



**MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
13 DECEMBER 2021
ONLINE MEETING**

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

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by Councillor Hibbard. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public and thanked them for taking part. There were eight members of the public in attendance. Councillor Hibbard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and Councillors Bassett and White 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.

The Clerk stated a dispensation request for Agenda Item 8c had been received from Councillors Hughes, Curtis and Harris and stated that all other Councillors present already held an approved dispensation for this agenda item.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

The Clerk stated that the dispensation request from Councillors Hughes, Curtis and Harris had been approved.

d. To receive any updates to the Register of Interests from Councillors.

None.

e. New Digital Register of Interests

Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillors for completing their online register of interests.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the informal meeting held on 8 November 2021 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

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 welcomed Councillor Christopher to the meeting and stated that his report had been circulated. Councillor Sewell stated that an additional roundel to be located near to Comrades Hall had been promised by Dorset Council and that this had not been provided. Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Sewell to send him an email expressing her dismay. Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillor Hardwill had previously thanked Councillor Christopher for his efforts on the roads in the locality but stated that he had been contacted by a resident regarding an ongoing problem of speeding traffic and an accident that had happened at Horn Ash crossroads and stated that road markings need to be put back down as soon as possible to warn people of the road narrowing and to increase road visibility during bad weather. Councillor Christopher stated that he had made this point to the Lead Member for Highways and in correspondence with officers and will continue to press for improvements across the Grouped Parish area. Councillor Leader asked Councillor Christopher for his view on cats' eyes and stated that the previous Council was against them and many were removed and not replaced. Councillor Leader stated that he personally believes that they are really important on rural roads. Councillor Christopher stated that he could not think of anything better for Dorset Council to spend its money on and will battle to have them installed to the highest possible standard. Councillor Leader stated that he was delighted to hear that.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that on Saturday 13 November an intruder alarm activated in the Redlands Lane area, for anyone that heard it and may have wondered where it was, it was all in order. There has also been a theft of cooking oil from a licenced premises in the area, many premises that cook food often have agreements with oil suppliers for them to take away used oil when they bring fresh oil. The report stated that on 20 November, males in a white Transit van with foreign number plates attended this premises and when the owner asked if they were from his supplier, they said yes, then took the barrels away. Fortunately, the males were arrested by another Force for

similar crimes. PCOS Bishop in his report advised anyone working at a similar premises to be aware, should anything similar occur and if someone is purporting to be from a supplier, to ensure that they have the right documentation before allowing them access to the premises. On 7 December a lamb was stolen from a field in the area of Drimpton and on 9 December some catalytic converters were stolen from a garage in the area. This is a national issue due to the scrap value of materials contained in the parts. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that he would be at the Post Office at Comrades Hall on Tuesday 14 December at 11.00 am, should anyone wish to speak with him.

c. Broadwindsor Group Parish Vacancy, Broadwindsor Ward

The Clerk reported that the deadline for expressions of interest is 16 December and stated that one expression of interest had so far been received. The Clerk stated that the co-option would be added to the January agenda.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Astra Recycling Ltd, Textile Banks

The Clerk reported that this communication had been circulated to all Councillors. There were no comments.

b. Dorset Council, Public Space Protection Orders Consultation

The Clerk reported that the deadline for comments is 13 January 2022 and that this relates to new powers for town councils regarding antisocial behaviour.

c. Comrades Hall Committee, Delay in Planning Application P/FUL/2021/01358

Councillor Leader reported that this problem had been partially solved but that it was very disappointing that despite all required documentation being provided, an application which was submitted to Dorset Council in May had still not been fully resolved. Councillor Leader stated that there are two linked projects, the renewable energy system for Comrades Hall and the enhancement of the play area, both of which had been well supported by a number of grants. Councillor Leader stated that due to the significant delay in the planning application process, they had nearly lost vital funding for the projects. Councillor Leader stated that because of this, they were forced to split the projects and after writing many letters to Dorset Council, approval has finally been issued for the one project and further documentation had now been requested for the play area project. Councillor Leader stated that he hoped that this would finally be resolved by the beginning of the new year. Councillor Leader stated that this very much demonstrates that delays to the planning process are not without consequence and because of a delay, an important community project was nearly lost. Councillor Chumbley asked whether splitting the projects incurred additional costs for Comrades Hall, Councillor Leader stated that further costs were incurred for the resubmission of the application which they were forced to do and that this extra cost totalled hundreds of pounds. Councillor Leader stated that this was grossly unfair. Councillor Hibbard asked Councillor Christopher if he could raise this matter, Councillor Christopher stated that he agreed that it was unfair and asked for the details to be emailed to him and that he would bring the matter to the attention of Dorset Council, although it would be difficult to do this with the Chief Executive who he stated had not attended a full Council meeting in-person

since February of last year which was hugely frustrating. Councillor Christopher stated that Councillors may have read that the planning validation process is now up to speed after many months but that the amount of work for case officers is considerable. Councillor Christopher stated that there are also difficulties in other villages and that people are not happy that applications are not going to committee and that they are no longer being consulted on planning applications via notices sent from Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that the planning process was not working as it should and that he was determined to help with the matter raised by Councillor Leader.

d. Dorset Council, Blue Badge Car Park Charging Policy

Councillor Sewell stated that there was a meeting on 15 December regarding this matter.

e. Dorset Council, Proposed Temporary 40 mph Speed Limit - B3143 Broadwindsor Road, Beaminster

Councillor Sewell asked if this speed limit could be retained on a permanent basis.

Councillor Hibbard stated that during the Parish Council's May meeting, Councillor Hardwill proposed that the Council write to Mr. George Streatfeild, to thank him for his year of service as High Sheriff for Dorset. Councillor Hibbard stated that a letter was duly sent from the Clerk and a reply was sent promptly from Mr. Streatfeild on 12 May. Councillor Hibbard stated that strangely he only received it on 27 November and therefore thought it only right to inform other Councillors of its content. Councillor Hibbard read aloud the original letter from the Clerk and the reply from Mr. Streatfeild who stated that it was the nicest letter he had ever received and stated that he had found his year as High Sheriff very rewarding and although not as planned, he had met many inspiring groups and individuals and that many amazing things were quietly being done at the coal face and it was good to be able to raise their profile.

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

a. Community Updates from Councillors

Councillor Hibbard expressed his thanks to the team of volunteers working at Beaminster Town Hall co-ordinating the vaccine process.

8. 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 30 November was £49,039.34. There were no questions.

b. To receive the Internal Audit Report

This was noted. Councillor Chumbley asked that the minutes formally record the excellent work of the Clerk regarding the financial audits, Councillor Hibbard concurred.

c. Budget and Precept Planning 2022/2023

The Clerk reported that the annual Precept request must be submitted to Dorset Council by the end of January and that she had circulated with the supplementary papers the current budget and analysis, a draft budget for the next financial year and now having received the

tax base information, she had that morning emailed information regarding the impact to parishioners on any increase to the Precept request. The Clerk stated that the budget had been prepared based on this year's expenditure and asked whether there were any other projects coming forward next year. Councillor Hibbard asked that Councillors review the budget and feedback their comments at the January meeting. Councillor Rowe stated that she would like to put forward a project and would raise this at the January meeting. Councillor Hardwill stated that Councillors may recall that last year he had proposed that the Precept request remain at the same level due to COVID-19 and the subsequent financial implications on Dorset Council and stated that this had been successful. Councillor Hardwill proposed that the next year be the same.

d. To approve payment of £700.00 for Blackdown Village Hall (CIL Project)

e. To approve payments of £894.78 each to Comrades Hall, Drimpton Village Hall, Blackdown Village Hall, Broadwindsor Community Shop and Broadwindsor Community Pub (CIL Projects)

f. To approve payment of £132.00 for Focus (HS) Limited (Internal Audits)

g. To approve payment of £19.20 for Total Web Solutions (Storage)

h. To approve payment of £6.26 for HMRC (NI)

i. To approve payment of £456.00 for R Rawlings (Grit Bin Removal and Installation)

j. To approve payment of £90.02 for Clerk (Expenses November and December 2021)

Councillor Hibbard stated that any monies approved for Broadwindsor Community Pub would not be paid until the legal status had been confirmed. Councillor Hibbard proposed that payments d to j be approved en bloc, this was seconded by Councillor Sewell.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments d to j.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2021/05018, Broadwindsor Cricket Ground, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor

Councillor Hughes reported that he had been ably supported by Councillor Chumbley for this consultation and had visited the site and had no hesitation in recommending that the Parish Council support the application. Councillor Hughes stated that there are two aspects to the roof, east and west and it was being proposed to site the solar panels on the eastern side which is not overlooked by any other building. Councillor Hughes stated that therefore the application will not have any detrimental visual impact.

P/HOU/2021/04585, Blackbird Cottage, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD

P/LBC/2021/04586, Blackbird Cottage, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD

Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he had spoken with the applicant and discussed the proposed works and had also contacted all adjoining neighbours and no concerns were raised.

Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he could not see any reason why this should not be supported.

P/FUL/2021/04334, The Old Stables and Grooms Cottage, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

Councillor Sewell stated that herself and Councillor White had consulted on this application and stated that this was an addendum to the previous application and the application makes sense as the previous application has now been approved.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

P/HOU/2021/04305, Ashleigh, Three Ashes to Greenham Lane, Horn Ash, TA18 8QB: Granted

P/FUL/2021/03204, The Old Stables and Grooms Cottage, Seaborough, DT8 3QY: Granted

P/TRT/2021/03836, 4 Quarry Mead, Burstock, DT8 3LL: Granted

P/PABA/2021/0 3639, Land at Common Hill Broadwindsor DT8 3LN: Prior Approval Required

P/FUL/2021/02788, Dorset Farms, Littlewindsor Farm Junction, Littlewindsor to Junction B3066, DT8 3QU: Withdrawn

Councillor Hibbard stated that at last month's meeting, various opinions were expressed concerning a tree works application and after that comments were made on social media stating that a local parish council had supported an application which was 'basically cutting down trees'. Councillor Hibbard stated that many of the trees referred to in the application were going to be coppiced and this prompted him to find out more about the coppicing process. Councillor Hibbard read aloud an extract from a National Trust document relating to tree coppicing which stated the following,

"Coppicing is the woodland management technique of repeatedly felling trees at the base (or stool), and allowing them to regrow, in order to provide a sustainable supply of timber. This practice has a number of benefits over replanting, as the felled trees already have developed root systems, making regrowth quicker and less susceptible to browsing and shading. It can be dated back to the Stone Age by the discovery of Neolithic, wooden track ways that have been constructed entirely from coppiced material. These days the demand for coppice timber is lower, but it remains a popular conservation practice for the benefits it offers to wildlife and to the trees themselves. Trees naturally retrench (shedding their branches to extend their lifespan) and coppicing can be an excellent way of simulating this to increase the life of the tree. It also increases woodland biodiversity, as greater amounts of light can reach the ground, allowing other species to grow there. Many of these species are food sources for butterflies and other insects, which in turn provide food for birds, bats and mammals. In well managed coppice woodland the varied age structure of the vegetation also provides good habitat and cover for a number of different bird species".

Councillor Hibbard stated that he wanted to share this information and hopefully alleviate some of the concerns raised.

10. BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY PUB PROPOSAL

Councillor Leader reported that the community pub is now a registered business, its articles stipulate that it is a community benefit organisation and not for profit and that Sandra Burrows was in the process of setting up a bank account. Councillor Leader stated that the plan is for fundraising to start at the beginning of next year and that £30,000 needs to be raised to make the business viable. Councillor Leader stated that he anticipated that a public meeting will be held in January and thanked the Parish Council for its offer of grants as these will greatly help to get the project underway. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Leader and Sandra Burrows for their efforts.

11. LEWESDON HILL PROJECT

Councillor Frampton reported that he had carried out a site walk with a representative from the National Trust and a local resident who had visited the crash site as an eight year old boy. Councillor Frampton stated that he had received help from a historian and now has detailed information relating to the Squadron, the plane, weather conditions and where the plane was flying from and to. Councillor Frampton stated that he had also made contact with the family of Jean De Cloedt in Belgium and stated that there was a surviving nephew who is 92. Councillor Frampton stated that the family are hoping to come over for the ceremony next year. With regard to the memorial, Councillor Frampton stated that the National Trust is not keen on large storyboards on old iron age forts and stated that the crash site itself is quite inaccessible, there is a bog below and it is steep sided. Councillor Frampton stated that other options are being considered and a different type of memorial has been agreed which comprises five oak planks in a frame, dug into the ground with a metal board around it. Councillor Frampton stated that the board could feature an image of the spitfire and the story and that the National Trust has offered to place a QR code at the bottom which when scanned by a mobile phone would link directly to the National Trust's website where the full story would be narrated and other images displayed. In terms of cost, Councillor Frampton stated that a maximum of £1500 has been discussed and that this would be for the memorial and graphic design work which would be carried out by a company in Dorchester which the National Trust has worked with previously. Councillor Frampton stated that the National Trust has offered some money but will not confirm an amount at this time. Councillor Frampton stated that other people are looking into other grants which might be available and stated that Chris Loder MP has been extremely helpful with contacts at the Belgian Embassy and it may be that some funds will come from the Belgian Air Force. Councillor Frampton stated that if the Parish Council does support this financially at this time, funds could be reimbursed.

Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Frampton for his brilliant research and suggested that he provide the narration. Councillor Frampton stated that the National Trust has its own narrator and this is very much about them and the story. Councillor Sewell stated that the narration should be made available in different languages. Councillor Hibbard suggested that

the Parish Council support the full cost at this time and that all payments should be received and paid from the Parish Council, Councillor Rowe agreed. Councillor Chubb suggested that given the location of the crash site and the recreational aspect to getting there that a grant could be requested from the FMR Trust. This was supported by Councillors. Councillor Frampton provided a breakdown of the costs involved and asked the Clerk to circulate to Councillors after the meeting. The Clerk stated that she would add the request for financial support to the agenda for January.

12. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Clerk stated that she had not received an update from the Fun Group but would circulate to Councillors if received after the meeting. Councillor Chubb stated that he has spoken with a number of people in Drimpton and a suggestion was made by Andrew Pastor in relation to planting trees as a parish event. Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton would possibly hold an event in the village hall and that there may well be a street party. Councillor Sewell reported that she is holding monthly bunting workshops in Comrades Hall in order to produce bunting for the celebrations and asked that this item be kept on the agenda as a standing item.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

No update.

14. ALLOTMENTS

No update.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Report from the Footpaths Officer

Councillor Rowe stated that she is continuing to direct residents with concerns to the Dorset Council website where there is an excellent page for reporting footpath problems and stated that she is also reporting the same issue and that the system is having really good results. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Rowe for her efforts regarding improving the footpaths in the Grouped Parish.

b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Hibbard stated that he was confident that the Grouped Parish would have the best looking verges next year with the arrival of the Parish Council's new mower. Councillor Rowe agreed!

c. Village Signage Working Group

Councillor Chubb stated that he had looked at the signs in Drimpton and thought that they were all still suitable and adequate, albeit that one is need of a clean. Councillor Chubb also stated that he had looked at the sign in Beaminster and thought that this would be suitable for the sign coming into Broadwindsor and stated that it had been provided by Dorset Council

and that it may be worth contacting the Community Highways Officer. Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk to make enquiries.

16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Leader stated that he was very pleased to announce that all legal exchanges have now taken place and that the site is now owned by the Community Land Trust (CLT). Councillor Leader stated that work started on site that morning for the creation of fifteen affordable homes for local people only. Councillor Leader stated that Fry's will be constructing the houses and works onsite and it is likely that the project will take a year or so. Councillor Leader stated that he was sure that once completed, the houses will be a credit to Drimpton, they will be aesthetically pleasing and built to a high environmentally friendly standard that all will be proud of. Councillor Leader stated that he wanted to take this opportunity to thank a number of groups and individuals. Councillor Leader stated that the need for affordable homes for local people was first highlighted in 2012 in the Parish Plan and from that process the CLT was formed, supported by the Parish Council. Councillor Leader stated that both the CLT and Parish Council have worked closely together and without the support from the Parish Council, the project would not have happened. Councillor Leader thanked the Parish Council for supporting the project over the many years and throughout all the difficulties and challenges.

Councillor Leader stated that he also wished to express sincere thanks to the Hedditch Trust and stated that when a search for sites was taking place, this was the only site available across the whole of the Grouped Parish and thankfully it was a good site in a good position. Councillor Leader stated that the Hedditch family and Trust have been strong supporters of the project and sold the land to the CLT for well below the price that they could potentially have received on the open market. Councillor Leader stated that without this generosity, the finances would not have worked and the project would not have happened. Councillor Leader stated that the Neighbourhood Plan was also an important process which reinforced the desire of the community across the Grouped Parish for this development and thanked Councillor Hibbard and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee for all of their hard work. Councillor Leader stated that for a small Parish Council in West Dorset to have this as a landmark achievement, is something that we all should be proud of. Councillor Hughes stated that thanks needs to be paid to Councillor Leader who has been instrumental in this process and it is a tremendous achievement. Councillor Leader thanked the CLT Committee for the significant amount of work that they have done and thanked Sheila Hawkins who he stated, has been stalwart from the very beginning. Councillor Leader stated that a lot of people have invested a lot of time in this project. Councillor Chubb paid thanks to Councillor Leader and Sheila Hawkins, the unsung heroes of the project who have worked so hard to make the project happen. Councillor Chubb stated that he was looking forward to the community shop, community houses and community pub and stated that this was a great achievement. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that the Grouped Parish was one of the most

proactive and forward looking parish councils in the area and thanked Councillor Leader and all those who have been involved.

17. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

None.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents were invited to give their views and ask questions of the Parish Council on any outstanding issues on this Agenda or raise issues for future consideration. No comments were made.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be 10 January 2022 and stated that she would confirm whether it will be an in-person or online meeting nearer the time, depending on the number of COVID-19 cases locally.

Councillor Hardwill stated that he had been a Councillor for number of years now and has been very interested in employment and the economy, but stated that it was his wish now to retire from the Parish Council and make way for younger people to continue this work. Councillor Hardwill stated that he had very much enjoyed his time as Councillor and Chairman and that he has seen many fantastic projects come forward over the years. Councillor Hardwill wished the Parish Council a very Happy Christmas and stated that he will of course confirm this formally in writing to the Clerk. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Hardwill for his service and hard work over many years and stated that he had been a marvellous Chairman and proactive Councillor.

20. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 8.30 pm, Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and hoped that they would all stay safe and well. Councillor Hibbard stated that he looked forward to seeing everyone again in January.