



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Jenny Calverley, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Richard Mouldsdales, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Roger Smith, Cllr. Lesley Tibballs.

ATTENDANCE: Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Chairman. There were ten members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Knox and PCSO Alex Bishop, and unanimously approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes from the Meeting held on 11 July 2016 was confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

Resolved: The Council unanimously approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2016.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Frampton reported that a meeting between Mr. Mark Vickery of West Dibberford Farm and Dorset Highways had recently taken place to discuss the number of road traffic accidents on the A3066 and Mr. Vickery's road safety concerns. An update from Highways will be reported back to the Parish Council.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Ron Wright addressed the Council in respect of Item 8b. Mr. Wright stated that an application has been submitted to West Dorset District Council to fell a copper tree at Koppertre, Broadwindsor. Mr. Wright reminded Members that an application for the same proposal had been previously submitted a year ago, the application received support from the Parish Council but was subsequently not approved by the District Council and a temporary Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was applied. Due to the fact that the application was not taken to a Planning Committee, the temporary TPO was now outdated and the applicant had been advised to submit the application again. Mr. Wright stated that the tree in question is

prominent, it is 150 years old and stands 100 feet high but is inappropriately positioned in the front garden of a bungalow. The tree is approximately four feet away from the owner's property, approximately seven feet away from Rock House and approximately twelve feet away from Mr. Wright's property, Old Place. Mr. Wright stated that all neighbours are deeply concerned that if the tree were to fall due to a storm, that this would cause significant damage. Mr. Wright stated that he hoped that the Parish Council would support the application as it had done so a year ago. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Wright for attending and for his comments on the application.

a. Report from Councillor Knox

In the absence of Councillor Knox, Councillor Hibbard presented the report. There has been a delay in arranging the meeting with Parish Councils to discuss Local Government Reform. There has been some ambiguity about whether County and District Councillors should enter into the debate now that the public consultation is underway, and it was thought not to do so prior to the documents going out. However, legal advice received last week has cleared the way. To take forward the proposed meeting, Councillor Knox asked the Council to check room availability at Comrades Hall.

Action: The Clerk to check availability for Comrades Hall for 3, 4, 5 and 6 October.

Councillor Hibbard continued to read the report and stated that Children's Services has now got in place its plans to address the findings of the recent Ofsted report. The changes will mean that every contact counts, so officers working with families will be set up closer within communities, share findings and concerns (of course with confidentiality where required) and work far more closely with schools via Family Liaison Officers to help young people at an earlier stage than perhaps was put in place before.

As part of Social Services and others in the communities working more closely together, the concept of the Living and Learning Centre is being piloted and the Beaminster area has been identified as the second (the first being Blandford). Councillor Knox thanked Councillor Leader for representing the Parish Council at the first meeting held last week.

The report also stated that there has been a great deal of road surface work taking place, with some diversions which have caused issues for some, but hopefully changes to schedules have kept the disruption to a minimum. If there are matters not being progressed in a timely manner, Councillor Knox advised informing the Clerk in the first instance.

The benefits of the outdoors and how the health service needs to work closer with authorities to promote these to people with particular health needs has been headlined recently in the national media. Councillor Knox's report stated that Dorset County Council is progressing really well on this front particularly working via the Volunteer Ranger Service and AONB. Mending footpaths, styles, gates, working on the coastal footpath and wood clearing are all activities which volunteers are helping with and getting the benefit of physical activity.

Via the DAPTC, there have been meetings about the involvement of Parish Councils in determining what can be done in areas where Highways might not have the resources to help. The report concluded by stating that there will be a public stall event in Beaminster Square on 15 September, 9.30 am -12.00 pm where the Ask Dorset team will be on hand to hear about further views of what DCC and others are needing to do for residents.

b. Report from Councillor Sewell

Councillor Sewell reported that she had been attending meetings concerning the change to the structure of local government and that the public consultation 'Reshaping Your Councils' has now been launched.

