



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

11 MARCH 2024

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. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, 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 was one member of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and member of the public to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Hughes and Nikolov and from PCSO Bishop 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 12 February 2024 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Hibbard.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Vacant Magna Property, Drimpton

The Clerk stated that an email had been circulated by Councillor Hibbard which included the response from Magna and that no further updates had been received.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher stated that his report had been circulated and asked for any questions. Councillor Chubb thanked Councillor Christopher for his input into the recent flooding problems in Drimpton and stated that he had been informed that £2m of funding from HS2 had been allocated for road repairs across Dorset and asked Councillor Christopher to relay back to Dorset Council that any such repairs should be permanent and carried out to a high standard. Councillor Christopher stated that he believed that it may be a little more than that and stated that if Councillor Chubb could email him, he would then show Councillor Ray Bryan the email the next day. Councillor Christopher stated that it was interesting that the money which was intended for capital projects was now being used as revenue. Councillor Hibbard stated that it was better for it to be used for the region than in other parts of the country where benefit to those living here would be more limited. Councillor Chubb stated that he had a very successful meeting with Dorset Council Officers to discuss the problems at Sandpits and that they quickly understood the issues and came up with a solution. Councillor Chubb stated that it should not have taken as long as it did to resolve the matter. Councillor Christopher stated that practical people are better in these instances. Councillor Sewell asked if the Clerk at Upper Marshwood Parish Council had been informed about forthcoming visits by Highways, Councillor Christopher stated that the appointments had only just been confirmed and that he would inform the Clerk. Councillor Dyke stated that it was great news that Dorset Council had been named as best unitary authority for recycling but aired caution as it was proposed that recycling across England be standardised and with standardisation comes the lowering of standards. Councillor Dyke stated that the good results are partly due to residents wanting to recycle and partly what they can recycle and that if items are removed, then this may have a negative impact. Councillor Christopher stated that the good results are a credit to Councillor Laura Beddows who has been actively involved in recycling. Councillor Frampton stated that compared to other areas, there are low numbers of fly tipping incidents locally. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had noticed that evening, some rubbish which had been dumped at the village hall. Councillor Dyke stated that the closure of the Crewkerne Recycling Centre may have some impact on the area.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In his absence, the Clerk read aloud the report provided by PCSO Bishop which stated that so far this year, we have had a theft of a quad bike from a farm on the outskirts of Bridport. This is believed to be linked to a series of quad thefts around Wiltshire and North Dorset. There

was a theft of goats from Marshwood, these have fortunately been recovered and the persons that had them arrested. They are also linked to recent thefts of goats and a caravan in Puncknowle and are also under investigation for that. Those arrested are not local people, so are not likely to be back in the area. There has also been a theft of several bicycles in the South Perrott area, that were of high value. In his report, PCSO Bishop advised that people consider their security and contact him for advice and stated that it is worth bearing in mind what information you allow people to see, especially online. Some people have had items stolen that have been advertised for sale, on sites like Facebook Marketplace. If you are posting anything for sale, or otherwise, bear in mind what information people can glean. If selling items, just include a photo of the item and a vague address, such as in the Broadwindsor area. Be careful not to include any property or landmarks in the photo that may give away your address. If people get in touch wanting to view the item, you can ask them to give you a call when they are in the area, and you can direct them from there. In his report, PCSO Bishop stated that his next engagement at Comrades Hall/Post Office will be on Monday 18 March at 11.00 am.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Consultation of Draft Community Safety Plan 2024-28

The Clerk reported that this notice had been circulated and that the deadline for responses is 3 May 2024. There were no comments.

b. Beaminster Town Council, Beaminster Resilience Plan

The Clerk reported that this notice had been circulated and that Councillor Chubb had suggested that the Town Council be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting. Councillors agreed and asked the Clerk to action.

c. Winsham Resident, Request for Support for Application to Divert Bridlepath W44/99/W23/60

Councillor Hibbard reported that he had carried out a site visit and that the proposal was to reposition the bridlepath to where it was originally in the 1980s. Councillor Hibbard stated that he could not see any reason not to support the proposal.

d. Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley, Thank You Letter

This was noted by Councillors.

e. The Arts Development Company, County of Culture 2025

The Clerk reported that this notice had been circulated and that the deadline for expressions of interest was 18 March. Councillor Dyke stated that he believed that this was best suited to those with art reach programmes in place already.

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 29 February 2024 was £41,612.53. There were no questions.

b. To approve payment of £71.92 for HMRC (NI & Tax)

c. To approve payment of £709.52 for Small Engine Services (Mower Service)

d. To approve payment of £150.00 for T Bassett (Stihl Commercial Petrol Strimmer)

e. To approve payment of £40.00 for C Rootham (Allotment Deposit)

f. To approve payment of £40.00 for A Maliglowka (Allotment Deposit)

g. To approve payment of £30.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (Hire Fee)

h. To approve payment of £120.00 for M.S Services (Defibrillator Installation at Blackdown Village Hall)

i. To approve payment of £49.02 for the Clerk (Expenses March 2024)

Councillor Dyke asked if the invoiced cost for the servicing of the mower was what was expected. The Clerk stated that she had thought it high and had questioned it with Councillor Hughes who was also expecting it to be a little lower. The Clerk stated that she had forwarded a breakdown of work completed to Councillor Hibbard and stated that if this was going to be the annual cost, then the mower may not be the most cost efficient way to cut the grass in the sports field. Councillor Hibbard stated that the VAT element of the invoice could be reclaimed and that there was quite a bit of maintenance work carried out and costs for collection and return.

Councillor Sewell proposed that the payments 7b to 7i be approved en bloc.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Chubb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved items 7b to 7i.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/NMA/2024/00888, Old Stables, Seaborough Court Access, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk reported that this application had been refused.

P/NMA/2024/01063, Old Stables, Seaborough Court Access, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

Councillor White reported that a change to the landscaping plan had been submitted which comprised the rerouting of the driveway, a change from gravel to tarmac surface and the installation of a pedestrian gate. Councillor White stated that she had raised the issue of the change to a tarmac surface as there is already a significant amount of surface water which is causing concern locally. Councillor Chubb stated that the tarmac proposed is a more permeable type but that the applicant has a legal duty to ensure that the water does not go onto the road.

P/STA/2024/00822, Seaborough

Councillor White reported that this application was seeking permission to upgrade an existing HV line adding a third wire to the current system and the installation of new poles. Councillor White stated that it was taking some time with the wayleave agreements, as they needed agreements with all landowners on the route and conversations were being held with Dorset Council, National Grid and all landowners. Councillor Sewell asked if it was worth stating that the Parish Council is disappointed that it was taking so long, Councillor White stated that it probably was.

P/HOU/2024/00885, Manor Barn, Pitmans Grave Crossroads to Junction, Littlewindsor Farm, Littlewindsor, DT8 3QU

Councillor Hibbard reported that he had carried out a site visit and spoken to two close neighbours and that no concerns had been raised. Councillor Hibbard stated that he could not see any reason to object to the application.

P/TRT/2024/00541, Hursey Common, Hursey, DT8 3LN

The Clerk stated that she had spoken to the Tree Officer at Dorset Council and stated that he had no concerns with the application. Councillor Dyke stated that he believed that there had been a misunderstanding about the number of trees affected by the application.

b. Other Applications

Seaborough Music Festival Licence

Councillor White reported that an application for a premises licence had been submitted to Dorset Council for a music festival to be held over four days in July each year in Seaborough. Councillor White stated that the application had stated that attendance would be between 5,000 and 10,000 people and that when the notice was seen by local residents, she was contacted with a number of concerns. Councillor White stated that she had summarised the issues highlighted which comprised as follows.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Large number of people in one confined area with access to alcohol and drugs, there will be an element who will indulge to excess with the usual consequences of arguments, fights and unacceptable behaviour. Rural crime is already a growing problem – this event will be seen as an opportunity and /or cover for criminal activity on site and in the local area. Have the local forces been consulted about this event and the resources that may need to be resourced and deployed to cover the event?

Public Safety

Organisers do not have an Event Management Plan or Traffic Management Plan available for review at this time, therefore, the following risks to the public, have not been addressed to some residents' satisfaction. The applicant has stated that a safety coordinator will be appointed. This person is not named and there is no indication how this person will be skilled, qualified or experienced to deal with this position.

Are the organisers providing transport from local stations, local towns to reduce the number of vehicles?

Single track roads in a poor state of repair– large volumes of vehicles - risk to pedestrians, dog walkers, horse riders.

Riverside camping facilities - evacuation plan for bad weather – flash flooding which is becoming a regular summer occurrence.

