



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 11 SEPTEMBER 2017
BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, 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 four members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Sewell, Smith, and Laurie and from Mr. Simon Roberts and unanimously approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS UPDATE

Councillor Hedditch declared an interest in Agenda items 8a and 14a. Councillors Chubb and Bassett declared an interest in Agenda item 6a. Councillor Chubb declared an interest in Agenda item 8a. There were no updates to the Register of Interests from Members.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk stated that she had received an amendment from Councillor Rowe regarding BGPC 2017/07/1/5 and asked that the following be included, 'Councillor Rowe stressed that whilst it may well be a priority for the appearance of the village to be improved and the Council should recognise and encourage the involvement of Mr. Link and potential input of people living in Broadwindsor, and in the Parish, she believed that the Council should not race ahead with a piecemeal approach. Councillor Rowe stated that a cohesive plan should be formulated so that if nothing else, work is not duplicated, and that the Council should seriously consider the innovative proposals for verge management'. A copy of the minutes from the Meeting held on 11 July 2017 was then confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions or matters raised by members of the public. Councillor Hibbard asked for any objections to moving Agenda Item 13j to this point in the proceedings so that it

could be discussed in the presence of Councillor Knox. All Members agreed, there were no objections.

Councillor Hibbard stated that the withdrawal of the 40 Bus Service from Broadwindsor had caused much anger and frustration amongst the local community. Councillor Leader read aloud two communications received from residents. The first, an email from Rita Haggett whom stated that as Secretary/Treasurer of the Broadwindsor and District Over 60s Club, she was very distressed about the loss of the 40 Bus Service and that the bus was for many, the only means of transport. The second communication was from a fourteen-year old whom stated that she uses the bus to get to Beaminster and Bridport to see her friends as her parents are unable to drive her, she stated that the loss of the service was a great shame. The Clerk stated that Val Johnson and Jackie Riley had been in contact and were sorry that they could not attend the Meeting to discuss this matter.

The Clerk stated that she had been asked by Councillor Sewell to read aloud a communication from Councillor Sewell to Councillor Daryl Turner of Dorset County Council. Within the communication, Councillor Sewell registered her dismay about the demise of the service and the way that the new timetable had been disseminated, on Facebook on a Friday evening at 6.00 pm. Councillor Sewell's communication reported that she had found no mention of the new service on official websites such as Your Dorset, Dorset for You, or the First websites. Councillor Sewell had stated in her communication that this had clearly shown a blatant disregard for the residents of Broadwindsor.

Councillor Knox stated that the decision to withdraw subsidies from public bus routes had been in the public domain for three years and that the 40 Bus Service had been discussed for the last six months. Councillor Knox stated that the Highways Authority had been aware that Damory were deregistering the Service in July and that the County Council intervened to bridge the gap until the new operator took over in September. Councillor Knox stated that although contact had been made with the new operator, the County Council only knew of the new route when it was registered. Councillor Knox stated that Councillor Turner had seen the new timetable and posted it on his Facebook page for others to see. Councillor Knox stated that the County Council had already had a discussion with First regarding their lack of appropriate communication. Councillor Knox stated that First want to use a double decker bus for the 40 Service and that it is not suitable for Broadwindsor but stated that the timetable was being challenged by many and that the bus operator wishes to continue dialogue.

Councillor Knox stated that it would be helpful to look at alternative transport models, such as community transport schemes which may be able to offer more flexible solution to local community needs. Councillor Knox referred Members to a guide and newspaper article about setting up such schemes. Councillor Knox stated that a review of user numbers of the 40 Bus Service had shown that on a typical weekday between July and September, there had only been between three and five passengers alighting from Broadwindsor, which given the cost of the service, was not enough to be viable. Councillor Knox advised to identify where links are needed and stated that although setting up community transport schemes was not easy,

there was seed funding available and guidance could be offered by Dorset Travel. Councillor Knox stated that one option being discussed would involve sixteen plus children walking to Mosterton in order to catch the bus. Members stated that this was not a good idea due to the hazard nature of the route.

Councillor Curtis asked why the school bus had to be changed as it had worked effectively for a number of years and stated that the bus now comes from Yeovil to take children from Drimpton to Broadwindsor and then return empty back to Yeovil, a clear example of a lack of joined up thinking. Councillor Rowe stated that she was concerned that the Parish Council and community had not been informed or involved with these decisions and stated that she was concerned about the suggestion that older children should walk to Mosterton. Councillor Rowe asked who was going to take responsibility for looking at alternative transport solutions. Councillor Knox stated that things need to settle down with the new timetable to be able to see where the problems are. Councillor Knox stated that the County Council had no formal duty to provide transport for sixteen plus children but stated that she did not agree with this and as Leader of the Council she was reviewing the policy. Councillor Bassett stated that it was churlish and that the County Council did have a duty of care to look after teenagers. Councillor Hardwill stated that this problem was a pan-Dorset problem and that people all over the County were experiencing similar issues.

Councillor Leader stated that given the strength of feeling, as a way forward, a survey of needs should be carried out to identify what timetable local people would be looking for. Members concurred. Councillor Knox stated that Amanda Evans from Dorset Travel would be able to help with this as it would be important to ask the right questions. Councillor Leader asked for the support of the Clerk to utilise the website and social media and asked whether other Members would volunteer. Councillor Tibballs agreed to help and it was suggested that Mrs. Margery Hookings be approached.

Councillor Chumbley asked the Clerk to note the duration of discussions relating to the loss of the 40 Bus Service and the possible development of community transport schemes, the Clerk noted that this item was discussed for forty-five minutes.

a. Report from Councillor Knox

Councillor Knox stated that becoming Leader of the County Council had brought about the opportunity to question and review a wide range of policy areas and to ensure that a common-sense approach be taken. Councillor Knox stated that this was a considerable piece of work, most notably around social care.

b. Report from Councillor Sewell

The Clerk stated that she had been asked by Councillor Sewell to read aloud her report in her absence. Councillor Sewell reported that with regard to the scrutiny of car parks, West Dorset District Council are going to be working with the County Council and others to regularise them, the actual measurements of car park spaces do not correspond with the size of modern

vehicles and the new Head of Parking does not like the ticket machines that are in current use. Any new ones will be of a different, more user- friendly design.

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.

d. Mr. Simon Roberts, Community Highways Officer, Dorset County Council

Mr. Roberts was not in attendance at the Meeting and had sent his apologies.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Drimpton Village Hall (Request for Loan for Car Park Extension)

Prior to a discussion on this matter, background information was provided by Councillors Chubb and Bassett whom then withdrew from the debate. Councillor Chubb stated that the Drimpton Village Hall & Recreational Trust were seeking a loan of £2500 to allow them to complete extension works to the car park area which would provide an increase in size of approximately 30/35%. Councillor Bassett stated that the Trust had been extremely proactive in their fundraising and with income generated from solar panels, there was no doubt that the loan could be repaid. Councillor Bassett stated that other grant options had been explored but there was nothing available for this type of project. Councillors Chubb and Bassett withdrew from the debate. Councillors Hedditch and Curtis stated that they supported this request. Councillor Leader advised the Trust to check Football Association rules regarding the size of border required around a pitch. Councillor Hardwill stated that all village halls receive a grant already, Councillor Hibbard stated that a one-off grant had been awarded to Blackdown Village Hall and therefore was not unprecedented. Councillor Curtis stated that a loan should be provided rather than a grant. Members agreed that a loan of £2500 to be repaid over a three-year period should be given to Drimpton Village Hall & Recreational Trust.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Leader, seconded by Councillor Chumbley and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed to offer Drimpton Village Hall & Recreational Trust a loan of £2500 to be repaid over a three-year period and that this should be added to Accounts for formal approval at the October Meeting.

b. Councillor Alford (Reply to Letter Regarding Land Searches)

The Clerk reported that a response to the Parish Council's letter regarding land searches had been received from Councillor Alford and that this had been previously circulated to Members. Councillor Alford stated that if vendors are concerned about losing house sales that they can request an urgent search.

c. Dorset County Council Highways Authority (Councillors' Satisfaction Survey 2017)

The Clerk referred Members to the Dorset County Council Highways Authority Councillors' Satisfaction Survey 2017 which had a closing date of 27 September.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first and second (part) quarters of 2017/2018, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 6 September 2017 was £37,272.72. There were no questions.

- b. To approve £487.67 for DAPTC (Annual Subscription)
- c. To approve £67.20 for Get Mapping PLC (Annual Subscription)
- d. To approve £270.00 for Life Education Wessex (Grant)
- e. To approve £60.00 for DAPTC (Chairman Training)
- f. To approve £15.00 for Mr. Bob Link (Petrol for Mower)
- g. To approve £42.00 for Diane Malley (Payroll Services)
- h. To approve £99.99 for Helen Cudmore/Clerk (Purchase of PC/Copier/Scanner)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Leader and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to h as above.

i. Amendment to contract for Clerk (Annual Leave Entitlement)

The Clerk stated that when her contracted weekly hours were increased in April 2016, her annual leave entitlement was not amended to reflect this increase. The Clerk stated that as a part-time employee, she has used the Government's online Annual Leave Calculator to work out her allowed leave, which has been calculated at 84 hours, or 5.6 weeks. The Clerk asked Members to agree this change to her contract and for the Chairman to sign the specific page of the contract and a copy.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved an increase to the Clerk's annual leave entitlement.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/17/001333, 2 Church Path, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QE

The Clerk stated that this application had been reviewed by Councillor Rowe whom had consulted the property opposite, no objections were raised. The Clerk reported that the application had now been approved.

WD/D/17/001444, Broadwindsor Craft and Design Centre, Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX

The Clerk stated that she had received comments from Broadwindsor Councillors with regard to the revised application and would formulate the Council's corporate view accordingly. The consensus was that with the reduction in the number of proposed dwellings to two, that local residents were much happier but that the issue relating to the sewerage infrastructure should still be raised.

WD/D/17/001596, Brent Paddock, Axe Lane, Drimpton, DT8 3FN

The Clerk stated that this application was seeking to install a dormer window above an existing garage and that Councillor Chubb had been nominated as the lead Councillor. Councillor Chubb reported that he had spoken with neighbours and that no objections had been raised.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following result.

WD/D/17/001333, 2 Church Path, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QE: Approved

d. West Dorset District Council Local Searches

The Clerk reported land search data for June, July and August as published on the Dorset For You website. Outstanding searches totalled 510 in June, 412 in July and 411 in August.

9. VACANCY FOR BROADWINDSOR WARD

The Clerk reported that Richard Mouldsdales had resigned as a Councillor and that there now existed a vacancy for the Broadwindsor ward. The Clerk stated that West Dorset District Council had not received any requests for an election to take place and therefore had confirmed that the vacancy could now be filled by co-option. The Clerk distributed copies of the Co-option Notice and asked Members to post on their respective noticeboards. The deadline for expressions of interest was confirmed as the 9 October.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Curtis, seconded by Councillor Leader and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved to fill the vacancy for the Broadwindsor ward by co-option.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee were due to meet on 28 September and that a number of roadshows had been agreed. The roadshows would take place on 4 November at Blackdown Village Hall, on 11 November at Drimpton Village Hall and on 19 November at Comrades Hall, from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. The purpose of the roadshow would be enable the community to view the draft Plan and feedback their comments.

11. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Tibballs reported that the Emergency Plan Working Group had convened the week before and that the draft Plan was almost complete. Councillor Tibballs stated that she will send the draft to Members for review prior to the next Meeting in October. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Tibballs for her hard work.

12. ALLOTMENTS

There were no matters raised.

13. HIGHWAYS

a. Election of Footpaths Officer

Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillor Rowe had expressed an interest in being the Footpaths Officer and that a vote must take place so that the appointment could formally be recorded.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Tibballs, seconded by Councillor Curtis and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the appointment of Councillor Rowe as Footpaths Officer.

b. Footpaths in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Rowe reported that she had spoken with Tara Hansford at Dorset County Council who had provided her with a number of good ideas about the role, suggesting that she get in touch with people who use footpaths and involve them with her work. Councillor Chubb stated that it would be useful to use social media to help identify the relevant local people. Councillor Tibballs stated that she had noted some issues when walking along footpaths and that she would now report them to Councillor Rowe.

c. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Rowe stated that it would be useful to know what the way forward is with regard to the management of verges within the Grouped Parish area and that it may be useful to consult the community to gain an understanding of what they would like to see. Councillor Hibbard stated that safety is the main importance. Councillor Chubb stated that it would be useful to know how many times a year and when they are cut. Councillor Tibballs stated that it is important to think about what grows naturally. Councillor Rowe stated that a mix of colour and species would look attractive and improve the appearance of the villages. Councillor Hardwill stated that highways were for traffic and that the policy to not cut hedges and verges was more about saving money. Councillor Rowe stated that some ideas would be worth exploring. Councillor Tibballs stated that the Parish Council could identify a number of verges across the Grouped Parish area that might be suitable for a pilot and asked that the matter be on the Agenda for the October Meeting.

d. Grouped Parish Tidy Up

The Clerk stated that she had been asked at the last Meeting to include this on the Agenda for the September Meeting. Members agreed that it would be helpful to ask the local community to tidy up the area outside of their own homes in order to improve the appearance of the villages. Councillor Hardwill asked the Clerk to enquire about community service opportunities for the area.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Probation Service.

e. Dog Fouling in Hursey

The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint about dog fouling in Hursey from Mrs. Pauline Emmett and had contacted the Dog Warden for advice. The Dog Warden had asked for specific location details. Councillor Tibballs stated that there was a problem on the Hursey to Burstock Road and Councillor Leader stated that there was also a growing problem on Hursey

Common once again. The Clerk stated that she would contact the Dog Warden again for advice.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Dog Warden.

f. Repair of Fingerpost Signs in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Chumbley reported that the fingerpost sign in Hursey had now been restored and wanted to formally acknowledge the help and support from Mr. Ron Emett and Mr. Paul Woodford. Councillor Chumbley asked that the Parish Council write to thank them. Members agreed. Councillor Chumbley asked that the sum of £61.57 be added to the Accounts section of the next agenda in order that reimbursement of costs could be made. Councillor Chumbley showed a photograph of the fingerpost sign before and after the restoration and Members commented on the significant improvements.

g. Replacement of Broadwindsor Sign

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by Dorset Highways that the cost for replacing the Broadwindsor sign, located as you enter the village from Beaminster would have to be met by the Parish Council as it was not a safety sign. The Clerk stated that she had been provided with a quote from Dorset Highways of £214.64. Councillor Leader stated that the Parish Council should consider trying to realign the sign in the first instance before purchasing a new one.

h. Installation of Memorial Bench in Broadwindsor

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from Mrs. Pat Winkler to install a memorial bench opposite Cross Keys in Broadwindsor. The Clerk stated that she had contacted Dorset Highways and a site visit was made by Mr. Simon Roberts. The Clerk stated that since that time, Mrs. Winkler had decided that a different location may be more suitable.

i. Review of Drimpton Bins

Councillor Chubb stated that the new bins in Drimpton had now been installed for three months, the agreed trial period and that they were being well used and emptied by Dorset Waste Partnership. It was agreed that they should remain and that a full contract be arranged. The Clerk was asked to add new bins for Hursey Common, outside the School and on the Hursey to Burstock Road to the Agenda for October.

j. Local Bus Services

This Agenda item was discussed under Agenda Item 5.

14. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Hedditch had declared an interest in this agenda item, he was present in the room but refrained from the discussion. Councillor Leader reported that the land owners had now appointed a land agent and that negotiations were continuing.

15. LEISURE

a. Update on the Multi-Use Games Area

Councillor Leader reported that other potential funding sources were being reviewed and applications had been submitted.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Leader asked that £100.00 be added to the Accounts section of the Agenda for October to cover the costs of cutting the grass on Hursey Common.

b. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments.

18. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.15pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending.