

# THE ORCHARDS & MARGARET MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT MANSTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017 STARTING AT 7PM

**Present:** Cllr Mrs. L Stranger (Chairman), Cllr Mrs. V Stokes, Cllr M Bone and Cllr T Craven.

**In attendance-** P Knott (Clerk), District Cllr Jane Westbrook and two members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr B Dawe-Lane

1. **Approval of minutes for 2016 meeting-**The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 17th May 2016, were confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. **Chairman's Report-** Cllr Mrs. Stranger presented the following report-

*Four Parish Council meetings have been held during the past year. The expenditure budget for the Financial Year 2017-2018 was set at the January meeting at £1,826.00p. A sum of £120-00p was included for training course fees, £50-00p for Cllr travelling expenses when representing the parish council at DAPTC Meetings and 125-00p for annual running costs for the web site. No contingency figure has been included as there are sufficient funds in the general reserves to cover any unforeseen expenditure. Funding for any future grant awards will also be taken from the General Reserves.*

*A Parish Council Web site was launched in October 2016, funded by a grant from the National Association of Local Councils, to comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code. A Web Site Manager will need to be appointed to enable the site to be opened up for community use. There is funding available, from the grant received to set up the web site, to provide training, should a volunteer from the local community come forward. The following controls for the web site are identified in the Parish Council's risk assessment. Only the Web Site Manager and Parish Clerk will have access to the site to upload documentation. All Parish Council documentation placed on the web site will have the approval of Parish Council members. The Parish Council will retain ownership of the web site and will be responsible for the annual hosting charge.*

*Planning applications considered during the past year included- Hartgove Farm, Parsons Lane, Hartgrove- The change of use of an agricultural building to venison charcuterie business and erection of a single storey extension to the front and Hartgrove Cottage, Parsons Lane, Hartgrove- The erection of a new dwelling to replace the existing dwelling, along with off road parking and a raised terrace.*

*The Parish Council will be adopting the BT call box located at the crossroads East Orchard. The future use for the call box will be considered following adoption.*

*A carpenter was asked to quote for the repair of three parish noticeboards, following a site inspection to establish the work required and the costs involved. He came to the conclusion that replacement is the more cost effective option for the noticeboards at East Orchard and Margaret Marsh. This matter will be considered at tonight's meeting of the Parish Council.*

*Following the November meeting the clerk wrote to DCC Traffic Management, seeking proposals for traffic calming measures along the road from the Bleax Corner junction to Winchells Farm at East Orchard. Cllr Craven and Cllr Bone represented the Parish Council at a subsequent site meeting, with the Dorset Highways Collision Reduction Team Manager, to consider measures to reduce traffic speed along this road, to achieve a safer environment for both pedestrians and road users. The cost to the Parish Council, for a traffic survey to be carried out, to identify the extent of the problem, prior to the implementation of any traffic calming measures, will be considered at tonight's meeting of the Parish Council.*

*A consultation with residents living in close proximity to the Margaret Marsh pond revealed that they are willing to continue to maintain the grass area at the front of the pond, but do not want any alterations carried out to the pond.*

*Grant Awards of £100-00p each were made to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and the North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau.*

*Three Parish Wardens litter clearance scheme continues to operate in the three parishes. This scheme has now been in operation for a number of years, being one of the first to be implemented by a Parish Council in Dorset.*

*Finally I would like to thank the members of the Parish Council, the Parish Wardens, and District Councilor Jane Westbrook for their support during the past year.*

**3. County Cllr Report-** Not Present

**4. District Cllrs Report-** Cllrs Jane Westbrook informed the meeting that Graham Carr Jones has been elected as the County Council member for Stalbridge and The Beacons Ward. The government's decision on the formation of a Unitary Authority has been delayed until after the General Election. 3.5 million pounds will be made available in 2019 for highways infrastructure improvements in Gillingham to support new development as identified in the structure plan. A government housing acceleration initiative enables local councils to set up Community Land Trusts for the construction of housing for young people on low incomes. The trusts are the leaseholders and have control of the letting of the properties. The Sturminster Newton regeneration initiative has met with some success, with the opening of the Sweep Pea café and Oxfords bakers shop, offset by the recent announcement of the closure of Lloyds Bank in September.

**5. Public Open Forum-** The two members of the public present had no questions or comments.

**Closure** -7.10pm

Signed.

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Chairman