



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
13 FEBRUARY 2023
DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Jacqui Sewell (Vice Chair), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Stefan Nikolov, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Yvonne White.

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by Councillor Hibbard. There were ten members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillor Chumbley and unanimously approved by the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that a request for a six month period of absence had been made by Councillor Chumbley due to ill health.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard, seconded by Councillor Raymond and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved a six month period of absence for Councillor Chumbley.

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 reported that a request for a dispensation had been received from Councillor Dyke in respect of Agenda Item 6a.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

The Clerk reported that this request had been approved.

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

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 January 2023 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Resignation of Broadwindsor Councillor

Councillor Hibbard reported that Kevin Madder-Smith had resigned as Councillor for the Broadwindsor ward. Councillor Hibbard thanked Kevin Madder-Smith for his service and support with the MUGA and other projects and all Councillors concurred.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. Andrew Hookings asked to make a point of clarity with regards to Agenda item 6b and stated that whilst he supported the request from the Fun Group for extra support, he would like to confirm that the heating was on constantly during the period of time that the Warm Hub was open. There were no other comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher stated that he was sorry to hear about the verbal abuse suffered by Councillor Sewell and although it was not known whether the children came from Broadwindsor School, he would have a conversation with the Head Teacher. Councillor Christopher stated that in respect of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and second homes, a subject which had caught the imagination of many people, there are 5300 second homes in Dorset and this would equate to a possible £10m of revenue for Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that it was not known whether this amount would come into Dorset Council, it may be that some people decide to turn their second home into a holiday let and claim small business relief, other people may decide to release other properties and make their Dorset property their permanent residence. Councillor Christopher stated that many local families cannot afford to buy or live in their communities and that there is a debate to be had. Councillor Christopher stated that those who feel strongly about it should email the Leader of the Council and that Dorset Council will be discussing this matter at Full Council on 29 March. Councillor Christopher stated that the Lyric Theatre in Bridport sets a good precedent for a listed community building as when an application was submitted for double glazing, the planning officer was set to refuse, and the planning committee approved the application. Councillor Sewell asked Councillor Christopher if he would meet with her to discuss an application in Broadwindsor. Councillor Sewell asked why people cannot pay extra on their income rather than the council tax and stated then everyone would pay fairly. Councillor Christopher stated that there will be much discussion on this. Councillor Burt asked Councillor Christopher about the current situation with regard to empty properties, Councillor Christopher stated that it is his understanding that the new bill will allow councils to charge double council tax on empty properties from an earlier date and stated that this

matter would warrant a longer discussion outside of the meeting. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In his absence, the Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that on the evening of the 12 January, Dorset Police received a call from a resident of Littlewindsor to inform that their CCTV had been activated by a couple of males who had wandered on to their property. They had come from neighbouring land, onto their property and tried the handle on their garage door. The residents reacted by calling out and the potential offenders made off. Subsequent enquiries have found that this is suspected to relate to the theft of four high powered vehicles from a garage in the Crewkerne area, around the same time. Investigations are still on-going, but Avon and Somerset Police have made an arrest of a suspect who is now remanded in custody.

The report also stated that Dorset Police received a report of sheep worrying in the Broadwindsor area on 8 January. A dog being walked in the area ran into the field where the sheep were. Fortunately, the owner of the sheep was present to chase the dog back to the owner and no sheep was injured. The report stated that this is an offence and dog walkers have the responsibility to ensure their dogs are under control at all times. By this, they should be walking close at hand and recall on command. If they are allowed to go out of view, or you cannot grab them, they are not under your control. The report also stated that overnight, between 1 and 2 February, some scratches appeared on a vehicle's nearside windows, there is no known explanation for this, but if anyone has any information, they were asked to contact Dorset Police. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that he would be attending his monthly engagement at Comrades Hall on Tuesday 14 February, at 11.00 am. Councillor Sewell stated that the damage to the vehicle occurred in High Street in Broadwindsor.

c. Broadwindsor Group Parish Council Vacancy, Broadwindsor Ward

The Clerk reported that a vacancy has now arisen for the Broadwindsor ward and that a formal notice will be issued by Dorset Council seeking any requests for an election to take place. The Clerk stated that if the required number of requests are not received then the Parish Council can proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Comrades Hall Management Committee, Request for Additional Grant Support

Councillor Chubb stated that he had asked the Clerk to add a review of the support provided by the Parish Council to all village halls to the meeting agenda and had asked for her to provide some background information. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council has supported all three village halls for many years and more recently the Community Shop and Pub. The Clerk stated that grants to the village halls were £500.00 in 2015 and have risen over the years. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council currently provides a grant of £1800.00 and that Community Infrastructure Levy funds have also been awarded to the

halls, shop and pub. Councillor Sewell reported that she had spoken to Drimpton Village Hall Committee and stated that they are continually holding fundraising events and that Comrades Hall should be doing the same. Councillor Chubb stated that it was easy to say but that such events rely on a small number of people doing a lot of work, many of whom are no longer able to do so anymore. Councillor Chubb stated that by supporting with grants, all members of the Grouped Parish support the halls and stated that we must keep village halls open as if they close, village life goes. Councillor Bassett stated that the cost of running the hall was increasing but that he had a fixed price guaranteed until December, after which costs will increase for them. Councillor Sewell asked if Drimpton Village Hall had a business plan, Councillor Bassett confirmed that it does and that it is available to view. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council could ask to see the accounts and business plans for the village halls, Councillor Chubb stated that the village halls should be trusted to run their respective halls properly and they do and that is why they are still operating.

Councillor Chubb stated that it was clear that there are issues between certain members of the community and stated that the Parish Council is not here to debate those issue, it is here to support those who need the help and village halls do need support. Councillor Chubb stated that he was disappointed to read some of the comments and stated that they are not for the Parish Council to debate, the Parish Council should discuss whether further support is required. Councillor Nikolov stated that he supported the comments from Councillor Chubb and stated that if village halls could be supported more, then they should be and that they are vital for the community, asking what would happen to all the groups and the many activities if they closed. Councillor Nikolov stated that he believed that Comrades Hall does do a good job of organising fund raising events such as the Film Club and has worked hard to improve Bernards' Place which is enjoyed by many children and families. Councillor Nikolov stated that there are a lot of local politics going on and it is not for the Parish Council and Councillors should not be brought into it. Councillor Dyke stated that events are being organised and that it was much easier for the village halls and pub to do this than for the community shop. Councillor Dyke stated that comments have been made about how well the pub is performing and although it has organised many events and is doing well, this did not preclude them from seeking grants. Councillor Dyke stated that he is regularly applying for grants, but the number of grant awarding bodies is decreasing, and the inclusion of alcohol often restricts the availability of eligible grant programmes. Councillor Dyke stated that it is his view that there are a number of issues in the community between a number of people who only have the best interest of Broadwindsor at heart, who are trying to achieve the best for the village. Councillor Dyke stated that he can only imagine what feelings there must be from people from outside of the village looking in and seeing all of the many achievements and at the same time all of the infighting. Councillor Dyke stated that he would like to suggest that the parties involved get together with a mediator and talk though the issues, goals and what they want to achieve and see if any common ground can be found. Councillor Chubb commented that this had been well said by Councillor Dyke and

stated that as an outsider living in Drimpton, he can see a lot of good things happening in Broadwindsor, but what is happening now could affect the community badly.

Councillor Frampton stated that he has been a member of the Parish Council for twenty-four years and that he has never known the village be as divided as it is now. Councillor Frampton stated that he could not understand why as the village has achieved so much through its various projects such as the MUGA, play equipment at Bernards' Place, and the purchase of the cricket ground by the Cricket Club. Councillor Frampton stated that there is so much for Broadwindsor to be proud of and that although the Parish Council has always supported the village halls, he would like to see that support targeted. Councillor Frampton stated that some village halls have solar panels and perhaps the Parish Council could fund new batteries to support them to harvest their own electricity. Councillor Frampton asked whether there was anything stopping village halls from increasing their hire charges.

Councillor Bassett stated that Drimpton Village Hall had recently increased its prices by a small amount and stated that it was a fine line, if prices were too high this would deter people from using the hall and stated that village halls do not operate to make a profit. Councillor Chubb stated that pricing does affect those who use the hall and that by supporting halls through the Precept, all of the community supports them. Councillor Hibbard agreed with the comment. Councillor Hibbard stated that the White Lion pub had already received three years of funding in advance. Councillor Bassett stated that it should be noted that both the shop and pub sell things to make a profit whereas the village halls do not. Councillor Sewell stated again that the Parish Council should see the accounts of the village halls to see where shortfalls are and where expenditure could be 'shaved'. Councillor Hibbard stated that he did not agree and that in his experience, costs cannot be reduced any further for village halls. Councillor Chubb stated that it was hard to find grants for solar batteries as they do not do much for the environment as such, they help save money by allowing your own electricity to be used. Councillor Chubb stated that the electricity generated through the solar panels in the daytime at Drimpton Village Hall goes directly to the National Grid and although money is received back, the energy generated does not benefit the Hall. Councillor Chubb stated that it should be the aim to get all three village halls in a position where they do not pay for their own electricity and stated that heating halls costs a lot of money. Councillor Sewell asked Councillor Christopher about funds for insulating community buildings and stated that the Government needs to look at this issue. Councillor Bassett stated that a considerable amount of money has been spent on insulating Drimpton Village Hall to a high specification. Councillor Sewell stated that grants should be provided, Councillor Chubb stated that they are through Low Carbon Dorset.

Councillor Chubb stated that an increase in grant of £200.00 should be considered, which would bring the total to £2000.00. Councillor Hibbard stated that this increase was in line with inflation. This proposal was supported by Councillors, no objections were raised. The Clerk was asked to add this proposal to the agenda for March.

b. Broadwindsor Fun Group, Request for Financial Support

Councillor Hibbard read aloud the correspondence from the Broadwindsor Fun Group seeking funds to support the running costs of the Warm Hub. Councillor Sewell stated that with regards to costs, the Post Office uses Comrades Hall until 12.30 but is there until 1.00 pm and the Warm Hub closes at 2.00 pm, thereby the heat has already been generated and is only required for an additional hour. Councillor Chubb asked Councillor Sewell whether the Post Office pays to use the Hall, Councillor Sewell stated that it does not but that a donation is made through fundraising activities. Councillor Chubb asked whether the Post Office in Mosterton pays to use the hall there, Councillor Sewell stated that it is provided free of charge as is the case in Charmouth. Councillor Chubb stated that the Fun Group has done a fantastic job with setting up and running the Warm Hub. Councillor Hibbard stated that this very much strengthens the case for keeping village halls open. Councillor Chubb stated that if village halls do not make a revenue, they will close and that it is a very fine line. Councillor Sewell stated that those attending the Warm Hub may go on to make bookings, Councillor Hibbard stated that prospective bookings do not pay the bills. Adrian Gray stated that the Warm Hub had been well received and that approximately fourteen to fifteen people regularly attended, many of whom lived on their own. Adrian Gray thanked the local community and businesses who had donated to the Warm Hub and stated that the Fun Group had kindly received a donation which will cover their costs and stated that no funds were now being requested from the Parish Council. Adrian Gray stated that he had asked Comrades Hall if they would waive the hire charge for the Warm Hub and was told that they would not. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Broadwindsor Fun Group for their efforts.

c. Dorset Council, Application for a Definitive Map modification Order, Burstock Parish

The Clerk reported that she had circulated the application information and stated that she had received clarification from Dorset Council that this was one of many applications submitted by the British Horse Society and that due to the current backlog of cases it will not be looked at for many years. The Clerk stated that when the case is assigned to an officer, Dorset Council will conduct a full consultation of residents, councils, and other interested parties and stated that the Parish Council has two options, to submit evidence now or wait until the consultation process starts. Councillor Frampton stated that one of the tracks highlighted seems to go across Hursey Common which he would be against. Councillor Dyke stated that the proposal also goes across private land and stated that it seems not to have been fully thought through and that there may be a change in legislation which would make the application redundant. Councillor Sewell stated that she had visited County Hall and reviewed the Definitive Map and that the applicant is claiming that this has been walked for over twenty plus years, however photographs taken in early 2000 show the area covered with thick bracken and is not passable. A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council required parishioners to write to Dorset Council at this time and stated that whilst she was not against the rights of people to use bridleways, this application goes

across the Common which already has a fragile ecological area and stated that no-one actually owns the Common, so who would you get permission from.

Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk whether the Parish Council will be notified if and when a formal consultation process begin, the Clerk confirmed that it would be. Councillor Chubb stated that parishioners can submit comments to Dorset Council before the process begins, Councillor Hibbard stated that comments could be submitted twice. Councillor Sewell suggested that any correspondence be copied to the Parish Council.

d. DAPTC, Royal Garden Party Nomination

The Clerk stated that DAPTC has asked for nominations for the Royal Garden Party which will be held on 3 May 2023 at Buckingham Palace. It was agreed without objection, that Councillor Hibbard should be put forward on behalf of Broadwindsor Group Parish Council.

e. Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Levelling up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy Consultation

The Clerk stated that she had circulated this information and stated that the deadline for comments is 2 March. The Clerk asked that any comments be forwarded to her for a collective response.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Hibbard referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 January was £35,740.87 There were no questions. Councillor Bassett proposed that payments b to j be approved en bloc.

b. To approve payment of £8.76 for HMRC (NI)

c. To approve payment of £30.00 for DAPTC (Clerk's Conference)

d. To approve payment of £290.39 for Total Web Solutions (Hosting Package)

e. To approve payment of £50.40 for Dorset Council (SID Battery)

f. To approve payment of £175.00 for T Sneath (Hursey Common Cut & Collect)

g. To approve payment of £54.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (Hire Charges)

h. To approve payment of £232.03 for Swift Signs (MUGA Sign)

i. To approve payment of £110.88 for Recycling Bins Direct (MUGA Litter Bin)

j. To approve payment of £65.84 for the Clerk (Expenses January & February 2023)

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

k. To approve payment of £1200.00 for Broadwindsor Group CLT (Legal Fees)

Councillor Hibbard stated that as reported previously, with regard to the connection of the sewerage from Oxhayes into the CLT site, there is a patch of land where ownership has not been possible to establish. To indemnify all parties against future claims a legal document is being drafted which will cost approximately £1200.00. Councillor Hibbard asked the Parish

Council for their approval to support these costs, Councillor Bassett asked who else would support the CLT and Councillor Hibbard stated that no other body would fund these costs.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Hughes and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment k.

I. Pension Options for Clerk

The Clerk stated that she has a legal right to approach the Parish Council to request that she be enrolled in a pension scheme and asked for agreement to provide further details at the next meeting. Councillors confirmed their support.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2022/08024, North Dibberford Farm, North Dibberford Road, From A3066, Beaminster, DT8 3HD

Councillor White reported that she had visited the applicant and that planning permission had been granted last March to erect a new stable block for nineteen horses and they now require additional storage for feed and bedding. Councillor White stated that the proposed site is close to existing buildings and relatively well screened and would only be visible by users of the footpath. Councillor White stated that the applicant will replace some of the Ash trees that had been lost due to Ash Dieback and plant additional screening which will increase biodiversity. Councillor White stated that this application is about the expansion of their business and that she has no concerns.

P/FUL/2022/07731, North Dibberford Farm, North Dibberford Road, From A3066, Beaminster, DT8 3HD

Councillor White reported that the existing track which goes down into the farm and serves the new stable block is made of shingle and the proposal is to follow the main track and add a new section to the stable block which will be an improvement to the site. Councillor White stated that she has no concerns regarding this application.

P/CLE/2023/00238, Liddels Cottage, Laymore, Winsham TA20 4NT (Certificate of Lawfulness application)

Councillor Raymond reported that she had carried out a site visit and cannot see any reason not to support this application for a certificate of lawfulness. Councillor Raymond stated that the applicant had purchased the small patch of land ten years previously, it was an area of brambles beside a track, a fence has been erected and lawn made, and their water treatment plan is in the area.

P/LBC/2023/00416, The Old George, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD

Councillor Hughes reported that he had made a site visit and that the main reason for the application is that the building is not weatherproof, and moisture is coming through the walls and chimney stack. Councillor Hughes stated that it is a reasonable application and that it has been thought out competently – an old drain will be opened up on the Drimpton

Road to allow the additional water to come out. Councillor Hughes stated that he could not see any reason for concern.

b. Other Applications

P/TRC/2023, Hayes Cottage, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QF (Information Only)

The Clerk stated that some time ago, she was notified by Dorset Council that tree works applications would no longer be forwarded to the Parish Council for consultation as comments were not being requested. The Clerk stated that this application had been received but for information only.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

P/PAPA/2022/07825, Birdsmoorgate Farm, Birdsmoorgate, Marshwood, DT6 5QG: Prior Approval Not Required

P/HOU/2022/07039, Highlands, B3165 Horn Ash Crossroads to School Lane, Kittwhistle, DT8 3LG: Granted

P/HOU/2022/06492, 11 Bridport Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RD: Granted

P/VOC/2022/06206, Blackbird Cottage, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD: Granted

P/HOU/2022/03599, Lower Sandpit Farm, Hardys Lane, Drimpton, DT8 3RS: Withdrawn

P/LBC/2022/03600, Lower Sandpit Farm, Hardys Lane, Drimpton, DT8 3RS: Withdrawn

9. APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD FINANCE

a. Update on Application

The Clerk reported that borrowing approval had been granted and that an application to the Public Loans Work Board had been submitted and an appointment with Kitson and Trotman had been organised for Monday 20 February to discuss the legal agreement. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Dyke reported that he had received a number of contributions to the draft policy and will now complete and bring to the next meeting. With regards to recycling, Councillor Dyke stated that the bins are now back at the front of Comrades Hall and includes the crisp recycling bin, as it is hoped that this will prevent crisp packets being put in with the aluminium foil. Councillor Dyke stated that Councillor Nikolov and Sheila Hawkins had co-ordinated a working party at Hursey Common a few weeks back and a lot of work had been completed including clearing bramble, removing an unsafe tree and planting saplings. Councillor Dyke stated that this needs to be continued on a quarterly basis. Councillor Nikolov stated that they had also distributed new saplings within the Parish.

11. ALLOTMENT

Councillor Nikolov reported that the composting toilet was still under construction and that only a half plot remains vacant.

12. MANAGEMENT OF THE MUGA

Councillor Sewell reported that she had recently seen two boys using the MUGA and after they had left, the gate had been left open. Councillor Sewell stated that she had asked the boys to close the gate and had been verbally abused. Councillor Sewell stated that the language and behaviour was not acceptable. Councillor Sewell stated that she believed the boys to be primary age and had reported the incident to PCSO Bishop and will contact Broadwindsor School. Councillor Raymond stated that they may not have been from Broadwindsor School, Councillor Sewell stated that she will also contact Beaminster School. Councillor Nikolov stated that he was very sorry that this had happened to Councillor Sewell. A member of the public stated that she has seen many children climb over the fence and slide under the gate onto the school field and that the gate itself had not been locked in a long time. Councillor Nikolov stated that the MUGA is locked each night by himself and that he leaves it unlocked during school holidays and at the weekend and that there is an agreement with the school that they ensure that it is locked on a school day and they leave it unlocked at the end of the day. Councillor Nikolov asked if there was anything that could be done to improve the situation. The Clerk confirmed that the new sign states that the fence should not be climbed on, and that people use the facility at their own risk. Councillor Chubb asked why the MUGA was being locked, Councillor Sewell stated that it was a condition of planning consent that the MUGA be locked at 8.00 pm. The Clerk stated that it was about consideration of noise levels for neighbouring properties. Councillor Hughes stated that the main reason for locking the MUGA was that it should only be open during certain hours. Councillor Sewell suggested that the gate be left unlocked but modified with a self-closing mechanism. Councillor Bassett stated that it was a matter of education rather than making the MUGA impenetrable. Councillor Burt stated that there seems to be an argument for leaving it open if locking it is not stopping people from accessing the MUGA. Councillor Hibbard stated that this was a difficult problem and that the Parish Council wants as many people as possible to use the MUGA but there are restrictions. Councillor Chubb stated that people climbing over may also damage the MUGA itself. Councillor Frampton suggested introducing a trial period of leaving the MUGA open and review whether there are any cases of antisocial behaviour and perhaps a retrospective planning application to change the closing time.

A member of the public stated that she would like to see the MUGA closed earlier in the summer months as the constant noise of balls being bounced is extremely frustrating. Another member of the public stated that he had been involved with the MUGA from its start and along with another Councillor had been responsible for locking the MUGA each night. The member of the public stated that it was really difficult to manage and there is no easy answer and stated that the gate is a double swing gate and unless it is modified, a self-closing mechanism could not be used. Councillor Nikolov reiterated that the MUGA is closed each night and asked if anyone wished to help with this, that they come forward. Councillor Chubb stated that perhaps PCSO Bishop should be contacted if anyone witnesses people climbing over. The Clerk stated that she would contact Broadwindsor School. Councillor

Hibbard stated that a resolution was needed, and any suggestions should be forwarded to the Clerk.

13. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III, 6 MAY 2023

Adrian Gray from the Broadwindsor Fun Group reported that they had distributed four hundred questionnaires throughout the village and that the overwhelming response had been that there was not a strong interest in holding an event to celebrate the coronation. Adrian Gray stated that this does not mean that if an event was held, that people would not attend, rather that the Fun Group would not be organising anything themselves. Councillor Sewell asked if the Parish Council could provide some form of memento for children of the Grouped Parish, a mug or coin. Councillor Hughes stated that it was an important event and supported the suggestion of providing a mug to each child. Councillor Hibbard asked that this be discussed further at the next meeting.

14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPE PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that he expected to receive an update from Jurassic Fibre in two weeks' time and would report back at the next meeting.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Parking in Broadwindsor Square

Councillor Hughes reported that he, Councillor Nikolov, Councillor Sewell and eight local residents had a meeting with Blair Turner, Community Highways Officer at Dorset Council on 8 February to discuss parking in Broadwindsor Square. Councillor Hughes stated that it became clear that the problem isn't just about parking in the Square but the issues that affect it, for example the speed of vehicles coming down Back Lane and failing to give consideration to stop and the visibility of vehicles turning into West Street. Councillor Hughes stated that from his experience of working with the Speedwatch team, Dorset Council often states that it does not have funds to do a lot of things, but that Blair Turner did agree to look at some low cost options. Councillor Hughes stated that it was agreed for all those present to send a note to him outlining ideas and comments about this and stated that so far, he had received something from Councillor Sewell. Councillor Hughes stated that he hoped to be able to present something at the next meeting.

Councillor Hughes stated that if the Speedwatch Team was reinstated, the approved location was at the Cross Keys and ideally it is Back Lane where the speed of vehicles needs to be measured. Councillor Frampton stated that he believed that the Police have a piece of equipment comprising a box and two wires which could be helpful and suggested contacting PCSO Bishop. Councillor Hughes stated that the problem does not just concern parking in Broadwindsor Square, but people are also parking their vehicles on the pavement opposite the pub and stated that a wheelchair user had to go out into the road as they could not access the footpath. Councillor Sewell also stated the example of grandparents not being able to access the footpath with their grandchild and Councillor Raymond also stated that a scooter had to go out into the road to use Back Lane. Councillor Hughes stated that this has

been a problem for more than fifteen plus years and whilst it may not be possible to find a total solution, he hoped that the situation could be improved. Councillor Burt stated that she had been approached by a local resident about increasing the number of 20 mph signs and stated that she would discuss this further at the next meeting.

b. War Memorial Project Update

Councillor Frampton reported that Chris Loder MP would be attending the opening of the memorial on 6 June. Councillor Frampton stated that he has been liaising with Broadwindsor School and their Year 6 students will be looking at the lives and back stories of some of the named soldiers and that the historical researcher has now completed the history of five of the RAF servicemen. Councillor Frampton stated that he is hoping that some of the families of those named will be able to read aloud some of the information and that David Baldwin has agreed to host the memorial event. Councillor Frampton stated that he did not believe it would be necessary to request the road to be closed or a diversion put in place. Adrian Gray thanked Councillor Frampton for his efforts with the project and stated that the Fun Group had £100.00 to donate to the memorial. Councillor Frampton stated that the family of Jean de Cloedt had offered to sponsor the memorial but stated that additional funds could go towards materials or the pathway, the Clerk stated that the funds would be ringfenced and used solely for the memorial.

