

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF STOURTON CAUNDLE**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 AT 7.30P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Hedley Walker, welcomed 13 members of the public to the meeting.

**a. To Receive Apologies:**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Graham Carr-Jones, Eric Dummett, Janie Harris, Gerry Holdstock, Anna Oliver and County Councillor Pauline Batstone who was expecting to be delayed due to attendance at other A.G.M. in the district.

**b. Approval of minutes from the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting.**

The minutes were approved and signed, having been circulated previously and published in The Stourton Caundler in 2015.

**c. Matters Arising Therefrom:**

Followed up in the Chairman's Report below.

The following village organisations gave a brief statement about their activities during the year:

### **The Allotments – John Waltham**

The last year has seen a period of consolidation on the village allotments, with things settling down, new gardeners picking up knowledge along with their vegetables, and with most people who pass by commenting favourably on the colourful variety of gardening styles and abilities on display. This year we have welcomed another new family, and the entire area is now looking well cared for and productive. The social side of life has not been forgotten and there's always a happy and helpful atmosphere at the bottom of Brimble.

### **The Events Committee – John Waltham**

Last year I reported that I thought I could detect some stirrings of life in the Events Committee, and I wasn't wrong. A few weeks ago, on St George's Day, the Events Committee put on the first dance it had organised for several years, in aid of the Holwell Nursery – used by many families in the village – and the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea Party to be held in mid-June. The dance was well supported and much enjoyed, and showed a profit of £390 to be shared between the two good causes. My thanks go to Roger Paull, Paul Lane and the rest of the team, especially to Gerry Holdstock, who not only kept our finances straight, but also did a long stint on the door.

If anyone else is willing to be involved in putting on events in the village, please get in touch. It's all about having fun and maintaining our community in the enviable state it's enjoyed in recent years, and incidentally providing a financial cushion for any events or projects that are beneficial to our aims. It's all very informal and anyone can join. After the Tea Party, the next event will be the Village Concert on October 22<sup>nd</sup> – unless someone else comes up with another idea in the meantime.

### **Defibrillator**

This is kept outside the Trooper Inn, ready to use. Neil Gillard undertakes the weekly checks and reports. South West Ambulance Service organise periodic training sessions.

### **Footpaths – Janie Harris**

Janie is not aware of any outstanding repair work to be carried out. However, quite a lot of stiles are overgrown and need cutting back, and a list will be passed onto the Stur Credits gang who are hoping to come and do some work in the summer holidays.

### **Garden Club – Win Gillard (Chairman.)**

The Garden Club committee have worked hard over the last year to bring a varies programme of talks and visits to our members and visitors, as well as producing the Summer Show for everyone in the village.

Our talks have included the practical 'How to Garden on Clay' to the fun demonstration by Sue Simon and Penny Plunkett on Christmas decorations. We also had two wonderful garden visits to Eastington Farm on Purbeck and Hestercombe near Taunton. The annual supper was well attended as the lure of great food and a glass of wine is difficult to resist. The Summer Show and Tea Party were well supported and we were especially pleased with the 19 entries in the children's section. It may have helped that the club supplied plug plants and helped the children at Bishops Caundle School to plant them up.

Our Second Spring Show in April was a success and despite the strange weather over the winter, entries were up on last year.

In November, Howard Ffitch stood down as Chairman. Howard has been inspirational and bought many new ideas to the club, to the benefit of our members, luckily he is still on our committee.

### **Home Watch**

Keith Murphy continues to send home watch messages by e-mail which is much appreciated.

### **Summary of the Annual Report for St. Peter's Church, Stourton Caundle (published in full in the Stourton Caundler April/May edition.)**

The Parochial Church Council meets six times a year, including the annual meeting in May, to discuss matters of general concern and importance to the parish, whether they be local issues or those raised by the diocese and the national church. PCC members try to represent the views of the wider community.

During the year at St. Peter's we have celebrated four Baptisms and two Marriages and held four Funerals. We are very grateful to Julian and Anita Shardlow who are always there to welcome the families who have come for the services of Baptism.

The regular congregation at our two services each month on the second and fourth Sunday averages in the region of twenty or so, more for festival services and always full for the carol service.

We are, as ever, thankful to be under the care of William our Rector, Colette our Curate and Judy Waite our Licensed Lay Minister. We appreciate too the hard work that our churchwardens, David and Vinny do behind the scenes all year round. Likewise, we are grateful to our lay deacons Julian, Holli, Bryony and Vinny who lead our services, as we are to those on the sidesmen's roster. Keeping our loyal church community together requires

dedication, teamwork and goodwill towards each other and of that there is an abundance. As you know Colette has moved on to her next appointment in the .....benefice. We thank her for all she did whilst in the Spire Hill benefice and wish her well.

