



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 12 APRIL 2021 ONLINE MEETING

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

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Chairman. There were six members of the public in attendance. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the online Parish Council Meeting. A minute's silence was held to mark the passing of HRH Prince Philip.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Bassett 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.

Councillor Hibbard expressed an interest in Agenda Item 8g, Councillors Leader and Chumbley expressed an interest in Agenda Item 8e, Councillor Curtis expressed an interest in Agenda Item 6c and Councillor Chubb expressed an interest in Agenda Item 8f.

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 online meeting held on 8 March 2021 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council. Councillor Hibbard duly signed the approved minutes. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk for the comprehensive set of minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Leader stated that he was aware that Councillor Christopher was not able to attend the meeting in its entirety and therefore asked whether Agenda Item 14c could be brought forward. There were no objections.

Common Water Lane

Councillor Leader stated that he had received some disappointing news from Dorset Council, that although they accepted responsibility for both the road and the verges, they were not going to do anything at all to prevent the damage or destruction of the verges. Councillor Leader stated that this decision comes after a considerable amount of correspondence with the Council and after the Legal Department had changed its original opinion of not being responsible to being responsible for the road and verges and that this was extremely frustrating and disappointing and a really poor decision by the Highways Department. Councillor Leader stated that Councillors Christopher and Knox had been involved with this matter and that they and indeed the Parish Council were dismayed at this decision and that they were not prepared to let the matter rest. Councillor Leader stated that he had been urged by Councillor Christopher to wait a further four weeks before taking decisive action against Dorset Council and against his better judgement, he was prepared to do this and allow time for Dorset Council to address the matter.

Councillor Christopher stated that he reiterated the comments from Councillor Leader that he, Councillor Knox and Councillor Leader had spent a lot of time on this matter and that the issue seems to be conflicting comments from the two Lead Members who work under the Head of Highways. Councillor Christopher stated that he had written to the Legal Officer seeking clarification and that the MP was aware of the issues and has acknowledged that there is clearly a difficulty. Councillor Christopher stated that he and Councillors Knox and Leader would continue to work on the matter and he would see what comes forward in the next month. Councillor Christopher stated that the Parish Council was originally encouraged to submit a request for a traffic regulation order and then received conflicting advice that it would not be appropriate and stated that this issue has been around for many years and that he was not going to give up. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council had received conflicting advice about the actual cost of a possible order and stated that they were first advised that the cost would be approximately £200 and then £7000. Councillor Christopher stated that he has pointed this out to the Legal Officer and the question of negligence and indicated that the Parish Council could have had a claim against Dorset Council on the basis that it could have spent the money relying on the promise from Dorset Council.

Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council could include the costs for the traffic regulation order within its precept request to Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that he will share the response from the Legal Officer with the Parish Council. Councillor Hardwill stated that he does understand the position of Dorset Council, commenting that this is a far wider issue and a situation which exists in many other places. Councillor Hardwill stated that there are many of these green lanes around and that if one shuts, then another one will be used and other Parish Councils will expect the same action as that awarded to Broadwindsor. Councillor Hardwill stated that the law is required to allow people to be prosecuted.

Councillor Chubb asked whether there were any other departments in Dorset Council which would support the Parish Council. Councillor Frampton stated that he did not know what Dorset Council could do about this situation, stating that a lane local to him had been blocked off and was still accessed. Councillor Frampton stated that he believed that it was more or less impossible to keep people out. Councillor Sewell asked whether it would be useful to contact David Sidwick, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner candidate for Dorset about this issue as it was a rural crime. Councillor Sewell stated that although crime in urban areas had gone down, there had been an increase in rural areas.

Councillor Rowe stated that this was a disgraceful situation and reported that she had recently walked some of the UCRs (Unclassified Roads) around Hursey which are unusable with a member of the public and the Community Highways Officer Blair Turner. Councillor Rowe stated that one of the reasons that they are impassable is that they are being used by off road vehicles. Councillor Rowe stated that the only solution that could be offered by Blair Turner was for them to be closed. Councillor Rowe stated that landowners will now be receiving notices from Dorset Council to cut back their hedges but stated that this will not solve the problem. Councillor Rowe asked how can we let criminals get away with this and stated that they should be held accountable.

Councillor Leader stated that this was clearly a legal issue and that there is a historic context to Common Water Lane being a highway. Councillor Leader stated that legislation was needed to close the highway to all motorised vehicles except farmers who need access. Councillor Leader stated that he is exploring this issue with Councillor Christopher to see if such legislation exists and if it does not, it should be in place as this was a problem common to many places and it maybe that Government has to step in and legislate to prevent this type of damage from occurring. Councillor Christopher stated that he was in discussion with the MP and had mentioned the matter to one of the Police and Crime Commissioner candidates and stated that he will be pressing whoever is elected to become actively involved with this matter.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher for his report and stated that it had been circulated and asked for any questions. Councillor Hughes stated that he had been omitted from the report as attending the Redlands Lane meeting, Councillor Christopher apologised for the error.

Councillor Sewell stated that she did not have a question rather an omission and stated that on 15 March the Government launched the strategy 'Bus Back Better', a national bus strategy for England and stated that there was a period of consultation which ends in mid-June. Councillor Sewell stated that she had been asked to write an article on this and had circulated it to all Councillors. Councillor Sewell stated that rural transport is a huge issue, especially given the bus services which have been lost over the years, the 213 and 42 and although the 40 Service is back it is not operating like the former 47 Service did. Councillor Sewell stated that she is hoping that every Parish Councillor will go out into their communities and ask how we can be treated equally with urban areas. Councillor Sewell stated that this should be included on the May agenda for discussion.

Councillor Sewell asked Councillor Christopher if he had any updates on the status of the A35 Diversion Group which started two years ago and stated that the last meeting had taken place just as Oliver Letwin, former MP was leaving post. Councillor Christopher stated that Councillor Sewell had made some interesting and valid points and reported that he has been working with other Dorset Councillors in respect of the A35 and stated that he has been encouraging those who travel through without making any contribution to the economy to actually avoid using the A35 and stated that he believed this would be beneficial. With regard to buses, Councillor Christopher stated that he does liaise with the Head of WATAG (Western Area Transport Action Group) and shares his concern about the lack of public transport and expresses his views in a forthright manner.

Councillor Hardwill stated that not everyone is concerned about buses and that he often sees large buses carrying just a few people and believes that in such rural areas nothing larger than a transit is required. Councillor Hardwill stated that there is an acceptance that if you live in such a rural area, you need a car. Councillor Hardwill paid thanks to Councillor Christopher for his detailed report and thanked him and Russell Goff for the swift action to restore the collapsed bridge in Greenham. Councillor Christopher stated that thanks should be paid to Clive Richards and team and stated that one of the problems of the A35 is the lack of practical local people as well as the insufficient number of laybys for people to use when they break down.

Councillor Sewell stated that although many Councillors have never had to use buses, there are lots of residents in the Grouped Parish area that rely on buses. Councillor Sewell stated

that we need to look at using school buses and Council transport in the day, acting as feeders to transport people. Councillor Sewell stated that residents should not have to be deprived or told to move to areas with buses. Councillor Christopher stated that he will continue to work with Chris Loder MP to deliver appropriate improvements to public transport, whether it be buses or trains.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that on 10 March, in a field near Pilsdon Pen, one sheep was found dead and another injured after an attack. It is believed this was by a dog, but no-one was seen. The report stated that if anyone has any information about this crime, to contact Dorset Police and that failure to keep a dog under control is an offence. On 20 March, Police were contacted as there was believed to be a possible rave, somewhere between Salwayash and Broadwindsor. After an extensive area search, there was no sign of any rave taking place. On the 31 March, Dorset Police received a complaint about a drone being flown close to a property in the North Bowood area. The report stated that the Police often have concerns about drones being used as a means for criminals to have a look at a possible target. Fortunately, on this occasion there was no evidence that this was the case. There has also been a report of vegetables being stuck on fence spikes in the Seaborough area and a concern that this may also be "property marking" by criminals. The report stated that gain, it is not believed that this is linked to a possible crime.

