

Notes from the Council Chamber

July 2016

The Annual Stourpaine Parish Meeting was well attended. A presentation was given by Graham Stanley of Dorset County Council Rangers Department on the diversity of work they now carry out within Dorset. The audience was surprised at the remit they now have. Derek Gardiner was requested by SPC to give an update on the latest Government Broadband Scheme to offer Grant Aid to those receiving less than 2mgbt. This is to assist in the installation by homeowners of microwave or satellite broadband. It was agreed that the flyers distributed within Stourpaine appeared to follow no logical process. BT still have not mapped out the suggested speeds for individual properties within the village, March 2017 is still the suggested deadline for “superfast” in the village. The mapping on the Dorsetforyou website is therefore not accurate.

Our village defibrillator has been delivered and is at the White Horse and has now been installed. You will remember that Chris Sargent offered to site and pay for the cabinet and installation. Teach-ins, on its use will be held in the near future, all we be welcome.

The Tea Party to Celebrate the Queen’s Birthday was a great success. The event organised by the PCC and SPC attracted over 250 people. We had a bouncy-castle, a steam engine (thanks Mark). The cakes, jellies, scones were all made by ladies of the village. The weather held until the last of the tables and chairs were put away. It was a great day involving lots of people.

Meetings continue with DCC Highways on the subject of the A350 / C13. A meeting was held with the A350 Group Chair, a representative of the village and our MP to press for more action by him on this important subject. Sadly with the present political position, I see further delay in resolving our plight. Some further minor works have been carried out on manholes and potholes, a sticking plaster approach.

The Clerks Acre site is yet again at a standstill. Since the meeting with the architect and the builders Titan, two sets of proposed alterations to the original plan have been submitted to NDDC Planning Department.

These cover soil stabilisation and the after effect on access, including decking and gabion walls. Your council has rejected the proposal as not in keeping. We have asked for further information and have suggested a full council meeting with the builder, architect and NDDC. If deemed necessary a public meeting will be arranged. Permission to remove the last two mature trees has also been requested. At our meeting with NDDC Planning we requested that a minimum of six mature/ substantial trees should be provided to break-up the skyline of the development, discussions are on- going.

The Manor Road site; fencing has been erected, we await to see what now transpires.

As previously mentioned we have budgeted for replacement of those pieces of equipment on the Grace Upward site that have passed their sell-by date. We had asked for suggestions as to the type of equipment we should purchase, to date we have no suggestions. Please speak with Cllr Peter Partridge about your ideas.

We still have no date from the EA on the proposed Flood Exercise in Havelins. This will be co-ordinated by your Flood Warden Derek Gardiner, his team, the EA and NDDC.

DCC Highways are holding a series of meetings to explain their 2017-8 budget and the fallout. These meetings are being held across the county by DAPTC. I, along with Cllr Partridge will be attending for Stourpaine.

Sadly we have still not managed to find a replacement clerk, Paul Clark has generously stayed in post but this cannot carry on for much longer. We are examining the feasibility of a joint clerk with neighbouring parishes. Have a good summer break.

Scott Norman.

Chair SPC.