



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

11 APRIL 2023

BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Jacqui Sewell (Vice Chair), Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Stefan Nikolov, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, 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. There were three members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Chumbley and Frampton 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.

None.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

None.

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

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 March 2023 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Hibbard.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Sewell asked the Clerk if she had received a reply from Councillor Christopher to the question that she raised at the last meeting with regard to how long planning applications and reports remain on the planning portal. The Clerk stated that she had not, but that Councillor Christopher would be attending the meeting later on that evening. Councillor Hughes stated that at the last meeting he had presented a report on parking in Broadwindsor Square which he had subsequently forwarded to Dorset Council. Councillor Hughes stated that he had received a reply with suggestions that the Parish Council may wish to look at village gateways but stated that the main problems are that Dorset Council is saying that it doesn't have the money and is being very slow to take any action. Councillor Hughes stated that he had received a response from a parishioner providing a number of imaginative ideas to the problem and highlighted a document called 'Traffic in Villages' which was produced by Hamilton-Baillie which remains influential in policy making and that he will discuss this further with the parishioner. Councillor Hughes stated that it must be remembered that these discussions are about one area of the Grouped Parish but that there is a need to look wider.

Councillor Sewell stated that we are always being told that Dorset Council does not have any money and asked where the £58m has gone which has been reportedly saved. Councillor Sewell stated that before unitarization, West Dorset District Council had millions in the bank but that all of this money has now gone. Councillor Raymond stated that the white lines on the one-way system by the White Lion are no longer visible and stated that vehicles are not stopping which is causing problems. Councillor Hughes stated that this had been brought to Dorset Council's attention and had been agreed but poor weather recently had prevented the work from being carried out. Councillor Hughes stated that the problem of vehicles parking on the pavement had improved. Councillor Chubb stated that the village gateways would be a waste of money, Councillor Nikolov stated that the Community Highways Officer had informed that they provide a visual boundary for people to alert them that they are entering a more urban area and that he had received good feedback about their impact on reducing speeding traffic. Councillor Chubb stated that the speed limits are not appropriate for that to be helpful, and Councillor Nikolov stated that there wasn't sufficient space to put the gateways. Councillor Dyke stated that it was his understanding that you cannot be prosecuted for speeding in a 20mph zone if entering from a 60 mph zone. Councillor Chubb stated that the speed limits really need to be sorted out in the village and that this matter along with the need for the footpath to the Cricket Club should be raised with Chris Loder MP at the Annual Parish Meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public stated that whilst walking along a local bridleway with her dog she came across a section of wire netting which was being used to retain livestock but was in a very poor state and as such she was concerned enough to put her dog back on its lead. The member of the public stated that she very much understands that it was her responsibility to keep her dog

under control along the bridleway but wanted to ask the Parish Council if landowners have a duty to ensure that such fencing is well maintained and that their livestock is secure. Councillor Curtis stated that farmers have a responsibility to fence their land, although animals do sometimes get out but that he was unsure as to the exact legal position. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council will make enquires to Dorset Council in the first instance. Councillor Curtis stated that he believed that the rules for bridleways were different to those for open land, Councillor White stated that she has a right of way across her fields which are not fenced and that it is the responsibility of the walker to be responsible if livestock is in the field.

The member of the public asked to raise a second matter regarding the area of land opposite the Cross Keys, the area by the bin and seat. The member of the public stated that Broadwindsor is such a wonderful place to live and that it would be nice to celebrate this with some form of structure on that area of land which would welcome people entering the village and show how proud residents are to live there. The member of the public stated that perhaps some shrubs could be planted to help make a feature. Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillors had just been discussing village gateways as a way of helping to reduce speeding vehicles entering the village and stated that there will shortly be a new memorial stone situated opposite. The member of the public asked if the grass on the approach to the village could be cut on a more regular basis. Councillor Dyke stated that Dorset Council operates a cut and collect system, whereby grass cuttings are collected so that they do not add nutrients to the soil and therefore the grass is cut less frequently, and the wildflower area was adopted by the Parish Council which will arrange for it to be cut. Councillor Nikolov stated that he had cut this area three times last year and stated that volunteers are needed to help with this.

Another member of the public stated that he lived opposite the MUGA and was very much in support of children playing there but has on many occasions, seen it being used late at night. The member of the public stated that although there is no shouting or screaming, it is the constant thud of a ball being kicked late at night which is frustrating for those living close by. The member of the public asked if he could find out who is responsible for locking the gate. Councillor Sewell also stated that she has seen the gate unlocked and people using the MUGA after 9.00 pm. Councillor Nikolov stated that he had been opening and closing the MUGA for some time now and would open on a Friday and close on a Sunday evening and leave the MUGA unlocked for the school holidays. Councillor Nikolov stated that he carries out this task on a voluntary basis and encouraged others to step forward and help. The first member of the public stated that she would be very happy to help with this role and Councillor Nikolov stated that he would liaise with her outside of the meeting. Councillor Sewell stated that perhaps a reminder of the closing time could be posted online. Councillor Chubb stated that any persons seen jumping over the gate and fence should be reported to the Parish Council. The Clerk stated that the school is aware that people have been entering the school grounds and are taking their own action. The Clerk stated that it is a difficult situation, it is important that the MUGA is open and accessible to all, and Councillors have been doing an incredible job

with opening and closing the gate and stated that it is a huge commitment for just one or two people and not sustainable going forward. The Clerk apologised for any inconvenience but stated that the Parish Council is carefully looking at how to manage the MUGA in the long term.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillor Christopher's report had been circulated and asked for any questions. Councillor Christopher stated that he continues to press Councillor Ray Bryan on the matter of the footpath in Broadwindsor. Councillor Dyke stated that he has previously discussed the problem of electricity prices for pubs in particular, with Councillor Christopher and stated that Councillor Christopher mentions in his report that the new measures announced by Government has prevented a cliff edge but as he and Councillor Christopher both know, it hasn't as the cliff edge was months ago. Councillor Dyke stated that pubs have not been funded through this electricity crisis, subsidies have been minimal and make no difference when electricity companies are targeting pubs as an industry. Councillor Dyke stated that many pubs are tied into the increased rates of last year when prices were at a peak and stated that thankfully the White Lion is not and stated that only last week the CEO of the British Institute of Innkeeping (BII) reported that during the last quarter some 250 pubs had closed largely due to the energy crisis. Councillor Dyke stated that this is a massive problem and that the White Lion is tied into their price for another year but that the number of companies willing to quote is limited and even their existing provider will not provide a renewal quote. Councillor Dyke stated that pubs are seen as a risky industry. Councillor Dyke stated that unfortunately he cannot attend the Annual Parish Meeting but has prepared a report and has referred to this problem. Councillor Christopher stated that he would happily raise this issue with Chris Loder MP at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Christopher and stated that there are two issues, funding from central government and the electricity providers, concluding that what they have done is shameful. Councillor Christopher stated that this is one of many issues that have arisen due to high inflation and stated that pubs are not just about drinking, they offer so much more to many people, but all involve energy costs.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In his absence, the Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that between the evening of the 9 March and morning of the 10 March, tractor keys were stolen from a tractor in the Seaborough area. On the 27 March, there was a theft of some scrap items from a farm in the Stoke Abbott area. There are potential lines of enquiry that the Police are looking into. PCSO Bishop stated in his report that his engagements at the Comrades Hall are on the second Tuesday of the month at 11.00 am.

c. Broadwindsor Group Parish Council Vacancy, Broadwindsor Ward

The Clerk reported that the deadline for the receipt of expressions of interest is 14 April and that one expression had been received so far. The Clerk stated that the co-option would take place at the May meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

None.

7. 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 March was £84,612.89. There were no questions.

b. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/2023

The Clerk stated that the deadline for the submission of the annual return for 2022/2023 was 3 July and stated that she would present the accounts and governance statement at the May and June meetings and arrange for the internal audit to be carried out.

