



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 10 APRIL 2017

COMRADES HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Susanna Laurie, Cllr. Richard Mouldsdale, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Roger Smith, Cllr. Lesley Tibballs.

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.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Leader and unanimously approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Hedditch declared an interest in Agenda item 15a.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes from the Meeting held on 13 March 2017 was confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

a. Report from Councillor Knox

Councillor Knox reported that the decision regarding the unitary authorities proposal had still not been announced by the Secretary of State. Councillor Knox stated that as from 13 April, the County Council will be in purdah and that during this pre-election time specific restrictions on activities will apply. Regardless of when the outcome is known, the County Council is pressing ahead with its strive towards a more joined up way of working. Councillor Knox reported that a pan-Dorset application had been submitted to Sport England for £10 million to support projects to increase access to the natural environment and Dorset's natural assets. Councillor Knox stated that following the Clinical Services Review, the County Council is trying to foster a different relationship with the NHS and stated that given the increase in community based services and the Council's early intervention work, it would be important to work in a more joined up way. Councillor Knox stated that going forward, the Council's

Health and Wellbeing Board would be able to have a say in what goes into future plans and stated that this would mark a real change.

b. Report from Councillor Sewell

Councillor Sewell reported that following last year's referendum which will bring into being a management team led committee to replace the Executive Committee, a new document has been published which provides a much clearer definition of the role of a Councillor. Councillor Sewell stated that the constitution for West Dorset District Council had been reviewed and a new constitution was approved on 6 April 2017. Councillor Sewell reported that some time ago West Dorset District Council was awarded funds for housing and that a task force has been set up to look at a number of different options, one of which could see the Council which owns both land and buildings provide its own housing which would generate income. The matter of reserves and unitary status was raised by Councillor Hibbard and Councillor Sewell stated that these must be ringfenced and allocated to West Dorset. Councillor Tibballs asked whether such housing would be prioritised for local people, Councillor Sewell confirmed but stated that rent levels would need further discussion.

c. Report from Police Community Support Officer

The Clerk reported that an invitation to attend or provide a report had been issued to the Beaminster Neighbourhood Police Team but that no communication had been received. The Clerk reported that following the last Meeting and as requested, a letter had been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) highlighting the concerns of Members of the lack of Police presence at Meetings and within the community, especially concerning due to the increase in local crime. The Clerk reported that she was aware that in other counties, Somerset for example, that communities had been informed by the Police that they would not be attending Parish Council Meetings unless there was a specific issue. Councillor Tibballs asked whether it would be useful to send questions and ask for a reply. Councillor Curtis stated that the Council must insist on having a Police representation and informed that they were trying to withdraw from the Stop That Thief project. Councillor Chubb stated his agreement with Councillor Curtis and stated that local crime data should be circulated. Councillor Hedditch stated that after a recent theft at his son's property when machinery and tools were taken, the Police did not even attend and just issued a crime reference number. Councillor Laurie stated that it may be useful to start a Facebook campaign to alert the community to local crime. It was agreed to wait for a reply from the PCC before taking further action.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

The Clerk reported that no correspondence or notices had been received.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the year end of 2016/2017, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 March 2017 was £32273.01. There were no questions.

b. Timetable for Annual Return 2016/2017

The Clerk reported that she had received notification from BDO with regard to the Annual Return. The Clerk stated that the deadline for submission of the Annual Return is 10 July,

Section 1 will be on the agenda for approval at the May Meeting, Section 2 will be on the agenda for approval at the June Meeting and the Exercise of Electors' Rights will take place between 20 June and 31 July. The Clerk also reported that Broadwindsor Group Parish Council had been randomly selected to complete an additional questionnaire which must be submitted at the same time. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk for this information.

- c. To approve payment of £25.00 for Mrs. Janet Iveson (allotment deposit)**
- d. To approve payment of £192.00 for Dorset Environmental Records Centre (environmental data)**
- e. To approve payment of £750.00 for Comrades Hall (grant)**
- f. To approve payment of £750.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (grant)**
- g. To approve payment of £550.00 for Blackdown Village Hall (grant)**
- h. To approve payment of £736.83 (Quarterly adjustment to Clerk's salary)**
- i. To approve payment of £44.25 for Clerk's expenses (February and March)**

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Smith and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed payments c to i as above.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

No applications had been received prior to the publication of the Agenda.

b. Other Applications

The Clerk reported that she had received and circulated a letter from Sinclair Dalby Limited informing that Telefónica is in the process of identifying a suitable site in the area for a radio base station. The purpose of the letter was to consult with the Council and seek comments on the proposal before a planning submission is made. The proposed site for the base station was cited as the land adjoining Little Hayes in Broadwindsor. Councillor Hibbard stated that mobile phone coverage in Broadwindsor was very poor and this matter was raised in the Parish Plan and more recently in the questionnaire distributed for the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that the Council should be supportive of the proposal. Councillor Curtis stated that the base station should improve service for all users and stated that the antennas would be visible but there is some screening in place. Members concurred that improvements to mobile phone coverage was very much needed.