We try to keep our bank balance healthy, in part, by arranging fund raising events, in particular concerts in the church. These have been very successful and so many guests, seeing St Peter's for the first time, remark on the beauty and simplicity of our lovely old church. Each concert benefits also by musicians being able to sit elevated from the nave floor on the staging made for this purpose concert.

In the past month we were delighted to learn that our Rector William has been appointed as a Canon. He was installed at Salisbury Cathedral two weeks ago, at a service well represented by those from the benefice.

#### **Sports Club – Peter Smith**

With a membership of 30-25, too many over 60, younger members would be very welcome. Sports available are badminton, snooker, table tennis and short mat bowls twice a week.

There is also a possibility of billiards restarting. Tennis is played in the village with a popular tournament.

#### **The Stourton Caudler Magazine – Eric Dummett**

We have once again been able to produce six double issues edited by a number of different teams. Positive reports have been received on the varying contents.

I am very grateful for all the hard work by the production teams and the invaluable contribution by members of our community. Many thanks are also due to the Committee members who continue to ensure that we have an interesting and topical magazine by the village for the village.

Our advertisers continue to support us so that we are able to provide copies for all households in the village free of charge.

#### **Village Hall Committee – Gordon Stobie**

1. The Kitchen Improvement Project was extended to include the Ladies toilet and both have been completed and generally welcomed. Continuing an expanded programme, a grant in aid for £7500 has been sought to fund the next stage of East side Windows, Main Access and Fire Doors replacement. Improvements to the Gents and provisioning of a disabled toilet remain on the list for action in due course.
2. The Sports Club and 100 Club continue to provide the main income. Committee fund raising for the Improvements Programme starts with a Car Treasure Hunt on Saturday afternoon 4 June 2016.
3. The unaudited accounts for the 15/16 year stand at:
  - a. Bank Balance: £3574.11
  - b. Deposit Balance: £2042.74
  - c. Excess of Expenditure over Income: £1545.05

### **Village Hall 100 Club – Anna Oliver**

Stourton Caundle Village Hall 100 Club is alive and well and continues to provide a small but regular contribution to the upkeep of the Hall.

251 members are currently in the monthly Draw which mainly takes place by kind permission of Kevin and Zena, at The Trooper.

With membership as it currently stands, 3 prizes of £25, £20 and £15 can be awarded each month, with £720 per year going to Village Hall funds.

Results of the monthly draw and the date and time of the next one can be seen on all village notice boards and in the Stourton Caundler.

### **Village Website – Gerry Holdstock**

The website has had an uneventful year. The diary is updated bi-monthly at the same time as the Caundler, and updated from time to time as relevant information comes to hand. Coming Events, on the front page of the website, is updated more frequently, both to record new items and to delete time expired ones.

Interaction with the various clubs and societies who have web pages is quite limited, the one exception being Tom Eden who regularly sends in new photos and copy about the cyclists. More feedback and photos from others would be most welcome. If anyone wants an event publicised please let me know, and do send me photos afterwards!

The website is well used. For the last month I have an analysis, we had 360 visits. These were mainly UK, but also from as far afield as Ukraine, Columbia and Vietnam.

### **Welcome Club**

Well supported with a variety of talks, visits and events. Forthcoming outings are to Wells and Longleat.

### **Parish Council Chairman's Report – Hedley Walker**

Following the unopposed election in May 2015 of those parish councillors who chose to stand again, John Waltham agreed to be co-opted on to the Council to fill the vacant position.

A number of planning applications were considered by the Parish Council during the last twelve months. Only one of these, a retrospective application for the temporary conversion of a barn to residential use beside Holt Lane, led to objections from the Council, although an application for semi-permanent tents in a field beside Drove Road was the cause of a very lively meeting before a decision was reached. The village roads, which had been so badly resurfaced in 2013, and re-treated in the following summer, appear to have lasted rather better. However, a large hole appeared at the corner of Drove Road and the High Street in early 2015 following the collapse of the culvert below. It took Dorset County Council many months to repair this and the Parish Council made repeated complaints before any action took place. The dog waste bin at Brimbles which had been the cause of much discussion prior to last year's annual meeting was finally removed in the summer.

The problems of excessive parking at Brimbles continues to be a concern, but the housing association was not prepared to create off-road parking and no other practical solution has been put forward to date.

Many people will have noted that the fingerposts around the village, which had been gradually falling into disrepair over the years, are being replaced. This work is being undertaken on an entirely voluntary basis by Mark Paull and Gordon Stobie and, on behalf of the Parish Council and the whole village, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to these two neighbours. I would also like to thank Alban and Colin Harris who willingly turned out to clear yet another fallen tree from Cat Lane; the second in as many years. We have been the beneficiaries of some volunteer work under the Stur Credits scheme. This has included clearing stiles and footpaths. We have also been provided with a couple of replacement stiles by the County Council.

As always, the major part of the Parish Council's budget is used to pay for grass cutting, but it was necessary this year to replace part of the fence protecting the play area. A small, 2%, increase in the precept for 2015-2016 was agreed to ensure a reasonable fund will be maintained. However, owing to the method of calculation of grants and to changes in the number of residents liable to pay Council Tax, this translated into a higher increase in the actual payments made by those who are liable to this tax.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to the clerk, Sue Harris, for all her hard work and to the members of the Council for their support and enthusiasm.

### **County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor Batstone - who had already been to two Parish Council Annual Meetings the same evening - arrived in time to give her report. The Mobile Libraries are under consultation and probably going to go, although there will hopefully be some provision for the housebound from the W.R.V.S. Local transport is an additional problem with many bus services withdrawn but there are some schemes for community transport being discussed and Nordcat are attempting to provide some service. Mrs. Batstone suggested Parish Councillors think about and discuss how to help with transport in the community; not necessarily with money but practical help.

Changes in the County and District Councils were leading to North and West Dorset District Councils and Weymouth and Portland forming one operational unit based in Dorchester. Nordon at Blandford would be sold but an area response would exist. This plan would be making the best use of the digital age and moving with the times; resulting in fewer councillors and saving money. There were cost implications if parishes were expected to take up more responsibilities and there would be a range of resource and funding across local government.

Pauline is Chair of the Safeguarding Committee, covering children, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour, looking at how to respond etc. She is also on committees for healthy living and audit and governance.

Clive Jones thanked County Councillor Pauline Batstone and District Councillors Bill Batty-Smith and Graham Carr-Jones for all their support and advice.

### **Time of Closure**

The meeting closed at 8.15p.m.

# STOURTON CAUNDLE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** of Stourton Caundle Parish Council, held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday May 18th 2016** at 8.15p.m. (following the Annual Parish Meeting.)

**Present:** H. Walker, C. Jones, R. Paull, D. Tremlett, J. Waltham, Clerk S. Harris and 2 members of the public.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor Batstone and District Councillor Batty-Smith.

**1. Welcome from H. Walker**

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and the two remaining members of the public to the meeting.

**2. To receive apologies.**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Carr-Jones and P. Lane.

**3. Election of Chairman**

Hedley Walker stood down and the Vice-Chairman thanked him for all his hard work, and proposed him to stand again as Chairman. Roger Paull seconded the proposal and all agreed. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Walker accepted the position and signed an Acceptance of Office declaration.

**4. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Hedley Walker proposed Clive Jones to continue as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Roger Paull, all agreed.

**5. Election of Officers:**

**Village Hall Representatives:** H. Walker proposed R. Paull and O. Simon, seconded by C. Jones.

**Wayleave (Footpath) Officer:** H. Walker proposed J. Harris, seconded by C. Jones.

**Representatives for DAPTC Committees:** Chairman and Clerk when appropriate.

**6. Confirmation of minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting.**

The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting had been circulated and were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**7. Matters Arising Therefrom.**

Fingerposts are being repaired or replaced by Gordon Stobie and Mark Paull. Pauline Batstone suggested contacting Katherine Wright at D.C.C. as there was a small fund available. (e-mail sent 31.5.16)

**8. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations (if applicable.)**

Not applicable.

**9. Financial Report**

The Clerk presented the annual Receipts and Payments for the year.

The bank balance to carry forward shows a reduction of £1,077.69 from March 2015, accounted for by two unexpected expenses during the year; replacement of part of the play area fence, which was in danger of collapsing down the steep bank and destruction of a wasp nest in the cemetery next to a grave required for a funeral.

Gerry Holdstock had audited the accounts and there were no issues arising.

**10. Any other business/matters for next Agenda:**

John Waltham suggested the Parish Council should investigate new Stourton Caundle signs to replace the ageing and damaged signs. The village concert in October could raise some funds and there would be a need to liaise with Highways.

**11. Time of Closure:**

The meeting closed at 8.28p.m.