



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 14 MARCH 2016

COMRADES HALL, BROADWINDSOR

PRESENT: Cllr. Mike Saunders (Chairman), Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Jenny Calverley, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. David Leader, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Peter Slimon, Cllr. Roger Smith, Cllr. Lesley Tibballs, Cllr. Malcolm Wigglesworth.

ATTENDANCE: Councillor Rebecca Knox (Dorset County Council), Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Chairman. There were no members of the public present. Councillor Saunders thanked Members for their good wishes received during his illness and thanked Councillor Hibbard and the Clerk for their work during his absence.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Alex Bishop.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Frampton declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9a.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Councillor Sewell asked that BGPC 2016/02/1/5b be amended to '...if no-one stands against the Police Commissioner...'. This was noted by the Clerk and then a copy of the minutes from the Meeting held on 8 February 2016 was confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Saunders.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Wigglesworth stated that he had not received any further communication from Debbie Redding with regard to a meeting and given that this is a busy time for the local Yards, it may be more sensible to arrange a meeting for April. Councillor Saunders thanked Councillors Calverley and Wigglesworth for their considerable efforts to progress a local solution.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

a. Report from Councillor Knox

Councillor Knox reported that Dorset County Council had recently held a free debate about the future direction of local government in Dorset and that there was unanimous agreement that there was a need to change and devolve downwards, giving local communities more power and responsibilities, so-called double devolution. Councillor Knox stated that she is

leading a core group of County Councillors looking at what powers could be devolved and that there is a strong focus on rural areas. Councillor Knox also stated that the reform should be across all public services to include the Emergency Services and that a key message coming from Government is, 'ask you residents'. Councillor Saunders asked where the authority for change lies. Councillor Knox stated that authority for change rests with each constituent authority, resident opinion and with the DCLG Secretary of State. To change the Standing Order there must be a sound business case. Councillor Knox stated that the timetable for this was tight, a decision needs to be made by the end of the year.

Councillor Knox stated that she had received several telephone calls from local residents with regard to the loss of subsidised bus routes and stated that she very much believes that there is a solution for rural transport. She will be meeting with members of the community to discuss other options.

Councillor Knox thanked Councillor Leader for making contact with Beaminster Youth Club and stated that more volunteers are needed.

b. Report from Councillor Sewell

Councillor Sewell reported that there had recently been a WDDC meeting at which sixty Councillors discussed the future shape of local government in Dorset. Some Councillors were opposed to double devolution. Councillor Sewell stated that change may see the reduction in the number of Councillors and an increased workload for those remaining, which may be difficult, especially if they have jobs. Councillor Sewell stated that the Scrutiny Committee will be looking at gambling and fixed price terminals.

c. Report from the PCSO Alex Bishop

In the absence of PCSO Alex Bishop, the Clerk presented his report. There was a theft from a work van in Drimpton overnight between Sunday 31 January and Monday 1 February, offenders stole approximately £6000 of power tools. On the night of Tuesday 23 February, the Police received a report of a suspicious vehicle in a farm entrance between Marshwood and Kittwhistle, the vehicle drove off after pulling in, so may have just been turning, however the residents have an alarm and the residents turning on lights may have scared them off. The next surgery in Broadwindsor will be held on Tuesday 15 March, at 10.30 am in Comrades Hall. PCSO Bishop asked the Clerk to thank those people in Drimpton who attended the recent coffee morning, for their kind hospitality.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. The Clerk referred Members to a letter received from Mr. Gil Streets requesting a letter of support for youth provision in Beaminster, which had previously been circulated. Councillor Leader reported that he is part of a group trying to secure funding for the continuation of Beaminster Youth Club now that funding from Dorset County Council was coming to an end. Councillor Leader stated that Beaminster Youth Club currently offers activities for children five nights a week and although DCC have pledged to offer a peppercorn rent for the Youth Centre in Beaminster, that approximately £20k is needed each year to finance a part-time Youth Leader to co-ordinate volunteers and activities. Councillor Smith asked how many children from the Grouped Parish area attend, Councillor Leader stated that he didn't have an exact number but there are quite a lot. Councillor Saunders agreed that many older

children from Drimpton Youth Club go onto Beaminster. Members unanimously agreed that a letter of support should be written on behalf of the Council.