c. Report from PCSO Alex Bishop

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud a short update which had been forwarded. The report stated that there was little in the way of crime to report and although PCSO Bishop is on restricted duties, his surgeries are ongoing. The next one is on Tuesday 13 September at 10.30 am and it was hoped that PC Tim Poole would be in attendance.

d. Co-option to the Broadwindsor Group Parish Council

The Clerk reported that three expressions of interest had been received for the two vacant positions on the Council for the Broadwindsor ward, from Mr. Malcolm Heaven, Ms. Dorothy Rowe and from Mr. Richard Mouldsdales. Mr. Mouldsdales was in attendance at the Meeting. The Clerk stated that a vote would have to be taken and Councillor Hibbard kindly asked Mr. Mouldsdales to leave the room during the vote. Each Councillor was asked to vote twice and Councillor Hibbard read the names of each candidate. Ms. Rowe and Mr. Mouldsdales received the most votes. Councillor Hibbard paid thanks to all candidates and formally welcomed Mr. Mouldsdales to the Council. Mr. Mouldsdales signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join the Council as a Member.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

The Clerk reported that she had emailed all communications received to date to Members and that some items were covered in other parts of the agenda. The Clerk asked that she report on these matters later in the meeting if this was agreeable with the Council, Members agreed.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first and second quarter of 2016/2017, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of 5 September was £25,259.68. There were no questions. The Clerk reported that she had made contact with Helen Sparks, the Council's Internal Auditor and is arranging the biannual internal audit. The Clerk would also be asking Helen Sparks to carry out, subject to Council agreement a review of the fixed asset register to ensure that valuations were up to date and correct. The Clerk also reported that she had received communication from BDO and that the external audit had now been completed and that no major issues were raised. The Clerk reported that a minor issue had been flagged and that was to do with where the value of the war consols (£76.00) was entered. The Clerk had been asked to resubmit this figure into a different box on the Annual Return. The Clerk advised that

the Notice of Conclusion of Audit now needs to be published online and copies will need to be placed on village noticeboards. The Clerk stated that she would circulate to Members following the Meeting.

Action: The Clerk to circulate the Notice of Conclusion of Audit to Members.

- b. To approve £84.00 for Comrades Hall (room hire)
- c. To approve £91.20 for Get Mapping PLC (Parish Online)
- d. To approve £33.00 for Diane Malley (PAYE services)
- e. To note payment of £97.50 to West Dorset District Council (MUGA planning application fee)

With regard to Item e, the Clerk stated that this payment had been made, it had been authorised by the Chairman and as the amount was under £100.00, this was in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations 2015.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to e.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/16/001654 1 Bridge Cottages, Greenham Lane, TA18 8QE

The Clerk reported that this application was seeking to convert a store into a dwelling and that Councillor Bassett had been asked to be the lead Councillor. Councillor Bassett stated that he had contacted neighbouring properties and that no concerns had been raised. Mr. Mike Williams, Planning Consultant was in attendance and was invited to address the Council. Mr. Williams provided an overview of the application, stating that the original store is now not needed for storage space due to changes in the business. Mr. Williams further stated that the planned conversion will keep within the original footprint and that there will be an increase in height. Councillor Bassett affirmed that this increase in height will not have a negative impact on neighbouring properties and that the conversion was sensible. Councillor Sewell stated that the application was well planned and sympathetic to the area. Councillor Hibbard thanked the applicants and Mr. Williams for attending.

WD/D/16/001680 1 Manor Farm Bungalow, Burstock, DT8 3LH

The Clerk reported that this application was seeking to erect an extension and that Councillor Frampton had been asked to be the lead Councillor. Councillor Frampton stated that the property in question is situated in the middle of Burstock, next to Manor Farm. The applicant has family either side in neighbouring properties and that no objections have been raised. Councillor Frampton stated that the application is seeking to modestly extend a two-bedroom house to accommodate the needs of a family of four by adding two further bedrooms and a bathroom. Councillor Frampton confirmed that the footprint of the extension would not exceed 40% of the original dwelling and that there were no reasons for the Council not to support the application.

WD/D/16/001715 The Old House, Hillside Farm, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk reported that this application was seeking to erect a field stable and that Councillor Calverley had been asked to be the lead Councillor. Councillor Calverley explained that the application was a resubmission of a 2013 proposal which was rejected because of issues relating to the impact on the landscape. Since that time screening has been installed and matured and Councillor Calverley stated that she does not believe that the proposed structure will have any detrimental visual effect.

WD/D/16/001772 Shady Side, Axnoller Lane, Beaminster, DT8 3SH

Councillor Leader stated that the Parish Council had been asked to provide its corporate view as an adjoining parish and given the planning history and complex legal issues that surrounded the applicant, he recommended that the Council should not make any comment at this time and defer back to West Dorset District Council, Members concurred.

b. Other Applications

WD/D/16/00298 Koppertre, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX

The Clerk reminded Members of this resubmission and stated that Councillor Sewell had been asked to be the lead Councillor. Councillor Sewell reported that she had been to see a Tree Officer and that comments towards the proposal were positive. Given the size of the tree and its roots, its position and the potential damage to properties and life, Members of the Council stated their complete support for the application.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following planning results.

WD/CA/16/00221 St Albans Cottage, West Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QQ: Approved

WD/TP/16/00250 Island House, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP: Approved

d. West Dorset District Council Local Searches

The Clerk stated that this issue had been added to the agenda at the previous request of Councillor Calverley and that the letter to West Dorset District Council had been sent. Councillor Hardwill stated that at the DAPTC meeting on 28 July, a representative from the District Council provided a positive overview of the changes to and improvements expected for the Planning Department and informed that the Department now had a full staff team. Councillor Hardwill stated that evidence suggests that this may not be the case and that he is aware that a cut-off point has been introduced and that some applications are not being processed. Councillor Hardwill stated that the Planning Department is having a new IT system introduced and this will take up to three years. Councillor Calverley stated that she had to personally visit County Hall in an attempt for her searches required for a house move to be completed.

9. COUNCILLOR VACANCY FOR THE DRIMPTON WARD

The Clerk reported that West Dorset District Council did not receive any requests for an election to be carried out and that the Council could now fill this position by co-option. Members voted and agreed to do this.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard and seconded by Councillor Tibballs and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved to fill the vacant position by co-option.

The Clerk provided Drimpton Councillors with a copy of the Co-option Notice and asked that they be posted on noticeboards within the village. The deadline for expressions of interest to the Clerk is 10 October. The co-option will be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

10. CONSULTATIONS

The Clerk reported that at the last Meeting, she had been asked to add the Reshaping Your Councils consultation to the September agenda. The Clerk reported that this public consultation had now been launched and that she had circulated the website link and deadline to all Members. The deadline for the consultation is 25 October. The Clerk will add the consultation to the October agenda. The Clerk stated that the Clinical Services Review public consultation has not been launched, and that this will also be added to the October agenda.

11. WEBSITE UPDATE

The Clerk reported that she is continuing to add content to the website and will shortly be taking a selection of new images for the site to reflect the changing season. The Clerk asked Members if they are aware of a particularly nice landscape or wish to take their own images, please do let her know. The Clerk encouraged Members to look at the site and forward to her anything that might be relevant to publish.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hibbard reported that the questionnaire has now been completed and is ready for distribution at the beginning of October. Councillor Hibbard stated that he hoped that there would be a high return rate as there was previously with the Parish Plan and stressed the importance of completing the form.

13. PARTNERING AGREEMENTS

No report.

14. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Tibballs confirmed that an Emergency Plan was not a statutory requirement but something that the Council believed it important to have. Councillor Tibballs reported that she would like to move forward with forming a group to lead on the Plan and stated that given the central role of the village halls, that it would seem fitting that a representative from each be invited to attend. The Clerk reminded Members of the rules for the formation of a committee or sub-committee as outlined within the Council's Standing Order. Councillor Tibballs stated that she thought it would be useful if Jessica Rice, Emergency Management Officer at Dorset County Council attend the first meeting and present to the group. Councillor Tibballs asked for volunteers, Councillor Bassett agreed to be part of the group for Drimpton Village Hall, Councillor Hibbard for Blackdown Village Hall and Councillor Frampton suggested Councillor Curtis.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Tibballs and seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved to the formation of an Emergency Plan Committee.

Councillor Tibballs agreed to represent the Parish Council at the West Dorset Area Community Resilience Meeting on 20 October at Bridport Town Hall.

15. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Chumbley reported that there had been several incidents of a dog running loose and leaving a mess on the allotments and that the Clerk had been asked to check whether the Parish Council was responsible for the fence on the western boundary. The Clerk had been unable to confirm this, Councillor Sewell agreed to contact the former Clerk Mrs. Tubridy to make enquiries.

16. HIGHWAYS

a. Repair and installation of Broadwindsor Fingerpost

The Clerk referred to a recent update from Councillor Knox in respect of the repair and installation of the sign. Councillor Chumbley stated that the sign was still at his home. The Clerk confirmed that she would contact Councillor Knox again in order to progress this matter.

Action: The Clerk to contact Councillor Knox and ask her to raise the matter of the repair of the Broadwindsor fingerpost with the Highways Authority.

b. Damage to Springfield Farm

Mr. Graham Parkin addressed the Council and explained with some frustration that he was still waiting for Dorset County Council to resolve the issue of the damage caused to his property due to a broken surface water drain. Mr. Parkin stated that he had reported his concerns six months ago and had attended a meeting with Mr. Blair Turner. Mr Turner had stated that as the electric contractors who caused the original damage could not be influenced to return and rectify the damage it will be necessary to excavate again and use a longer length of drain to enable a lower invert to be achieved, thus facilitating a new drain to pass under the offending electric duct. Mr. Parkin was informed that at this point his kerbs would be repaired. According to Mr. Parkin, Mr. Turner estimated the cost to be approximately £20,000. Mr. Parkin stated his disbelief and concern that tax payers' money would be used for this. Councillor Sewell stated that Open Reach was responsible for the damage and that similar problems have occurred at Marshwood and Bettiscombe. Councillor Hedditch stated that the longer this problem is left unresolved, the worse the condition of the infrastructure will become. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Parkin for attending the Council Meeting and stated that he will raise this issue with the Highways Authority by directly emailing Mike Westwood. The Clerk stated that she will keep Mr. Parkin updated.

c. Report back from DAPTC West Meeting 28 July 2016

Councillor Hardwill reported that there was a very positive presentation from the Highways Authority but was informed that the budget for Highways had been significantly reduced. This would mean that the Authority would not be able to meet every need. Councillor Hardwill stated that certain jobs would not be carried out such as gully emptying and road sign

cleaning. Councillor Calverley stated that the Highways Authority had done an excellent job in Seaborough of cleaning out drains and installing a new land drain.

Councillor Leader recalled that at a previous Council Meeting he had been informed by Councillor Knox that the County Council will only pay for the repair of signs located on major roads. Councillor Leader therefore suggested that the Council consider supporting the costs for the repair of signs on minor roads within the Grouped Parish. Councillor Sewell stated that the Forge in Bridport had previously made signs for local villages. It was agreed to add this matter to the October agenda.

Action: The Clerk to add road signs to the October agenda.

d. Communication with South West Coaches regarding Bus Service 96/96A – Drimpton

The Clerk reported that following the July Meeting that she had, as requested written to South West Coaches to ask them to consider changing the route of the 96/96A service to enable the bus to pass through the centre of Drimpton. A reply had been received and this was read out by the Clerk. South West Coaches had advised that the Parish Council contact Somerset County Council as the route and timetable for the services was put together by them.

