



## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 13 JANUARY 2020**

### **COMRADES HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Cindy Bodycombe, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. 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 the Chairman. There were four members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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#### **1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bassett, Hardwill and Laurie and from PCSO Bishop and unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

#### **2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS, DISPENSATIONS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS UPDATES**

**a. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors and employees on matters to be considered at the Meeting.**

None.

**b. To receive requests for dispensations.**

None.

**c. To grant any requests for dispensation.**

None.

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

No updates were received.

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the Meeting held on 9 December 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Sewell asked if a reply had been received from Councillor Christopher with regard to the email asking that the incorrect position of the 20mph sign outside Rose Cottage be rectified. Councillor Christopher stated that this was still an ongoing matter and that he was still pursuing the request. Councillor Sewell stated that she had read the Dorset Council Audit and Governance Meeting minutes regarding the Accelerating Homebuilding Programme and was pleased to note that finances which were set aside were still available. Councillor Sewell stated that she would like the Parish Council to continue to be updated on this matter. Councillor Leader stated that he had received communication from Mr. Blair Turner, Dorset Council's Community Highways Officer regarding the small triangular piece of land at Fullers and reported that Dorset Council has now confirmed ownership of the land and has refused to allow it to be used to create additional parking for residents. Councillor Leader asked Councillor Christopher if he would be able to make further enquiries into this matter on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Christopher stated that this was not an uncommon issue and confirmed that he would provide assistance. Councillor Chumbley asked whether the Fire Authority was in a position to influence Dorset Council's decision, given the problem of restricted access for emergency vehicles. Councillor Leader stated that the Fire Authority has the power to remove vehicles which are causing access problems and that they have already leafleted residents. Councillor Leader stated that options for residents were limited, even if they were to park outside of Fullers. Councillor Christopher stated that he would speak with Councillor Knox as Chair of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that at least twice a week the road is blocked by cars parked on both sides of the road, Councillor Leader stated that it is a real problem.

The Clerk reported that she had previously been asked to contact Mosterton Parish Council and make enquiries about their Speed Indicator Device (SID). The Clerk stated that she had now received a reply and read aloud the email which stated that Mosterton Parish Council had purchased just one device and had funded the cost of the SID and its installation themselves, without grant funding. The Clerk stated that they had two posts installed at either end of the village and that they move the SID from one end of the village to the other every six weeks.

#### **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

##### **a. Report from Dorset Councillor**

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Christopher to the Meeting. Councillor Christopher wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councillor Christopher stated that it will not have escaped people's attention that Dorset Council has declared a Climate Emergency and stated that this is very topical for all Parish Councils to address. Councillor Christopher stated that Char Valley will be hosting a Climate Change open meeting in the Spring. Continuing this

theme, Councillor Christopher stated that he wished to highlight two recent planning applications WD/D/19/002178, Land West of Watton Lane, Bridport and Planning Appeal WD/D/17/001831, Land South of Westleaze, Charminster. With regard to WD/D/19/002178, Councillor Christopher stated that the site is located at the top of Skilling Hill and stated that a turning on the left leads to the Hamlet of Watton. Councillor Christopher stated that this application went to the Planning Committee in December. Councillor Christopher stated that planning permission had already been granted for one dwelling and that the applicant wished to seek permission for a second. Councillor Christopher stated that the site had existing dwellings on two sides and if Vearse Farm is to be built on, three. Councillor Christopher stated that in recent years planning permission had been granted under the previous Planning Authority for local houses in this area to build dwellings in their own gardens. Councillor Christopher stated that the Committee, having regard to the location of the site outside the defined development boundary was concerned that future occupiers of the dwellings would be reliant upon their cars to access day to day living requirements and facilities and as such the dwellings would not be in a suitable location for residential development. Councillor Christopher stated as such, the application would not accord with National Planning Policy Framework 2019 in its requirement to actively manage growth through limiting the need to travel and offering a general choice of transport and would not be sustainable development. Councillor Christopher stated that the application was refused but obviously could be open to appeal. Councillor Christopher reported that application WD/D/17/001831, Land South of Westleaze, a proposed site for 120 houses on the outskirts of Charminster was refused by the former Planning Authority and went in front of the Planning Inspector who subsequently agreed with Committee because it was close to the Listed Grade 1 building Wolfeton House.

Councillor Chubb stated that the first application was refused planning permission based on the lack of public transport and residents having to use their vehicles and stated that if Vearse Farm was to be developed, then any new dwellings would be even further away from local amenities and services. Councillor Chubb stated that the proposed affordable housing in Drimpton would be well served by public transport and that this should be favourable to the application.

Councillor Christopher read aloud financial information which had been produced by Councillor Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council and reported that in order to meet forecast demand there is an intention to increase funding of Adult Social Care by £11.7m, taking the budget from £111.2m to £122.9m and to increase the funding for Children's Services to support children with complex needs and those in care by £10.3m, taking the budget from £63.7m to £74m. Councillor Christopher stated that it must be remembered that since 2010 Central Government grants to Councils have been cut by nearly 60% and in order to fund these increases Dorset Council proposes increasing the Council Tax by 3.996% and of this increase 2% will be a Social Care Precept. Councillor Hibbard asked if the increase will be sufficient to fund the planned budget. Councillor Christopher stated that he was glad that this question had been asked and stated that Dorset Council will have to continue to make

substantial reductions in their expenditure. Councillor Hibbard stated that he supported the desire to save money but many of the efficiencies will be one off and stated that Dorset Council cannot make the same cuts year on year. Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council was committed to making things more economical.

Councillor Rowe welcomed information about Children's Services and noted that it was obviously important to Councillor Christopher. Councillor Rowe stated that she would like to learn more about how Dorset Council is going to support Parish Councils as they are expected to take on more and more services in the future. Councillor Christopher stated that this would feature in the months ahead. Councillor Chubb asked if the budget for transport will increase, Councillor Christopher stated that he will continue to press for funding for the maintenance of our local roads.

Councillor Christopher stated that to look after those children who are suffering neglect and need support costs an enormous amount of money and reported that each child in foster care costs between £49,000 and £50,000 per year and residential children can cost up to six figure sums. Councillor Rowe asked if Dorset Council has developed or has in place prevention strategies, to work with and support families and keep them together and asked how much money was set aside for such work and if there was any evidence of its impact. Councillor Christopher stated that it would be best to formulate a list of questions and forward to the Clerk and that he would be very happy to pass on to the Portfolio Holder Mr. Andrew Parry. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher for his report. Councillor Christopher left the Meeting.

#### **b. Report from Dorset Police**

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that no crimes had been reported over the last month in the Parish, but stated that there were a number of crimes from other areas that he wished to highlight. The report stated that over the last few months there had been a rise in quad bike thefts in the North and East of Dorset and that a quad was stolen just last week from Charmouth, offenders stole a 4x4 vehicle from another address in Charmouth, to then use to steal the quad. The offenders were disturbed as they were loading the quad onto the stolen vehicle but they could not be identified. In the report, PCSO Bishop advised people to review their security and consider alarms or CCTV that have a capacity to alert you on detection and stated that should anyone like to discuss security they could contact him on 101, or online at [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk). The report stated that PCSO Bishop would be attending his usual surgery in Broadwindsor on Tuesday 14 January at 11.00 am.

#### **c. Co-option to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council, Drimpton Ward**

Councillor Hibbard stated that two expressions of interest had been received for the Drimpton ward vacancy, from Mr. Paul Davies and from Mr. Bob Harris, both of whom were in attendance. Councillor Hibbard asked if Members of the Council would like to ask any questions of the candidates or raise any comments. Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton

had four Councillor positions and currently two were occupied by people from Drimpton and one from a person living in Broadwindsor. Councillor Chubb stated that it was his belief that the vacancy should be filled by a Drimpton resident so that they could be better placed to represent and serve the Drimpton community. Mr. Paul Davies stated that given that there was a candidate from Drimpton, that he would stand down and withdraw his application, stating that he is keen to be involved with the Parish Council. Councillor Sewell stated that there are numerous committees and working groups which he could be involved with. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Davies for his application and for standing aside at this time. Proposed by Councillor Chubb and seconded by Councillor Hibbard, Mr. Bob Harris was co-opted as a Member of the Parish Council for the Drimpton ward. Mr. Harris duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk to the Council and joined the Meeting.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Hibbard and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously co-opted Bob Harris as a Member of the Parish Council for the Drimpton ward.**

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

### **a. Dorset Council, Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, 13 February 2020**

The Clerk reported that this communication had been previously emailed to Councillors, there were no comments.

### **b. DAPTC, Nominations for Royal Garden Party**

The Clerk reported that this communication had been previously emailed to Councillors and stated that invitations are in recognition of past service and that nominations need to be submitted to DAPTC by 24 January. Councillor Leader stated that he would like to nominate Councillor Hibbard given his many years of service to the Parish Council. All Members concurred.

### **c. Dorset Council, Consultation on Dorset Heathland Framework Supplementary Planning Document**

The Clerk reported that this communication had been previously emailed to Councillors, there were no comments.

### **d. Horses on Highway**

Councillor Hibbard reported that he had received a telephone call from a gentleman from Misterton who having driven through Seaborough on many occasions and was of the belief that he was always courteous to those riding horses on the highway, wished to complain about the rude behaviour presented to him. Councillor Hibbard stated that he referred the gentleman to past minutes of Parish Council Meetings where similar issues had arisen and stated that he believed that the situation had improved since then. Councillor Hibbard had agreed to bring the matter to the next Parish Council Meeting but stated that he was unsure on what the Council could do. Councillor Curtis stated that horses have priority over cars but that there was no need for rudeness and suggested that the Council write to all the local Stables to alert them to this. Councillor Chubb stated that he was surprised to learn of this as

he had found riders to be courteous. Councillor Sewell stated that a dashboard camera can be useful in such situations. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the local Stables.

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

### **a. To receive the Finance Report**

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first, second and third quarters of 2019/2020, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 December 2019 was £36,693.57. There were no questions.

### **b. To approve the Precept Request for 2020/2021**

The Clerk reported that as requested at the December Meeting, she had provided revised financial information based on a 6% increase in the Precept which equates to £28,222.56, £43.03 per year for a Band D Household, a real increase of 12.64%. The Clerk stated that she had retained the original budget, increasing only the costs for the website to reflect future accessibility work. Councillor Chubb questioned whether any increase was needed given the current level of reserves. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council does not yet know what services will be devolved from Dorset Council and the likely financial impact upon the Council, stating that it was important that there are sufficient funds in place. Members agreed that the Precept request should be £28,222.56.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Chumbley and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed that its Precept Request for the period 2020/2021 will be £28,222.56.**

### **c. To approve payment of £250.00 for Life Education Wessex (Grant)**

### **d. To approve payment of £6.71 for HMRC (NI)**

### **e. To approve payment of £70.00 for DAPTC (Councillors Seminar)**

### **f. To approve payment of £90.00 for Michelle Abadie (Website Accessibility Report)**

### **g. To approve payment of £920.70 for the Clerk (Salary Adjustment October, November and December 2019)**

Councillor Hibbard read aloud the list of payments and asked that they be approved en bloc. This was agreed.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chumbley, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments c to g.**

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation**

#### **WD/D/19/002481, Greenways, Causeway Lane, Blackdown, DT8 3LE**

The Clerk reported that this application had been on the agenda at the December Meeting and that comments had been submitted to Dorset Council. The Clerk reported that Councillor Hibbard had spoken with neighbours and that no objections had been raised.

**WD/D/19/002699, 12 Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3ST**

Councillor Rowe reported that the application was seeking to demolish an existing conservatory and erect a single storey extension. Councillor Rowe stated that she and Councillor Madder-Smith had spoken with residents either side of the property and that no objections had been raised.

**WD/D/19/002766, Shady Side, Axnoller Lane, DT8 3SH**

The Clerk reported that she had asked Councillors Sewell and Chumbley to review this application which was seeking a variation to planning application WD/D/16/000473 to allow a further temporary period of occupation. The Clerk stated that when the Council reviewed the original application, it did not offer a corporate view due to its legal complexity. Members of the Council agreed that the same position should be taken with the current application.

**b. Other Applications**

The Clerk reported that she had received two additional planning applications for consultation, WD/D/19/002925 and WD/D/19/002926 for Lower Sandpit Farm, Drimpton, DT8 3RS. The Clerk stated that the applications were seeking permission to carry out internal and external alterations to facilitate the erection of a two storey and single storey extension. Councillor Rowe agreed to be the lead for the consultation and the Clerk stated that she would add this to the agenda for the February Meeting.

**c. Results**

The Clerk reported the following results:

WD/D/19/002065, The Old Place, The Old Bakery, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Approved

WD/D/19/002473, Glebe Cottage, Church Path, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QE: Approved

WD/D/19000314, Silverhay Farm, Netherhay, Drimpton, DT8 3REH: Refused

**9. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

**a. Working Group Update**

Councillor Leader reported that a meeting had taken place with Low Carbon Dorset and that a survey of buildings in the Grouped Parish area to assess their suitability for photovoltaic solar cells and offer advice on other ways to reduce the carbon footprint had taken place.

**10. GROUP PARISH WELCOME PACK**

Councillor Bodycombe apologised for not being able to present the draft Welcome Pack at this Meeting and stated that she hoped to be able to do so at the February Meeting.

**11. ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Madder-Smith reported that a tree planting event will take place over the weekends of the 25 and 26 January and 1 and 2 February. Councillor Curtis asked who will be responsible for the maintenance of the new trees, Councillor Madder-Smith stated that the Broadwindsor Allotment Group (BAG) would be helping to keep them trimmed. Councillor Hughes stated that he was aware that in recent years, there was a restriction on the size of

trees allowed to be planted on the Allotment, Councillor Madder-Smith stated that BAG was very aware of the limitations.

## **12. HIGHWAYS**

### **a. Report from the Footpaths Officer**

Councillor Rowe stated that she had been giving careful consideration on how best to manage the footpaths across the Grouped Parish and stated that there were seventy-three. Councillor Rowe stated that she hoped to present a plan to the Council at the next Meeting.

### **b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area**

Councillor Rowe reported that the grant application had unfortunately been unsuccessful and stated that she had been perhaps too ambitious wanting two verges in year two. Councillor Rowe stated that she had decided to concentrate efforts on the existing verge for the coming year and stated that she would be approaching the Council to request funding of approximately £150.00 to cover the cost of seeds and compost. Councillor Rowe stated that she would be also seeking volunteers as in the previous year.

### **c. Update on Highway Safety Concerns**

Councillor Sewell stated that she was concerned that the 20mph sign had still not been moved, Councillor Hibbard agreed that this request should be followed up. Councillor Frampton reported that he had seen Dorset Police in the village, enforcing the speed limit on the Broadwindsor Road. Councillor Sewell stated that a recent Speedwatch exercise had registered a car travelling at 39 mph. Councillor Hughes asked when the sections of road which had been identified for repair were going to be completed. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Ian Newport at Dorset Council to progress this.

## **13. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

### **a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust**

Councillor Leader reported that the application was still with the Planning Department and that the application was not being supported by Highways with the reason being that they deem that the junction at Drimpton Cross is dangerous. Councillor Leader stated that the Community Land Trust had commissioned a report into the matter and that once received, it would be forwarded to Dorset Council.

## **14. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION**

### **a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council**

Councillor Chubb asked the Council to consider convening meetings at different locations across the Grouped Parish and stated that meetings should be held more often at Drimpton and Blackdown Village Halls. Councillor Hibbard stated that he supported this proposal. Councillor Curtis was concerned that constant changes may confuse parishioners. There was some discussion on venues and their frequency of use and Members of the Council suggested using Comrades Hall six times a year, Drimpton Village Hall three times a year and Blackdown Village Hall and Broadwindsor Cricket Club, just once a year. The Clerk stated that she would incorporate this proposal when presenting the annual timetable for meetings at the Annual General Meeting in May.



**b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public**

None.

**15. MULTI-USE GAMES AREA**

**a. Update on grants received and consideration of signage**

Councillor Leader reported that the MUGA continues to be well used by the School and wider community and that the temporary sign which had been erected upon completion of the MUGA now needed replacing with a permanent one to inform of contact details and some basic rules of use. Councillor Madder-Smith confirmed that he was aware that the MUGA was very well used over the Christmas period. Councillor Leader stated that he had received a quotation of £200.00 for a 3 ft x 4 ft sign from a company based in Weymouth. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that the Community Shop had used a Bridport based company to produce flags and that he was aware that they also produce signage and that they were very competitive in price. Councillor Leader stated that he would make enquiries.

**16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public asked if there was a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Grouped Parish area. Councillor Chubb confirmed that there was not but stated that local crime and crime prevention information can be accessed by registering with Dorset Alert. Councillor Sewell stated that it would also be useful to meet the local Police Community Support Officer Alex Bishop who holds surgeries at Comrades Hall.

**17. THE FMR TRUST**

**a. To receive the Finance Report**

The Clerk referred Trustees to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first, second and third quarters of 2019/2020, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 December 2019 was £2570.42 . There were no questions.

**b. To approve payment of £222.58 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Trust Administration)**

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

**c. To consider a grant of £299.80 for 1st Broadwindsor Guides (Instant Tourer Tents)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Leader and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved payment c.**

**d. To note approved payment of £729.90 to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Grant for MUGA Loan)**

This was noted.

**18. CLOSE**

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 8.45 pm and the Meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 8.48 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending.