



**MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**10 JANUARY 2022**  
**ONLINE MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell. Cllr. Yvonne White.

**ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Simon Christopher (Dorset Council), Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by Councillor Hibbard. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public and thanked them for taking part. There were ten members of the public in attendance.

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**1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillor Bassett and unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS, DISPENSATIONS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS UPDATES**

**a. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors and employees on matters to be considered at the Meeting.**

None.

**b. To receive requests for dispensations.**

The Clerk stated that a dispensation request for Agenda Item 8b had been received from Councillor White.

**c. To grant any requests for dispensation.**

The Clerk stated that the dispensation request from Councillor White had been approved.

**d. To receive any updates to the Register of Interests from Councillors.**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the informal meeting held on 13 December 2021 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

#### **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public raised the matter of the speed limit past Broadwindsor Cricket Club and stated that for some time now the Club has been concerned about speeding vehicles along the road and despite widening the entrance to improve safety, it was still dangerous for those entering and exiting the Club. The member of the public also stated that the owners of the neighbouring property had these concerns. The member of the public asked the Parish Council to support the Club in its attempts to reduce the speed limit to a sensible limit along the road. Councillor Hibbard stated that this matter had been included in Councillor Christopher's report and would be discussed later in the meeting. Councillor Rowe stated that she had noted the matter in Councillor Christopher's report and that it seemed the right time to discuss more comprehensive measures. Councillor Sewell stated that she had been campaigning for a reduction from 60 mph to 40 mph along that stretch of road since 2007 and that there now needs to be a concerted effort to achieve this and to install the footpath.

Another member of the public stated that he and his family had campaigned for twenty years to reduce the speed limit and over the years both the volume of traffic and speed had increased. The member of the public stated that young families were now living in properties along that road and that trying to run a farm bisected by the road was extremely difficult and welcomed any support that the Parish Council could offer. The member of the public stated that the number of people walking on the road had also increased and that as the Cricket Club expands, this will increase the risks further and stated that a footpath was essential. Councillor Hibbard thanked members of the public for their comments and stated that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

##### **a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council**

Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillor Christopher was not yet in attendance and that this item would be discussed once he had joined the meeting.

##### **b. Report from Dorset Police**

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that between Saturday 11 and Monday 13 December, there was an attempted burglary at an address near Stoke Abbott. A window was smashed and there were marks on the frame, but nothing was disturbed or taken and no evidence of entry. If this was an attempted burglary, rather than criminal damage, it is likely the offender was disturbed. The report stated that on the morning of New Year's Eve, there was a suspicious incident reported at an address in Littlewindsor, a Ford Fiesta pulled onto a driveway and the driver got out and had a look around before leaving again. Nothing has been stolen/damaged. On the morning of New Year's Day, criminal damage occurred at the village hall in Blackdown. In his report

PCSO Bishop asked that if anyone has any information about this, please contact Dorset Police online at [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk), or on 101. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that he would be at the village hall in Broadwindsor at 11.00 am on 11 January for his monthly surgery.

**c. Co-option to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council, Broadwindsor Ward**

The Clerk reported that one expression of interest had been received for the vacancy and that the member of the public was in attendance should Councillors have any questions. The Clerk stated that under current legislation, the co-option to the Council was not permitted to take place during an online meeting and that an in-person meeting would have to be convened before the end of January to approve the co-option and the budget and Precept which also cannot be approved during an online meeting. Councillor Hibbard welcomed the member of the public to the meeting and stated that he appreciated his patience.

**d. Broadwindsor Group Parish Council Vacancy, Blackdown Ward**

The Clerk reported that today was the last day for requests for an election to take place to be registered with Dorset Council and that she anticipated that she would have contact from Dorset Council either the next day or day after. The Clerk stated that if there had not been sufficient requests, then the Parish Council could proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option and stated that this would take place either at the February or March meeting.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

None.