Action: The Clerk to contact Transporting Somerset at Somerset County to propose the change to the 96/96A service.

e. Local resident enquiry regarding extension of 30mph limit to Netherhay Lane

Councillor Hibbard stated that he had been approached by a Drimpton resident who would like to see the 30 mph speed limit extend to Netherhay Lane. Councillor Hibbard asked for the views of the Council on this matter. Councillor Hedditch stated that there is not a sufficient amount of houses for the extension to the speed limit and Councillor Hardwill commented that it was not a place where drivers would have the opportunity to travel at very high speed. There was consensus that the Council would not progress this matter at this time.

f. Weeds and overhanging hedges in Broadwindsor

Councillor Tibballs stated that the Clerk had received an email from Mr. Ron Wright who had reported that there were patches of weeds around Broadwindsor which were making the village look less attractive. Mr. Wright also reported that overhanging hedges should also be cut back to enable access for pedestrians on footpaths and suggested that the Council pay for someone to carry out these jobs. Councillor Tibballs suggested that villagers could be asked to take care of their own frontage and a note could be included in the Broadwindsor Parish News. Councillor Tibballs stated that she had carried out research and found examples of pet friendly herbicides and would forward this to the Clerk. Members agreed that an article in the Broadwindsor Parish News would be a good idea.

g. Local resident enquiry regarding the need for advance warning sign of speed limit, Salway Ash Road entering Broadwindsor

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Mr. & Mrs. Chubb and Miss Baggott from Folly Cottage and Shepherds Cottage, Broadwindsor to raise safety concerns in respect of the road entering the village from Salway Ash. The Clerk read aloud a statement from Mr. and Mrs. Chubb and Miss Baggott which outlined their concerns and the need for some form of

advanced warning for drivers approaching the 20 mph zone that the speed limit changes and that the road narrows. The statement highlighted the fact that vehicles have been seen speeding and this could cause a serious accident if they meet oncoming traffic. Councillor Mouldsdales agreed that this is an extremely dangerous spot and Councillor Sewell suggested that the Speedwatch Team be contacted. Miss Baggott stated that when the Speedwatch Team have been there that they were in the wrong place and should be positioned further up the road. Members agreed that this matter should be supported by the Council and asked the Clerk to write to the Highways Authority. It was agreed that all entrances to the village be reviewed to ascertain if there are other areas which require additional safety measures and the Clerk was asked to add this matter to the October agenda.

Councillor Mouldsdales stated that the white lines on the road by the White Lion need repainting and that vehicles are still going the wrong way up the one-way system. The Clerk stated that she would report this to Mr. Blair Tuner, Community Highways Officer. Councillor Leader stated that it was over two years ago that a meeting took place with regard to Broadwindsor Square and that this matter still had not been resolved. The Clerk reminded Members that she had put together a list of reported highways issues in order to track progress. The Clerk would circulate this and add to the October agenda.

Action: The Clerk to write to the Highways Authority in respect of the need for an advance warning on the Salway Ash Road entering Broadwindsor, report the need for the white lines in Broadwindsor to be painted and review all current reported highways problems.

17. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillor Leader provided a brief background on the formation and purpose of the Community Land Trust and reported that a public meeting will be held on 13 September at Drimpton Village Hall. Councillor Leader stated that a preferred site had been identified for development, this was located in Netherhay Lane and was approximately 1.5 acres in size. This site had good access and would have limited local impact. Councillor Leader stated if the project went ahead, plans would include an independent sewage plant in order to prevent extra burden on the current infrastructure. Councillor Leader stated that community support is essential and that the development will only go ahead if the community wants it to.

18. LEISURE

a. MUGA Planning Application

Councillor Leader stated that a planning application for the proposed Multi Use Games Area had now been submitted to West Dorset District Council. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Leader for his hard work on this project.

19. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Bassett stated that he had been contacted by a member of the Parish with regard to adding a number of dog bins around the village and before making a formal reply he had wanted to raise the matter at a Council Meeting. There was general consensus amongst Members that the costs incurred for emptying these types of bins is relatively high and that dog owners should bag their dog mess and take home for disposal. There were also comments

that dog fouling is still a problem in Broadwindsor, and that residents should be encouraged to name and shame.

b. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Public

No comments were made by members of the public.

20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Steve Chubb stated that he believed that members of the public still feel that there is no relation between the Neighbourhood Plan and Community Land Trust, Councillor Hibbard stated that the Neighbourhood Plan has not been produced yet and that the CLT would take precedent.

21. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.30 pm.