

BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

COMRADES HALL, BROADWINDSOR

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 8 FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Jenny Calverley, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Peter Slimon, Cllr. Lesley Tibballs, Cllr. Malcolm Wigglesworth.

ATTENDANCE: Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Vice Chairman. There were two members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Saunders, Frampton, Smith and Leader and County Councillor Knox and unanimously approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillors Hibbard and Hardwill expressed an interest in Agenda item 9a, Greenways, Causeway Lane, Blackdown, DT8 3LE. Councillor Hibbard also declared an interest in Agenda item 8c, as Chairman of Blackdown Village Hall.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes from the Meeting held on 11 January 2016 was confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that a reply had been received from Debbie Redding at West Dorset District Council with regard to the second communication sent about the equestrian issues in Seaborough. The Clerk stated that this would be discussed under Highways. The Clerk also reported that she had written to Andrew Martin at the Highways Authority with regard to the concerns raised by Mr. Mark Vickery at the December Meeting in relation to the number of road traffic accidents on the A3066. Councillor Hibbard stated that the flood signs had been collected from the Clerk and that these were now in the Parish. Councillor Hibbard reported that he had attended Broadwindsor School on 28 January to award the prizes to the winners of the logo competition and was very much impressed by the children.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Hibbard welcomed questions from members of the public, there were none.

a. Report from Councillor Knox

No report.

b. Report from Councillor Sewell

Councillor Sewell reported that a Public Referendum on the future governance of West Dorset District Council will take place in May, alongside the vote for the County's Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillor Sewell stated that if no-one stands for the position of Commissioner then the District Council will have to pay the full cost.

Councillor Sewell also reported that she will be attending a Finance Meeting at WDDC, it is expected that the Government will cut the Council's budget by 30%, a greater percentage than was expected, which will lead to some very difficult budget decisions and a need for the Council to generate more income.

c. Report from the PCSO Alex Bishop

No report.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

The Clerk informed that a grant request had been received from Blackdown Village Hall and that this would be discussed under Agenda item 8c, Accounts. The Clerk also stated that she had been contacted by Mr. Charles Fenn who was concerned about the poor state of the road in the Square at Broadwindsor. The Clerk had reported this to Mr. Blair Turner of the Highways Authority.

7. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Councillor Hibbard stated that a date must be set for the Annual Parish Meeting and stated that it was the turn of Broadwindsor to host the event. The Clerk confirmed that this must be between 1 March and 1 June inclusive. It was agreed that either the 18 or 25 April would be preferable and that the Clerk would contact Comrades Hall to enquire and book. The Clerk stated that it was usual to have a guest speaker and Members agreed that Life Education Wessex and then Beaminster Museum should be approached.

Action: The Clerk to contact Comrades Hall and book and make enquiries and confirm a guest speaker.

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 1 February 2016 was £24,188.51. The Clerk asked for questions, there were none.

- b. To approve £16.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (room hire)
- c. To approve £1000.00 for Blackdown Village Hall (renovation of kitchen and toilet facilities)
- d. To approve £700.00 for Website (design, build, training, maintenance)
- e. To approve £36.00 for Comrades Hall (room hire)
- f. To approve £236.86 for Clerk's expenses (December, January and retrospective claim for telephone calls/line and broadband rental)
- g. To approve £350.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (contribution to defibrillator)

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

In respect of item c, Councillor Sewell congratulated the Village Hall in their fundraising achievements. Councillor Chumbley asked if any recreational facilities were being installed, Councillor Hibbard stated that they were not at this point but it was the intention to do so.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Tibballs and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment c.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/15/002879 Ley Cottage, Red Lane, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk informed that this application was seeking to erect a first floor extension and that Councillor Calverley had been nominated as the lead Councillor. Councillor Calverley stated that she had consulted two neighbouring properties, no objections were raised by one property and the other had not replied. Councillor Calverley stated that there were no grounds for objection.

WD/D/15/002955 Higher Farm, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk informed that this application was seeking listed building consent to lift the existing herringbone solid brick floor, repair and replace and that Councillor Calverley had been nominated as the lead Councillor. Councillor Calverley stated that she had spoken to the Agent and been informed that the original floor had been recently discovered and that it is in need of repair. Councillor Calverley stated that there were no grounds for objection.

WD/D/15/002917 Greenways, Causeway Lane, Blackdown, DT8 3LE

The Clerk informed that this application was seeking a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development due to a breach of an Agricultural Occupancy Condition and that Councillor Hibbard had been nominated as the lead Councillor. Councillor Sewell stated that this application was seeking a retrospective lifting of a tie as the property was no longer connected with a farm. Councillor Sewell stated that by keeping quiet, the owner had broken the law and that this should be noted within the Council's corporate view.

b. Other applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

WD/D/15/000977 Broadwindsor Craft & Design Centre, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Approved

WD/CA/15/00404 1 Back Lane, Broadwindsor, Beaminster, DT8 3SY: Approved

WD/D/15/002044 Old Sandpits, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3RS: Approved
discharge of S106

10. WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that regretfully a decision had been made to not continue with the current website designer and that she would be progressing a different route and would keep Members updated. The Clerk informed that she had submitted a press release to the View From newspaper and that the logo competition winners had made the front cover in the Beaminster edition. The Clerk reported that she has been working with Creeds on the development of a logo and circulated a copy of the latest design. The Clerk asked Members if she could progress the design and Members agreed.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hibbard stated that a scoping meeting is to take place on 9 February at Comrades Hall and 23 February at Drimpton Village Hall, both commencing at 7.30 pm and that the events had been widely publicised.

12. ALLOTMENTS

No report.

13. HIGHWAYS

a. Equestrian activities in and around Seaborough

Councillor Wigglesworth stated that notes from the meeting had now been circulated and that there were several issues to follow up. Councillor Wigglesworth stated that the issue of future development had not really been addressed at the meeting but that this was obviously important going forward. A meeting with WDDC Planning and DCC Highways had been offered. Councillor Hibbard stated that the meeting should be held in Seaborough and that representatives from both organisations could then have the opportunity to look at the situation first hand. Councillors Wigglesworth and Hibbard agreed to attend. Councillor Hibbard reiterated the importance of recording incidents. Councillor Bassett stated that there should be a representative from the equestrian yards at the meeting. Councillor Wigglesworth confirmed that they will be putting forward a name to be the link person. Councillor Hardwill stated that he believed that the meeting skirted around the main problems and that due to the sensitivity of the issues being raised, quite a few people decided not to attend. He also raised the issue of the environmental impact of too much run off going into the river.

b. Flooding at Honey Comb Farm

Councillor Hibbard reported that he had received two emails from Maria Tolley with regard to flooding at Honey Comb Farm. The owners are deeply concerned about the culvert under the road and the drains adjacent to the wall and fear that the road could fall away into their garden. Councillor Hibbard stated that he has had a meeting with Blair Turner from the Highways Authority and that Mr. Turner is seeking to acquire funding to install a new curb to redirect the water into the culvert. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had also raised the problems at Pipe House Lane and the drainage problems at Seaborough again.

Councillor Hedditch reported that due to recent heavy rain, there had been flooding again at properties at Greenham, there was approximately fifteen inches of water outside the home of Mr Tony Gail. Councillor Hedditch stated that he had taken sandbags to the property and that this property had flooded previously in 2000. Councillor Hedditch stated that water seemed to be coming from all directions, from the river and fields. Councillor Hardwill stated that the Environment Agency has now given permission for farmers to clear out the bottom of a river and that this worked in Drimpton.

Councillor Hardwill reported that a team from Dorset Highways had recently attended the river bridge at Childhay and excavated a large area and put back the existing plastic piping. Councillor Hardwill stated that this maintenance was in his opinion not required and upon excavation, the installation of a culvert would have been more effective than putting back the same piping. Councillor Hardwill circulated photographs of the area following recent heavy rainfall and highlighted that rain was still flooding the road. Councillor Hardwill also showed

Members a photograph of a small bridge that he had built on his own land to help water flow and stated that this was completed with very little money and effort but was extremely efficient. Councillor Wigglesworth questioned the fish stock when the excavation was taking place, Councillor Hardwill replied that they had been removed beforehand. Councillor Hardwill stated that he believed that this was a total waste of money, incurred at a time when Dorset County Council stated that funding was extremely tight. He asked that a letter be sent to Councillor Knox seeking an explanation.

Councillor Hedditch reported that the same observation had been made to him by Mr. Frost. Councillor Bassett stated that there was a similar problem at Netherhay, with over two feet of scree under the bridge. Councillor Curtis stated that farmers were now allowed to go near the rivers when previously they had been prohibited.

Councillor Hibbard stated that methods of communication were in place with the Highways Authority but they did not seem to be listening. Councillor Calverley stated that there doesn't seem to be enough staff to cope with the workload. Councillor Curtis stated that when work is being proposed that Highways should consult with the Parish Council in order to tap into local knowledge and that the community are the experts. There was general consensus that this would ensure efficiency of work and save money. Councillor Sewell stated that money should be given to the Parish Council for work to be co-ordinated locally. Members agreed.

Action: The Clerk to draft a letter to Councillor Knox listing suggestions, problems and the offer of devolved actions and circulate to Members before forwarding.

Councillor Slimon reported that he had recently used the Dorset For You online reporting system for highway problems and had once again found it extremely difficult and frustrating.

Councillor Hedditch stated that with regard to the ditch at the Burstock Lane/Childhay turning, Mr. Tim Frost had offered that once cleared, debris could be put on the bank. This might then reduce the risk of it filling up again.

14. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillor Tibballs reported that the CLT Steering Group convened on 3 February at Drimpton Village Hall. Two maps of sites were presented for the Group to review and Councillor Tibballs reported that as part of a future meeting, the Group will be walking through Broadwindsor and Drimpton and that agreement of the community still remains as the strongest determining factor. Councillor Tibballs stated that the Government has stopped giving grant for capital funding for affordable homes for rent. This means that it is now harder to find the funding.

15. LEISURE

No report.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Wigglesworth reported that it is now very unlikely that Seaborough will receive superfast broadband by April and that if it is available, the local infrastructure is not good enough.

Councillor Hedditch informed Members about a Property-Level Flood Protection Survey, an initiative to help reduce the risk of flooding at home. The Survey helps assess risk, identify potential sources of flooding and recommends measures to reduce risk. These measures can include barrier type products. The Survey is part of a country-wide government initiative and Dorset County Council has appointed JBA to carry out these surveys.

Action: The Clerk to find out further information and report back to Members.

The Clerk stated that she had been asked by Councillor Leader to inform Members of the forthcoming Hursey Common Work Party which will take place on Saturday 27 February, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm at the sports field. There is hedging work to be done and general maintenance and refreshments will be made available. Any fire wood that comes from the work will be given to any of the helpers who want it.

Action: The Clerk to circulate this information to Members by email.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Hibbard welcomed questions from members of the public. There were none.

18. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.04 pm.

APPROVED AMENDMENTS

BGPC 2016/02/6/5b be amended to '....if no-one stands against the Police Commissioner...'.

APPROVED