c. To approve payment of £8.76 for HMRC (NI)

d. To approve payment of £300.00 for Citizens Advice Bridport & District (Grant)

e. To approve payment of £2000.00 for Comrades Hall (Annual Grant)

f. To approve payment of £2000.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (Annual Grant)

g. To approve payment of £2000.00 for Blackdown Village Hall (Annual Grant)

h. To approve payment of £2000.00 for Broadwindsor Community Stores (Annual Grant)

i. To approve payment of £25.00 for J Small (Allotment Deposit)

j. To approve payment of £40.00 for D Wright (Allotment Deposit)

k. To approve payment of £40.00 for W Shields (Reimbursement Telephone and Dog Fouling Signs)

l. To approve payment of £677.04 for Prince William Pottery (Coronation Commemorative Mugs)

m. To approve payment of £60.00 for Universal Services (Sports Equipment) Limited (MUGA Safety Inspection)

n. To approve payment of £55.14 for the Clerk (Expenses March and April 2023)

o. To approve payment of £1,159.56 for the Clerk (Salary Reimbursement January - March 2023)

p. To approve payment of £535.30 for the Wallis Agency (War Memorial Plaque)

q. To approve payment of £45.00 for BAG (Reimbursement of Allotment Fees)

r. To approve payment of £584.42 for DAPTC (Annual Subscription)

s. To note payment of £172.80 for The Defib Shop (Replacement Defibrillator Pads, Drimpton)

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

t. To consider purchase of Kissing Gate for Broadwindsor Group CLT

Councillor Hibbard stated that the Community Land Trust would like to install a new kissing gate on the footpath between the CLT site and where it comes out opposite the village hall to enable the access to be more accessible for all. Councillor Sewell stated that something fitting is needed for the new development. Councillor Chubb asked if a kissing gate would be accessible to wheelchair users, Councillor Hibbard stated that it would be. Councillor Hibbard stated that no action has yet been taken but the CLT wanted to raise the matter with the Parish Council and stated that he believed that Dorset Council would fund half of the cost.

u. Pension Options for Clerk

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2023/00071, Racedown Home Farm, Blackdown, DT6 5QQ

Councillor Hibbard stated that he had asked the Clerk for a short extension to consult on this application.

P/CLE/2023/01637, 32 Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3ST

Councillor Hughes reported that he had visited the applicants and stated that the garage had been built in 1994 and although it had been sold twice since, no-one including solicitors had realised that permission had not been granted. Councillor Hughes stated that since it has been in place for twenty-nine years, he could not see any reason for it not to now be approved.

b. Other Applications

The Clerk stated that she wished to update the Council on two matters. Firstly, she had been asked some time ago to make enquiries with Dorset Council about a possible breach of planning rules at the property Havendale where evidence of a new structure being erected close to an existing smaller structure had been seen. The Clerk stated that she had contacted the Enforcement Team at Dorset Council, a site visit had been carried out and that the conclusion reached was that the footprint for the new structure was no larger than the footprint for the structure which had been in place previously. The Clerk reported that the Enforcement Team had stated that they would be writing to the property owner. Councillor Chubb stated that he had spoken with the owners of the property who had confirmed that the footprint was not any bigger.

Secondly, with regard to The Lodge at Broadwindsor, following the last meeting the Clerk had contacted the Tree Officer at Dorset Council to enquire as to whether TPOs could be challenged in this case due to the potential highway disruption of works to restore the retaining wall. The Clerk stated that she had also contacted Blair Turner, the Community Highways Officer about the application and both had visited the property and had dialogue with the applicant. The Clerk reported that the Tree Officer had stated that he would speak to his manager about this application but stated that the TPOs had been in place since 1984. The Clerk asked Councillor Dyke whether he was aware of any update, Councillor Dyke stated

that the applicant had been informed that the alternative course of action may be more expensive, although he appreciated that it wasn't just about the expense and stated that it was good that options had been presented.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

P/HOU/2023/01248, 32 Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3ST: Granted

P/TRC/2023/00714, Hayes Cottage Access Road to The Hayes, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QF: Tree Works, No Objection

P/CLE/2023/00238, Liddels Cottage, Laymore, Winsham, TA20 4NT: Lawful Development Certificate, Granted

P/FUL/2022/07731, North Dibberford Farm, North Dibberford Road, From A3066 Beaminster, DT8 3HD: Granted

P/FUL/2022/07174, Unit 14, Horn Park Quarry Business Park, Broadwindsor Road, Beaminster, DT8 3PT: Granted

9. APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD FINANCE

a. Review of Draft Legal Agreement

The Clerk reported that she had hoped to have received the draft legal agreement from Kitson and Trotman prior to the meeting but unfortunately had not. The Clerk stated that once received, she will circulate to Councillors and BADCE for comment. The Clerk stated that the loan money had now been received. The Clerk stated that she had received an email from Andrew Hookings thanking the Parish Council and Clerk for their support.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Dyke reported that John Caulder from the Great Big Dorset Hedge Project had asked if he could attend the next Parish Council meeting to update the Council about the project and he suspected, ask for some support. Councillor Dyke stated that Sheila Hawkins was liaising with him and that if there were no objections, he would attend the May meeting.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Nikolov stated that he hoped that the weather would improve to allow him to complete the composting toilet and that all allotments apart from a half plot were now taken.