WD/D/17/000761 1 Bridge Cottages, Greenham Lane, Greenham, Crewkerne, TA18 8QE

The Clerk reported that this application had just been received and that the proposal was supported by the Council in September 2016 but rejected by West Dorset District Council. Councillor Bassett had been the lead Councillor for the original application and stated that the proposal was seeking to convert a store into a dwelling and that there had been a letter submitted raising concern about drainage. Councillor Hardwill stated that it made no sense to reject such an application as more housing is needed in the area. Councillor Sewell stated that the proposal seeks to convert a redundant building and will increase the sustainability of the hamlet. Members agreed to support the application, and asked the Clerk to make reference to the drainage concerns when submitting the corporate view of the Council.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results:

WD/D/17/000137 Sandpits Chicken Farm, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3RB:

Approved

WD/D/15/000304 Axe Mill Industrial Estate, Axe Lane, Drimpton: Request for compliance of planning conditions 1 - 9 of planning approval 1/W/90/0664: Not Complied

WD/D/17/000089 Axe Mill Industrial Estate, Axe Lane, Drimpton: Request for confirmation as to whether planning application 1/W/90/000664 is still extant: Not Complied

The Clerk stated that Councillor Hardwill had asked for an update regarding the Axe Mill applications. After discussion there was consensus amongst Members that the site would provide an appropriate place for small businesses and start-ups and that despite the time lapse the Council should support the applications and help push forward a resolution.

Action: The Clerk to write to the Planning Department to ask that matters relating to the applications are resolved promptly.

d. West Dorset District Council Local Searches

The Clerk reported that for the month of March 2017, there had been a total of 335 searches received, 326 searches issued and 458 outstanding, a slight increase from 437 in February.

9. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk reported that she had booked places for Councillors Laurie, Chubb and Rowe on the DAPTC training events taking place on 23 May and 13 June and that she would circulate joining instructions once received. The Clerk asked that if other Councillors would like to attend to contact her as soon as possible.

10. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk reported that Mr. Andrew Martin from the Highways Authority could not attend the Annual Parish Meeting due to other commitments that evening. The Clerk stated that the Dog Warden for West Dorset would be attending and he welcomed questions to be forwarded to him prior to the event. Councillor Basset informed the Clerk that Rosemary Shepherd would be reporting for Drimpton Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Fraser Hughes with regard to a report from the Community Stores. Councillor Chubb stated that a report would be provided by the Drimpton and Netherhay Youth Club.

Action: The Clerk to contact Mr. Fraser Hughes.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hibbard reported that there had been a meeting at the end of March and that the deadline for the call for sites was 30 April. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council had provided funding to purchase environmental data which will inform the Neighbourhood Plan and reported that a full update will be provided at the Annual Parish Meeting.

12. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Tibballs reported that she had written to twelve local people who may be able to offer assistance in an emergency situation, for example to provide a tractor or chainsaw and had received three replies. Councillor Tibballs stated that she had contacted each village hall.

Councillor Bassett reported that a telephone line was being installed at Drimpton Village Hall on 18 April at a cost of £30.00 for the line, £7.00 for the router and approximately £20.00 per month for rental and that this was being provided through EE. Councillor Hibbard stated that Blackdown Village Hall would like to do the same. Councillor Tibballs circulated a Telephone Tree highlighting the communication process should an emergency occur.

13. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that the BAG AGM was held on 5 April and was attended by Councillor Chumbley. The Clerk reported that there were a number of outstanding renewals that had not been paid and that she would report back at the next Meeting. The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a local resident concerned about the Hazel tree and creeping ground elder which was overhanging her property. The Clerk stated that she had contacted Sheila Hawkins and that the matter had been resolved.

14. HIGHWAYS

a. Restoration of Fingerpost Signs in the Grouped Parish Area

The Clerk reported that Councillor Leader had spoken with Mr. Rob Hedditch and he had provided an approximate cost of £200.00 for the full restoration of a fingerpost sign in poor condition, this would include all metal works including painting, parts such as finials would be additional. Members agreed to discuss this matter again at the next Meeting with Councillor Leader.

b. Update on Dog Bins for Drimpton

The Clerk reported that a chain and lock for each bin would need to be purchased and Councillor Chubb stated that he would do this and if possible, be onsite when the bins are delivered. The Clerk reported that the bins will be trialled for three months.

The Clerk referred to a number of highways matters arising. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Mr. Graham Parkin of Springfield Farm and had been informed that the remedial works to his drive, namely the re-bedding and realignment of kerbs have now been completed. Mr. Parkin thanked the Clerk and Chairman for their support in pushing for a resolution to the matter.

Councillor Bassett informed that he had spoken with a representative, Mr. Tom Main from Transporting Somerset with regard to the Council's request to extend the bus route for Drimpton. Mr. Main stated that the operator was not keen to navigate Crewkerne Road because it is too narrow. Councillor Bassett reported that he had pointed out that the School bus, also operated by South West Coaches, manages to use Crewkerne Road safely every day in term time, in both directions. Mr. Main had agreed to speak with South West Coaches and report back to the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Mr. Ian Newport with regard to the Council's request for the resurfacing of Crewkerne Road. Mr. Newport stated that back in October 2014 and then subsequently in June 2015 works were cancelled due to utility works proposed for this location. Mr. Newport stated that he is currently finalising future programmes of works and will include the site for consideration in this process. Members were advised to report pot holes on Crewkerne Road online.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Dorset Waste Partnership with regard to Church Walk and that they had agreed to forward a copy of the current arrangements for these properties and if needed, send out a polite reminder letter. Councillor Rowe stated that the bins are never returned and were an eyesore for the village.

Councillor Smith reported that a road sign in Drimpton had fallen off and that the two posts were rotten. Councillor Smith was asked to report the matter online at the Dorset for You website.

Councillor Bassett asked the Council to consider providing some funding support for remedial works to the area below the bridge in Drimpton to alleviate the risk of flooding and prevent a major incident.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Rowe and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed.

15. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Hibbard read aloud an email from Councillor Leader and reported that the Community Land Trust is waiting for a pre-application meeting with the West Dorset Planning Department and as soon as that has taken place, there will be further information to report. Councillor Chubb stated that the meeting had to be cancelled as the pre-application had not been received. Councillor Hedditch reported that he had been informed that another company associated with the Marshwood development had gone out of business and that the site was not being maintained. Councillor Chubb stated that although it is in the early stages, this will be overseen by the Housing Association. Councillor Sewell stated that it is common for a group to be formed to keep the landscape tidy. Councillor Smith stated that he had been approached by a local resident who was concerned that access to the site would be through Oxhayes, Councillor Chubb stated that this was not correct. Councillor Sewell stated that a full presentation will be provided at the Annual Parish Meeting.

16. LEISURE

a. Update on the Multi-Use Games Area

Councillor Hibbard read aloud an email from Councillor Leader and reported that Sport England were still considering the application.

17. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Council

None.

b. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

19. THE FMR TRUST

a. To receive the Finance Report

The Clerk referred Trustees to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the year end of 2016/2017, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 March 2017 was £5853.97. The Clerk reported that a previous grant payment of £1000.00 to Drimpton Short Mat Bowls Club was still to be cashed. The Clerk reported that the value of shares as of 31 December 2016 was £79,120.19. There were no questions.

b. To review the draft application form

The Clerk referred Trustees to the draft application form which had been previously circulated and asked for any comments. Trustees agreed that the form should be introduced and monitored to ensure its suitability for applications.

c. To approve payment of £204.18 for BGPC (quarterly % of Clerk's salary for Trust administration)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Tibballs, seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously agreed payment c as above.

The Clerk reported that an application from Broadwindsor Cricket Club had been received and read aloud an email from Andrew Frampton, Director of Communications. The Cricket Club was seeking financial support from the Trust to help complete the final stages of the new Pavilion, namely the completion of the shower blocks. The Cricket Club still needed to raise £2340 to complete installation and tiling. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Club was a real asset to the local community and had made great efforts in their fundraising.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Hedditch and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously agreed a payment of £1300 for Broadwindsor Cricket Club.

20. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.16 pm and the FMR Trust Meeting was formally closed at 9.26 pm.