

Winterborne Houghton Parish Council

Clerk: Sam Smith, email:winterbornehoughton@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

**MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held in St Andrew's
Church Room on Friday 19th January 2018**

1. **Attendance:** Councillors Simon Barnes (Chairman), Roger Collins, Kathy Westby, Henry Cole, Sam Smith (Clerk) and & 1 member of the public. **Apologies:** District Cllr Audrey Burch
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 13th November 2017 were signed as a true record.
4. **District Councillors Report:** Audrey Burch did not attend the meeting or send a report in advance of the meeting.
5. **Clerk's update/actions:** The actions arising from the WH Parish Council meeting held on the 13th November 2017 were reviewed and updates given. The PC noticeboard has been repaired, a lock now needs to be purchased and a combination lock was suggested. Kathy to purchase and the Clerk will reimburse her the cost. Replacement pads are needed for the phone box defibrillator. Henry has forwarded to the Clerk the information on where to order them from, the Clerk will order the replacement pads. The Clerk will be attending the DAPTC audit training on the 30th Jan 2018, WSPC will be paying for this training. The Clerk has also signed up for some DAPTC data protection training in March 2018. New data protection rules come into effect in May 2018 and this will have implications for the PC. Hopefully the training will provide us with the information to enable us to comply with these new rules. Henry has recently read the electric meter for the village pond, the figures were passed on to the Clerk so that she can submit them to SSE.
6. **Update on W Stickland PC business inc Sports Club:** The fingerpost in Stickland at the turning to Blandford, has now been refurbished and is back in place. This was paid for by WSPC. Thanks to funding from the Stickland Solar Fund, all the remaining fingerposts in Stickland will be refurbished over the next 12 months. Two recent safety inspection reports on the Stickland play park have shown that the play park is at the end of its usable life. Considerable repairs are needed or a total replacement of all the equipment. Cllrs Barnes queried if the play park was situated on land owned by both PCs. It was agreed that no action was needed by W Houghton PC at present but the PC would like to be kept informed of the play park situation by WSPC. The Stickland War Memorial has been recommended by Historic England as a possible site to be listed. There is still not news on when the repairs to Water Lane will take place, a recent wildlife survey has been completed by the Natural Environment Team at Dorset County Council, and this had been forwarded to Houghton Cllrs. There is no news from the Stickland Sports Club although they are currently looking for more committee members to join the team.
7. **Public Participation/Open Forum:** Nothing

- 8. Local Crime Report:** Cllr Westby reported that a Ford Transit white van BT57*** is currently wanted by the Police, it has been connected to a number of local burglaries & thefts. There is a new non-emergency Police information directory 'Ask Ned' this is online as part of the Dorset Police website - [dorset.police.uk/ask NED](http://dorset.police.uk/askNED). This directory lists information on most non-emergency issues such as dog fouling, anti-social neighbours, animal welfare etc. The latest telephone scam reported is a NatWest scam asking for money to be transferred into another account.
- 9. Update/Website Report:** John Close emailed his report in advance as follows –
November: unique visitors 155 – number of visits 244 (in 2016 - 259, 403) from UK (70%), USA (30%) Most popular pages – St Andrew's Church, Parish Council, Site map Most popular downloads – Village Plan, Speed limit application **December:** unique visitors 210 – number of visits 324 (in 2016 – 233, 379) From UK (85%), USA (15%) Most popular pages – Parish Council, Pond, Rose's Cider. Most popular downloads – Village plan, speed limit application. One search was made for a local business listed on our Commerce pages – good news. Links have been made from other web sites in the village and from Facebook. Also from Webwiki which is a web directory and search engine web site. **Web design:** Microsoft Frontpage software has been abandoned as it is now obsolete and consequently represents a hazard which is increasing with time. There are some good but expensive alternatives but the use of free alternatives is a possibility. A free open source editing tool is being investigated and one big advantage of this software is that it is actively supported and continually updated. Cllr Barnes agreed to meet with John Close before the next meeting to review the WHPC section of the website.
- 10. Planning Applications Received & Updates:**
2/2017/1720/HOUSE – 3 The Knapp DT11 OPD – Erect single storey extension & 4 roof lights – **approved by NDDC** **2/2017/1641/HOUSE – 4 The Knapp DT11 OPD** – Erect single story extension & 2 roof lights – **approved by NDDC**
- 11. Clerks financial Report:** The following payments were agreed and authorized –
 Smith - Clerks wages & expenses **£244.80** (Dec 2017 & Jan 2018 plus expenses)
 SSE electric DD – **£38.09** (pond)
 Helen Heathfield/Heaven Scent - **£90.00** (pond tidy up)
 St Andrews PCC - **£70.00** (Church room hire 2017)
- 11.1 Budget 2018/2019:** The PC financial figures for 2018/19 were again discussed. It was agreed to keep the Precept amount the same as in 2017/18. This will be the 3rd year in a row that the Precept amount has not risen. The Clerk will request the **£3,925.40** from NDDC before the end of the January deadline.
- 12. Matters arising:**
12.1 Highways & Verges: The Clerk has spoken to Graham Stanley at Dorset Countryside re the last round of verge cutting that took place on Water Lane. Graham stated that the road to W Houghton is a difficult one with some properties doing their own verges, others leaving them long, the farmer's hedges not being cut, the stream, the narrow lane itself and the size of the machinery that the contractors have to use for speed efficiency and required power. It was agreed that if there is a problem with verge cutting next time Graham will be contacted asap and he will then contact the contractors to discuss the issues. There is still a problem with vehicles turning in the church entrance and churning up the verge. Placing some large rocks or logs on the verge to deter this was discussed. The Clerk had contacted Highways re the state of the road (The Hollow) to Bulbarrow. The PC had requested that the verge is cut back to take the

road back to its original width. Highways have stated that they no longer do side verging.

The over flowing of the ditch at the bottom of the Hollow was discussed, debris is washed down the hill blocking the culvert/ditch at the bottom. The Clerk agreed to speak to Highways about this also.

12.2 Speed Limit update: Mike Potter is putting together a fixed price written quote for Henry with regards to the speed limit application. Henry is also looking into different methods of funding this. The Milton Abbas PC Clerk has contacted the Clerk as Milton Abbas PC are looking into the possibility of purchasing a SID (speed identification device) It was suggested that W Houghton may wish to share the cost and use of the device. The Milton Abbas Clerk will keep WHPC updated with progress.

13. Correspondence Received: All correspondence had been emailed to Councillors in advance of the meeting. An email had been received from a resident disappointed that notice was not given of the January meeting being cancelled. It was explained that the meeting was cancelled at the last minute due to the legal no of Cllrs not being able to attend. It was also highlighted that PC information on the website is patchy and this will be investigated along with minutes that have been missing from the noticeboard. Simon Hoare our local MP is holding a 'roundtable' chat on the 2nd February 2018 in The Crown, Blandfrod. Cllrs are invited to attend.

14. Items for the next agenda: November 2018 end of the Great War – tree plaque?
Future Plans for the PC (May meeting)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm Date of the next meeting 20th Tuesday March 2018 @ 7pm

Signed.....Presiding Chairman

Date.....