



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**11 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Jacqui Sewell (Vice Chair), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Stefan Nikolov, 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 were five members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

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### **1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Dyke and Raymond 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 10 July were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Hibbard.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. There were no comments.

### **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 Hughes stated that he would prefer to receive a summary of how the issues highlighted impact the Parish Council to ensure that information is relevant. Councillor Sewell stated that Councillor Christopher referred to neutrality mitigation in his report and stated that on 29 August the House of Commons submitted an amendment which would relax current rules which would allow developers to build more housing. Councillor Sewell stated that what was not mentioned in Councillor Christopher's report was that this could cost the taxpayer £140 million if developers are not requested to submit a mitigation. Councillor Hibbard stated that the report did refer to the fact that the costs of any works to sewerage and waterways would be covered by water companies. Councillor Sewell stated that the National Rivers Authority is looking at three alternatives to sewage cess pits. Councillor Frampton stated that there are septic tank treatment plants which self-clean and stated that he believed that these are being considered by developers for the Fullers development.

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

In his absence, the Clerk read aloud the report provided by PCSO Bishop which stated that between Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 August, three rare breed, faverolle chickens, three rare breed turkeys and two other hens were stolen from a shed enclosure between Broadwindsor and Mosterton. The report stated that if anyone has any information to report it Dorset Police online, or via 101. The report stated that if anyone had been disturbed or concerned by an alarm activation at the Craft Centre a couple days ago, this was a false activation, and all is in order. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that he would be at the Post Office/coffee morning on Tuesday 12 September at 11.00 am.

### **c. Broadwindsor Group Parish Council Vacancy, Broadwindsor Ward**

The Clerk reported that one expression of interest had been received for the vacancy from Stephen Curtis. The Clerk stated that unfortunately Stephen Curtis was not able to attend the meeting as he was unwell. There were no questions raised. It was agreed that Stephen Curtis would be permitted to sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk after the meeting. Councillor Sewell stated that he has important local knowledge, Councillors concurred.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the co-option of Stephen Curtis to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council to represent the Broadwindsor ward.**

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

### **a. Blackdown Parishioners, Highway Concerns - Laymore Road, B3162**

Councillor Hibbard stated that the members of the public were in attendance and thanked them for coming to the meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council was aware of the highway concerns in this area and confirmed that the members of the public had also contacted Councillor Christopher. Councillor Sewell stated that these issues had been reported to Dorset Council many times, over many years and still nothing has been done. The member of the public asked what the procedure was for reporting such matters, Councillor Sewell stated that matters should be raised with the Parish Council, they then report the concerns to the Dorset Ward Councillor, who then forwards to the Highways Department. Councillor Chubb stated that speeding has very much overtaken potholes on Parish Council agendas and there are many problem areas across the whole of the Grouped Parish. Councillor Chubb stated that nothing seems to be moving forward and that these concerns should be collated, remain on the agenda and continually pushed. The member of the public stated that problems had been much more noticeable during the last few months as the A30 had been closed with traffic diverted to Laymore Road, to Winsham and through to Crewkerne. The member of the public stated that there is a pinch point outside of their house and stated that that one day there will be an accident.

Councillor Christopher reported that he had spent much of the day in Dorchester discussing amongst many things, speeding and speed limits with a chief director at Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that the road safety officer will be in the ward tomorrow and that he will raise concerns of the Parish Council. Councillor Christopher stated that Councillor Ray Bryan, Portfolio Holder for Highways will be in the Grouped Parish next week and will be looking at a number of issues including the 60 mph to 20 mph areas and road surfaces. Councillor Christopher stated that the meeting tomorrow was scheduled to take place at 2.00 pm, Councillor Hughes agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. The member of the public stated that risks to pedestrians should also be looked at. Councillor Harris asked Councillor Christopher whether he had a list of all of the concerns raised by the Parish Council and if so, would he be taking it to the meeting. Councillor Christopher stated that he has and would be taking it to the meeting. Councillor Chubb asked that an update be provided before the next meeting highlighting outcomes and actions. Councillor Hibbard provided Councillor Christopher with copies of the communications with the members of the public and with a copy of the communication received by the Thorncombe parishioners as listed under Agenda Item 6b and asked for the latter to also be included in the meeting. The member of the public stated that Laymore does not have any signage to inform that you are in Laymore and asked Councillor Christopher why this was and whether there was a population or number of houses threshold that had to be met in order to have a sign installed. The member of the public stated that drivers may not be aware that they are driving through a place where people live. Councillor Christopher stated that he did not know but if the member of the public sends him an email, he will forward it on to the appropriate officer. Councillor Frampton stated that there was the same issue with Burstock and Hursey some years ago and that signs were

eventually installed. Councillor Hibbard asked that the Clerk be copied into any correspondence to Councillor Christopher.