In his report PCSO Bishop stated that he has noticed that whilst the easing of this current lockdown is stepped, similar to the first lockdown that the Police are experiencing complaints which were sometimes common place but had become lessened due to less people being around. As an example of this, some people in areas are starting to complain about issues like Anti-Social Behaviour, as young people are now starting to hang around in slightly increased numbers. This has meant that noise pollution has slightly increased, which has led to a perception that they are doing something wrong, when in fact they are just meeting up and hanging around as they used to. It shows that some people may have become sensitive to something that was never a problem before, because it is now in sharper focus as we have become used to areas being quiet. PCSO Bishop stated in his report that he would like to urge people to remember that there is going to be an increase in people moving around as we get back to some form of what was normal and as a result of this, we will all need to be a little more understanding and accepting of the changes that are to come.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Bridport & District Citizens Advice, Request for Grant

Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council has supported Bridport & District Citizens Advice in previous years and given the increase in their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, he was in favour of supporting them this year. Councillor Sewell stated that she had spoken with Citizens Advice and that they had confirmed that they have provided services to people from the Grouped Parish area. Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk about the level of grant,

the Clerk stated that in previous years between £150.00 and £200.00 has been awarded. Councillor Hibbard stated that he would support a grant of £200.00, this was proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Rowe and there were no objections raised. The Clerk was asked to add this to the May agenda.

b. Chris Loder MP, Views on Proposed Dorset National Park

The Clerk reported that she had circulated this communication to Councillors prior to the Meeting and stated that the Parish Council had been asked for a collective response by the end of April. Councillor Leader stated that he supported the formation of a National Park for Dorset, stating that in other National Park areas there had been an improved economic output, the landscape had been protected and affordable housing had been built for those living in those areas. Councillor Leader stated that he could only see huge benefits and no negatives. There were no other comments.

c. Request from Resident, Seeking Permission to Install New Field Gateway between Shepherds Meadow and Bridge

Councillor Leader reported that he has spoken to the local resident and looked at the plan for Hursey Common and is unclear as to how this proposal would work. Councillor Leader stated that the resident has some paperwork which he would like to show to the Parish Council. Councillor Leader asked if this matter could be added to the May agenda to allow time to review the paperwork and meet the resident onsite. Councillor Hibbard asked if there was concern about losing part of the Common and setting a precedent for the future, Councillor Leader stated that that is part of the concern and stated that the boundary for that part of the Common isn't completely clear and he does need to go to the site and review the plan with the resident.

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

a. Community Updates from Councillors

Councillor Rowe reported that she had for some time been supporting a number of residents in the village, especially in Fullers and stated that she is having a problem with Magna, who she believes is failing in its duty of care to its residents. Councillor Rowe stated that one resident is extremely distressed due to persistent dog barking and stated that the dog in question is allowed to climb through the resident's fence and enter the farmer's field behind Fullers. Councillor Rowe stated that she has called Magna on three occasions since 13 March and has been promised that their Welfare Team will help, but stated that no action has been taken. Councillor Rowe asked if the Parish Council could write to Magna to help get this matter resolved. Councillor Chubb stated that the Dog Warden should also be contacted in relation to the welfare of the dog. Councillor Hibbard stated that both Magna and the Dog Warden should be contacted. The Clerk asked Councillor Rowe to forward details of the matter to her and that she would draft a letter. Councillor Christopher stated that if Councillor Rowe continues to have difficulties with this matter, then to contact him and he would be pleased to assist.

b. Future Parish Council Meetings

c. Annual Parish Meeting

Councillor Hibbard reported that in line with current Government legislation, online meetings will not be permitted after 7 May. Councillor Hibbard stated that this does cause some difficulty for the Parish Council as any in-person meetings held will have to comply with social distancing requirements and stated that in Comrades Hall, only twenty people are currently permitted, which given the number of Councillors, will limit the number of members of the public allowed to attend. Councillor Hibbard stated he had contacted Chris Loder MP about the matter to seek further clarity and had submitted his comments in relation to the Government's call for evidence. Councillor Hibbard stated that online meetings provide a really useful format, not only during the pandemic but could be extremely helpful in bad weather or for when Councillors are not well enough to attend an in-person meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that he hoped that in the future, the Parish Council would be able to have the freedom to use both formats. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council would not be able to use Comrades Hall on a Monday as it would have to be thoroughly cleaned after the Brownies had left and that this was not going to be possible. Councillor Sewell stated that the Grouped Parish was fortunate to have access to other community buildings but for many communities this was not the case. Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton Village Hall was available.

Councillor Christopher reported that Hertfordshire County Council in conjunction with Lawyers in Local Government and the Association of Democratic Services Officers are seeking a High Court judgment to allow virtual meetings to continue and a decision is expected on 23 April. Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council has brought forward its annual meeting whilst awaiting the outcome. Councillor Christopher stated that he understands that the Government will not defend the court action. Councillor Hardwill stated that the Parish Council should either continue with Zoom meetings and wait for them to be contested or bring forward its May meeting and stated that this situation was ludicrous especially given the fact that MPs do not have to fully return until June. Councillor Sewell stated that Councillors can give their apologies and then a meeting cannot happen.

Councillor Hibbard stated that he had spoken with the Clerk about this and proposed that the May meeting which is also the Annual General Meeting be brought forward to 6 May online which will not contravene any laws and that the Annual Parish Meeting also be held online on either the 27 or 28 April. Councillor Hibbard stated that if the court case fails in its attempt to allow online meetings to continue, then the June meeting could be held on 21 June when it is proposed that all social distancing requirements will be withdrawn. All Councillors agreed, there were no objections raised and the 27 April was agreed as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk stated that although apologies can indeed be given, there is a number of business items which need approving in May including signing off the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Councillor Christopher stated that he has suggested to the Leader of Dorset Council and colleagues that

the Government has not done well in this regard and if there is no firm decision on 23 April then Dorset Council should seek a legal opinion and get on with its business.

d. Call for Evidence: Local Authority Remote Meetings

The Clerk reported that the deadline for this call for evidence was 17 June and stated that she would be submitting on behalf of the Parish Council and should Councillors have comments to be included, to forward them to her.

8. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the year end 2020/2021, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 March was £34,706.25. There were no questions.

b. Timetable for Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/2021

The Clerk reported that the deadline for submission of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/2021 was 2 July and stated that it must be published on the Parish Council's website by 30 September.

c. To consider and approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/2021

The Clerk stated that this document had been circulated prior to the meeting and referred members of the Council to Section 1 and asked for approval.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard, seconded by Councillor Leader and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved Section 1, Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/2021.

d. To approve the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights 2020/2021

The Clerk stated that this period must last for thirty working days and include the first ten working days of July and proposed that this be set from Monday 14 June to Friday 23 July. There were no objections.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard, seconded by Councillor Leader and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved that the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights 2020/2021 be set as Monday 14 June to Friday 23 July.

Councillor Hibbard proposed that payments e to m be approved en bloc. This was agreed.

e. To approve payment of £1800.00 for Comrades Hall (Annual Grant)

f. To approve payment of £1800.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (Annual Grant)

g. To approve payment of £1800.00 for Blackdown Village Hall (Annual Grant)

h. To approve payment of £1800.00 for Broadwindsor Community Stores (Annual Grant)

i. To approve payment of £12.00 for Total Web Solutions (Storage)

j. To approve payment of £1.80 for HMRC (NI)

k. To approve payment of £53.63 for Councillor Rowe (Reimbursement for Wildflower Seeds)

l. To approve payment of £49.88 for Clerk (Expenses April 2021)

m. To approve payment of £930.06 for Clerk (Salary Adjustment January, February and March 2021)

