



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

13 MARCH 2023

BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Jacqui Sewell (Vice Chair), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes.

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

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

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Chumbley, Raymond, Chubb 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.

None.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

None.

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 13 February 2023 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Frampton reported that with regard to sandbags and the properties in West Street as discussed at the last meeting, he could report that in 1998 the people living in the property put an extension on and the footings were built in the base of the stream and ever since then there has been a problem as water cannot get through, it doesn't flood the second property but backs up and floods the first one. Councillor Frampton stated that you cannot do much to alleviate this flooding. Councillor Sewell questioned why this problem was not picked up by Building Control at the time that the application was submitted and suggested that the original application be reviewed. Councillor Sewell asked Councillor Christopher how long planning applications remain on the Dorset Council website and can reports still be accessed. Councillor Sewell provided Councillor Christopher with a printed format of her question. Councillor Sewell stated that she had reviewed the London House application and stated that the work is being carried out in a way which is very much looking after the building.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Member of the public was invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. There were no comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillor Christopher's report had been circulated and asked for any questions. Councillor Christopher stated that with regard to Councillor Sewell's question, he did not know the answer although he thought that the website may go back to the Town and Country Planning Act of 1972. Councillor Christopher stated that Council Tax will be increasing but by 1% less than the referendum figure and stated that Dorset Council has taken on board the fact that life is very difficult for a great many people and Councillor Flower had managed to get agreed an allocation of £2m from reserves to support the most vulnerable in Dorset. Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council is looking to see when the Levelling Up Bill will be enacted and at the end of the month it is likely that the issue of double council tax for second homes will come before Full Cabinet. Councillor Christopher stated that we are living in difficult times and we have seen this with the stock market over the last few days and stated that these events do have relevance for Dorset Council, as it affects pension funds. Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council's pension fund is largely managed by the Brunel Group and the Council has to pay contributions into pension funds to meet its actuarial requirements to pay out to current and future pensioners. Councillor Christopher stated that if the fund is not performing well, contributions have to go up but stated that thankfully Dorset Council's fund has not necessitated an increase in contributions. Councillor Sewell stated that she had been contacted by a parishioner who had been advised that her local authority would be able to provide further information about the Alternative Fuel payment. Councillor Christopher stated that he has the necessary web link and would forward to the Clerk for distribution.

Councillor Frampton asked whether Councillor Christopher had any progress to report with regard to the request from the Parish Council for a reduction in the speed limit past the Cricket Club and the bottom of Clan Hill. Councillor Christopher stated that as a consequence of the budget, he was awaiting a response from Councillor Ray Bryan. Councillor Christopher stated that Councillor Bryan had been working to try and get more money into Dorset. Councillor Christopher stated that when Chris Loder MP attends the Annual Parish Meeting, he will no doubt talk about the work he's doing to get more money into Dorset Council and infrastructure – not just about broadband, but about the national grid. Councillor Christopher stated that only today a town in Dorset suffered a major power outage. Councillor Frampton asked what influence Chris Loder MP has over Dorset Council and stated that surely, he has no authority. Councillor Christopher stated that the Parish Council may wish to write to Chris Loder MP and the Leader of Dorset Council stating that it is aware of the monies which have been forthcoming to other areas and that you would like some of that money spent within the Grouped Parish.

Councillor Harris asked with regard to the new Dorset Council budget, whether there had been an increase for highways. Councillor Christopher stated that a great proportion of the monies spent on roads in Dorset comes from two areas – money allocated from car parking charges and the surplus made in connection to A roads which are the responsibility of National Highways where Dorset Council does the work. Councillor Christopher stated that he would imagine that Councillor Bryan would be looking at the wet and frosty winter that has gone and how much money will need to be spent as a result of that. Councillor Christopher stated that last year 16,000 potholes were repaired and it is the expectation that considerably more will need to be done this year. Councillor Harris stated that was why he was asking whether the budget had been increased. Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council has been allocated an additional £10m to spend on social care and that this may allow additional funds to be spent on highways. Councillor Bassett proposed that the Parish Council write to Chris Loder MP and the Leader of Dorset Council expressing their views, the Clerk stated that they had already done this previously. Councillor Christopher stated that he would find the letter from Councillor Spencer Flower regarding the work he is doing to attract more money into Dorset and forward to the Parish Council. Councillor Dyke stated that Councillor Christopher had mentioned in his report about housing and the need for houses to be built to meet local need and asked if there had been any progression on the phosphates issue to allow development to go ahead. Councillor Christopher stated that that there was a lot of work going on across Dorset, in the Poole Harbour area for example and stated that the Environment Agency was working on that. Councillor Christopher stated that this was clearly an important area for Rebecca Pow MP, Mark Spencer MP and indeed Chris Loder MP.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In his absence, the Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that there had been a report of a suspicious incident, where two males and a female turned up at an address in Broadwindsor, saying they were looking at bore holes and wells. The owner of the address allowed them to have a look at their well and when he went to get his camera to take some pictures, they drove off. From enquiries, this led to a genuine company working on behalf of the Environment Agency, to check bore holes and wells that are under consideration of decommission. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that there had been a fraud incident locally, where a resident was defrauded of a large sum of money. Fortunately, this has been refunded. The caller said they were from BT and they managed to convince the resident that they were genuine and got them to download an app onto their device, which gave them remote access to accounts. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that the best advice he could give would be to screen all calls, either by using an answerphone to get any unexpected or unsolicited calls, or to speak to your phone provider about call screening services. Using these mean that you do not speak directly to the scammer, and they do not have the chance to convince you of why they're calling. The other best practice is to hang up on any person calling on behalf of a company, whether they say they're from BT, your Bank, Microsoft, Amazon, etc, this is likely to be false. If you think a call may be genuine, hang up, wait until the line is clear (check for a dial tone) and call that company back directly (not using any number given by a caller). Remember to never give out any personal or financial details and never download anything a caller asks you too as this may allow them to download software to your device or be able to control it and access information remotely. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that he had recently had contact from a resident in the Broadwindsor area, regarding a dog they have concerns about that is often running loose, particularly in fields where there may be livestock, or gets aggressive to other dogs. Where people have concerns for the behaviour of a dog, or the ownership of a dog, or if that dog has attacked another dog, please report these concerns or dog on dog attacks to the Dog Warden, through the Environmental Health team at Dorset Council. You can email them via the link, or call them on 01305 221000 - www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dog-warden-service. If a dog is chasing livestock, or attacks a person, this is a criminal matter that can be reported to the Police on 101, or online at www.dorset.police.uk. If you are able to record any incidents, this will assist with any enquiry/investigation. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that his next engagement at the Comrades Hall is on Tuesday 14 March at 11.00 am.

c. Broadwindsor Group Parish Council Vacancy, Broadwindsor Ward

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by Dorset Council that no requests for an election to take place had been received and therefore the Parish Council could proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Clerk stated that she had printed out the notices and asked noticeboard key holders to place a copy on their respective board. The Clerk stated that the deadline for the receipt of expressions of interest is 14 April.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Citizens Advice Bridport & District, Request for Grant

Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council has for many years supported the work of Citizens Advice Bridport & District and he noted from the report that they had sent, that people from the Grouped Parish are being helped. Councillor Hibbard proposed that the grant be slightly increased from £250.00 to £300.00, this was supported without objection. The Clerk was asked to add this to the accounts for next month.

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 28 February was £34,971.44. There were no questions.

b. Settlement of Insurance Claim for Damaged Lawn Mower

The Clerk reported that a settlement had been reached with regard to the damaged lawn mower of £600.00 and stated that this had been accepted. The Clerk stated that she had been informed by the insurance company that such a claim would not have any negative impact on the price of the premium.

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

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

d. Review of Parish Council Financial Support to Community Organisations

The Clerk stated that she had been asked to add this item to the agenda at the last meeting. Councillor Sewell stated that she thought it would be helpful to have a financial report from each recipient annually to show projects and priorities. Councillor Hibbard stated that at the Blackdown Village Hall AGM on 28 March he would raise the subject of solar panels as the hall currently does not have any unlike Drimpton and Comrades Hall.

e. Pension Options for Clerk

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

f. Clerk Appraisal

Councillor Hibbard reported that he had had met with the Clerk and carried out the annual appraisal and proposed that a salary increment of 5% be applied. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Clerk had requested an additional five hours of employment a week.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved a salary increment of 5% and an increase of working hours to 20 per week.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2023/01051, Brent Lodge, Netherhay, Drimpton, DT8 3RH

Councillor Harris reported that the application is seeking permission to erect a storage barn to house agricultural equipment, namely a tractor and digger which are currently left out in the open. Councillor Harris stated that the barn will be situated on the eastern side of the field near an existing workshop and stated that this part of the field already has a yard and parking area for the tractor and digger and stated that the application made sense. Councillor Harris stated that in terms of visibility, he had spoken to local residents and no objections were raised.

P/LBC/2023/00625, London House, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD

Councillor Sewell stated that she has been speaking to the applicant about the works to the property for some time and reported that he is taking out many of the modern alterations in consultation with an architect and is sympathetically restoring and updating the property to improve its efficiency. Councillor Sewell stated that she fully supports the application.

P/HOU/2023/00915, The Lodge, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP

P/LBC/2023/00916, The Lodge, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP

Councillor Dyke reported that the application seeks listed building permission to repair a retaining wall and is absolutely necessary. Councillor Dyke stated that there are three trees close to the wall located on the applicant's property and that the roots are going through the wall resulting in the wall being badly cracked and bricks falling from the wall. The applicant had asked Dorset Council for permission to remove the trees and due to tree preservation orders (TPO), the request had been refused. Councillor Dyke stated that the only option was to repair the wall, but this will mean bringing in machinery, closing the road for about a month and the introduction of traffic measures which will ultimately affect local businesses. Councillor Dyke stated that the work must be done and that he supported the application. Councillor Burt asked if any challenge to the TPO could be made, Councillor Dyke stated that he had been informed that this was not possible. Councillor Dyke stated that permission had been granted to reduce the canopy, Councillor Frampton stated that it was not the canopy but the roots which were causing the problem. Councillor Dyke stated that there was a fear that if the canopy was not reduced, this may weaken the trees during the works and that they may come down.

P/HOU/2023/01248, 32 Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3ST

Councillor Hughes reported that he had carried out a site visit and that the property is currently thatched but has had two leaks and the estimate to repair the problem is very expensive as is the insurance premium for thatched properties. Councillor Hughes stated that the applicant wishes to change the roof to slate tiles and given that the majority of properties in Redlands Lane are tiled, he could not see any reason to object to the application. Councillor Hughes stated that the applicant had spoken with both neighbours

and that no concerns had been raised and that the applicant will seek to match the new tiles to those used in a recent extension.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

P/TRT/2023/00488, The Lodge, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP: Consent (Tree Works)
P/FUL/2021/02213, West Dibberford Farm, West Dibberford, Beaminster, DT8 3HD:
Granted

9. APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD FINANCE

a. Update on Application

The Clerk reported that she had attended an appointment with Kitson and Trotman on 20 February to discuss the legal agreement and that a letter had been sent to Nantes who are representing BADCE asking for information. The Clerk stated that once received, a draft legal agreement would be produced and circulated to Councillors and BADCE for comment. The Clerk stated that the loan should be in the Parish Council's bank account on 20 March. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk. Councillor Hibbard congratulated the Community Shop on its 10th Anniversary.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Dyke reported that he had attended a meeting about the Climate and Ecology Strategy - a new strategy which will shortly be put before Dorset Council for approval. Councillor Dyke stated that despite the minimal increase in Council Tax, from an Eco perspective, there was still full funding for this work and that as people had moved to different central positions within the Council, it was now possible for them to work across different departments which was positive news. Councillor Dyke stated that there was a Climate Literacy Toolkit presentation next Monday and that he would be attending. Councillor Dyke stated that a document will be issued following that meeting and if there is anything of interest, he will share with the Parish Council.

11. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that renewals had been issued.

12. MANAGEMENT OF THE MUGA

The Clerk reported that the bin and sign had both now been received and will be passed on to Councillor Nikolov. The Clerk stated that an inspection of the MUGA will be carried out at the same time as the play equipment is inspected at the school in April, by the same company and that she had mentioned the problems about people climbing over the fence

to the school and the school had stated that they were aware of the matter but would highlight this in an email to parents and during a school assembly.

13. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III, 6 MAY 2023

The Clerk referred Councillors to the report she had circulated with different mug options and confirmed that Broadwindsor School was not planning on providing anything similar. It was agreed that mugs would be available for those aged 16 and under on 31 August 2023 who live in the Grouped Parish area. The Clerk stated that she would make enquiries with Broadwindsor School and Beaminster School in terms of numbers of children. By a show of hands, the majority of Councillors preferred a mug with an image of King Charles and non-personalised text. The Clerk stated that she would find out the most competitive price and share with Councillors.

14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPE PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that Jurassic Fibre are now saying that as there is no infrastructure in place they are a low priority and stated that it is not going to happen anytime soon. Councillor Dyke stated that he is going to take this matter up with Chris Loder MP.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Parking in Broadwindsor Square

Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Hughes for his report. Councillor Hughes stated that the Community Highways Officer had stated that he would be happy to support one of the proposed measures, the rescheduling of markings in the road and had passed the other proposals to his manager for consideration. Councillor Hughes stated that he believed that it would all come back to available funding and stated that the letter received from the local resident reiterated the problems of Back Lane. Councillor Hughes stated that since the meeting, cars had not been parked overlapping the pavement and that access had improved considerably. Councillor Sewell stated that with regard to safety, the glass used in the building currently occupied by the Wobbly Cottage was thinner than greenhouse glass and the Listed Building Officer had stated that it must be this thin to be compliant. Councillor Sewell stated that she feared for children or older people if they fell into the window and that she had as suggested by Councillor Christopher reviewed the Lyric Theatre application which had approval granted for double glazing on the street side on the grounds of safety. Councillor Sewell stated that these windows were between 1.5/2m up from the pavement and that it was a one way street and that when the application for double glazing is received, she hopes that the Listed Building Officer will approve it. Councillor Bassett stated that in a time when homes need to be more efficient and double glazing can be made to fit any surround, it seems crazy not to allow it. Councillor Sewell stated that common sense had gone out of the window. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of Councillor Hughes' report to the member of the public who had contacted the Council about Back Lane. Councillor Hughes stated that it was frightening when speaking with local residents, to hear that traffic still comes up Back Lane the wrong way.

b. 20 mph Signage

Councillor Burt stated that she had been approached by a local resident who had reported that there seems to be a number of 20 mph signs on entrance to Broadwindsor, but that there doesn't seem to be any once in the village and many vehicles are seen speeding out of the village, especially going past Redlands Lane. Councillor Hibbard suggested that an email be sent to Councillor Christopher.

c. Hursey Common Entrance

Councillor Dyke reported that during the recent icy spell a number of people had unfortunately fell in Hursey and broke limbs, one such resident fell as they were coming out of the entrance of the Hursey cottages. Councillor Dyke stated that he believes that there was originally a ford at this location and that the area is permanently wet and when it freezes, becomes very dangerous. Councillor Dyke stated that a number of residents had asked if anything could be done to improve the situation, suggesting that if there were to be an accident then the Parish Council would be liable. Councillor Hibbard asked if we know who own the land in question, Councillor Dyke stated that the map he had seen shows that Hursey Common extends to the other side of the road. Councillor Hibbard stated that the first action would be to contact Dorset Highways and ask them to review the problem. The Clerk was asked to contact the Community Highways Officer and report back.

d. War Memorial Project Update

Councillor Frampton reported that he had started work on the memorial site that day. Councillor Frampton stated that he had made great strides in securing military presence at the event and had contacted R H Q The Rifles based at Winchester, who took over the Devon and Dorsets when they amalgamated and that they have agreed to provide uniformed presence at the event and a bugler to play the Last Post. Councillor Frampton stated that they have also put him in touch with RNAS Yeovilton and a RAF contact, and that he is confident that there will be good military representation. Councillor Frampton stated that he had a meeting with the Year 6 teacher at Broadwindsor Primary who will make a project about this and stated that he thought that it would be nice if the children read aloud the names of the fallen soldiers at the event itself. Councillor Frampton asked Councillor Hibbard if he would like to host the event, Councillor Hibbard stated that he would be pleased to do so. Councillor Frampton stated that he expected the event to last about thirty minutes and that members of the Grouped Parish, the School and those with family connections would be invited to attend. Councillor Frampton stated that closing the road or diverting traffic would not be an option, but it was important that everyone attending would be safe. The Clerk reported that £100.00 had been kindly donated from the Broadwindsor Fun Group and £250.00 from the family of Jean de Cloedt and stated that she had written to both to formally thank them on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk stated that there would be a shortfall as the quoted cost was approximately £580.00. Councillor Frampton suggested that some of the grant awarded by the FMR Trust for the Lewesdon Hill

memorial could be used to support this memorial project. The Clerk stated that she would add this matter to the FMR Trust agenda for April for Trustees to consider.

16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

Councillor Hibbard reported that despite a small delay due to bad weather, the houses are coming along well, and it is hoped that completion will be in June. Councillor Hibbard stated that c

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

a. Review of Draft Minutes and Reports

The Clerk stated that the draft minutes and reports from last year had been circulated and asked for any comments. No suggestions for amendments were made.

b. Update

The Clerk stated that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Friday 14 April at Blackdown Village Hall and that Chris Loder MP would be attending.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Frampton thanked Councillor Dyke for all of his efforts with the pub since the last tenants left and stated that the pub was absolutely thriving, and that David Leader would have been very proud. Councillor Frampton stated that he wished to acknowledge on behalf of the Council, that the pub is a real community asset. Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Frampton for his comments and stated that it was so heartening that so many people had become involved with the pub in some way, offering their time and this was the village pulling together to look after a much prized asset. Councillor Frampton stated that at the last meeting there had been some division within the village and asked if there was any update on the situation. Councillor Hibbard reported that he had attended a positive meeting with members of the village, both of whom were trying to work for the benefit of Broadwindsor and it was agreed to draw a line under the past and work together moving forward. Councillor Sewell stated that there was no event planned for the Coronation for Broadwindsor, Councillor Dyke replied 'Watch this space'.

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 11 April 2023 at Blackdown Village Hall.

21. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 8.51 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.