



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 13 NOVEMBER 2017

COMRADES HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Susanna Laurie, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Lesley Tibballs, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Roger Smith.

ATTENDANCE: Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Chairman. There were three members of the public present. The Chairman welcomed members of the public and Councillor Madder-Smith.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Knox and unanimously approved by the 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.

Councillors Hedditch, Sewell, Tibballs and Chubb declared an interest in Agenda Item 14a, Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust.

b. To receive requests for dispensations.

The Clerk reported that she had received a Dispensation Request Form from all Councillors present in respect of Agenda Item 7b.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

The Clerk reported that a dispensation had been granted for all Councillors present in respect of Agenda Item 7b, to allow discussion about the Precept.

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

No updates were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

With regard to BGPC 2017/10/1/5b, Councillor Sewell clarified that 'everyone' refers to North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland. A copy of the minutes from the Meeting held on 9 October 2017 was then confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk stated that updates from the previous Meeting had been included in the Agenda.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Hibbard asked members of the public if they had any comments or questions on issues on the Agenda, there were none.

a. Report from Councillor Knox

The Clerk stated that a report from Councillor Knox was forthcoming and once received, she would forward to all Councillors.

b. Report from Councillor Sewell

Councillor Sewell referred to the recent announcement by the Secretary of State the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, stating that he is minded to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, the proposal for restructuring local government in Dorset. Councillor Sewell stated that working groups had already been established prior to the announcement but that boundaries still need to be confirmed. Councillor Sewell stated that it is likely that the number of Councillors may be reduced by a third, with some of the long-standing taking the opportunity to step down. In terms of her work at the District Council, Councillor Sewell reported that planning is currently being scrutinised and that she very much hopes that things will improve. Councillor Sewell stated that a Task Force which included the Chief Executive and Chairman had been established. Councillor Sewell stated that she was pleased that accelerated housing was being discussed at the House of Lords the next day and that she had submitted a paper.

Councillor Hardwill stated that he had several observations on this matter, firstly he stated that a change in regulations had been brought in to address this issue and that works had to commence within three to five years after approval had been granted. Councillor Hardwill also commented that sometimes it is the case that a price of a site is extremely high and that developers need to wait to allow for the value of the development to increase. Councillor Hardwill stated that he had emailed Councillor Knox with regard to the recent announcement on local government reform and stated that it needed a business minded person to manage the process.

Councillor Bassett asked whether the Neighbourhood Plan would be able to address some of the issues relating to planning, Councillor Hibbard stated that in theory it should provide the Parish with more control. Councillor Sewell stated that the Plan will be a legal document and that planning officers will be obligated to consider it.

c. Report from Police Community Support Officer

The Clerk reported that an invitation to attend or provide a report had been issued to the Beaminster Neighbourhood Police Team but that no communication had been received. Councillor Leader stated that it was evident that given the significant cuts to the Police, a report was not going to be submitted and asked that this Agenda item be removed from further Meetings. All Councillors concurred.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

The Clerk reported that all correspondence had been emailed to Councillors prior to the Meeting.

a. Beaminster Area Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Councillor Hibbard noted the above correspondence and asked if there were any questions, there were none.

b. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals and Waste Plans Consultation

Councillor Hibbard noted the above correspondence and asked if there were any questions. Councillor Hardwill stated that the document was quite important as local quarries were running out of construction materials and stated the need for additional areas for waste to be deposited. Councillor Sewell asked Councillor Hardwill to send her this information.

c. Review of the South Somerset Local Plan 2006 – 2028, Issues and Options Consultation

Councillor Hibbard noted the above correspondence and asked if there were any questions, there were none. Councillor Sewell reported that she had replied to this as a District Councillor.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first, second and third (part) quarters of 2017/2018, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 6 November 2017 was £39,805.87. There were no questions.

b. Pre-approval consideration of the Precept for 2018/2019

The Clerk stated that the Precept for 2018/2019 has to be submitted to West Dorset District Council by the end of January 2018 and that she will produce a draft budget for the December Meeting. The Clerk stated that she had included in the supplementary papers, the previous year's budget and the budget analysis form to aid discussion. Councillors noted the need to ensure that sufficient funds were included for the restoration of the Parish's fingerpost signs and maintenance that was not going to be carried out by the Highways Authority. There was discussion about an inflationary rise of the Precept and the Clerk was asked to produce figures to show a number of different percentage rises from five percent.

Action: The Clerk to prepare draft budget to reflect percentage rises in the Precept.

Councillor Frampton asked whether the Parish Council would be providing any further money for the MUGA project. Councillor Leader asked whether he could provide an update on the project at this point in the proceedings, all Councillors agreed. Councillor Leader reported that himself and Councillor Rowe were currently in the process of submitting grant applications and that it was becoming clear that there is a shortage of external funding available. Councillor Leader stated that the total cost of the project would be approximately £60,000 and that £14,00 had been ringfenced by the Parish Council and an additional £5,000 would

hopefully be received from the FMR Trust. Councillor Rowe stated that it was hoped that if the majority of funding could be raised by grants, then the community could be approached to gap a small shortfall. Councillor Chubb referred to a project in Mosterton for which the Parish Council had borrowed external funds. Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council must set a deadline for securing grant funding. Councillor Sewell stated that she believed that it was difficult for Parish Councils to obtain loans. Councillor Leader stated that it was a struggle to find available grants and Councillor Rowe reported that they were just waiting to hear back from the Football Association. Councillor Hardwill stated that there were other types of funding available and suggested speaking with the local Member of Parliament.

Action: The Clerk was asked to confirm rules regarding Section 137 funds, report back on opportunities for Parish Council loans and add this matter to the next Agenda.

c. To receive the Internal Audit Report 9 November 2017

The Clerk reported that the internal audit had been carried out on 9 November and that no issues had been raised. The Clerk stated that she had that morning, received the report which she had emailed to all Councillors. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk.

d. To approve £15.00 for Mr. Bob Link (Petrol for Mower)

e. To approve £56.00 for DAPTC (Councillor Handbooks)

f. To approve £209.76 for Mr. T Emmott (Hursey Common Grass Cutting)

Councillor Bassett asked the Council to vote on the payments en bloc, this was agreed.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Tibballs and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments d, e and f.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/17/002259, Sandpits Chicken Farm, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3RB

Councillor Sewell stated that the applicant was seeking to erect an agricultural workers dwelling at Sandpits Farm. Councillor Sewell said that it would be normal for a temporary dwelling to be proposed in such applications but that in this instance a permanent dwelling was being sought as the applicant had a sound, proven track record for the business. Councillor Sewell stated that this was a calf rearing business and that there were approximately seventy calves and that a person onsite was essential to ensure good animal welfare. Councillor Chubb noted that the application stated that there were no nearby dwellings for sale when in fact the neighbouring property was up for sale, Councillor Sewell stated that this would most likely be beyond affordability. Councillor Sewell confirmed that she had attempted to contact neighbours but could not get a response after knocking at the door. Councillor Hedditch asked that the Council's corporate response ask West Dorset District Council to review the process for the removal of the slurry. There were no objections made to this application.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

WD/D/17/002025, Spring House, Honeycombe Farm, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PU: Approved

WD/D/17/002129, Spring House, Honeycombe Farm, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PU: Approved

WD/D/17/001329, 3 Templemans Ash, Bridport, DT6 5NX: Approved

d. West Dorset District Council Local Searches

Councillor Sewell asked to be contacted with any applications that require urgent attention, as she could provide a route to expedite.

9. COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk reported that she would like to arrange a training event with a focus on the Localism Act and declarations of interest and stated that she had approached Netherbury Parish Council to ask if they would like to be part of it. The Clerk stated that she had previously received offers from both West Dorset District Council and Dorset Police and wanted to ask Councillors if they would be willing to attend a session after Christmas. There was general consensus that this would be very useful. Councillor Sewell stated that Councillors could also attend other Parish Council Meetings. Councillor Tibballs stated that if one Councillor attended a training event, then others could be briefed and receive copies of training notes - cascade learning.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with the training providers and report back to Councillors with suggested dates.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Roadshows had started and that twenty people attended the Blackdown event and eighty people attended the event in Drimpton. Councillor Hibbard stated that the final Roadshow will be on Sunday 19 November at Comrades Hall and that it was hoped that in excess of a hundred people would attend. Councillor Hibbard stated that feedback so far had been positive. Councillor Hibbard stated that the questionnaire being provided should be returned by 26 November. Councillor Rowe asked at which stage the process was at, Councillor Hibbard stated that the Roadshows were part of the consultation process which was looking at green spaces, community assets and potential development sites. Councillor Hibbard stated that responses would be collated, reviewed and then form part of the formal draft plan. The draft plan would have to be approved and then adjudicated, at which point there may be amendments to make and a final referendum would take place prior to the plan being adopted.

11. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Tibballs reported that the Emergency Plan was almost complete and that Councillors had seen and had chance to comment on the draft. Councillor Chumbley asked whether the Plan would be tested, Councillor Tibballs stated that the Community Response Team Triggers and Activation could be tested. Councillor Tibballs confirmed that this would be a dynamic document that would be continuously updated, Councillor Hibbard suggested that a formal review of the Plan could form part of the Annual General Meeting. Councillor Laurie asked if the final document would be on a website and stated that individual names of those deemed vulnerable should not be published. Councillor Sewell stated that Careline should also be added to the Key Contact list. Councillor Tibballs asked the Clerk whether she would be able to print the final document, the Clerk agreed.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Hedditch reported that he had been approached by a local resident and asked if the Council would arrange for the southern hedge on the Allotments, close to the houses, to be laid. Councillor Hardwill stated that the Parish Council had previously contracted the services of Mr. Colin Penney to maintain the hedges and suggested that he be contacted again. Councillor Hardwill stated that the lower allotment hedge looked very untidy and should be trimmed two or three times during the Summer. Councillor Hardwill stated that as an entrance point to the village, it should be well maintained. Councillor Frampton informed that each year his farm hosts a hedge-laying competition and that he could enquire as to whether some trainees could work on the allotment hedge. Councillor Hibbard stated that this was a good idea and asked Councillor Frampton to progress enquiries. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Penney and ask that he take a look at the top allotment hedge.

Action: The Clerk to contact Mr. Colin Penney.

13. HIGHWAYS

a. Review of reported Highways problems for October 2017

The Clerk reported that several matters had been raised by Councillors to the local Community Highways Officer during October and asked whether any action had been taken. Councillor Chubb stated that he had contacted Mr. Simon Roberts regarding a blocked drain and that the Highways Authority had attended promptly and addressed the problem. Councillor Chubb stated that the Highways Authority was working reactively rather than proactively and urged Councillors to report any matters as soon as they arise. Councillor Tibballs reported flooding in Crewkerne Road and stated that she was concerned that the situation would become extremely dangerous if the water became frozen. Councillor Rowe stated that she had reported the build-up of leaves and debris on the pavement and road in Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor and was happy to report that this problem had now been resolved. The resurfacing of Crewkerne Road was discussed again and Councillor Tibballs agreed to be the point of contact between Wessex Water and the Highways Authority. Councillor Hardwill was pleased to report that the white lines on the road between Horn Ash and Marshwood had finally been reinstated but stated that after years of requesting, the cats

eyes had still not been replaced and the road surface in Broadwindsor Square had still not been improved.

b. Review of Highways Services for 2018/2019

The Clerk referred Councillors to the email from Mr. Martin Hill as previously circulated. Councillor Chubb stated that it is imperative that highways problems are reported as soon as possible. The Clerk stated that if there were any questions arising from the information as sent by Mr. Hill, then she would contact him again to raise.

c. Local Bus/Transport Update

Councillor Leader reported that there was now a bus service in Broadwindsor, it does not run on a Saturday and is being run on trial basis only. Councillor Leader stated that how to provide a weekend service is currently being discussed. Councillor Leader stated that the community needs to use the service, if not it will be withdrawn again. Councillor Leader stated that he has had favourable feedback that it is currently being well used. Councillor Sewell suggested encouraging people to take a friend along on the bus to improve passenger numbers. Councillor Hibbard stated that this was a positive result and thanked Councillors Leader and Rowe and all those people who had been involved with helping bring back the service.

d. Speed Indicator Device for Drimpton

Councillor Smith reported that he had some time ago attended a meeting with PCSO Alex Bishop and that a number of volunteers for a Drimpton Speedwatch group had come forward. Councillor Smith stated that after providing full details of each volunteer, no further contact had been received from Dorset Police. Councillors agreed that it would be helpful to identify the location of the Speed Indicator Device and the Clerk agreed to contact Councillor Knox.