The Clerk stated that the Parish Council has historically awarded Comrades Hall and Drimpton Village Hall a slightly higher grant than Blackdown Village Hall, due to the fact that it did not have a play area to maintain. The Clerk stated that the Community Stores is now an annual grant recipient and has been awarded the higher amount and that it would seem sensible to level all grants to the same amount. Councillor Chumbley stated that he proposed that all Halls receive the same level of grant as they all provide an excellent service to the community. Councillor Sewell stated that she seconded that and that it was also important to support the Community Stores as it had served the community admirably during the last two years.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chumbley, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved to award the same level of grant to Comrades Hall, Drimpton Village Hall, Blackdown Village Hall and the Community Stores.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard, seconded by Councillor Leader and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments e to m.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/20/002187, Ellaway Cottage, Wood Farm, Wood Lane, Kittwhistle, DT8 3LG

Councillor Hibbard reported that this application had come before the Parish Council before seeking approval to install a swimming pool. Councillor Hibbard stated that the land to be used lies 75% on domestic land and 25% of the land encroaches on agricultural land. Councillor Hibbard stated that he has spoken with neighbours and no objections have been raised and therefore he proposed that this application be supported by the Parish Council. No objections were stated.

b. Other Applications (Not for Consultation)

P/PABA/2021/00753, Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill, Seaborough (Prior Approval)

P/PAPA/2021/00752, Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill, Seaborough (Prior Approval)

P/PAAC/2021/00836, The Pig Farm, Laymore, Winsham, TA20 4NZ (Prior Approval)

P/PAPA/2021/00788, Broadoak Farm, Watery Lane, Mosterton, DT8 3HG (Prior Approval)

The Clerk stated that these applications were all agricultural applications which do not require at this time, the corporate view of the Council. The Clerk stated that if Dorset Council deems that prior approval is required, then the applications will be returned for consultation.

c. Results

None.

10. MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE IN THE GROUPE PARISH AREA

Councillor Chubb stated that Councillor Christopher had included this matter within his report to the Parish Council and that he had no further comments to make.

11. BROADWINDSOR CRICKET CLUB

a. Update on Fundraising and Plans

Councillor Frampton reported that planning permission for the car park has been granted and that construction will start shortly. Councillor Frampton stated that the first home game will take place on Sunday 5 May and that shortly the Pavilion will be painted and the advertising boards and roadside nets will be put up once again. Councillor Frampton stated that as it was not possible for the VAT to be claimed back this has left a little hole in funds but stated that the Club is planning on further fundraising towards the £10,000 cost for the electricity transformer.

12. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Leader stated that there were no updates at this time.

13. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that the annual allotment renewals had all been issued and that almost all plots were now occupied.

14. HIGHWAYS

a. Report from the Footpaths Officer

Councillor Rowe stated that as reported earlier in the meeting, she has recently walked five local UCRs and is quite distressed that the only solution being offered by Dorset Council for those UCRs which are not accessible is to close them, which will see two UCRs lost. Councillor Rowe stated that twenty years ago UCRs were all working well and now through neglect they are not, and Dorset Council will not do anything about it. Councillor Chubb stated that he had not walked these UCRs but wondered if perhaps some are just not practical anymore and should be left to go back to nature. Councillor Chubb stated that the UCRs should publicised so that people know what is available. Councillor Rowe stated that these UCRs are ancient rights of way and horse riders still use them. Councillor Rowe stated that they have the right to use them and when they cannot they are then forced to use the roads. Councillor Rowe stated that the ground is too deep, wet or damaged, often caused by off road vehicles. Councillor Chubb stated that the Police do not have the resources to respond to these problems as they did twenty years ago and care should be taken not to spend too much money on areas used by just a few. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he had received a number of complaints from residents about motorcycles being driven over Lewesden Hill and stated that he was unsure as to whether this was allowed. Councillor Rowe stated that if we take a passive view on these matters then in a further twenty years, walkers will not be able to walk safely and that a more proactive response is needed. Councillor Rowe stated that the Council should not sit back and do nothing and let the criminals take over. Councillor Hibbard

stated that if a positive solution is reached in relation to Common Water Lane then this might support action with these UCRs and that it was important to keep this issue on the agenda.

b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Rowe reported that wildflower seeds had been sown in the verges on 24 March with Dorset Council already having taken up a large area and sown their wildflower seeds. Councillor Rowe stated that the Working Party which convened on 28 March cleared space by the Old George and planted wildflower seeds there and a request was received from Pound House for wildflower seeds to be planted aswell.

c. Common Water Lane Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

d. Hursey Common Sports Field, Grass Cutting Contract

Councillor Leader reported that this item related to the volunteers who cut the grass at the Sports Field at Hursey Common, many of whom have been doing so for over fifteen years. Councillor Leader stated that some volunteers have now left the village and others have become too old and at the beginning of the mowing season, he was concerned that there would not be a sufficient number of volunteers to take on the task. Councillor Leader stated that numbers have now been bolstered but this may become a problem again in the future and that he wanted to look at possibly offering some form of financial gift as a thank you to those taking on the job many times during the cutting season. Councillor Leader stated that it is quite onerous and takes time and stated that the Council may struggle to get volunteers in the future. Councillor Rowe stated that she supported this idea. Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton had a similar problem trying to secure volunteers for the play area but now have sufficient numbers. Councillor Sewell suggested a BBQ as a means of thanking volunteers. Councillor Frampton offered the use of his sheep to graze on the field to keep the grass down! Councillor Leader stated that because the grass needs cutting every week this unfortunately would not provide the solution. The Clerk referred members of the Council to the Financial Regulations and stated that certain rules relating to tendering apply when incurring expenditure. Councillor Hardwill stated that he supported the idea of a thank you event as opposed to payment to volunteers and stated that often when payment is introduced, you can lose many volunteers. Councillor Chubb suggested providing volunteers with a voucher for the Community Stores, Councillor Sewell stated that this still held a monetary value. Councillor Madder-Smith suggested engaging the services of local gardening service providers in exchange for advertising, the Clerk stated that this in-kind payment still had a monetary value. The Clerk stated that she would review the Financial Regulations and report back to the Parish Council.

e. Highways Reporting Protocol

The Clerk reported that the Community Highways Officer (CHO) had stated that when possible, highways matters should be logged using Dorset Council's online service which would enable each matter to be logged, referenced and tracked. When this is not possible,

matters should be reported directly to him via the Clerk. The Clerk stated that a number of Councillors do communicate directly with the CHO and that she is always copied in. The Clerk stated that this seemed to work well for the Parish Council and would be happy for that to continue.

f. Scoop the Poop Poster

Councillor Sewell stated that she had noticed this poster on Facebook and was granted permission to reproduce the graphic and stated that she had circulated the poster to Councillors prior to the last meeting. Councillor Sewell stated she has sent a number of them out and that they have been well received and asked whether the Parish Council would consider purchasing metal signs for each of the villages as they would last longer. Councillor Chubb stated that it is his personal opinion that putting up signs to tell people to do something that they should be doing anyway do not work and that the only way is enforcement. Councillor Hibbard stated that should anyone wish to have a poster, to contact Councillor Sewell directly.

