



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 12 JUNE 2017 COMRADES 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. Richard Mouldsdale, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Roger Smith.

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 thirty-five members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Laurie and Tibballs and unanimously approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Hedditch declared an interest in Agenda item 13a, Councillor Frampton declared an interest in Agenda Item 8a.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes from the Meeting held on 8 May 2017 was confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Hibbard asked members of the public if there were any other matters to be raised, apart from planning application WD/D/17/000800. No other matters were raised. Given the number of members of the public in attendance, Councillor Hibbard asked Members whether they would agree to a change in the order of the agenda so that the planning application WD/D/17/000800 could be discussed at this point. All Members agreed.

WD/D/17/000800, Land South of Fullers, Bridport Road, Broadwindsor

Councillor Hibbard stated that there had been wide consultation with regard to this application and that the Parish Council must now submit its corporate response. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council has a duty to represent the views of its parishioners and for this reason, the Council will be objecting to the planning application and will

summarise those comments put forward by members of the local community. Councillor Hibbard thanked members of the public for their considered engagement and input.

Councillor Sewell stated for information that a new development of up to three hundred and twenty dwellings had just been approved and therefore West Dorset will not fall short of its five-year housing land supply. Councillor Chubb asked for clarification, Councillor Sewell stated that developers cannot now use the previous shortfall of housing land to demonstrate planning need. Councillor Smith stated that there was still a shortage of affordable homes.

Councillor Hardwill stated that unfortunately comments made by a Parish Council do not carry much weight and are often ignored by the planning authority. Councillor Hardwill stated that he had little confidence in low cost housing and if care is not taken, such housing could detract from the standard of a village. Councillor Hardwill stated that he was not as opposed to development as others and that often, new people bring wealth and skills which can be a positive attribute to a local community. Councillor Hibbard stated that he was not opposed to development of the right size and in the correct location. Councillor Smith stated that he had been a Councillor for five years and during that time, West Dorset District Council had never listened to the views of the Parish Council.

Councillor Chumbley stated that developers should be held to account if they do not fulfil their obligations such as the provision of play areas if included within an application or if sub-standard work is carried out and stated that these issues have a longer-term effect. Councillor Rowe stated that she was greatly concerned about the land being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and stated that such areas must be protected. Councillor Rowe quoted from the consultee responses from Natural England and the National Trust.

Councillor Hibbard asked Members to vote on whether to support or object to the planning application and also asked for any abstentions. Nine Councillors voted to object, there were no show of hands in support of the application and there were two abstentions.

Resolved: By a majority show of hands, the Council agreed to formally object to the planning application WD/D/17/000800.

Councillor Knox stated that the Dorset AONB was not listed as a consultee for this application and advised the Parish Council to raise the matter within its corporate response, asking that they are included in the process. Councillor Knox stated that it is normal practice for the Highways Authority, when asked for its comments, to record its written approval subject to a list of conditions. Councillor Knox also stated that within the consultation responses she had seen reference to the width of the road and that it had not been measured correctly.

Councillor Leader asked whether Mr. Bob Link could address the Council, this was agreed. Mr. Link stated that he had moved to Broadwindsor in March 2016 and was concerned about the state of the village, most notably between Orchard Mead and the Craft Centre. Mr. Link stated that with the help of the Parish Council, he would like to set up a working party to cut the grass and have a general tidy in these areas. Councillor Rowe stated that she applauded this

idea but wanted to ensure that cutting was carried out at the right time to ensure that wildlife would not be affected. Councillor Sewell stated that she thought this to be a good idea. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had attended a meeting in May and had heard that providing that clearance is provided by the Highways Authority and that sensible precautions are taken, then this form of community action can take place. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Link for the kind offer to set up a working party and stated that the Parish Council would be able to help with associated costs. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had already asked the Clerk to add village tidy to the agenda for the July meeting.

a. Report from Councillor Knox

Councillor Knox reported that the decision regarding the unitary authorities proposal had still not been announced by the Secretary of State and although post-election, the same Secretary of State had been retained, Dorset County Council was actively seeking to ensure that it was kept on the Government's agenda. Councillor Knox stated that there was still an important role for the Parish Council to play. Councillor Knox stated that she wanted to ensure that every public space within a community such as a village hall had wifi. Councillor Rowe stated that she had been much inspired after learning more about the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the work around the natural environment.

b. Report from Councillor Sewell

Councillor Sewell congratulated Councillor Knox on her appointment as Leader of the County Council. All Members concurred. Councillor Sewell stated that as reported by Councillor Knox, local government reform was on hold due to the recent election and that it may be that a decision is not made until 2020. Councillor Sewell reported that there had been changes to the Post Office service, Bridport was being replaced by Crewkerne as the Crown branch.

Councillor Sewell stated that perhaps Mr. Link may be interested in taking on the role of Footpath Officer, which can be a non-member position. Councillor Rowe stated that she may be interested and would liaise with Councillor Chumbley. Councillor Rowe asked how the farmers felt about the public using footpaths through their land and whether people know how to behave. Councillor Curtis stated that he has little trouble from most people but that there are a few people who do cause problems, most notably not picking up after their dog has fouled or people roaming away from the footpath.

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. Councillor Frampton stated that there had been a recent burglary in Hursey and that this should have been reported to the Parish Council. Councillor Leader stated that sadly crime is creeping up and acknowledged that Police resources had been cut by twenty-five percent. Councillor Curtis stated that these cuts cannot continue. The Clerk stated that she would chase a reply from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the letter sent by the Council in April.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Letter from Netherhay Methodist Chapel, request for financial support

The Clerk stated that a letter from Netherhay Chapel had been received and that it had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting. Councillor Chubb stated that the letter did not state how much funding was required and whether local people had been approached for support. Councillor Hibbard read aloud part of the letter which stated that it was not possible to maintain a rota of volunteers for grass cutting and that a professional gardener had to be employed. Councillor Hibbard stated that he recognised that the Chapel was struggling financially but that the Parish Council cannot fund religious organisations. Councillor Hardwill stated that he hoped that the Chapel would be able to organise help from within its own church community. The Clerk was asked to reply to the letter and Councillor Chubb agreed to liaise with Jenny Beck.

Action: The Clerk to reply to the letter from Netherhay Chapel.

b. Battle's Over Beacon Event, November 2018

The Clerk referred Members to information circulated prior to the Meeting with regard to the Battle's Over Beacon Event in November 2018 and was asked to add the matter to an agenda a little closer to the date of the event.

The Clerk reported that she had also received correspondence from Seafarers UK informing of Merchant Navy Day on 3 September 2017 and providing information on how to purchase the Red Ensign flag. The Clerk agreed to circulate information to Members.

Action: The Clerk to circulate information on Merchant Navy Day and add Battle's Over Beacon Event to a Council Meeting agenda in early 2018.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first quarter of 2017/2018, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 5 June 2017 was £39,351.63. There were no questions.

b. To receive the Internal Audit Report 2016/2017

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to the Internal Audit Report as previously circulated and stated that the internal audit had been completed by Helen Sparks on 6 June and that no areas of concern had been raised.

c. To approve the Accounting Statements 2016/2017 for Annual Return

The Clerk referred Members to the Accounting Statements for 2016/2017 and the Year End Reconciliation which had been previously circulated and asked for any questions, there were none. The Clerk asked Members to approve both documents.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Smith and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the Accounting Statements for 2016/2017 and the Year End Reconciliation.

d. To approve £20.00 for Drimpton Village Hall and Recreational Trust (room hire and refreshments)

e. To approve £11.48 for HMRC (PAYE)

f. To approve £2.40 for Total Web Solutions (disc space excess)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Smith and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed payments d to f as above.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/17/0008000, Land South of Fullers, Bridport Road, Broadwindsor.

This item was discussed and recorded under Agenda item 5.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

WD/D/17/000854, 4 Oxhayes, Drimpton, Dorset, DT8 3RP: Approved

WD/D/17/001123, 4 South Dibberford Farm, South Dibberford, Dorset, DT8 3HD: Approved

d. West Dorset District Council Local Searches

The Clerk reported that land search data was not reported at the last Meeting as it had not been published on the Dorset for You website. The Clerk stated that she now had the information and stated that for April, 233 searches were received, 257 searches were issued and 444 were still remaining. For May, 248 searches were received, 234 were issued and 458 remained. Councillor Sewell stated that some applications were on hold for various reasons and that she was able to expedite. Councillor Chubb stated that the turnaround time was not good enough. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council had previously written to the Head of Planning at West Dorset District Council to raise their deep concerns about this matter and the impact that it was having on parishioners and that she would review the reply. Councillor Knox advised that the Parish Council should write to the Leader of West Dorset District Council. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter to raise concerns over the current lead time and the fact that despite measures to improve the situation had been promised, the unacceptable waiting time had still not been resolved.

Action: The Clerk to draft a letter to the Leader of WDDC regarding land search turnaround.

Councillor Leader stated that he had been asked by some local residents why the land earmarked under the SHLAA had not been identified within their land search information. Councillor Sewell stated that it may be that the solicitor was not asking the right questions,

or that the search was not comprehensive enough. Councillor Sewell stated that she would ask WDDC. Councillor Leader stated that a number of local residents who had moved to the village within the last twelve months were extremely angry that they did not have knowledge about this. The Clerk was asked to upload information about the SHLAA to the Council's website.

Action: The Clerk to upload the SHLAA documents to the Parish Council website.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hibbard reported that on 13 June an assessment visit will be made to all sites which were submitted under the recent 'Call for Sites'. Councillor Rowe asked Councillor Hibbard when the Plan is likely to be completed, Councillor Hibbard stated that the Plan was 60% completed to draft status but that consultation and an independent examination need to take place after the draft had been completed. Councillor Chubb stated that as a legal document it must be able to stand up to scrutiny.

10. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Bassett reported that there had not been any further meetings since the last Parish Council Meeting. Councillor Bassett reported that Drimpton Village Hall now had its broadband and wifi installed and operational. Councillor Hibbard stated that Blackdown Village Hall had a meeting planned to discuss this and stated that Comrades Hall was exploring the possibility of the Jubilee Fund to support costs. Councillor Hibbard stated that there is an increasing need for wifi to be available at Council meetings and that if Comrades Hall did not proceed with installation then more meetings will have to be held at Drimpton and Blackdown.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Hibbard reported that he had collected leaflets about natural approaches to garden pests from a recent visit to a flower show and asked Councillor Chumbley to pass on a copy to the Broadwindsor Allotment Group. There were no other matters raised.

12. HIGHWAYS

a. Restoration of Fingerpost Signs in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Chumbley asked whether Mr. Rob Hedditch had been approached to reinstall the sign in the Square, Councillor Leader reported that he had. Councillor Chubb stated that he had reported a broken road sign on Chard Road using the Dorset for You website and that the County Council will be replacing it. Councillor Leader stated that in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and to ensure transparency, a notice to tender for works to be carried out to restore fingerpost signs within the Grouped Parish area will be published and asked the Clerk to produce a notice for the Broadwindsor Parish News.

Action: The Clerk to produce a notice to tender.

The Clerk reported that she is still progressing action on the matter raised in March by Councillor Rowe regarding weed and moss on the pavements in Broadwindsor.

Councillor Frampton stated that it was very noticeable that hedges had not been trimmed on many C roads locally and stated that they will be cut back by farmers in September but wanted to ask whether it was possible to do anything prior to this as visibility was being impeded. Councillor Hardwill stated that highways need to be maintained, Councillor Curtis stated that farmers were notified that they should not cut between September and February. The Clerk agreed to contact the Highways Authority to raise the matter and check the hedge cutting schedule for this area.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Highways Authority.

13. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Leader reported that the meeting with the Planning Officer had now taken place and that the Officer was quite positive about the proposals and has asked for further sketches of the site layout, which are in the process of being prepared.

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Clerk had been contacted by Dorset Police and asked for a meeting to be arranged to discuss a recent complaint made by a Drimpton resident. Councillor Hibbard stated that he, Councillor Leader and the Clerk will most likely be meeting with the Police on 29 June. Councillor Chubb advised the Clerk to inform DAPTC. The Clerk stated that she had contacted the WDDC Monitoring Officer and had been informed that no investigation was actioned by WDDC at the time of the original complaint.

14. LEISURE

a. Update on the Multi-Use Games Area

Councillor Leader reported that Sport England had still not made a decision on the grant application and stated that he feared that due to the current political difficulties, that it may be some time before notification is received. Councillor Leader stated that alternative funding sources may have to be considered.

15. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Hibbard stated that he had been approached by Mr. Glyn Phillips, a resident in Fullers who was experiencing difficulties with Magna Housing, including mould in rooms and the care line not working correctly. Councillor Sewell stated that Magna Housing should be informed and Councillor Chubb suggested that the Parish Council could write a letter to Magna to support Mr. Phillips. Mr. Eltherington, a member of the public asked if he could address the Council, this was agreed. Mr. Eltherington stated that he is also a resident of Fullers and he had not encountered any problems with Magna and had only had a positive experience. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Eltherington for his comments.

Action: The Clerk and Councillor Hibbard to draft a letter to Magna Housing.

Councillor Rowe asked if she could raise a village issue about the white washed windows of the house by Church Walk and stated that it detracted from the attractiveness of the village.

Councillor Frampton stated that he knew the owners of the house in question and would approach them. Councillor Rowe stated that she did want to be intrusive but that if the property was empty, then perhaps some form of art could replace the whitewash if used for privacy.

b. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments.

17. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.28 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending.