stoke for maintenance of Fyler and Butler graves. Rev. Floate considered these monies should only be used for upkeep of graves and not put towards maintenance of churchyard. She suggested a reminder be sent by East Stoke Parish Council each January to Jill Gover, Treasurer advising her that monies were due to be paid amounting to approximately £80. The meeting agreed to do minor remedial works on these graves to improve appearance and prevent further deterioration but major repairs were beyond the funds available.
13. BT Closure of Box – Email now sent to Benjamin Webb at PDC who was co-ordinating the District's response to BT. Email detailed seven points why call box at corner of Church Lane should remain in place.

14. Parish Clerk Vacancy – Chairman advised that a successful candidate had been chosen and all applicants would be informed the following day.
15. Ragwort – Barry Quinn advised that PDC had collated list and sent to DCC for Dorset Works to implement an organised programme to remove this weed.
16. Paul Whitmarsh – Advice had been sought from Peter Aston at PDC who agreed that there was no need at the moment for Paul to stand down from the Parish Council. He agreed however that if Paul ‘took a back seat’ until the issue over his planning application was resolved it would strengthen his position under any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. County Councillor’s Report – Mike Lovell reported that a major new IT System was being installed at DCC so over the next few months problems may occur when trying to access DCC website. The cost of this upgrade was 8/9 million. Andy Price, head of planning had now left. He was not being replaced and the work load would be spread around. Regional Spatial Strategy meeting would be held on 17th September.
2. DCC Report – Schools Seminar meeting for Councillors to be held on 17th September re structuring of Two Tier System. Clean Neighbourhood Officer to be re-instated when funding was identified.
3. Highways
 - (a) B3070 – Barry Quinn advised successful meeting had been held at West Holme Crossroads and improvement/remedial works to junction had been suggested. Email sent listing key points.
 - (b) Church Lane Drainage – Barry Quinn advised lying water had been coming from a spring. Contamination checks had been inconclusive. DCC informed but it was considered low priority to do remedial works to drain.
4. Parish Plan – Nothing further to report.
5. Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset – This covered how waste is to be managed over the next 25 years. Public consultation would run until 7th November. Chairman to read and fill out response form.
6. Dorset Waste Forum – Notice of follow up meeting on 13th October. Cllr Karen Barnes to attend.
7. DAPTC Training – Chairman’s Seminar to be held on Wednesday 8th October. Neill Child to attend. Highways Seminar 16th October. Paul Whitmarsh to attend. Clerk to send forms to DAPTC.
8. Wool High Street Footpath Enhancement – Temporary closure of part of road for 10 weeks. Barry Quinn to talk to John Alford to find out further details.
9. Land at West Holme – Barry Quinn advised he had received a phone call from Jon Moulton of 1 West Holme Cottages raising objections over ownership issues of land on which Stephen Goldsack wanted to erect a barn. He would be contacting land registry to seek advice and would then contact Chairman Neill Child. Planning Officers John Hartigan and Alan Davies advised that Stephen Goldsack could apply for planning permission even though he did not own the land providing he got permission from the owner. At present it was unclear who owns the land, it was pointed out it could be some form of common land.
10. Woodlands Bridge at Hyde – Strengthening work to start on 8th September for completion by 31st October. Bridge to be closed to traffic.

11. Implementation of Choice Based Lettings in Purbeck – Letter from PDC advising scheme to be set up by 2010 working with Bournemouth, North Dorset, West Dorset and Poole. Steering Group set up to look at cost effective ways to advertise vacant properties on a weekly or fortnightly basis. It was thought there would be no room on notice boards for these lists. Barry Quinn reminded the meeting that when a housing survey was done as part of the Parish Plan, very few people appeared to be interested in renting properties in the area. The Parish Council decided they were not able to receive details of vacant properties for advertisement.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Cllr Tib Axon advised that she had reported to PCSO Lindy Christopher an accident where a car had gone into the hedge on Sunday 31 August and was jutting into the road on the bend along from her house. This was due to be towed away this evening.
2. Roadside Interview Surveys – Email received advising of surveys planned in the area over September and October.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2nd October

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Chairman

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Date