c. Gritting Across the Grouped Parish

Councillor Chubb reported that a section of the road between Axe Lane and Crewkerne Road which forms part of the school bus route is not gritted and stated that he has contacted Dorset Council and they are looking at their procedures and it is hoped that they will be gritted from next year. Councillor Chubb stated that he has found a grit bin in Orchard Close which has not been used for some time, the Clerk stated that she has asked this to be filled. Councillor Chubb asked whether there is a list of all of the bins which are filled each year by Dorset Council, the Clerk stated that she believed there was and would ask for a copy. The Clerk stated that she has also raised the question of why the routes in and out of Seaborough are not gritted and Councillor White stated that if it was not for the local horse racing stables who grit the roads so that they can take horses out, people would not be able to get out of Seaborough under certain weather conditions.

d. Flood Wardens/Sandbags

The Clerk stated that the sandbags had now been removed from their current site and that most were in a poor condition and unusable. The Clerk stated that there had been some discussion about storing them in the car park area at Hursey Common and asked Councillors how many she should order and what size grit bin would be required. Councillor Frampton stated that they should be stored as close as possible to West Street as this is where the flooding occurs. Councillor Dyke stated that there isn't anywhere else closer than Hursey Common. Councillor Chubb suggested giving them directly to those residents most affected by flooding. The Clerk was asked to order fifty sandbags from Dorset Council and publish a note on the Council's website and Facebook pages to ask those requiring them to get in

contact. It was suggested that Councillor Curtis may be able to take delivery and store the sandbags before they are distributed to the community.

e. Fingerpost Sign Restoration Programme Update

The Clerk stated she had spoken to Kevin Madder-Smith and that he was still in liaison with Chris Edgerley. Councillor Chubb asked for an additional sign to be added to the list.

16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust (CLT)

Councillor Hibbard reported that on 29 January the Northcombe Lea site received a visit from Councillor Graham Carr-Jones, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety and Andrew Billany, Director of Housing at Dorset Council. Abri's Project Manager Ben Richards and Sam Stone, Abri's Associate Director of Land and Planning led the tour of the site and Sheila Hawkins represented the Community Land Trust (CLT) Board.

Councillor Graham Carr-Jones at Dorset Council said: "We know the importance affordable housing plays in allowing local people to remain local and so I'm delighted to see the progress being made as these homes near completion. Dorset Council is working on several affordable schemes which will help to bolster our vision for thriving communities where everyone has a good quality home." Andrew Billany said: "Our Housing Strategy actively supports the development of affordable housing and these homes are a great example of collaboration with different parties working together for the benefit of the community."

Councillor Hibbard stated that the construction phase at Northcombe Lea is currently scheduled to be completed during June 2023. Anyone interested in applying to rent one of these high quality homes should be registered on Dorset Home Choice at www.dorsetcouncilhomechoice.org.uk. This website is advising of a twenty-four week processing delay, but the CLT and Abri are currently in negotiation to try to limit any effect this might have on the process of tenant selection for the site, which is due to begin around May/June this year.

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

a. Discussion on Date, Venue, Speaker

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Clerk had received an interest from Chris Loder MP to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and stated that from his recollection MPs are usually in their constituency on a Friday. Councillor Hibbard asked whether Councillors would be happy to attend on a Friday if that was the only day proposed. The Clerk stated that the meeting must be convened between 1 March and 1 June inclusive. Councillor Chubb stated that it would be great to have Chris Loder MP attend the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would be held at Blackdown Village Hall.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Hughes stated that although it was agreed at the last meeting that COVID cases would not be reported, he did out of curiosity look at the figures and stated that COVID very much remains. Councillor Hughes stated that the DT8 area has a case rate of 133 per 100,000 people compared to a national average of 50 people per 100,000 and the case rate has increased from four to thirteen and although not everyone is reporting, the area seems to be well above the national average.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents were invited to give their views and ask questions of the Parish Council on any outstanding issues on the agenda or raise issues for future consideration. There were no comments.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed for 13 March 2023 at Blackdown Village Hall.

21. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.15 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.