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## STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT

MAY 2016.

Stourpaine Parish Council numbers remain the same, we have however lost Louise Webb who resigned last year and gained Judith Jakes in April 2016. We continue to endeavour to inform the village of what we are doing. This is through the website and the Benefice Magazine.

We have one new notice board attached to the bus shelter, the one by the shop will be moved soon to a more prominent position & we will refurbish the one by Drapers Field as a Community Board. Derek & Joanna Gardiner are Custodians of this board.

Flood Relief:

Last Year I mentioned that Lyle was standing down as Flood Warden. It is sad this time to be mentioning his untimely death, our thoughts are with his family. Derek Gardiner has initiated the formation of the Stourpaine Flood Group, ( Derek Gardiner, Scott Norman and Mike Coker NDDC) Stourpaine Flood Action Plan is in the process of being updated and we now have most of the equipment for a flood emergency. All the equipment will be stored at Simon Elliot's as a central point in the

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village. The proposed flood monitor suggested by SPC but to be supplied by the EA has still not been installed, we believe it has been agreed in principle. The aim of this device is to give a more accurate warning to those at risk of flooding. The SPC will fund the maintenance for this equipment for five years. The EA, NDDC, Derek and his team will have a trial run to test the awareness and the equipment provided through the grant made available to individual houses. This will take place in the next month. A dry run so to speak.

Derek has continued to hound the EA on the proposed FLAP VALVE SCHEME, I feel the weight of barriers put before him will now scupper the idea. He has however not given up, yet.

Stourpaine now has three flood wardens (Derek Gardiner, Scott Norman & Peter Partridge). It is hoped to enlarge the group at some time in the future.

Derek's Flood Warden Update is available in full on the Stourpaine web page after this meeting. Our thanks to Derek.

Snow Team:

David Williams has had to journey to Europe to find snow for the second year, no shovel has been raised or

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salt spread this year. His whistle has remained in his pocket.

Housing / Planning:

The application for the Manor road site, turned down by SPC & NDDC went to appeal on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2016, at the Village Hall. This was an Inspectors Hearing, not a full event. The appellant had a team of 5 or 6 in number, covering; Legal, Planning, Architect, Landscape. Sadly NDDC had one officer, who previously it was alleged had given credibility to the proposal. Mr Simon Elliot had his case and that of the majority of the village explained by a consultant planner. The appeal was upheld on both counts, we await the fallout. It is considered that the appellant will or might now sell the land with planning approval.

Clerks Acre, slow is not the word. As previously reported we have now met the new Builders, Trojan Construction, together with Barry Coupe the Architect. The method of soil stabilization is to be changed to a pile construction, which will apparently require decking around the properties. Last week we saw the plans, we shall review the proposal later this evening. The plans are available on the Dorset for you website.

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We had an outline application for Norton View, this was questioned by SPC and the application has been withdrawn.

Spectrum Housing is to merge with Sovereign based in Newbury, it is hoped they will keep their office in Blandford. A meeting has been proposed.

Trailway:

We have a guest speaker from DCC Rangers, later.

Stourpaine Defibrillator:

This has now been ordered and hopefully will be delivered in the next few weeks. It is fully automatic, I am reliably informed even I could use it. Chris Sargent has generously agreed to purchase the cabinet (lights and temperature controlled). It will be sited on the wall of the White Horse facing the road. We will have several training sessions when it has been fully installed.

Working Together- Litter Pick:

Yet again a great turnout, it is amazing what people throw out of cars, vans and lorries. Thanks to all.

Working Together- Bulb planting:

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We had a good year for daffodils , more next year.

Working Together- Speed Watch:

Joanna & Caroline continue this good work.

Children's Play Areas:

Kidzone,

Peter Partridge gamely inspects the site each week.

The annual inspection/ audit by an outside company found no major problems. Our thanks to the team who have volunteered to clean the equipment before the Queen's Birthday Tea.

I have been asked by a number of visitors to the village, have we a Barrow or burial ground by the new village hall. No just a mound of builders rubble that we have grassed and intend to put a children's slide down at some stage in the future.

Grace Upward:

We have spent a fair amount on refurbishing some of the equipment, thanks to Phil. We shall in 2016/7 replace some other pieces, to be agreed by Council. We are also looking at possible grants with Julie Wigg's assistance and DT11 Forum.

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Traffic / A350-C13.

SPC, the A350 action group, our DCC Member Cllr Croney and others have been trying to obtain both short and long term solutions to the increasing problem. DCC/Bath & East Somerset/Wiltshire have joined together to propose a traffic solution for the area. This has been subject to discussion by DCC , Members, MP's and Government. It is hoped that by September we should have feedback . If the suggested scheme moved to the next stage, it is our understanding that work would not commence until 2025. One must question, have we been here before. Several meetings have taken place to discuss the state of the A350, Bushes Road and others. In 2014/5 DCC applied for funding the resurfacing of the A350. Sadly they did not get funding and say they cannot afford it. We have had some minor potholes filled and a few white lines painted. The general state of the A350 is deteriorating, areas around gullies, water and BT manholes, road sides. At our last meeting with DCC Highways the representative agreed the section from Durweston Bridge through Stourpaine was poor, yet again sympathy but no action. We shall keep up the pressure..

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Council Representation:

Stourpaine now has a new NDDC Councillor in the Hillfort district. Piers Brown who is with us this evening. Also present is Deborah Croney our DCC representative. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

Broadband:

You might have noted my frustration on this subject over the last FOUR YEARS. We now have half a promise, Stourpaine will get 24 mgb by April 2017, well most of it. All will get 10mgb, they think. The press, many MP's and Councils up and down the country say this is not enough. By 2020, the average house will require 20+ mgb. Some in the village received a flyer offering a grant to assist with the installation of satellite or wireless broadband. Locally this would be Wessex Broadband, Derek Gardiner has been investigating, Derek would you like to update us.

Neighbourhood Plan:

We are now the only village in the vicinity not embarking on this scheme, enough said.

Queen's Birthday Tea Party:

The PCC and SPC working together hope to provide the backdrop for this special occasion on June 12th. Sue

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Atkinson has guaranteed the weather will be fine, we have a Bouncy Castle, Steam Engine- thanks, Mark, and Phil will be umpire for rounder's. Sue as usual is IC teas and cake. At our last meeting we had lots of people volunteering, bring a chair and alcohol if you wish.

My final thanks goes to you Council without whom lots of things that just happen in the village would not. To Paul Clark who as you are aware will be leaving us soon, thanks Paul for all you have done in a short period of time. We have a number of applicants and hope to appoint a new Clerk in the next two months.

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

Scott Norman.