**7. PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**a. Community Updates from Councillors**

Councillor Hughes reported that it had been distressing to see COVID-19 figures increase recently but stated that in the last twenty-four hours, the number of cases had reduced slightly. Councillor Hughes stated that there had been 78 people with COVID-19 during the last seven days representing 806 people per 100,000 which although was half of the national average, was still very concerning.

**8. ACCOUNTS**

**a. To receive the Finance Report**

Councillor Hibbard referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 December was £41,804.83. There were no questions.

**b. To approve the Budget and Precept Request for 2022/2023**

Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillors had previously seen the draft budget and associated documents and that he believed that the draft budget would be sufficient for the needs of the Parish Council over the coming year. Councillor Leader stated that across the Grouped Parish area there are a great number of fantastic volunteers who make everything

happen, from the Community Shop, village halls, play park, the football ground in Drimpton. Councillor Leader stated that it was important that the voluntary work is supported by financial means and that in order to continue to improve the Grouped Parish area he would urge that at the very least, the Precept was retained at its current level or possibly a small increase could be requested as according to commentators, inflation is likely to rise. Councillor Leader stated that he would not want to see the ability to do things diminish due to the lack of funds. Councillor Leader stated that it was evident that Dorset Council will over time, provide less and less and it would be the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain the aesthetic appearance of the area.

Councillor Hibbard stated that he would support retaining the Precept at its current level. Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council has a healthy reserve and although he agreed with Councillor Leader that the Parish Council will have to spend more money, with significant increases in the Council Tax and other householder bills, he felt it prudent to keep the Precept at the same level. Councillor Sewell stated that she would support a small increase as she was concerned about future requests should the Parish Council keep the Precept at the same level for two consecutive years. Councillor Sewell stated that the overall cost of a 5% increase would be pence per household per week and those on a low income are able to claim Council Tax benefit. Councillor Hughes stated that he would also support a slight increase and stated that a conversation that afternoon with Dorset Council confirmed that the budget for Highways would be cut significantly for the next financial year and Councillor Hughes stated that the Parish Council will have to fund more things. Councillor Harris stated that he supported the comments made by Councillor Leader and stated that a 5% increase to the Precept request would translate to an increase of 3.17% in real terms and stated that even a 3% increase would be acceptable. Councillor Rowe stated that based on these discussions, she supported a small increase to the Precept request. Councillor Leader proposed a 5% increase, this was seconded by Councillor Sewell and supported by all Councillors, there were no objections. The Clerk stated that she would report this at the in-person meeting and include a resolution to reflect this on the agenda.

**c. To approve payment of £1974.00 for Dorset Council (Speed Indicator Device Posts)**

**d. To approve payment of £227.98 to J R Plumbing & Heating Oxon Limited (Grinder and Battery for Fingerpost Restoration Project)**

**e. To approve payment of £6.26 for HMRC (NI)**

**f. To approve payment of £29.84 for the Clerk (Expenses January 2022)**

**g. To approve payment of £1,042.20 for the Clerk (Salary Adjustment October, November and December 2021)**

Councillor Sewell proposed that the payments be approved en bloc, this was seconded by Councillor Hughes.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell seconded by Councillor Hughes and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments c to g.**

## **9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation**

None.

### **b. Other Applications**

**P/PABA/2021/05692, Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill, Seaborough, TA18 8PL (Prior Approval)**

No comments were made.

### **c. Results**

None.

## **10. BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY PUB PROPOSAL**

Councillor Leader reported that an agreement is in place with Palmers and that they now have a legally formed not for profit company. Councillor Leader stated that a public meeting will be held the next day on 11 January and will also be available online for those who cannot attend. Councillor Leader stated that in order to progress further £30,000 needed to be raised to support maintenance costs and to equip the kitchen. Councillor Leader stated that 400 households had already been leafleted to inform them of the public meeting and a membership letter will also be sent out to these households over the next few days. Councillor Leader stated that he hoped that the community would support the pub but stated that if the money isn't raised then the project will not go ahead. Councillor Leader stated that he was confident that the funds will be raised but wasn't complacent. Councillor Leader stated that a lot of work had been carried out by a lot of people and that he was grateful to the Parish Council for their contribution and support. Councillor Hibbard wished Councillor Leader well for the public meeting and thanked the committee for their considerable efforts.

## **11. LEWESDON HILL PROJECT**

Councillor Frampton reported that the National Trust had now taken over the project and had offered to pay for the memorial board. Councillor Frampton stated that he had been asked to raise a little bit more money to cover maintenance and the cost of the event. Councillor Frampton stated that he would provide a more detailed update at next month's meeting. Councillor Frampton stated that he is in contact with the family in Brussels who are hoping to attend the event but have not wanted to book flights at the moment due to the uncertainty with COVID-19. Councillor Hibbard asked if there was a possibility that the family could join the event online, Councillor Frampton stated that this may well be possible.

## **12. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

Mr. Adrian Gray from Broadwindsor Fun Group provided an update. Mr. Gray stated that insurance had been purchased for the activities, but some extra cover may be required for the beacon lighting. Mr. Gray stated that a request has gone out to the local community to help run children's activities on Saturday 4 June and stated that without offers to run these

they will not be able to take place. Mr. Gray stated that Councillor Sewell has been running bunting workshops and paid thanks to her for arranging them. Mr. Gray stated that the beacon will have to be inspected in the Spring to ensure that it is safe to use and stated that a song and music has been circulated by the Government for the beacon lighting event and that the School will be asked if they will form a choir and sing it. Mr. Gray stated that musicians for the weekend have been identified but more work is needed to secure them and stated that unfortunately the main act has sadly pulled out. Mr. Gray stated that the Community Pub has tentatively agreed to run a bar in Bernards' Place on the Saturday. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Gray and the Fun Group for their efforts. Councillor Sewell asked for donations of 1950s style fabric and stated that she hopes that there will be enough bunting to cover all of Bernards' Place, all the way up the High Street, Back Lane and round the Square. Councillor Sewell stated that the bunting could be borrowed for other events. Mr. Gray stated that due to COVID-19 the planned Christmas Party was cancelled and paid thanks to all those who helped put together the Christmas hamper, which was raffled off and raised over £200.00. Councillor Chubb stated that there will be an event in Drimpton Village Hall on one of the days and stated that Drimpton is also going to be involved with tree planting, stating that a call for available land had already gone out.

### **13. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

#### **a. Working Group Update**

No update.

### **14. ALLOTMENTS**

No update.

### **15. HIGHWAYS**

#### **a. Report from the Footpaths Officer**

Councillor Rowe stated that she is pursuing funding with the AONB to support the parish and village walks project and stated that she believes that it will be a real asset for the community. Councillor Rowe stated that she has been asked to act as a conduit and look for financial support and stated that she will most likely be approaching the Parish Council for a grant once costings have been confirmed.

#### **b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area**

Councillor Rowe stated that she is really keen to have a beautiful show of wildflowers this year after the problems of last year and stated that she would like to involve people in the village and make it more of a community project. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Rowe for her work.

#### **c. Village Signage Working Group**

The Clerk stated that she had contacted Dorset Council's Sign Shop and had been advised that the sign in Beaminster cost approximately £3000 and that the artwork was provided by Beaminster Town Council and it was made of aluminium. The Clerk stated that in order to

provide a quotation, Dorset Council would need to carry out a site visit and that the cost of a sign was not necessarily based on its size but rather the location and the amount of traffic management required in order to install the sign safely. The Clerk stated that she had requested a quotation for a sign on the Beaminster to Broadwindsor Road and asked if there were other locations being considered. The Clerk stated that the Sign Shop had provided a rather crude estimate of between £800 and £1000 for the sign on the Beaminster to Broadwindsor Road. Councillor Leader stated that this seemed to be very expensive and stated that it would most likely be far cheaper if the Parish Council could commission its own sign and arrange for its installation. Councillor Hibbard agreed that the costs seemed to be very expensive. Councillor Chumbley stated that the Parish Council has to be responsible for the sign but cannot arrange for it to be installed themselves. Councillor Chubb stated that it is often the case that the signs become damaged due to hedge cutting carried out by Dorset Council.

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Christopher to the meeting at this point. Councillor Christopher apologised for being late and explained that he had been in a meeting with the Member of Parliament. Councillor Frampton stated that the problem of speeding traffic and the subsequent speed limits along the road from Beaminster to Broadwindsor have been a problem throughout the whole of his period of office as Councillor, some twenty-one years. Councillor Frampton stated that he had discussed the problem with the Chairman of Beaminster Cricket Club who had drafted a letter which had been circulated to all Councillors and presented to Dorset Council by Councillor Christopher at a meeting that afternoon. Councillor Christopher stated that he had had a good and constructive meeting with John Lake, Technical Officer for Traffic and Paul Eastwood, Technical Officer for Collision Reduction and had been joined by Councillor Hughes. Councillor Christopher stated that both Officers had been very receptive of all the points raised, not least the concerns about the access point on the Beaminster Road and the need for a footpath to be installed and had stated that they will now engage with other Officers. Councillor Christopher thanked Councillor Frampton and Clive Stafford Smith for their efforts and stated that when he receives any further information, he will share with them and the Parish Council. Councillor Hughes stated that the meeting had been constructive and that he had made the point of more speed camera appearances around the village to deter speeding vehicles. Councillor Hibbard asked Councillor Christopher where the proposed speed restriction would start, Councillor Christopher stated that he was not a highways expert and as such was seeking a response from Paul Eastwood.

Councillor Chubb stated that the Community Land Trust (CLT) had to engage the services of an external professional to support their planning application and stated that it may be that the Parish Council may have to pay for its own specialist. Councillor Chubb stated that one of the main priorities for the Parish Council must be road safety. Clive Stafford Smith stated that he would be happy to volunteer his services free of charge and stated that they could carry out their own speed assessment and report and make it politically impossible for

Dorset Council not to change the speed limit. Councillor Chubb reported that Broadwindsor had been featured in the Mirror Online and stated that a Facebook post about a fake speed camera had been picked up by the media and he had been contacted and offered the use of a Speed Indicator Device free of charge. Councillor Chubb stated that he had emailed the link to both the Clerk and Councillor Leader. Councillor Frampton stated that they could put some '40' triangular signs on posts at the bottom of Clan Hill and stated that the owners of Honeycombe Farm have been campaigning about this for many, many years and that the Parish Council should be able to help them. Councillor Frampton stated that data should be collated about the speed of vehicles past the Farm and the Cricket Club. Councillor Leader stated that he echoed the comments that have already been made and stated that the dangers on this road were palpable and that something must be done. Councillor Sewell stated that the CLT had paid for an independent highways consultant but that obviously would incur costs for the Parish Council. Councillor Hibbard stated that he was happy for the Parish Council to move ahead with this and try and get the situation resolved. Councillor Christopher stated that he was very keen to resolve the matter as fast as possible on safety grounds.

Councillor Christopher stated that both Dorset Council Officers were aware of the coverage in the national press and that he had also expressed concerns about speeding traffic outside of the school. Councillor Christopher stated that he will press for the involvement of the Member of Parliament and Police Commissioner where necessary. Councillor Hibbard stated that pressure should be kept on Dorset Council and the Clerk was asked to include this matter on the agenda for the next month.

Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council could use the media coverage and the offer of a loan of a speed indicator device (SID) to its advantage. Councillor Hibbard stated that it might be the case that the Parish Council will not be allowed to use the SID on that stretch of road and stated that any data gathered must be legally acceptable. Councillor Sewell stated that the Speedwatch Groups have a speed gun but can only use them in approved locations which did not include the bottom of Clan Hill. Councillor Sewell stated that sight lines are taken into consideration when approving locations and because part of the road is 60 mph, there has to be a longer stretch in order to be safe. Councillor Sewell stated that the Police could be asked to carry out a speed watch of their own along the road. Councillor Hibbard stated that PCSO Bishop could be asked for advice.

## **16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

### **a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust**

Councillor Leader stated that works had begun and that this project was a culmination of many years of hard work and campaigning and stated that the Parish Council should be very proud of their involvement. Councillor Leader stated that the build which is being carried out by Fry's will take about a year including landscaping. Councillor Chubb stated that topsoil was available from the site should anyone require it. Councillor Hibbard paid thanks to Councillor Leader and the Committee for their hard work. Councillor Harris asked



Councillor Leader about the proposal to connect the foul water drainage to the public sewer in Oxhayes instead of the digester plant as included in the original plan. Councillor Leader stated that there was a problem with the digester plant as the Environment Agency will not allow it on site due to discharge into the stream and stated that Fry's are looking at alternative options and it is hoped that they will have a clear way forward after their forthcoming meeting. Councillor Leader stated that Fry's have done a lot of work on the existing system and did find a problem down towards Oxhayes, they duly informed South West Water and the blockage has now been removed.

## **17. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION**

### **a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council**

Councillor Frampton proposed that IT be included on the agenda for next month's meeting and stated that he had noticed that public participation had increased significantly since online meetings had been introduced. Councillor Frampton stated that perhaps meetings could be live streamed as there are many elderly residents who wish to attend but do not want to physically go to a meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that by law the Parish Council must convene at least four in-person meetings a year and that this had to be abided by. The Clerk stated that online meetings are open and accessible to all, even those without access to a computer as you can use a landline to dial in. The Clerk stated that there are some matters that cannot be approved through the scheme of delegation and at such times an in-person meeting must be convened but this could potentially be streamed live and comments could be made through the chat facility. Councillor Sewell stated that perhaps a hybrid meeting could be held, with people in the Hall and the meeting being held on Zoom aswell. Councillor Sewell stated that she had received a letter about planning from Lytchett Matravers Parish Council which seemed to reflect Broadwindsor Group Parish Council's concerns regarding the functions of Dorset Council's Planning Department and asked the Clerk to circulate and add to the agenda for February. Councillor Christopher reported that Dorset Council had not held a full Council meeting in-person since February 2020 and stated that he was sure that there would be ramifications. Councillor Christopher stated that he was cautious of how hybrid meetings will work.

Councillor Chubb asked Councillor Leader when the SIDs would be installed. Councillor Leader stated that there was an ongoing problem with the device which Dorset Council have been trying to resolve. Councillor Leader stated that the device is British made and much cheaper than the standard ones used across much of Dorset and that he had been patient to allow the problem to be rectified to support British industry as the alternative option would be to purchase the more expensive SID which is not British made. Councillor Leader stated that the trials were going well and then a problem was found and that they had been trying for months to resolve it. Councillor Leader stated that they could not wait indefinitely.

### **b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public**

None.

## **18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Residents were invited to give their views and ask questions of the Parish Council on any outstanding issues on this Agenda or raise issues for future consideration. A member of the public stated that with regard to speeding traffic it was not only on the other side of Clan Hill but also on the Cricket Club side. The member of the public stated that she had parked her car on one occasion and had the wing mirror taken off by a speeding vehicle. Councillor Christopher stated that he and Councillor Hughes had expressed concerns about both access points to Broadwindsor during their meeting with Dorset Council Officers.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be 14 February 2022. It was agreed that a short in-person meeting will be held on 24 January to agree the Precept and budget and to approve the co-option for the Broadwindsor ward.

## **20. FMR TRUST**

### **a. To receive the Finance Report**

Councillor Hibbard referred Trustees to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 December was £4,169.12. There were no questions.

### **b. To approve payment of £234.72 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Trust Administration)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard and seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved payment b.**

### **c. To consider a grant application for the Jean De Cloedt Memorial (Broadwindsor Group Parish Council)**

The Clerk stated that the applicant would be the Parish Council rather than an individual and that the Parish Council would then distribute funding to the project. It was agreed to support a grant up to £750.00 which reflected half of the original total cost of the project.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hughes and seconded by Councillor Leader and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved a grant payment of up to £750.00.**

## **21. CLOSE**

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 8.46 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 8.49 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.