**b. Thorncombe Parishioners, Highway Concerns - B3165 Junction at Birdsmoorgate**

This communication had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and addressed under Agenda Item 6a.

**c. Dorset Council, Housing Strategy Consultation**

The Clerk reported that the deadline for responses to the consultation is 2 October.

**d. Drimpton Resident, Pathway and Roadside Concerns**

The Clerk reported that this communication had been received by Councillor Harris. Councillor Harris reported that he had visited the location in question, which was the area between Applefield and Marksmead, and confirmed that there are a lot of parked cars but did not see any obstructions and it may be a question of residents being more considerate to each other. Councillor Harris stated that he did not believe that there was any action to be taken by the Parish Council. Councillor Chubb stated that there were many weeds around the village and areas such as both bridges needing some attention. Councillor Chubb suggested that Highways be contacted. Councillor Harris stated that the gully at the side of the road runs directly into the river so care must be taken. The Clerk stated that she would reply to the resident and contact Dorset Council.

**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 August was £37,554.37. There were no questions.

**b. To approve payment of £86.76 for HMRC (NI)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved item 7b.**

**c. To consider funds for new Welcome Packs**

Councillor Hibbard stated that it had been suggested that Welcome Packs be put into the new homes at Northcombe Lea. Councillor Hughes stated that he had previously expressed an interest in being involved and would like to see an example of the pack. Councillor Bassett stated that he had a copy with him. A budget of £200.00 was proposed, the Clerk stated that she would add this to the accounts for the next meeting. Councillor Chubb asked if the current folders were good enough and asked about the content of the pack. Councillor Bassett stated that there was a copy of the Broadwindsor News and local information inserts and stated that his packs were Drimpton focussed so new information for the other villages would be needed. The Clerk stated that Councillor Roberts had also expressed an interest in the project. The Clerk stated that she could source the folders and print off the inserts. Councillor Bassett suggested that he and Councillors Hughes and Roberts have a conversation after the meeting.

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

#### **P/FUL/2023/02425, The Magdalen Project, Magdalen Farm, Maudlin Lane, Winsham, TA20 4PA**

Councillor Chubb stated that although an amendment had been made to the original application which was not supported by the Parish Council, two local residents still had significant concerns. Councillor Chubb stated that the proposal was to construct ten ponds and that the residents were concerned about potential flooding to their land and property. Councillor Chubb stated that he had attended a meeting of Thorncombe Parish Council which had originally supported the application, at which the residents raised their concerns. Councillor Chubb stated that Thorncombe Parish Council has agreed to convene a meeting with the applicant to discuss these concerns. Councillor Sewell stated that she was also concerned about the impact to wildlife, notably avian flu with the increase of incoming birds.

### **b. Other Applications**

The Clerk reported that two applications had been received after the publication of the agenda as follows:

#### **P/PABA2/2023/05207, Knapp Farm, Specket Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3LD**

Councillor Hibbard stated that he would lead the consultation for this application and report back to the Clerk.

#### **P/FUL/2023/03535 & P/LBC/2023/03536, Lower Sandpit Farm, Hardys Lane, Drimpton, DT8 3RS**

Councillor Harris stated that he would lead the consultation for this application and report back to the Clerk.

### **c. Results**

The Clerk reported the following results:

P/NMA/2023/04919, 11 Bridport Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RD (Non-Material Amendment to Planning Permission): Refused

P/PABA/2023/04312, Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill, Seaborough, TA18 8PL: Prior Approval Refused

P/TRC/2023/04143, Comrades Hall, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP (Tree Works): No Objection

P/HOU/2023/04011, Havendale, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3RS: Granted

P/PABA/2023/03891, Knapp Farm, Specket Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3LD: Prior Approval Required

P/HOU/2023/02035, Rock House, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Withdrawn

P/LBC/2023/02036, Rock House, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Withdrawn

P/HOU/2023/03602, 8 Trusthams, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QB: Granted

P/HOU/2023/02932, 11 Yarnbarton, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QW: Granted

P/PABA2/2023/03145, Hill View Cottage, Littlewindsor Farm, Littlewindsor, DT8 3QU: Prior Approval Refused

P/TRT/2023/03137, The Lodge, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP: (Tree Works – TPO) Consent

P/TRC/2023/03206, The Lodge, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP: (Tree Works – CA) No Objection

#### **d. Neighbourhood Plan, Letter to MP**

The Clerk referred to the letter received from Chris Knight informing of a recent planning inspector's decision to allow a housing development in Staffordshire that is in direct contravention of the Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer and Aston, and Whitmore Neighbourhood Plan. The letter asked for the Parish Council to consider writing to their MP to request that the matter is brought to the Secretary of State with the aim of building some form of national pressure. Councillor Chubb stated that he had already voiced concerns on this matter. Councillor Hibbard stated that having a Neighbourhood Plan provides a starting point for any objections and suggested that a letter be sent to the MP to highlight that Neighbourhood Plans are there to protect parishes. Councillors agreed. The Clerk stated that she had been asked by a parishioner when the Neighbourhood Plan would be reviewed and stated that she had replied informing that there had not been any recent discussion about this and that the Plan itself states that a review should be carried out in 2026 unless there are significant changes nationally or locally. Councillor Hibbard stated that as far as he was aware there was not any need to update the Plan before 2026. Councillor Chubb asked if Dorset Council would contact the Parish Council at that time. Councillor Hibbard asked Councillor Christopher if he knew, Councillor Christopher asked that an email be sent to him with this question and that he would forward to the appropriate officers for a reply.

### **9. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

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

Sheila Hawkins stated that she had submitted a report, the Clerk stated that this had been circulated. Councillor Hibbard thanked Sheila Hawkins. Sheila Hawkins stated that most notable was the communication from Dorset Wildlife Trust informing that all of Hursey Common had now been classified as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and stated that she was very pleased. Councillor Hughes asked if this included the sports field, Sheila Hawkins confirmed that it did not.

### **10. ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Nikolov stated that all plots are taken and that plot holders had entered a number of horticultural shows locally and had produced a giant marrow, weighing just under 40kg!

## **11. MUGA UPDATE**

### **a. Additional Fencing**

Councillor Hibbard referred to the estimate as circulated and stated that it was obviously not viable, the Clerk stated that this had been provided by the company who had originally installed the fencing. Councillor Hughes stated that perhaps having some netting at one end may be more cost effective and could be provided and possibly subsidised by a local company. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had thought of asking for a quotation from PH Hardwill Ltd. Councillor Frampton stated that the Cricket Club used scaffolding poles with pulleys for their roadside nets which are coated so that they do not deteriorate and stated that they cost under £500.00. Councillor Sewell stated that any modifications must not compromise insurance cover, the Clerk stated that health and safety must be paramount, that the School needs to be included in any conversation and that Dorset Council will require that an application for a non-material amendment be submitted. Councillor Chistopher suggested that a number of local companies could be approached for a quotation. Councillor Chubb stated that such modifications could restrict views and be an eyesore and asked whether the idea should be paused for the moment and returned to if there are more complaints. Councillor Hibbard stated that the idea had come about as the Parish Council was in receipt of some Community Infrastructure Levy monies and had thought that this may be a good way to use it as there had been complaints raised over the years about balls going into private gardens. Councillor Nikolov reported that he had spoken with the manager of the Community Shop and that she had stated that she could not recollect a time when a ball had come over the fencing by the shop. Councillor Nikolov stated that he too thought that it would be best to wait and see if further complaints are received. Councillor Hughes suggested speaking to the local resident who had previously raised concerns. Councillor Chubb stated that if balls go over the fence into the school, then it is not possible to retrieve them. Councillor Nikolov stated that he had been asked about installing floodlights on the MUGA as in winter, it is dark by 4.00 pm. Councillor Hughes stated that this was rejected at the outset of planning for the MUGA project as it would not be fair to those living close by. Councillor Nikolov stated that it could be just for a few hours during the winter months only and stated that he was aware that it would be expensive.

### **b. Volunteers for Opening and Closing**

The Clerk stated that she had posted online asking for volunteers to support the opening and closing of the MUGA and reported that she had not received any interest from this request. Councillor Frampton asked whether there was an automated locking system which could be used and agreed to carry out some research on this possible option.

## **12. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA**

The Clerk read aloud a report provided by Councillor Dyke. The report stated that he had spoken again to Jurassic Fibre and that they have reconfirmed that Hursey remains on their 'Committed Build' list but now with a timeframe to be completed by 2025. This differs from the previous advice that work would commence in the fourth Quarter of 2023.

### **13. HIGHWAYS**

#### **a. Broadwindsor Speed Limit Reduction and Path Installation Update**

Discussed under Agenda Item 6a.

#### **b. Broadwindsor School Parking Bay Update**

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Dawn Heath, Senior Technical Officer for Highways at Dorset Council. The Clerk stated that she had been informed that the parking bay outside of the school was classified as a highway and as such any changes including painting lines or part lines to create parking bays would require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and that this would be costly, and that competition is fierce for this part of the Highways budget. The Clerk stated that the request had been formally noted, it will be scored against a set of criteria and that she had been advised that it will not achieve a very low score due to its proximity to a school but will be unlikely to score highly as there have not been any reported accidents or concerns raised by the emergency services about restricted access. A panel will meet in October to consider all TRO applications county wide and allocated funds against those applications scoring the highest. The Clerk stated that occasionally projects get moved up the list if they can be linked to other works in the area as a way to be more cost effective. The Clerk reported that it can take up to five years for a TRO and that currently there are one hundred projects on the list and that it is likely that between eight and ten will be funded each year. Councillor Hughes asked that the area be resurfaced. Councillor Christopher stated that he had spoken to Matthew Piles, a Corporate Director at Dorset Council and stated that he does understand about this issue - where you have a mainstream school there may be some children with mobility issues and there is a clear need for marked parking spaces. Councillor Christopher stated that he would be discussing this matter with Councillor Ray Bryan next week. Councillor Harris stated that in public car parks, there are wider bays for people with children and as such this proposal may be counterproductive. Councillor Christopher stated that the whole question needs to be looked at. Councillor Sewell stated that village halls are required to have disabled parking spaces.

#### **c. Storage of Parish Council Mower**

Councillor Hughes stated that he is currently housing the Parish Council mower, but it could not remain there indefinitely. Councillor Chubb stated that it may be worth considering a locked container which could be placed in the car park area of Hursey Common. Councillor Hughes stated that it had been suggested that such a container could be placed at the Allotments, but he thought that it was too far away. Councillor Nikolov stated that the car park was quite remote and left potential for theft. Councillor Chubb stated that it would be insured. Councillor Hughes asked whether the SNCI status would have any impact on this, Sheila Hawkins agreed to find out and report back

#### **d. Broadwindsor Tree Concerns Update**

The Clerk reported that annual leave during the summer holidays had made communication with the Tree Officer difficult but that she had now had an email informing that he would visit the village that week and assess the situation.



**e. Drimpton CCTV**

Councillor Bassett stated that there has been a lot of complaints about dogs running loose on the playing field and despite putting up notices and articles in the village newsletter and parish magazine, the problem still continues. Councillor Bassett stated that the option of installing CCTV cameras was being considered. Councillor Bassett stated that the village hall committee supported the idea although they were not sure how it would be managed. The Clerk stated that there are strict guidelines in terms of surveillance cameras and that she had a number of documents from the Government and the Information Commissioner's Office which she could forward. Councillor Harris stated that CCTV would serve as a crime prevention measure as well, Councillor Hibbard stated that not picking up after dog fouling is a crime. Councillor Sewell stated that she would speak to PCSO Bishop and Councillor Chubb suggested that ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) may be able to offer advice.

**f. Oak Sapling, Main Cross, Common Hill, Broadwindsor**

The Clerk stated that Dorset Council had asked about the planting of an oak sapling at Main Cross, Common Hill in Broadwindsor as they needed to know from a legal standpoint whose tree it is for future liability and maintenance purposes. There were no comments.

Councillor Harris stated that with the opening of the development in Netherhay, the footpath is now available for children to come across from the site to the play area and stated that as pointed out long ago, there is a danger of children running straight across the road, past the blind hedge and being run over. Councillor Harris stated it has been suggested that a children crossing sign be erected on either both or one side of the road to warn motorists. Councillor Chubb stated that this should be communicated to Highways as they insisted on the footpath. Councillor Hibbard stated that the footpath has been used for many years, Councillor Harris stated that it has been but mainly by dog walkers who are aware of the dangers and stated that children will not be aware. Councillor Chubb stated that the hedge by the road needs cutting back which would improve visibility. Councillor Frampton stated that there are a couple of hedges which are overgrown that need trimming back and stated that between Broadwindsor and Pilsdon, a hedge is invasive to the highway causing vehicles to drive in the middle of the road and at Orchard Mead, there is a hedge which requires cutting back as it is growing over into the road. Councillor Frampton stated that it is the responsibility of the property owner to cut back their hedge to the roadside. Councillor Hibbard stated that Highways should be contacted and asked to assess and that they will write to the resident should they decide that action needs to be taken. Councillor Hughes stated that some of the speed signs across the Grouped Parish are being visually impaired by growing vegetation. Councillor Frampton stated that some of the verges need trimming again. The Clerk stated that she had been asked by Councillor Dyke to report for information that he had been in communication with the owners of London House as there had been an incident of a roof tile falling during restoration works. The owner had stated that he was going to place a no parking sign outside of the property to alert the community to the potential hazard. The Clerk stated that she has now been informed that works have been completed to the roof and that snow guards have been installed above the gutter, to prevent any other slates which become dislodged from falling to the ground.

#### **14. DEFIBRILLATOR FOR SEABOROUGH**

##### **a. New Defibrillator for Seaborough**

Councillor White stated that there are two options for the defibrillator which will be housed in the former telephone kiosk, to purchase one outright and be responsible for the replacement of all consumables including batteries and electrode pads or to loan one from SWAST (South West Ambulance Service) who would provide all the support to maintain it and an annual awareness course. Councillor White stated that the cost for the first option would be £1,620.00 including VAT with consumables and battery replacement as required and the cost for the second option would be £2,160.00 for four years. Councillor Bassett and Councillor Sewell confirmed that the defibrillators in Drimpton and Broadwindsor were purchased and that the Parish Council supports the costs for maintenance and insurance. Councillor Chubb stated that he proposed that the Parish Council should purchase, seconded by Councillor Sewell. The Clerk stated that she would add to the accounts for the October meeting.

##### **b. Relocation of Blackdown Defibrillator**

The Clerk stated that she had approached Helen Doble to ask if Blackdown Village Hall would be interested in housing the defibrillator and stated that the matter would be taken to their committee and any decision reported back to the Parish Council.

#### **15. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

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

Councillor Hibbard stated that he was pleased to report that residents have now moved into the new development and apologised for any confusion with timings for the recent open day. Councillor Hibbard stated that a letter had been drafted by the CLT to the Housing Enabler Team Leader at Dorset Council feeding back on how the process could be improved going forward. Councillor Hibbard stated that there were difficulties in navigating the Home Choice website and that the application process was only online which is discriminatory. Councillor Sewell stated that some people were told that they were not on the housing register when they actually were and Councillor Hibbard stated that there was also some confusion as there was a computer failure in 2022 which meant that people had to register again and it was unclear as to whether their original registration date had been retained. Councillor Hibbard stated that the CLT had asked Dorset Council for a full list of those applying for a new home but was refused on data protection grounds. Councillor Frampton asked about the role of the Parish Council in the selection process, Councillor Hibbard stated that the CLT Board which comprised of some Councillors were asked to confirm the local connection element of the application process and was not involved with anything else. Councillor Chubb paid thanks to Councillor Hibbard and Sheila Hawkins for their efforts during a very stressful period. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Sewell for her hard work as part of the CLT Committee and reported that she had now resigned from this role. Sheila Hawkins stated that the CLT has legally handed over responsibility for the management of the development to Abri and it is their responsibility to choose their tenants, the CLT has been involved to confirm local

connections. Councillor Hibbard stated that if there is a way for the full list of applicants to be made available, the CLT will push for this as although it will not benefit their development, it will be helpful for other CLTs. Councillor Sewell stated that she was concerned that the houses were advertised as being in Broadwindsor and as such applicants had to prove the local link to Broadwindsor and not to other parts of the Grouped Parish. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had raised this concern.

