



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 14 DECEMBER 2020 ONLINE MEETING

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Cindy Bodycombe, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Bob Harris, 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 three members of the public in attendance. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the online Parish Council Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillor Hughes 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 Clerk informed that Councillor Hughes had asked for one amendment, namely the deletion of the word 'near' in Agenda Item 9, line 7. The minutes from the online meeting held on 9 November 2020 were then confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council. Councillor Hibbard duly signed the approved minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Parish Council Vacancy, Seaborough Ward

Councillor Hibbard reported that Susanna Laurie had stepped down as Councillor as she had moved out of Seaborough. Councillor Hibbard paid thanks to Susanna Laurie for her work as Councillor and wished her well for the future. The Clerk stated that she had informed Dorset Council and an official vacancy notice had been issued. The Clerk stated that parishioners had until 31 December to request that an election take place and if sufficient requests were not received then co-option could take place at the February meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had been informed that the battery for the Drimpton defibrillator required replacing and that a quotation of £216.00 inclusive of VAT had been provided. The Clerk stated that until the battery was replaced, the defibrillator would be out of order. Councillor Bassett stated that he would like to propose that this be purchased immediately as it would take too long to wait until the next meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that the defibrillator was an essential piece of equipment. The Clerk stated that under the current Standing Order, purchases of up to £100.00 could be approved without the full consent of the Council, just with the approval of the Chairman. The Clerk was asked to review whether such an urgent item could be purchased and report back. The purchase was approved in principle by the Council, proposed by Councillor Bassett and seconded by Councillor Chumbley. Councillor Sewell suggested that the Standing Orders be revisited and the current limits reviewed. Councillor Hibbard agreed.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Hibbard invited members of the public to address the Council. No questions were asked.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Christopher to the meeting. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher for his report and stated that it had been circulated and asked for any questions. Councillor Christopher reiterated the sentiments made regarding Susanna Laurie and praised her for her good work. Councillor Frampton stated that at a previous meeting he had raised the matter of the footpath extension from Redlands Lane down to the Cricket Club and asked whether there had been any progression and stated that he had reported a sink hole between Burstock and Broadwindsor which does not have any white lines around it and is getting bigger. For the latter issue, Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Frampton to send him an email highlighting his increased concern and he would then contact Officers and Highways. Councillor Christopher stated that with regard to the footpath, he was making progress with this and stated that in the first instance Officers were not convinced about the need for the footpath but there had been a change of thought and stated that he was confident that progress was being made.

Councillor Rowe stated that after the last Parish Council meeting Councillor Christopher agreed to take on responsibility for footpaths and Councillor Rowe congratulated Councillor Christopher for his amazing efforts, making contact with many other Councillors and exchanging much dialogue. Councillor Rowe stated that she was however a little concerned that all had gone a little quiet with regard to the proposed site meeting which was planned for after the lockdown period had ended. Councillor Rowe also stated that she was concerned that there were three members of the public who had still not had any information about how their complaints were being progressed. Councillor Rowe stated that one member of the public had incurred a slight injury to her face when riding her horse along a bridlepath. Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Rowe to forward an email detailing her further concerns and stated that he would then pass on to the relevant Officer and Lead Members. Councillor Christopher stated that he had highlighted that there can be liabilities for Dorset Council when matters are not actioned. Councillor Rowe stated that she had read in the report the information relating to a pathway to sustainable farming, and as she understood it, the ELMS scheme would provide welcomed support for farmers but would not be available until 2025, that cuts to the old scheme would begin in January 2021 and that farmers could lose up to 50% of their support in the meantime. Councillor Rowe stated that there did not seem to be any additional support for farmers during this transition period.

Councillor Christopher stated that he had written his report a week before the meeting and since that time there had been a growing campaign within the farming press to make sure that farming subsidies are correctly paid. Councillor Christopher stated that there had been much coverage in the national press and that the Government had identified the farming sector as one of the key sectors to support. Councillor Christopher stated that he would forward some additional information to Councillor Rowe. Councillor Rowe thanked Councillor Christopher.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that on the 14 November, Dorset Police received a report of damage to a vehicle in the area of High Street/Kings Court, this occurred at some time from the evening before, through the night. At some time in the days leading up to 15 November, a chain and some straps were stolen from a barn in the Kittwhistle area. In his report PCSO Bishop asked that if anyone had any information about any of these crimes, to call the Police on 101, or use the online reporting system at www.dorset.police.uk The report also stated that on 23 November, PCSO Bishop issued a Section 59 warning notice to the registered keeper and driver of a vehicle that had driven along the bridleway between Common Water Lane and the B3163. This was in relation to the issues that have been occurring along Common Water Lane, with which he had been liaising with the landowner, Councillors Simon Christopher and Rebecca Knox and Parish Councillor David Leader. The report stated that the Police had been made aware of a vehicle that had been seen abandoned on the Lane, and that they are in the process of investigating for a document offence. The report stated that the Police were also in the area patrolling last

Saturday as part of a wider rural operation, but found no one on the Lane or in the area. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that Dorset Police had received a couple of reports relating to cold callers purporting to be Police Officers investigating fraudulent activity in accounts, or fraudulent uses of bank cards. These are scams and not genuine. PCSO Bishop advised in his report that should anyone get a similar call, to hang up. If you have any concerns, call your bank and check that everything is in order, never give out or confirm any details if asked and if you believe you have given or confirmed any details to a cold caller, call your bank straight away to prevent any transactions and report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk. In his report PCSO Bishop wished everyone a great Christmas and happy New Year and stated that he hoped to be back to face to face engagements soon.

c. Co-option to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council, Burstock Ward

The Clerk confirmed that just one expression of interest had been received from Lloyd Curtis and asked whether Councillors had any questions, no questions were asked. The Council agreed to co-opt Lloyd Curtis to the Parish Council to represent the Burstock ward.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell , seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved to co-opt Lloyd Curtis to the Parish Council to represent the Burstock ward.

Lloyd Curtis duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and showed the signed document to the camera in order that it could be visible to the Clerk and Councillors. Councillor Curtis was invited to participate in the remaining part of the meeting, Councillors welcomed him back to the Parish Council.

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

a. Community Updates from Councillors

Councillor Rowe stated that she was pleased that she had made contact with many elderly and vulnerable members of the community by telephone back in March as trust had been built and people were now ringing her when they needed support and she was very happy to help. Councillor Sewell informed that she was the main contact for those with questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine and that her name and contact details had been published on Dorset County Hospital's website.

Councillor Leader stated that he had previously highlighted the plans for Bernards' Place which included the installation of equipment for people with mobility issues and wheelchair users and stated that the project was ambitious. Councillor Leader stated that he had taken inspiration from the excellent play facilities at Drimpton and was looking to copy some of its features. Councillor Leader stated that he would be submitting a number of grant applications and one in particular has a very tight deadline. Councillor Leader stated that he had received a letter of support from Councillor Christopher and was seeking something similar from the Parish Council. Proposed by Councillor Chubb and seconded by Councillor Rowe, the Parish Council resolved to provide such support. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council should consider providing a financial grant to the project in the future. Councillor Christopher

stated that he had informed Councillor Andrew Parry of the project and stated that he was supportive and had included that within his letter of support. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Union Connectivity Review: Call for Evidence

The Clerk reported that this had been previously circulated, there were no comments.

8. 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 2020/2021, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 November 2020 was £39,807.66. There were no questions.

b. To receive and approve the External Audit Report and Certificate 2019/2020

The Clerk informed that this had been circulated prior to the meeting and stated that the Auditor had included within the Other Matters section a comment relating to the publish date of the Exercise of Public Rights Notice. The Clerk informed that the document had been published four days prior to the start of the period which was compliant with all regulations and that she had provided such evidence to the Auditor and asked them to amend their comment accordingly. The Clerk stated that she would report back to the Council on the challenge. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chumbley, seconded by Councillor Hibbard and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the External Audit Report and Certificate 2019/2020.

c. To receive and approve the Internal Audit Report 2020/2021

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chumbley, seconded by Councillor Hibbard and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the Internal Audit Report 2020/2021.

d. To consider the Budget and Precept Request for 2021/2022

The Clerk provided a summary of the documentation circulated prior to the meeting, a draft budget, budget analysis and implications using the published Tax Base for a 3% and 5% increase to the Precept request. The Clerk stated that the Precept request must be submitted to Dorset Council by 31 January 2021. Councillor Hardwill stated that he had in previous years been challenged by parishioners on the increase in the Parish Council budget and given the current financial difficulties, it was his belief that the Parish Council should look to reduce its budget and Precept request or at the very least hold it at its current level. Councillor Frampton stated that he had asked for the same refrain last year and that he very much agreed with the comments from Councillor Hardwill that the Precept request should not be increased for the next financial year. Councillor Leader stated that over the last few years the Parish Council

has done great things for the area and has provided very good value for money. Councillor Leader stated that the restoration of the fingerpost signs was a good example of a project which has greatly improved the Grouped Parish area and that it was important to be able to carry out such work. Councillor Leader stated that he thought that the Precept should be maintained at its current level and that it was for most households, not a significant financial burden.

Councillor Chumbley stated that since he had been on the Parish Council it had been usual to seek a small inflationary increase to the Precept request and stated that he wondered whether it was now the right time to at least hold the Precept at its current level to show some flexibility and acknowledgement of the current difficult times. Councillor Chumbley stated that although a 5% increase would only mean a financial increase of 1p for a Band D household, the percentage increase would be noted. Councillor Rowe stated that she agreed with the comments from Councillor Leader that the Parish Council had over the years taken on more responsibility for providing services which Dorset Council had once offered and that the Parish Council was doing its best for its residents. Councillor Rowe stated that she did not think that the Precept request should go below the current level and would have voted for a slight increase.

Councillor Curtis stated that he believed that the current budget and Precept level was sufficient to allow the Parish Council to carry out its services. Councillor Bodycombe stated that she would favour either holding the Precept at its current level or a slight increase as once the pandemic is over, she believes that things will be worse before they start to improve again and that the Parish Council should be in a position to be able to help its residents as much as possible. Councillor Sewell stated that she agreed that the Precept should be held at its current level or a small inflationary rise, stating that not only as a result of the pandemic but also Brexit, costs would be increasing. Councillor Harris stated that the Parish Council does not overspend and gives good consideration to everything and stated that he has noted that the village halls receive a lot of the money as they are a vital part of the community and possible future expenditure should be considered. Councillor Chubb proposed that a vote be taken at the January meeting for retaining the current Precept level and an increase of 5%, he stated that he would prefer the Precept to be held as it is and that the Parish Council has a strong reserve and spends wisely. Councillor Hibbard stated that the majority view seemed to be to retain the Precept at its current level, and although a number of Councillors had expressed a wish to decrease, he did not think this a good idea. Councillor Hardwill stated that he appreciated the many comments from Councillors and stated that he wanted the Parish Council to show responsibility and set an example to other Councils and would be happy to propose that the Precept remain at its current level. Councillor Hardwill asked Councillor Christopher whether he would inform other Parish Councils of this and hopefully they will do the same. Councillor Christopher stated that he would be more than willing to do this and thought the idea a good one.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hardwill, seconded by Councillor Chubb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved to retain the Precept at its current level of £28,222.56.

Councillor Christopher stated that a good example of work being carried out by Dorset Council is Norway Lane, which he had received emails about from Broadwindsor parishioners. The expectation to reopen the Lane is that it will cost in excess of a six-figure sum. Councillor Christopher stated that work is being carried out and that he has every assurance that things will progress further before Christmas. Councillor Christopher stated that there had been some trouble with machine breakdowns but reiterated that he does follow these matters up.

Councillor Bassett stated that the current year's budget included an approved £500.00 for dredging work under the bridge in Drimpton and stated that due to COVID and a backlog of work it could not be carried out and had now been pushed back to the Spring. Councillor Hibbard stated that there was £3000 in the maintenance budget, the Clerk confirmed that the expenditure had already been approved and would be carried over.

Councillor Bassett proposed that the payments below be approved en bloc, this was agreed.

- e. To approve payment of £3.60 for HMRC (NI)**
- f. To approve payment of £42.00 for DM Payroll Services Ltd (Payroll Services)**
- g. To approve payment of £14.40 for Total Web Solutions (Additional Storage)**
- h. To approve payment of £200.00 for Broadwindsor Community Stores (Grant for External Shelter)**
- i. To approve payment of £720.00 for PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit)**
- j. To approve payment of £68.12 for Focus Limited (Internal Audit)**
- k. To approve payment of £89.43 for the Clerk (Expenses November, December 2020)**
- l. To approve payment of £106.80 for Defib Shop (Replacement Defibrillator Pads, Kittwhistle)**

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell , seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments e to l.

m. To note payment of £106.80 for Defib Shop (Replacement Defibrillator Pads, Drimpton)
Councillor Hibbard stated that this was the emergency payment made to allow the pads to be purchased before the next meeting. This was noted.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/20/002442, The Old School House, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP

Councillor Sewell reported that work had already started on this property as being a second home it was not lived in all of the time. Councillor Sewell stated that about ten days ago the scaffolding was being erected and she had a chat with the owners and a look inside the property. Councillor Sewell stated that planning permission was required as the property is

Grade II Listed within a conservation area and stated that the works are to bring the property back to spec and the proposals which will improve the property should be supported.

WD/D/20/002187, Ellaway Cottage, Wood Farm, Wood Lane, Kittwhistle, DT8 3LG

Councillor Hibbard stated that this application was seeking permission to install an outdoor swimming pool and that he had looked at the plans and spoken with both the applicant and neighbour and no concerns had been raised. Councillor Hibbard stated that the application had been submitted as the adjacent farmhouse is listed. Councillor Hibbard stated that he could not see any reason for the Council not to support the application.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following result:

WD/D/20/000196, Brent Paddock, Axe Lane, Drimpton, DT8 3FN: Approved

Councillor Chubb stated that although he was not against this planning application, he was surprised to see it approved with the entrance location in the 60mph area and not as a shared entrance which goes against the comments submitted by the Parish Council and not in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Chubb stated that the consultation had been a waste of time and yet again the Parish Council had not been listened to. Councillor Christopher stated that there have been many occasions when he has fought the corner of local residents and not been listened to himself. Councillor Chubb stated that the Neighbourhood Plan was a legal document and should be followed but that on this occasion it had been disregarded. Councillor Harris stated that after looking on the Planning Portal he had become aware that the application had been revised from two to one dwelling and that he had not been made aware of that change. The Clerk stated that the revised application was published at the start of the lockdown period and had been circulated and comments were received back from Councillor Chubb and submitted to Dorset Council on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk stated that a small change had also been made more recently and that she had contacted the Case Officer to ask whether additional comments were required from the Parish Council and she had been informed that no further consultation was being requested. Councillor Harris asked whether Councillor Chubb had been aware of the change in the number of dwellings, Councillor Chubb stated that he had been and that he was not against the planning application but stated that Dorset Council could have reviewed issues differently.

Councillor Sewell stated that she was pleased that this application had been approved, a proposal which included an entrance onto a 60mph zone, and stated that there is another application at the bottom of Clan Hill which has been refused by Highways as it is located on a 60mph road. Councillor Sewell asked where the continuity was in these different decisions and stated that the applicant had been asked to provide a speed survey and informed that it was far too dangerous. Councillor Christopher stated that often highways matters are hugely

topical and stated that recently Highways had decided that the views of Beaminster Town Council and the majority of its residents with regard to a planning application were wrong and it is not always the case that they will follow what we think to be sensible. Councillor Sewell stated that these were two applications in the same area which have been treated differently. Councillor Christopher asked the Clerk to forward him an email highlighting this matter and stated that he would pass on to relevant Councillors. Councillor Hardwill stated that it was not possible to compare such different roads such as the one in Netherhay and the B3612 stating that there was no comparison.

10. BROADWINDSOR CRICKET CLUB

a. Update on Fundraising and Plans

Councillor Frampton stated that he had four matters to raise with the Parish Council. Firstly, Councillor Frampton reported that they have now reached heads of terms to purchase the ground and the next step is to formally incorporate the Club so that they can own the ground. Councillor Frampton stated that they are now at the stage to put the Club in trust and have been advised that the best fit for the Club would be a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Councillor Frampton stated that the freehold title for the ground would be held in the CIO. Councillor Frampton stated that the Club had met with Robbie Roskell and Robert Tolley, and wish to install a car park by renting land from Robert Tolley and stated that they have been advised to widen the entrance. Councillor Frampton stated that he was very happy to support the campaign to reduce the speed limit and create a buffer zone into Broadwindsor. Councillor Frampton stated that two bits of hedge would have to be removed and that they would replant a bank of holly and blackthorn around the car park which would be larger than the original part removed. Councillor Frampton stated that the cost for the Club to submit its planning application would be £450.00, but if the Parish Council submitted it on behalf of the Club, the cost would be reduced to £225.00, Councillor Frampton asked whether the Parish Council was in a position to do this.

Councillor Frampton stated that they had received a quotation from Western Power for the installation of electricity of £10,600 as they had stated that only a new rather than second-hand transformer could be put up. Councillor Frampton stated that the Parish Council, he believed had helped previously with other projects by assisting with the purchase and was then able to claim the VAT back and wondered whether the Parish Council was able to help on this occasion. Councillor Hibbard stated that if it was possible then he would be very happy to support. The Clerk stated that she had spoken with the Internal Auditor regarding this matter but in relation to Comrades Hall and that there had been previous examples of other Parish Councils acting in this way and that further discussion would take place after Christmas. The Clerk stated that she would report back.

Councillor Hardwill suggested that the group of trustees should always include a representative from the Parish Council to provide ongoing support. Councillor Sewell stated that there are planning rules and regulations relating to car parks and asked whether there would be any implications for the Club and also asked whether there would be a change to

the rateable value of the land. Councillor Sewell asked whether Councillor Christopher could advise on these matters. Councillor Christopher stated that he would be keen to hear from Robbie Roskell and his team on this matter and stated that he supported the application. Councillor Frampton stated that the plan will be for the Craft Centre to carry out the excavations and that they would be able to use the car park for their staff during the day and the Club would have the space for their players and visitors at other times. Councillor Frampton stated that where the car park is now will then become a space with practice nets and picnic tables. Councillor Hibbard stated that he was sure that all the necessary details would be discussed by those involved with the project.

Councillor Leader stated that what the Cricket Club is trying to achieve is fantastic, it will benefit the community for generations to come and stated that the Parish Council should support it as much as it can.

11. REVIEW OF WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that early next year she will be reviewing the Parish Council's website to ensure that it was still fit for purpose and that she would be seeking feedback from Councillors on how it should be developed. Councillor Sewell stated that the road sweeper had visited the village at 8.00 am that morning and it would have been helpful to have advanced notice as there were cars parked all around the village and suggested that this was the type of information that could go on the website and social media.

12. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Leader stated that there was nothing further to report at this time. Councillor Chubb stated that he had been approached by a resident asking whether she could be reimbursed for purchasing bags for the recycling bins in Drimpton. Councillor Hibbard asked who had installed the bins, Councillor Chubb stated that he believed that local residents had as part of the Eco Group but wasn't completely sure. Councillor Chubb asked about what happens in Broadwindsor in relation to recycling bins and the purchase of bags, Councillor Sewell stated that a group of people are responsible for emptying the packs and then the content is taken to the Recycling Centre in Bridport. Councillor Sewell stated that she used her own recycling bags and suggested that the resident write to the Parish Council to formally request the reimbursement.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Madder-Smith stated that there was nothing to report at this time.

14. HIGHWAYS

a. Report from the Footpaths Officer

Councillor Rowe stated that she had raised the points she wanted to highlight with Councillor Christopher earlier in the meeting.

b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Rowe stated that she had a request to make with regard to verge management and stated that last year despite the success of the wildflowers, she had encountered difficulties relating to the cutting of the verges. Councillor Rowe stated that the arrangement with Dorset Council did not meet needs and the grass was often not cut when it was required, stating that some complaints had been received from local residents which did undermine the beauty of the wildflowers. Councillor Rowe stated that she would like the Parish Council to write to Dorset Council to request that they take on responsibility for cutting the verges from the Beaminster Road, on both sides of the crossroads up to Orchard Mead and that Dorset Council still continue to manage the rest. Councillor Rowe stated that the Parish Council could ask for reimbursement for taking on these verges and that it would be a much better arrangement. The Clerk was asked to add this to the January meeting and stated that she would prepare a draft letter.

Councillor Chubb stated that there was a situation between Greenham and Childhay of a footbridge which was almost falling into the river. Councillor Chubb stated that he had been asked by Councillor Hardwill whether he knew anything about this and stated that he had contacted Russell Goff at Dorset Council about the matter. Councillor Chubb stated that he had received a message to say that Dorset Council had been out and that they may want to move the bridge or replace it and stated that this matter should be on the agenda for next month. Councillor Chubb stated that all hedges had now been cut and that it was now a safe road through Drimpton. Councillor Hardwill stated that the unsafe bridge had been brought to his attention and that he had contacted Councillor Chubb and Dorset Council and stated that Dorset Council had been out and placed a safety notice on it immediately thereafter. Councillor Hardwill stated that he had been informed by the farmer whose land is adjacent that the Council is proposing to remove the existing bridge and replace with a longer one but was not sure on how long this would take.

c. Maintenance of Signs in the Grouped Parish Area

The Clerk stated that Councillor Hughes had asked that this be on the Agenda and that he was concerned about the poor state of some of the signs across the Grouped Parish and suggested the possibility of engaging someone to clean them. Councillor Leader stated that he had spoken with Councillor Hughes about this matter and Councillor Leader suggested that Councillors take this on themselves. Councillor Chumbley stated that he cleans the signs in Hursey and Councillor Rowe stated that she had cleaned the signs at the crossroads and stated that this could be easily done as long as people knew who was cleaning which signs. Councillor Harris stated that the road sign on Burstock Lane which had been reported some months ago had not yet been replaced. Councillor Sewell stated that some time ago she had requested another Redlands Lane sign as there was only one located at the exit of the Lane. Councillor Christopher asked that this matter be included in the email to him along with the other highways matters raised at the meeting.

d. Update on Oak Tree, Crewkerne Road, Drimpton

Councillor Basset reported that the unsafe oak tree on the Crewkerne Road had now been removed, stating that it was chopped down after some of it fell into the road. Councillor Basset stated that fortunately no damage was caused and that he had checked with Dorset Council and there was no preservation order on the tree.

Councillor Sewell reported that an elderly lady had attended the Post Office morning and had complained about the flooding between Burstock Lane and Wood Lane and asked that this matter be taken forward.

e. Dog Fouling

Councillor Leader reported that dog fouling was still a problem in Yarn Barton and in other places and stated that people should be vigilant and that hopefully those responsible will be caught.

f. Common Water Lane Verges Update

Councillor Leader stated that this matter had been previously reported and stated that Common Water Lane was a road which was legally accessible to all vehicles and which had very large verges at each side which contained wildlife of significant interest and which had been awarded a designation. Councillor Leader stated that the Lane had been plagued by off-road vehicles for a very long time and that there had been various initiatives to try and resolve the problem in the past. Councillor Leader stated that at the moment the verges are in a terrible state, they have been churned up by vehicles and that those responsible for doing so are known criminals. Councillor Leader stated that the road is used by walkers, those riding horses and farmers to access their land and the only way to resolve this ongoing problem is to restrict vehicular access to the road for others. Councillor Leader stated that he has spoken with Councillor Christopher and Dorset Police about this and stated that Dorset Council has the power to stop access and that they must step up. Councillor Leader stated that landowners are very concerned about what is happening. Councillor Christopher stated that last Thursday three of the Councillors in charge of Highways visited the site and were shocked by the condition of the verges and have subsequently arranged a number of meetings. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher. Councillor Leader stated that this was an urgent issue and there was much anxiety and asked Councillor Christopher to put some timescales to this as he would hope that by the January meeting there would be something positive to report. Councillor Christopher stated that he has sent emails highlighting his concern that there is not reasonable Police presence and that he would make every possible effort to make sure people are listening. Councillor Sewell asked whether it would be helpful to include the Police and Crime Commissioner and candidates into these conversations, Councillor Christopher stated that they were aware of the situation as was the Member of Parliament. Councillor Frampton stated that there was a similar problem local to him and that access had been temporarily blocked due to the positioning of a bale of hay, Councillor Chubb asked Councillor Christopher about the legal position of this type of local action. Councillor Christopher stated that he would seek advice from Legal Services.

15. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Leader reported that matters were moving forward and that the tendering process was well underway and that he hoped that a decision would be known at the beginning of next year. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Leader. Councillor Sewell raised the matter of the delay in completing the S106 documentation. Councillor Leader stated that there is a six-month limit to complete this but stated that this may not be achieved, stating that the involvement of so many including Dorset Council and a number of solicitors can cause delays. Councillor Sewell stated that time is also lost over the Christmas period when organisations close. Councillor Christopher asked who was leading the work, Councillor Leader stated that a number of different solicitors were involved but stated that Dorset Council had taken a long time to respond. Councillor Hibbard asked if there was a possibility of an extension being granted, Councillor Leader stated that there was but that he would prefer to complete on time. Councillor Sewell stated that for this application, an automatic extension period had not been included. Councillor Christopher stated that he would speak to Councillor Leader about this outside of the meeting.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Frampton stated that he had been approached by a lady in Burstock about a problem with the post box that it was not big enough to post an A4 letter. Councillor Frampton stated that he was not sure whether this was something that the Parish Council could help with or whether the lady should be advised to contact the Post Office herself. Councillor Hibbard suggested that the lady contact the Post Office and that if a negative response is received then the Parish Council could step in to help. Councillor Sewell stated that she could always attend the Post Office in Broadwindsor or Thorncombe.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public stated that she would be happy to collaborate with the website review and stated that next year businesses which are located in or serve the Grouped Parish would be offered free advertising on the Broadwindsor.org website.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk confirmed that the date of the next online Parish Council meeting would be Monday 11 January 2021 and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

19. CLOSE

Councillor Hibbard stated that he wished to formally thank Phillip Hardwill for his great efforts keeping everyone informed on what was happening at Blackdown Church. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Council for their support during the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.05 pm.