

## Bi-Annual Parish Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

We achieved quite a lot on Thursday evening. There was a very good attendance (well, compared to normal!) that started with the introduction of East Stour's new councillors - Ruth Blacklock, Terry Bagnall, Guy Gilding, and Phil Brown who join Hannah O'Sullivan, Bobbie Edwards and Tony Jones. Issues covered included:

- **update on footpaths**, including the renewed footbridge to East Stour Common
- **maintenance of the playing field**, including the replacement of the two old wooded picnic tables with recycled plastic ones (like the one replaced last year)
- discussion on Head Lane traffic - should this be one way?
- **superfast broadband** - surrounding villages have it via the East Stour telephone exchange - but we have to wait till later this year
- **the wildflower meadow** - John Gould explained his work creating (on the A30 near the crossroads). The seeds are funded by the Parish Council
- **proposed war memorial** - Guy Gilding outlined again the proposal to build a new memorial (we only have stone plaques on the walls in the church and village hall) IF Guy can find some grant funding\*. on the edge of the playing field.. Unanimous support was given, and the favourite design is a sun dial whereby the names of the village men could be carved on flat stones placed in a circle of clock figures so that a person could stand in the centre and their shadow would give the time. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them"
- **playing field path** - unanimous support (though one abstention) to proceed with this IF Guy can secure some grant funding\*. Several features can be incorporated to encourage villagers to exercise here, to compensate for the lack of pavements in the village
- **adopt the telephone kiosk** opposite The Crown (corner of Browns Lane) - we are going to adopt this village icon for £1 - plus the effort of upkeep! Ruth offered to pursue this. The Parish Council will push for BT to maintain to other box outside the telephone exchange, as the crossroads seems to be a mobile black hole and people in the frequent accidents need to be able to summon help
- **Community Speedwatch** - the Stours Parish Council is supporting this and has bought the equipment, that we can use in our village. If you can help, please contact any councillor to put your name on the list for training by the local Neighbourhood Watch

\* all grants require supplementing by our own fundraising.