Councillor Harris asked whether all allocations had been made to local people, Councillor Hibbard confirmed that they were. Councillor Chubb stated that they may not be living in the parish now but do have a local connection and stated that the three bedroom houses were hard to allocate as no-one in the Grouped Parish had asked for such a property. Councillor Harris stated that when the housing data was received from Dorset Council, it was clear that the majority of people needed one bedroom flats. Councillor Chubb stated that Dorset Council advice was followed and Councillor Harris stated that it was wrong. Councillor Hibbard stated that the CLT know that now. Councillor Sewell stated that the allocations policy with regard to children complicates the process and often means that when families need a three bedroom property, for example if they have two children, if their children are under twelve, they are only offered a two bedroom property which makes no sense. Councillor Harris stated that he feels very sorry for those people who were not offered a property and asked why secure tenancies were given rather than three or five year terms which will mean no circulation of houses as tenants will be able to stay as long as they like and those on the waiting list will not be able to acquire a home. Councillor Hibbard stated that tenants can stay for as long as they like as long as they look after their property and that security of tenure is also important. Councillor Chubb stated that those who were not successful have been signposted to Dorset Council for help and support and stated that the CLT has done as much as it possibly could do. Councillor Chubb stated that the solution is to build more homes, not necessarily in the Grouped Parish but locally. Councillor Frampton asked if there was scope for expansion on this site, Councillor Sewell stated that this site was the only designated site for development in the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Frampton stated that the CLT and Parish Council should be extremely proud of this achievement. Councillors Hibbard and Chubb paid thanks to David Leader and Nick Bellorini for the important and instrumental roles they played in the project.

#### **b. Hedge and Ditch Maintenance**

Councillor Hibbard reported that because of the fenced footpath which Dorset Council insisted on, no-one can get in there to cut the hedge and stated that he is keen to contact Dorset Council and hand over the maintenance to them.

#### **c. Footpath Gate and Sleepers**

Councillor Hibbard reported that this had been paid for and that the Parish Council will push for this to be installed.

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

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

Councillor Hughes reported that he had been alerted to the fact that the Post Office service at Comrades Hall was to close and be replaced by a mobile van service, reduced to one visit per week and with changed hours. Councillor Hughes stated that the Parish Council should have been informed and allowed to have a discussion at Council and then approach the Post Office directly. Councillor Sewell stated that she had intended to add this matter to the agenda for the October meeting and that she had been alerted in confidence to the fact that outreach services may be withdrawn in another village in February and stated that the Post Office was not allowing this to be broadcast widely until it had been confirmed. Councillor Sewell stated that she had since stepped down from the Post Office Users Group and that communication is now between Comrades Hall and the Post Office. Councillor Sewell stated that she believes that the proposal is for the van to visit on a Monday lunch time and stressed that this service makes no money for the Post Office and that they are providing a public service. Councillor Hughes stated that this had become a social hub for members of the community and that the proposed new time would not be as convenient. Councillor Hughes stated that he was still concerned that plans had got this far without the Council having the opportunity to discuss it.

A member of the community expressed her disappointment that she had only become aware of this matter a month ago and stated that she and Councillor Sewell had worked together since the launch of the service twelve years ago and that she had not been consulted. The member of the public stated that it was also a social gathering, over time they have had numerous people come to speak, the local Police attend and that it would be a real loss to the village. The member of the public stated that it has been handled very badly and that she had had no involvement. Councillor Sewell stated that the Post Office is running a business and that she was told in confidence and was not aware of the actual date until everyone was informed. Councillor Nikolov stated that the business has to make money first and foremost and questioned whether the social element could still continue, albeit in a different form despite the changes. Councillor Hibbard stated that he would be happy to talk to the Post Office and ask whether the proposed time could be changed. Another member of the public asked why, if the Post Office was still attending in the van, they could not just go inside Comrades Hall and stated that if the engine is to be constantly running, then he would object. Councillor Sewell stated that all the equipment will be fixed in the van and not transferable. Councillor Sewell asked that the Post Office service be included in the October agenda.

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

A member of the public asked that solar panels on listed building be included in the next agenda and reported that he had been refused by Dorset Council despite Historic England confirming that his proposal was acceptable so long as the panels could not be seen from the church, which they cannot. The member of the public stated that his planning application had now been ongoing for eighteen months and had been very stressful. The member of the

public stated that it had been his wish for the trees to remain and for pattrass plates to be installed but stated that the Conservation Office at Dorset Council has refused this plan and stated that there is now a good chance that the three large trees in his garden will come down, the wall rebuilt with a retaining wall and refaced, and new trees planted. The member of the public stated that he wishes it to be known that the removal of the trees was not his preferred option.

#### **17. 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. A member of the public asked why the welcome pack could not be online rather than in hard copy, the Clerk stated that it will be both and stated that the original idea behind the pack was to offer a personal welcome to the village, by knocking on a door and saying hello and not just about providing information. The member of the public stated that this could still be the case but that a link to the online pack could be provide and would save money.

#### **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Monday 9 October 2023 at Blackdown Village Hall.

#### **19. CLOSE**

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.21 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.