Action: The Clerk to contact Councillor Knox regarding the Speed Indicator Device.

e. Report from the Footpaths Officer

Councillor Rowe reported that the Hursey footpath sign had not in fact been removed, rather that it had fallen into a hedge and stated that Councillor Curtis had very kindly reinstated it. Councillor Curtis stated that the site had been previously visited by Dorset County Council and the officer attending had wanted to reposition the sign in a different location and had not returned to complete the job, taking the new post with them. Councillor Hibbard asked Councillor Rowe to contact the County Council and ask them to return the new post. Councillor Hedditch asked Councillor Rowe if she had any clarification on where responsibility rested with regard to the repair and maintenance of gates and stiles, Councillor Rowe stated that she had not yet found the answer to this question. Councillor Rowe stated that she will be contacting landowners for their valuable input, Councillor Hedditch stated that it is important to ensure that all arrows are pointing in the correct direction. Councillor Hedditch asked Councillor Rowe about members of the public changing footpath routes, Councillor Rowe stated that she believed that this was a criminal offence. Councillor Chubb asked whether Councillor Rowe had made contact with Mr. Brian Hesketh, Councillor Rowe stated that she had not done so yet as she had experienced problems with her internet service.

f. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Rowe asked Councillors for their suggestions on how to take forward this matter and stated that perhaps one way would be to identify a small area in the Parish to create a wildlife area. Councillor Hibbard stated that this would be a good start and asked Councillor Rowe to report back to the Council once this had been done. Councillor Tibballs suggested the bank next to the old cottage, Councillor Frampton suggested an area of Hursey Common and Councillor Sewell suggested the verge by the Old Bakery.

g. Flood Warden for Drimpton

Councillor Hedditch reported that Mr. Robert Hedditch had volunteered to act as the Flood Warden for Drimpton and during the recent heavy rainfall, he had walked the village to ensure that there were no problems. Councillor Hedditch stated that it was important for the community to do their bit to help as well and suggested asking that people keep grids local to their properties free from debris. Councillor Hibbard asked that thanks be passed onto Mr. Robert Hedditch from the Parish Council. Councillor Tibballs reported that she had washed down Crewkerne Road and dug out mud to prevent flooding. Councillor Leader reported that he had recently received new sandbags and asked that members of the public, vulnerable to flooding, be made aware that they can request bags from him now. The Clerk stated that she would publicise this on the website and Facebook.

Action: The Clerk to inform members of the community that sandbags are available.

h. Dog Fouling and Bins

Councillor Sewell reported that a complaint about dog fouling by Broadwindsor School had been made by Mrs. Jean Frampton. Councillor Leader stated that he was in the process of identifying possible locations for the new waste bins. Councillor Frampton reminded Councillors about the problem of dog waste at Lewesden Hill. Councillor Bassett stated that people needed educating about the harmful effects of dog waste and stated that the problem of waste in Drimpton had improved since the installation of the new waste bins. Potential locations were discussed by Councillors and Councillor Leader stated that there was already a bin located by the School gate. The Clerk stated that she would forward contact details for Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) to Councillor Leader and also obtain bin labels stating that dog waste was permitted, which were being offered by DWP.

Action: The Clerk to forward contact details for Dorset Waste Partnership to Councillor Leader and obtain bin labels.

14. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Leader reported that he and Councillors Sewell and Chubb had attended an interesting seminar which looked at other community land trust schemes and stated that the build at Lyme Regis was excellent. Councillor Leader stated progress was being made and that the project was moving forward. Councillor Leader stated that the next steps would be to look at design, convene a public meeting and submit a planning application. Councillor Smith asked if a timetable was known, Councillor Leader stated that negotiations were still ongoing. Councillor Chubb stated that the sewerage problems in Drimpton could have a knock-on

effect in the project. Councillor Bassett stated that any new development would absolutely need its own sewerage system, Councillor Leader stated that this was part of the plan.

15. LEISURE

a. Update on the Multi-Use Games Area

This was discussed under Agenda Item 7b.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Council

None.

b. Items for Next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council was aware if the new mobile telephone mast was in operation yet, Councillor Curtis stated that it was not, but was due to be launched soon.

18. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.15 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending.