

STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2024 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs P Partridge (Chairman), G Cowie, M Farwell, J Jakes, D Meaden, K Yarwood.

IN ATTENDANCE: J Fairman (Clerk), Cllr S Jespersen, 6 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Democratic Period:

1. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Farwell declared an interest in Planning Application: P/HOU/2024/00806- Ash Farm – Erect 4 bay Oak framed garage.

2. **To consider matters arising from the January Minutes:**

Allotment Lease:

-The Grazing agreement Lease has been renewed and signed for the next five years.

Play Area Maintenance: The chair has contacted Sam James who maintains the play area at Durweston for costings to carry out work as highlighted in the recent play area inspection on the 2 Play areas in Stourpaine.

3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th February 2024 were approved and signed.

4. **To consider development control matters:**

-P/PABA/2024/001188 – Bushes Farm- Bushes Rd – Erect Agricultural Building –
- SPC Has no objection to this application.

P/HOU/2024/00806: Ash Farm – Erect 4 bay oak framed garage with storage: SPC had no objection to this application.

5. **Democratic period:**

- The developer for the Planning application for 7 houses, Bottom Road had enquired to Dorset Council and Stourpaine Parish Council for their comment on what housing needs are in Stourpaine. The developer explained that this application was meant to go to Planning Committee last year, however since DC have reached the 5-year housing supply, the criteria has changed, and it had been suggested to the developer that affordable housing would be the way forward for this application. SPC responded that it was not within their remit to offer advice on housing needs, only to make comment on planning applications once they have been formalised. The Chair commented that the only direction that had been offered in the past to developers was that affordable housing should be planned alongside other housing for better unity. Cllr Jespersen confirmed that countryside rules now apply where at present no applications for developments outside of the settlement boundaries are being progressed, and that sites under 10 houses should include affordable housing.
-The SPC reminded the developer that the objection to this planning application was on the grounds that the access via Bottom Road was not suitable for any increase in vehicles that developments via Bottom Road would generate.

6. Dorset Councillor Report:

- Cllr Jespersen advised that on 14th February DC passed its budget of £377 million, which will result in a 5% increase in Council Tax. Cllr Jespersen wish to reassure that front line services have been protected.
- DC will also be introducing 2 new council tax premiums – firstly to long term empty homes, whose tax will double from this coming April. The following April (25) those with second homes for occasional use in Dorset will have their council tax doubled. This will not affect those who rent out their homes or holiday lets.
- Cllr Jespersen reported that since the HS2 scheme was scrapped DC have been awarded £2. Million for 2 years, Dc have added £6. Million to this fund which will be used to repair roads in the County.
- DC Cabinet have agreed that the Local Plan should be compiled under the new rules, this will result in a delay to the Dorset Local Plan until May 2027.

7. Reports:

a) Neighbourhood Watch:

- There has been a theft from a garage and works van in Manor Road which was reported to the police. A van with a trailer had been spotted in the area, villagers are asked to vigilant and ensure that garages and outhouses are sufficiently secure.

b. Flood Prevention:

- SPC wish to thank Derek Gardiner for all of his work as lead on flood prevention for the village. Derek and Joanna will be leaving the village soon and we wish them well for the future.
- SPC will be looking for a new person to take the lead on flood prevention in the village.

b) Highways: It was noted that Durweston Bridge had been hit again by a lorry.

c) Rights of Way/Footpaths/ Trailway: No current update.

e) Play Areas:

- The Chairman reported that the new banner for the play area has been collected and will be placed on the tennis courts when the weather has improved.
- The Chairman had met with Sam James to obtain a quote for repairs required to the play equipment in both play areas as highlighted in the recent Play Inspection Report. Sam will research and cost how best to clean and relay the matting in the area, and also replacing the fencing in the Grace Upward play area which currently is being held up by ivy. We await the quotes.

f) Village Hall: -No current update.

8. Finances:

- The finance report for February had been circulated.
- SPC approved the following payments:
Clerks wage/PAYE at agreed rate/Village Hall Hire £22.00/Iwerne Grass Cutting £243.38/Azets Payroll £240.00.
- The Gardening Club continue the good work maintaining the bus stop planters and the Tommy memorial. SPC approved the annual grant to the Gardening Club £350.00.

9. Other Matters:

-Flyer to be circulated to appeal for villagers to volunteer for various clubs/committees in the village, plus to invite villagers to the SPC AGM.

10. Item for the next Agenda.

-AGM scheduled for Tuesday May 14th, 7pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Date:

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Chairman of the Parish Council.