Environmental impact of littering in River Axe and wild weeing by festival goers.

Proximity of River Axe – will there be adequate security fencing and security personnel to ensure public safety, the combination of alcohol and drugs and the temptation of messing about in the water in hot weather.

The applicant has stated that a first aid kit will be available for medical emergencies. Yet the applicant fails to state whether any persons on site will be first aid trained. The applicant also fails to indicate how medical emergencies will be dealt with. During festivals patients present with catastrophic injuries, broken bones, overdosing on illegal drugs and alcohol, stroke, cardiac arrest and pneumonia from drug use and hypothermia. The applicant has provided no information, with regards, to mitigation and resolution of these kinds of emergencies.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Traffic on single track roads – impact on quiet enjoyment for pedestrians, dog walkers, horse riders.

Impacting ‘business as usual’ for local residents during set up, festival itself and dismantling, rural area and festival planned during silaging and haymaking season, racehorse yards in the area.

Music to 3.00 am – who will be monitoring the noise levels?

Festival participants remain in the fenced compound – last time not the case, free range across neighbouring farmland.

Protection of Children from Harm

Proximity of River Axe – will there be adequate security fencing and security personnel to ensure safety, the attraction of water to children?

Councillor Sewell asked what provision there would be for disabled guests. Councillor Frampton asked whether the Council would like him to approach the applicants and ask if they would like to attend the next meeting. The Clerk stated that the deadline for comments was the next day, 12 March and that she had asked for an extension but was informed that under licensing law there was no provision for an extension. Councillor Frampton asked whether any positive comments had been received from local residents, Councillor White stated that only concerns had been raised. Councillor Hibbard stated that he thought it a good idea to invite the applicants to the next meeting. Councillor Chubb stated that if held

correctly, such an event could bring money into the area and enjoyment for local people. Councillor White stated that she was confident that once the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting had taken place with Dorset Council, the appropriate documentation would then be prepared and shared. The Clerk stated that the applicants had been invited to attend the meeting and were informed that it was not a requirement to attend but that the application would be discussed. The Clerk was asked to submit the summarised comments to Dorset Council and add this matter to the agenda for the next meeting.

P/FUL/2024/00831,3 Templemans Ash, Pilsdon, DT6 5NX

The Clerk reported that Councillor Hibbard had agreed to review this application and report back to the Parish Council and that the deadline had been extended to 7 April.

c. Results

Councillor Hibbard reported the following result:

P/NMA/2024/00888, Old Stables, Seaborough Court Access, Seaborough, DT8 3QY: Refused

9. PROPOSAL FOR D-DAY MEMORIAL EVENT, 6 JUNE 2024

Councillor Frampton stated that he had made enquires with Reverend Neary and had been informed that the Royal British Legion would be attending an event in Beaminster on 6 June and that the Church would be marking the anniversary within its service on 2 June. Councillor Frampton stated that nationally there are a couple of things going on, namely the lighting of a beacon at 9.15 pm across the country and the ringing of church bells at 6.30 pm. For parishes without a beacon, there would be a lamplight of peace at 9.15 pm. Councillor Frampton stated that he was unsure as to whether there is a will for the Parish Council to do anything else to mark the occasion. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council should lay a wreath at the memorial on that day and arrange for the lighting of the beacon and stated that perhaps Adrian Gray may be interested in helping.

10. ELECTIONS 2024 UPDATE

The Clerk confirmed that all seats on the Council will be up for election, Councillors wishing to stand for a seat on the Parish Council must submit an application form, even if they have only recently joined. The Clerk urged Councillors to look again at the report tabled at the February meeting for information and stated that the deadline for submitting a nomination form is 5 April. The Clerk stated that all nomination papers must be hand delivered to Dorset Council and that an appointment to hand in the form must be made with Dorset Council's Electoral Services Team. The Clerk stated that an elector number can be obtained from herself or from Dorset Council's Electoral Services Team. The Clerk stated that all existing Councillors will cease to be a Councillor on 7 May and that all new Councillors will become Councillors on the same day.

11. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

Councillor Dyke stated that the recent working party at Hursey Common was very productive, on the north side the sports field, driveway and car park were cleared and on the south side, a local resident had been active but unfortunately there had been a slight misunderstanding

about the boundary, it was assumed to be the river whereas he had now been informed that it was the hedge, which is on the nearside of the river. Councillor Dyke stated that discussion was ongoing, and he hoped that all would be remedied soon. Councillor Dyke stated that the area had been transformed and many new trees had been planted.