Action: The Clerk to draft a letter of support for Beaminster Youth Club.

b. The Clerk referred Members to a letter from Bridport & District Citizens Advice Bureau which had been previously circulated. The letter informed Members of the role and work of the CAB and also asked for financial support. There was general agreement of the value and importance of the work of the CAB and Members agreed to support a grant of £100.00.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Leader, seconded by Councillor Tibballs and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed a grant of £100.00 for the Bridport & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

7. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Councillor Hibbard confirmed that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) had been set for 25 April at Comrades Hall. Councillor Saunders stated that he would like the evening to be informal and welcoming. Councillor Tibballs agreed to be the lead Councillor, supported by the Clerk. The Clerk stated that the website could be formally launched at the APM and that she had posters ready to go out to Members and the wider community publicising the date and inviting groups and organisations to take part.

8. ACCOUNTS

a. Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the fourth quarter of 2015/2016, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of 9 March 2016 was £23,929.52. The Clerk stated that there were still outstanding payments to be made from the previous month which would affect this total. The Clerk also informed that a VAT refund of £2483.80 had just been received and that she had also applied for funding under the Transparency Fund to support costs relating to the design and build of the website. The Clerk confirmed that all outstanding monies owed by Mrs. Tubridy as part of her salary overpayment had now been received. The Clerk asked for questions, there were none.

- b. To approve £500.00 for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
- c. To approve £33.00 for Diane Malley (PAYE Services)
- d. To approve £16.00 for CLT Steering Committee (Room Hire)
- e. To approve £200.00 for CLT Steering Committee (Start Up Grant)
- f. To approve £3600 for Comrades Hall (Play Equipment)
- g. To review and approve Clerk's annual salary increment and working hours
- h. To approve £478.11 for DAPTC (2016 Membership Fee)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Hedditch and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to f as above.

In respect of items a and e, Members were informed that this funding will be repaid back to the Council. In respect of item g, Councillor Hibbard stated that this represented the annual 3% pay increase for the Clerk as outlined in her contract commencing from the new financial year. It was proposed that working hours for the Clerk be amended to provide the option to work up to fifteen hours a week if needed. In respect of item h, Councillor Saunders stated

that he was supporting membership of DAPTC at this time to allow for training to be accessed by the Clerk. The Clerk stated that in order to carry out her job effectively and to be able to support Councillors in their role, that it was essential that she received the appropriate training and also that she was part of the information loop from Central Government, to NALC to DAPTC. It was agreed that membership should be reviewed annually.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hedditch, seconded by Councillor Tibballs and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved items g and h.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/16/000310 Westlea, West Dairy Farm Access Road, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk informed that this application was seeking to demolish an existing dilapidated agricultural barn and replace with a new building. Councillor Calverley had been nominated as the lead Councillor and stated that she had consulted the neighbouring property and no objections were raised. Councillor Calverley noted two points, that the proposed new build was significantly larger in height at one end compared to the existing building and this may have an impact for the neighbouring property and she also questioned whether roots from the tree identified on the Plan would cause any problems. Members of the Council also questioned the wording 'Workshop' on the Plan and whether this was referring to a new business and thus subject to planning permission. The Clerk noted all points for consideration and confirmed that they would be included within the Council's corporate response.

b. Other applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

WD/CA/15/00405 White Lion Cottage, Back Lane, Broadwindsor: Approved

WD/CA/15/00408 Cambridge Cottage, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD: Approved

WD/D/15/002917 Greenways, Causeway Lane, Blackdown: Approved

10. WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that there had been a small delay in getting started with the website but that a new web designer was now engaged and that she felt confident that she would now be able to progress the design and build. The Clerk stated that the website would not be completely populated with content by the time of the launch. The Clerk reported that she still did not have enough good photographs for the website and would therefore be going out to take some of her own. The Clerk reported that the logo had been signed off and that as soon as the domain name and new emails had been set up, that she would order the compliment slips and letterheads.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hibbard stated that the two scoping meetings had taken place on 9 February at Comrades Hall and 23 February at Drimpton Village Hall, both were well attended and the results were now being collated.

12. PARTNERING AGREEMENTS

Councillor Saunders stated that he would like the Council to be proactive rather than reactive and proposed that for the 2016/2017 period, the Council should focus its support on vulnerable groups within the community, namely young people and older people. Councillor Saunders stated that the Council had already made some progress by funding play equipment at Drimpton and Broadwindsor and providing funds for the installation of disabled access at Drimpton Village Hall, but would like the Council to do more. Councillor Saunders stated that the Council should consolidate its relationship with the Village Halls and the Primary School through formal partnering agreements.

Councillor Leader reported that he had convened a meeting with six young people from the Grouped Parish area on 6 March to explore matters which are of interest to them as part of the Council's youth engagement commitment. Councillor Leader stated that there had been some really good discussion and a wish list which included a safe walking and cycling route between Drimpton and Broadwindsor, the siting of an outdoor table tennis table at Bernards' Place or at Hursey Common, a once a week youth club in Broadwindsor which could have table tennis, pool, refreshments, Wii games and show age relevant films and a youth shelter in Bernards' Place to replace the existing as it is not big enough. Councillor Saunders thanked Councillor Leader for setting up the Youth Forum.

Councillor Saunders stated that the Council should review its support to older people and asked for a volunteer to lead. Councillor Slimon reported that he had been Treasurer of the 'Church Centre' for the past fourteen years which provided a safe place for mostly older people to enjoy a drink and companionship at no charge. Councillor Slimon stated that the group had to vacate its existing premises on the Square due to the death of the owner and that the local Publican had agreed to offer space for the group to meet. Councillor Saunders stated that there are examples of good work across the Parish and that the Council should review everything. It was agreed that Councillor Slimon lead on the review of support for older people, Councillor Leader for young people and Councillor Bassett for village halls.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Leader, seconded by Councillor Tibballs and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed to focus its support in 2016/2017 for vulnerable older and younger people within the Grouped Parish area.

13. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Saunders stated that the Council has a duty of care to provide an Emergency Plan for the Grouped Parish area and asked for a volunteer to lead on this piece of work. Councillor Saunders stated that the Emergency Services hold their own Plan and that the Council could support this by detailing action at a local level. Councillor Saunders suggested that a starting point would be to start a dialogue with Dorset Police. Councillor Tibballs agreed to progress this.

14. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that allotment renewals would be sent out shortly.

15. HIGHWAYS

Councillor Hardwill raised the matter of Agenda 13b of the last Meeting, the river crossing at Childhay. The Clerk reported that the letter to Dorset County Council had not yet been sent and that this would be completed and forwarded shortly.

Councillor Hedditch agreed to use the online reporting system to register his highways issues.

Councillor Slimon asked if local farmers would be able to help remove some of the mud on the roads. Councillor Saunders stated that most farmers do clean up if they have been ploughing and mud gets left on the highway. Councillor Calverley suggested contacting Blair Turner about the possible use of a road sweeper on some areas.

Councillor Tibballs informed that she had sent a photograph of the Burstock sign which is in need of repair to Blair Turner but to date had not received a reply.

It was agreed that all highways problems should be reported to Dorset County Council using their online system, when this is not possible, then contact should be made with Blair Tuner and that the Clerk should keep a record of all reported issues, these can then be tracked and discussed at Council Meetings.

Councillor Smith reported that he attended a meeting in October 2015 regarding setting up Speedwatch in Drimpton but hasn't had any contact from the Police since.

Action: The Clerk to contact PCSO Alex Bishop and ask for an update.

16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillor Leader reported that the CLT Steering Group has now looked at a number of sites in Broadwindsor and Drimpton but despite deciding that Broadwindsor would be the preferable location due to local amenities, no potential site was identified. The Steering Group has however identified two sites with potential in Drimpton and has written to the land owners with an offer for purchase. Due to the sensitivity of negotiations, Councillor Leader was not able to disclose the sites to Members at this time. Councillor Leader stated that the CLT Steering Group was looking at fifteen units, all rental properties providing five one bed, five two bed and five three bed dwellings. Councillor Smith asked if consideration had been given to drainage, Councillor Leader stated that this along with other issues would be looked at.

17. LEISURE

Councillor Leader stated that he had spoken with Dorset County Council with regard to the multi-use games area in Broadwindsor and they seem supportive of the idea. DCC are involved with a series of meetings about the proposal, so things are moving in the right direction, albeit slowly.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Leader thanked Councillors Slimon and Calverley for volunteering at Hursey Common and reported that it was a great day and that the Common was looking much better.

Councillor Hibbard stated that he wished to congratulate the Community Shop and all those involved on three successful years of trading, all Members reiterated this.

19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

20. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.30 pm.

APPROVED