12. MANAGEMENT OF THE MUGA

Councillor Nikolov stated that the MUGA is need of a good deep clean and he has approached a local jet wash business in Broadwindsor for a quotation. The Clerk stated that the safety inspection is due to take place on 19 April and any advice for maintenance will be forwarded. Councillor Nikolov reported that a new bin has been installed and a new sign will be put up soon.

13. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III, 6 MAY 2023

The Clerk reported that once payment has been made, the coronation mugs will be dispatched and informed that she had included information about the mugs in the latest edition of the Broadwindsor Parish News. The Clerk stated that the method of distribution had still not been agreed and stated that other parish councils seem to distribute at an event or by holding an open morning/afternoon at the village hall. The Clerk asked if the community shop and pub in Broadwindsor may be able to help. Councillor Hibbard stated that he hoped that there would be an event in Blackdown and would take some stock with him and Councillor Chubb stated that he believed that there would be an event in Drimpton as well.

14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke reported that he read with interest the email circulated by the Clerk regarding the Government's alert system tests and noted that they required a mobile phone signal. Councillor Dyke stated that he wondered how many people would actually receive those messages. Councillor Dyke stated that he had spoken with Jurassic fibre who now have informed that there should be fibre later this year which in itself was good news.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Hursey Common Unauthorised Tree Works

Councillor Dyke reported that Jurassic Fibre contractors have removed a number of branches from trees subject to TPOs to free up space around telegraph poles without seeking prior approval. Councillor Dyke stated that two local residents witnessed the works and had tried to prevent this from happening. Councillor Dyke stated that he has since found out that certain contractors have a legal dispensation to do this work without prior approval, although they are encouraged to communicate their plans. Councillor Dyke stated that he was disappointed that pushing for fibre had resulted in this happening and stated that having looked at the trees, work seems to have been minimal. On a positive note, Councillor Dyke stated that if Jurassic Fibre was preparing for fibre installation in Hursey then he presumes that it may also be available in other parts of the Grouped Parish and encouraged people to register an interest. Councillor Sewell stated that BT Home Choice supports those people on lower incomes and pension credit and fibre certainly wasn't out of reach through this route.

Councillor Hughes stated that the sports field was very uneven due to mole activity, Councillor Curtis stated that he would be happy to go over with his roller once the land had dried up a little. Councillor Hughes stated that the Parish Council's lawn mower will need to find a new home as it cannot remain in its current location. Councillor Sewell suggested asking the local community if they have space available. Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton Village Hall pays a contractor to cut their field and stated that the Parish Council could always sell the mower. Councillor Dyke stated that he has removed the sign on the gate to Hursey Common and suggested that another contact be found or the gate left unlocked. Councillor Hughes stated that he would not be in support of leaving the gate unlocked and suggested that the Clerk's email be listed on the new sign and stated there were enough Councillors living locally

if the gate had to opened in an emergency. Councillor Nikolov stated that a combination lock could be used instead of the current lock with key.

b. War Memorial Project Update

The Clerk reported that she had created a dedicated web page for the new war memorial which would link to the QR code on the plaque and that she was waiting for Councillor Frampton to advise on content to populate the page.

c. Additional Bus Stop Request for Service SB5

The Clerk stated that she had circulated this communication between the Drimpton resident and Dorset Transport. Councillor Raymond stated that the small minibus which serves the primary school stops at the entrance to Marksmead but the double decker bus does not. Councillor Chubb stated that the request should be supported as children have to walk on the road, which isn't gritted during the winter and the new development will bring additional children and therefore the route may have to be diverted anyway. Councillor Raymond stated that there are about twelve children who have to walk on the road. The Clerk was asked to contact Dorset Transport and express its strong support for this action.

Councillor Nikolov reported that a camera had appeared just past the school in Broadwindsor, looking towards the direction of Drimpton and suspected that it may be for surveying purposes, although he had not seen any notices. Councillor Hughes stated that he had received a complaint from a local resident who was upset that she had not been informed about the camera and believed it to be pointing at her property. Councillor Nikolov stated that he believed that most likely it was a surveying camera collecting data.

Councillor Chubb stated that he has reported a number of potholes to Dorset Council but unfortunately the work carried out to repair the holes has been atrocious and of an extremely poor standard. Councillor Chubb stated that he has contacted officers at Dorset Council without any progress and that the situation remains dangerous for road users and a waste of money. Councillor Christopher stated that Councillors may have read in newspapers over the weekend that it has been estimated that to repair all potholes nationally will cost £16 billion and asked Councillor Chubb to send an email with details of the specific potholes and he will liaise with Councillor Simon Gibson, who is responsible for road surfaces at Dorset Council. Councillor Raymond stated that substantial information had been sent out regarding the road resurfacing work and subsequent road closures which were due to take place between Broadwindsor and Salway Ash and Broadwindsor and Drimpton and stated that in the end, it wasn't carried out. Councillor Christopher stated it may well have been the case that Dorset Council workers had been diverted to assist with road closures due to traffic accidents or bad weather. Councillor Hibbard stated that the local community need to be informed when the works will now be carried out.

16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillor Chubb stated that he had been speaking to people who had attended the village hall meetings and were interested in renting the new houses and some of the stories about

their current conditions and rent were quite horrific. Councillor Burt stated that deprivation in this area is very much hidden.

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

a. Update

The Clerk stated that she had circulated the latest agenda and asked for volunteers to help with serving refreshments and cake donations. Councillor Burt asked if questions had to be submitted for Chris Loder MP in advance, the Clerk stated that she had asked this and been informed that questions in advance are helpful but not essential.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor White reported that she had been contacted by Vicky Abbott, Health Programme Advisor at Dorset Council about a pop up larder project and asked if the Grouped Parish would be interested in being involved and hosting. Councillor White stated that the project is funded by membership fees, and each can provide food to up to 60 households per week. Councillor Sewell stated that it would be great to have the pop up larder in Broadwindsor and that the ideal time would be on a Tuesday or Friday when the Post Office service is there. Councillor Chubb asked about the opening times as working people would not be able to attend. Councillor White stated that she would respond to say that in principle the Parish Council is very interested and would like to find out more information.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to give their views and ask questions of the Parish Council on any outstanding issues on the agenda or raise issues for future consideration. There were no comments.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Tuesday 9 May 2023 at Comrades Hall. The Clerk stated that she would check availability and confirm.

21. 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 March was £2601.79. There were no questions

b. To approve payment of £246.46 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Trust Administration)

c. To consider grant application for £100.00 for 1st Broadwindsor Guides (Sleepover Activity)

d. To consider grant application for £100.00 for 1st Broadwindsor Rainbows (Sleepover Activity)

e. To consider grant application for Beaminster Young Farmers (Club Rugby Shirts)

A grant of £200.00 was proposed by Councillor Chubb.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Hughes and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved payments b, c, d and e.

f. To consider part reallocation of grant awarded to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council for the Lewesdon Hill Memorial to support the cost of the new War Memorial in Broadwindsor.

The Clerk reported that the FMR Trust had previously awarded £750.00 to the Parish Council for the Lewesdon Hill memorial which had not yet been allocated. The Clerk stated that with regard to the new memorial in Broadwindsor, donations had been received from the De Cloedt family, Broadwindsor Fun Group and from Councillor David Chumbley. The Clerk stated that the shortfall now totalled £85.30, and that Councillor Hibbard had kindly offered to make a donation to this amount.

Councillor Chubb asked if the FMR Trust would consider approving funds to help with the costs of producing the Drimpton Newsletter and stated that it has been funded by Drimpton Village Hall up until now, but printing costs have significantly increased. Councillor Sewell asked if this type of project was true to the FMR Trust. Councillor Hibbard asked if the newsletter offered paid advertising, Councillor Chubb stated that it did not. Councillor Harris stated that if you fund the newsletter for Drimpton, you will have to fund others. Councillor Chubb stated that he would feedback to the village hall.

22. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.06 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 9.15 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.