Councillor Dyke stated that a copy of the Draft Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy had been circulated with the supplementary papers and thanked Councillors Sewell and Roberts who along with other members of the community had helped put the draft together. Councillor Dyke stated that it was a two page document which covered the areas of planning, transport, community, farming and landowners and the natural environment. Councillor Dyke stated that work had started on an action list and that this would be circulated ahead of the next meeting. Councillor Dyke asked Councillors to review the Draft Strategy before the next meeting and raise any concerns or comments either in advance of or at the next meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had read the Draft Strategy and thought it to cover the areas needed to be covered. Councillor Sewell stated that the strategy will evolve over time, Councillor Dyke stated that it was most important that actions are realistic and achievable and that it needs buy-in from the whole community.

Councillor Harris asked whether the strategy binds the Council to a particular form of words in the future whether it be planning or solar farm applications. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council must almost 'sit on the fence' as proposals would need to be looked at on a case by case basis. Councillor Harris stated that given that the Draft Strategy is wide ranging in scope, should it be published for consultation with the wider community. Councillor Dyke stated that perhaps it should be shared, and comments sought. Councillor Harris stated it was perhaps the decision for the newly formed Parish Council and asked how the document would tie in with Dorset Council's Strategy. Councillor Sewell stated that it would feed into their Strategy. Councillor Harris stated that in that case, he felt that it does need the backing of the local community. Councillor Dyke stated that it was the plan to hold a number of open meetings with the community to talk about the document.

12. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that the renewals for 2024 had been issued and that two tenants had given notice but that she believed that there were people on the waiting list.

13. MUGA UPDATE

The Clerk stated that she was now arranging for the MUGA to be cleaned and treated as the drain had been cleared by Dorset Council. The Clerk stated that she was very surprised to hear at the last meeting that the MUGA had been opened for public use when the Council had agreed to close it until the cleaning had been completed. The Clerk stated that she had spoken to the family of David Leader and a small dedication event with the school was preferred and she stated that she would contact the school to discuss further.

14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that there was no update at this time.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Meeting with Dorset Council, Flood Risk Areas

Following on from discussion earlier in the meeting, Councillor Chubb reported that Dorset Council has proposed to cut the verges back and remove the dirt and rubbish, look at the drains in that area and possibly install a culvert. Councillor Chubb stated that he had asked for a map of the drain network and was told that Dorset Council had looked into producing such a plan in North Dorset some years back but was not progressed due to cost. Councillor Chubb stated that he had been informed that ten years ago, all drains in Dorset would be manually inspected on a regular basis but due to limited resources this does not happen now, and it was his opinion that it is the case of who shouts the loudest gets action. The Clerk stated that there were still problems in other parts of Drimpton and at Honeycombe Farm to progress with Dorset Council.

b. Budget for War Memorial

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Councillor Hughes who had asked if a small budget could be made available for the new war memorial. The Clerk stated that there was £750.00 unspent from the FMR Trust for the maintenance of both memorial sites and that this could be used. There were no objections. Councillor Frampton asked about verge cutting by the memorial, the Clerk stated that Dorset Council was still responsible but that she was unaware of their schedule. It was decided to look at the length of the grass verge prior to the D-Day memorial event.

c. Land and Bench Opposite War Memorial, Broadwindsor

Councillor Dyke reported that the concrete which forms the existing bench would be difficult to move but the wooden element could be replaced and suggested that it may be that a small bed be dug and planted with roses. Councillor Dyke stated that he is continuing to liaise with the Executor and that the matter is progressing. Councillor Hibbard stated that it was a very generous gesture.

16. REVIEW OF BROADWINSOR GROUP PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Sewell stated that given the time that had passed since the Emergency Plan was written, many changes have occurred, and she recommended that the review and update be taken on by the new Parish Council after May 2024.

17. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Burke stated that the condition of the road along the B3163 down towards the industrial estate was horrific and that it needed resurfacing. The Clerk stated that this could be reported online. Councillor Chubb suggested that an email be sent to Councillor Christopher.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

The Clerk asked if the Council would consider convening the June meeting a week earlier than scheduled. There were no objections.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would convene on Monday 8 April 2024 at Blackdown Village Hall.

20. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 8.43 pm, Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.