g. New Drimpton Footpath, Ongoing Maintenance Considerations

Councillor Leader stated that there is going to be a new footpath created from the CLT site in Netherhay Lane which will join up with the existing right of way that goes to Netherhay on one end and comes out opposite Drimpton Village Hall at the other end of the village. Councillor Leader stated that the footpath was a condition imposed as part of the planning process and it will provide a hard surface sufficient to take a pram or disability vehicle. Councillor Leader stated that there is nothing in place for its continuing maintenance and it may be possible that Dorset Council will take this on. Councillor Leader stated that this matter will not affect the Council for at least ten to fifteen years but it is an issue that does need to be considered for the benefit of the future and suggested that perhaps the Parish Council may need to write to Dorset Council and ask them to formally take responsibility for the footpath. Councillor Hibbard stated that it was important to have an agreement in writing so that in the future problems are not caused over queries relating to ownership such as had happened with Hursey Common. Councillor Chubb stated that he is a member of the CLT Committee and stated that Dorset Council asked for the creation of the footpath and therefore should take responsibility for it. Councillor Sewell stated that Dorset Council had insisted on the inclusion of the footpath. Councillor Leader stated that to move this forward the Parish Council should write to Dorset Council and ask them to take on the long-term responsibility and maintenance for the footpath, Councillor Chubb stated that there should also be a gate installed as well. Councillor Hardwill asked if there was a clause requiring those residing in the properties to financially contribute to a pot of money which could be used for maintaining the footpath. Councillor Leader stated that this suggestion had been put to Yarlington Housing Association but stated that they were not happy to take this on.

The Clerk stated that Councillor Bassett had informed her that the grit bin at the junction of Axe Road and Netherhay Lane was broken and needs replacing. Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk to add this to the May agenda. Councillor Chubb advised that in Drimpton Crewkerne

Road and Axe Road were going to be resurfaced during the next few days and then Chard Road possibly the next week. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Chubb for progressing this.

15. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Leader reported that the Section 106 document had now been ratified by all parties and that planning permission was now complete and the houses can be built. Councillor Leader stated that the legal transfer of the land still needs to be completed as does final arrangements with Yarlington Housing Association but stated that the build is planned to commence in the Autumn.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Frampton stated that Broadwindsor Cricket Club can now be removed as a standing agenda item. Councillor Hughes asked that after a reading a feature in a newspaper that perhaps the Parish Council needs to consider the current and future capacity of graveyards and spaces for burial and also asked how many Welcome Packs had been issued so far. Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton Church does have additional land available should it be required and that he and Councillor Basset had both delivered a number of packs. Councillor Rowe stated that eight Welcome Packs had been distributed so far and have received excellent feedback. Councillor Rowe stated that the working group is due to meet before the next meeting and therefore it is likely that this will be on the agenda for the May meeting. Councillor Christopher stated that he was aware that in other parts of the country in relation to graves dug as a double grave, the surviving spouse was being told that the cemetery was not envisaging any further burials due to rules about proximity to water courses. Councillor Rowe informed that the Broadwindsor Allotment Group will be writing to the Clerk in relation to building a compost bin which will be used for the cut and collect service and stated that they will seeking some funds from the Parish Council to cover costs for pallets and stakes etc. Councillor Chubb stated that he has access to pallets through his work and can provide them.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

A member of the public stated that she was aware that the Parish Council had adopted the telephone box in Broadwindsor and asked about future plans. The Clerk stated that the adoption contract had been signed by the Parish Council and returned to BT but due to a delay caused by COVID-19, the Parish Council had not received the contract back signed by BT and therefore would advise that no action be taken at the present until this had been received. Councillor Chubb stated that the telephone box in Drimpton has had its telephony removed and asked if this box was on the same timetable as the Broadwindsor one for the adoption process. The Clerk stated that both contracts were returned to BT at the same time. Councillor Leader stated that as soon as formal notice has been received for the adoption, plans will be

put in place to renovate the box as some work needs to be done such as painting and fixing the door.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public asked that in relation to Agenda Item 8j, why payment was being made to Northern Ireland, Councillor Hibbard and the Clerk informed that the NI was an abbreviation for National Insurance.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk confirmed that the date of the next online Parish Council meeting would be Thursday 6 May 2021 and that this would be the Annual General Meeting.

19. FMR TRUST

a. To receive the Finance Report

The Clerk referred Trustees to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the year end 2020/2021, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 March was £3473.37. There were no questions.

b. To approve payment of £224.00 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Trust Administration)

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

20. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.16 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 9.18 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending.