



MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
14 FEBRUARY 2022
ONLINE MEETING

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Yvonne White.

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by Councillor Hibbard. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public and thanked them for taking part. There were fourteen members of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Frampton and Madder-Smith 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 informal meeting held on 10 January 2022 and the meeting held on 25 January were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Letter of thanks for Peter Hardwill

Councillor Hibbard proposed that the Parish Council write a letter of thanks to Mr. Peter Hardwill, all Councillors agreed, and the Clerk stated that she would draft a letter.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public raised the matter of Common Water Lane, the Chairman advised that this could be discussed under Agenda Item 16. Another member of the public asked to address the Council regarding speed limits and thanked the Council for allowing him to attend and speak at the meeting. The member of the public stated that he wished to make a few remarks about local road conditions and traffic speed in connection with Agenda item 16c and in doing so he hoped that there might be some support for potential speed management on a stretch of road that currently has an inappropriate 60 mph regime.

The member of the public stated that Kittwhistle has a narrow carriageway with pinch points, houses on the edge of the road, tight curves, awkward junctions and no refuge for pedestrians. The member of the public stated that he believed that the speed of traffic approaching and moving through this locality, and further south to Blackdown, should be regulated to reduce the risk of accidents and to improve safety conditions. The member of the public stated that his own particular interest is the stretch of road north of Kittwhistle, extending to the Horn Ash crossroads. Travelling north from Kittwhistle the first feature is a very tight right hand bend which vehicles frequently attempt at too higher speeds. Beyond the bend is a straight stretch of downhill road, the member of the public stated that he believed that traffic speeds of 50 mph were commonplace here. The member of the public stated that after 300m the road curves and due to its deflection characteristics and the narrowing of the road, oncoming southbound traffic often takes a driving line in the centre of the carriageway at this point, where northbound vehicles can still be travelling at significant speeds. The member of the public stated that the result is that vehicles frequently mount the verge to avoid collision, apply heavy braking and take evasive action to avoid impact. The member of the public stated that this is particularly difficult bearing in mind the significant proportion of wide commercial vehicles using this route and stated that he believes the current 60 mph regime applied to this location is inappropriate.

The member of the public stated that his concern relates to the Horn Ash crossroads - the junction of the B3165 and B3162 and stated that as many will know, the sight lines for vehicles emerging from Drimpton or Winsham are wholly inadequate. Drivers are faced with extremely difficult decisions and due to the limited visibility are forced to take considerable risk. The member of the public stated that these circumstances are worsened by the speed of traffic from both directions on the B3165 and stated that he has witnessed many near-miss incidents and some accidents and that the screeching of tyres from braking vehicles approaching the junction is a regular occurrence. The member of the public stated that the

most recent significant accident attended by police towards the end of last year involved two cars, one with three children.

The member of the public stated that he has collated data from the Dorset Highways website in relation to minimum stopping sight distances and that the junction fails against all the standards. The member of the public stated that some people will say that speed limits are difficult to enforce but stated that he believes that people by in large do give some consideration to limits and stated that Dorset Council should be asked to consider a significant reduction in the traffic speed regime in this locality, probably to 30 or 40 mph depending on their own investigations, surveys and consultations. The member of the public thanked the Parish Council for allowing him to raise this matter, Councillor Hibbard thanked the member of the public for his comments.

Councillor Christopher stated that he agreed with the matters raised and has emailed the Lead Member for Highways and the Leader of the Council about both speed limits and the quality of the road and has challenged the inconsistency of speed limits. Councillor Christopher stated that he will continue to push for improvements. Councillor Sewell stated that these problems date back many years and much campaigning for improvements has taken place. Councillor Christopher stated that he has invited the Lead Member for Highways to come out and look at the road and he will push for it to be brought up to the best possible condition.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Hibbard stated that Councillor Christopher's report had been circulated. There were no questions.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that between 14 and 17 January, a large number of slates were stolen from an address in the Greenham area. The report also stated that at this time of year there is often a rise in collisions on the road, due to driver error in poor conditions. Considering the road conditions and other hazards on the road that may occur such as pedestrians, horse riders, etc, PCSO Bishop advised people to take care, especially in the lanes when approaching junctions and bends - always slow appropriately prior to a bend as you are more likely to skid if you brake around the bend, but also consider that there may be a hazard in the road you need to stop for or avoid. The report also stated that road positioning is always important to bear in mind as this can make the difference between a collision and a near miss and at this time of year it is also a good idea to check your vehicle over regularly for good tyre tread and pressure and the fluid levels. Tyre condition and pressure can also make the difference when braking/stopping. In his report, PCSO Bishop stated that he will be attending his regular engagement at the Post Office at the Comrades Hall on Tuesday 8 March at 11.00 am.

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

The Clerk reported that the deadline for expressions of interest for this vacancy was 9 February and informed that one expression had been received from Sonia Raymond who was in attendance at the meeting. The Clerk stated that the Council is not permitted to co-opt during an online meeting but stated that questions could be asked. The Clerk stated that the co-option will have to take place at the next in-person meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that Sonia Raymond would be a great asset to the Parish Council and that her local knowledge would be invaluable. Councillor Hibbard stated that he very much supported this appointment. Councillor Sewell stated that she welcomed another woman on to the Parish Council. There were no objections raised and no questions were asked.

Given the number of members of the public in attendance wishing to comment on Agenda Item 9a – WD/D/21/000123, Land South of Fullers, Bridport Road, Broadwindsor, the Chairman proposed that this item be brought forward to this point in the proceedings, all agreed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Dorset Council, Dorset's Draft Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme

The Clerk informed that she had circulated information to all Councillors and stated that there was a survey to be completed with a deadline of 21 February.

b. Lytchett Matravers Parish Council, Dorset Council Planning Department

Councillor Sewell stated that this was a copy of a letter sent from Lytchett Matravers Parish Council to Dorset Council to express its frustrations with the Planning Department most notably that its Neighbourhood Plan was being ignored in planning decisions. Councillor Sewell stated that there may be some value in collaborating with other local councils in expressing concerns about this and make our voice heard. Councillor Christopher stated that he will liaise with the Leader of the Council regarding this matter and stated that it is now not envisaged that the Local Plan will be completed by the Autumn of 2023 but rather by 2026. Councillor Christopher stated that there has been a significant increase in the amount of planning applications submitted for extensions to homes, Councillor Sewell commented that it is more often cheaper to make alterations/extend than move. Councillor Rowe stated that she believed that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Flower was looking to revise the planning system and had been in conversation with Michael Gove MP and stated that she welcomed the opportunity for Councillor Christopher to support the Parish Council. Councillor Christopher stated that he will ascertain a response from Councillor Flower in relation to any questions raised. There was no proposal for joining with other parishes at this time. Councillor Christopher stated that disappointingly, very few planning cases go to the Planning Committee and Officers are not making site visits at this time and stated that the Council had not seen the Chief Executive in-person for nearly two years. Councillor Christopher stated that he hoped things would improve as life gets back to normal.

c. Bridport and District Citizens Advice, Request for Grant

The Clerk stated that the Parish Council supports Bridport and District Citizens Advice annually and that the last grant paid was for the amount of £200.00. Councillor Hibbard stated that during the pandemic especially, many people had used the services of Citizens Advice and he would not hesitate to recommend continuing with the same level of support. There were no objections and the Clerk stated that she would add this to the accounts for the March meeting.

d. Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust, Request for Grant

Councillor Hibbard stated that this project was being driven forward by Mr. Brian Hesketh and stated that he was extremely well organised and that he was sure whatever is produced would be marvellous. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had no hesitation in supporting this project. Councillor Rowe stated that she had had much interaction with Mr. Hesketh and stated that the project which comprised a circular trail around the Grouped Parish and then a number of small offshoot walks was fantastic and stated that the group leading on the project were now ready to go to print and that they were seeking a grant of £300.00 from the Parish Council. Councillor Rowe stated that they were also applying for other grants and that support from the Parish Council would help them in doing so. The Clerk confirmed that an application would also be submitted to the FMR Trust. Councillor Hibbard suggested that the Parish Council offer a grant of £150.00 with the remaining £150.00 considered by the FMR Trust. There were no objections and the Clerk stated that she would add these to the March and April meeting agendas. Councillor Leader stated that Mr. Hesketh was a brilliant organiser and had spent a great deal of time and effort on the project and stated that the project may need some additional funds at a later date.

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

a. Community Updates from Councillors

Councillor Hughes stated that he was pleased to report that since the Council last convened, cases of COVID-19 had dropped considerably and stated that in the last seven days 56 people had reported having COVID-19 in the DT8 area, representing 573 people per 100,000 which compared well to the national average of 678.8 per 100,000 people. Councillor Hughes stated that deaths had dropped to five in last seven days and stated that overall things were moving in the right direction. Councillor Sewell informed that there is a scam text circulating stating that you have been a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and that you should order a test kit. Councillor Sewell stated that you are then taken to a payment site, which is not the NHS. Councillor Sewell stated that she had reported this to Dorset Police.

b. Format of Future Meetings and Compliancy

The Clerk stated that in order to be compliant, the Parish Council needs to convene at least four in-person meetings a year and Councillors need to attend at least one in-person meeting within a six month period, unless a dispensation has been submitted and accepted. The Clerk stated that all Councillors attended the October meeting which was an in-person meeting. The Clerk stated that in terms of live streaming meetings, there is a facility on the Zoom

platform to allow online meetings to be streamed but live streaming an in-person meeting may need further planning and consideration. The Clerk stated that she had approached DAPTC for advice and examples of good practice and that she would report back at the next meeting.

8. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Hibbard referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 January was £33,506.20. There were no questions.

b. To approve payment of £15.50 for Councillor Rowe (Welcome Packs)

c. To approve payment of £6.26 for HMRC (NI)

d. To approve payment of £267.40 for Total Web Solutions (Annual Hosting and Web Support)

e. To approve payment of £33.60 for Total Web Solutions (Outstanding Storage)

f. To approve payment of £40.00 for Mrs. RL Ives (Allotment Deposit)

g. To approve payment of £32.79 for Community First Trading Limited (Lawn Mower Insurance)

Councillor Bassett proposed that the payments b to g be approved en bloc, this was seconded by Councillor Rowe.

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

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/21/000123, Land South of Fullers, Bridport Road, Broadwindsor

The Clerk stated that comments had been received from Sandra Burrows, Peter Burns, Jess Burns, Julie Steele, Teri Small, Dorothy Rowe and Isabel Masey and that these had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Rowe referred to a report prepared by herself and Councillor Leader after consulting with the community and stated that there are still a number of sensitive issues to be resolved, including objections to the size and number of properties conflicting with the identified local need for housing, parking, ridge heights, proximity to other houses in Fullers and Lewesdon View and ecological concerns relating to the protection of wildlife habitats. Councillor Leader stated that the suggestions around protecting the hedgerows and for them not forming part of the boundary where they can be lost should be made statutory. Councillor Leader stated that the proposal seeks to increase the number of four bedroom properties which is contradictory to the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Leader stated that such a lot of hard work was put into the Neighbourhood Plan and for the application to ignore this is very poor. Councillor Leader stated that if there is a need and they are permitted, then perhaps they should be offered to

larger families as affordable housing. Councillor Hibbard asked for comments from members of the public.

Comment 1

A member of the public stated that her main concern was the fact that BGNP9 of the Neighbourhood Plan had been totally ignored and that she cannot see any explanation why four bedroom houses are needed. The member of the public stated that she had included all of her concerns in her report and that they had been highlighted in the report from Councillors Leader and Rowe.

Comment 2

A member of the public stated that she believed that the application should be held to account by the Neighbourhood Plan and abide it. The member of the public stated that she wanted to emphasise the point about ridge heights as when it was last mentioned it was referred that the overall height of the entire development should not be higher than neighbouring properties, but it really should relate to the proximity of the nearest existing dwellings – for example the ridge height of properties along Redlands Lane will be different to those in Fullers, and the comparison should be to that of the nearest house to ensure that the new homes are not visually oppressive. The member of the public stated that it was important to make that distinction.

Councillor Sewell stated that it was commendable to say that the proposed four bedroom homes could be made available for affordable housing but asked where the children would go to school, stating that Broadwindsor School is already oversubscribed. Councillor Chubb stated that the representative of the Developer who attended a previous meeting should be asked back to meet with local residents, either in a public or at a private meeting to discuss the concerns raised. Councillor Chubb stated that it would be important to address the concerns before the Planning Department considers the application as they will most likely gloss over them. Councillor Rowe stated that she may have misunderstood the comments made by Councillor Chubb but stated that in her experience after talking to local residents, the concerns raised are not just personal views from those living close to the proposed site but are thoughtful, considered submissions based on research, the Neighbourhood Plan and what would be best for the village and stated that this needs to be recognised. Councillor Chubb apologised if his comments had come across in a different way and stated that he had read many of the comments as submitted and all are valid points. Councillor Chubb stated that he had seen two examples of where the Neighbourhood Plan has been ignored in planning decisions.

A member of the public stated that the applicant should be held to account to produce real elevation measurements, not just the height of the land on the site but the height of the land around the site area. The member of the public stated that she had found the representative of the Developer to be quite dismissive and not the least bit reasonable and although she would be happy to attend any such meeting proposed, she did not believe that it would be helpful. The member of the public stated that the Parish Council should put the points forward

and be firm in what they say. Councillor Sewell stated that she wanted to point out that the population of Broadwindsor as stated in the application was incorrect.

Comment 3

A member of the public stated that she was concerned that the number of parking spaces had reduced considerably and stated that most people do not use a garage to park their car in and therefore there could be potentially ninety-seven cars, if all are adults in the Developer's headcount of a hundred and thirty. The member of the public stated that the Developer had produced a summary of changes which was deceitful as it did not refer to the fact that the number of houses had changed. The member of the public stated that in the Planning Statement provided by the applicant which has not been superseded, it categorically states that the application is in compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan and stated that the Developer has agreed that they are abiding by it, but clearly they are not.

The Clerk stated that she would collate comments from the report from Councillors Leader and Rowe and from members of the public for submission to Dorset Council. Councillor Hibbard proposed that after discussion and taking into consideration comments from members of the public, the Parish Council would object to this application. Councillor Bassett asked what the point of the Neighbourhood Plan was, if after spending five years of hard work putting it together, it is ignored. Councillor Hibbard stated that he was not completely sure but believed that the application was originally submitted prior to the Neighbourhood Plan being legally adopted. Councillor Hibbard stated that the application had been amended since and should be covered under the Neighbourhood Plan and work within its limits. Councillor Chubb proposed that Councillor Christopher be involved and have more direct conversations with those involved at Dorset Council.

Councillor Christopher stated that he was reassured that the amended application had assigned to it the same experienced case officer as the original application who has a detailed knowledge of the site. Councillor Christopher stated that he encouraged people to make as many comments as they possibly can. Councillor Hibbard asked members of the public if they had also submitted their comments directly on to the planning website and thanked everyone for their time and effort and for well thought out relevant comments. Councillor Hibbard stated that he appreciated their efforts in keeping pressure on Dorset Council.

P/HOU/2022/00383, 6A Fullers, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PY

The Clerk read aloud comments received from a member of the public which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The member of the public had expressed concerns that the proposal would have a negative impact on his property in relation to both privacy and light. The member of the public questioned the need for what he believed was potentially a three-bedroom property and stated that this was in contradiction to the Neighbourhood Plan. The member of the public stated that he was also concerned that major groundworks would have to take place in a very restrictive area, close to his boundary. Councillor Sewell reported that the existing side window which is adjacent to the members of the public's property is small with obscure glazing and stated that the proposal states that the new windows on the landing and ensuite will also be small and comprise of obscure glass.

Councillor Sewell confirmed that there were no plans for a Juliette balcony, the applicant had included a double door window in the plans to allow for items to be moved more easily in and out of the house. Councillor Sewell stated that the proposed new development - Land South of Fullers will have a detrimental visual impact on that particular row of homes in Fullers. Councillor Sewell stated that in terms of light, there are specific regulations which must be adhered to and after checking with the Planning Officer, she has been informed that the proposal complies with all legislation. Councillor Sewell stated that if the proposal had been four to six square foot smaller, then the application could have been approved under Permitted Development, which allows a householder to increase their dwelling by up to 40%. Councillor Sewell stated that the property had previously been split into two and 6a therefore had become a new property which could then be extended by up to 40%. Councillor Sewell stated that her only concern was that both proposed new windows would comprise of obscure glazing and stated that the plans show two large bedrooms and not three and that it was reasonable for someone to want more space. Councillor Rowe stated that Councillor Sewell had raised another reason for objecting to the Land South of Fullers application and asked if these comments were going to be recorded, Councillor Hibbard stated that the meeting was being recorded.

Councillor Chubb stated that Dorset Council's Planning Officer should speak to both the applicant and neighbour and advise on the legal aspects of the application and stated that Dorset Council is failing the public. Councillor Sewell stated that the neighbour did not even receive notification of the application from Dorset Council. A member of the public stated that she was concerned about the possible disruption that the build may cause and stated that Fullers was already being used as an access by vehicles involved in a construction project in Trusthams which had caused a mud bank at the end of Fullers to form and much disruption was being caused by works being carried out by Wessex Water. The member of the public asked whether there was anything which could be put in place to minimise any potential further disruption. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council could ask that a timed work schedule be included in any planning consent. Another member of the public stated that from her own property in Fullers, she could already see into other people's gardens and the proposed new extension will be no different to the impact of the proposed new development Land South of Fullers which will look directly into her window. Councillor Sewell stated on balance, she could not see any reason to object to this application but asked that her comments and those made at the meeting be included in the Parish Council's corporate view.

P/HOU/2022/00281, 4 Trusthams, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QB

Councillor Rowe reported that the application was for a rear extension with a tiled roof garden room and stated that a heritage statement had been included due to its location in a conservation area and it had been quoted as an appropriate development. Councillor Rowe stated that she had visited the applicant and seen the site and spoken with one set of neighbours who had no concerns, the applicant had given assurance that the other

neighbours had not raised any objections. Councillor Rowe stated that she could not see any reason to object.

P/HOU/2022/00458, 18 Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3ST

Councillor Chumbley reported that he had visited the applicant and looked at the plans and stated that the applicant had pointed out that their neighbours on one side did have some concerns with the proposed build. Councillor Chumbley stated that the issues stem from the fact that the actual houses are built on a bend, with both properties at an angle rather than straight and that the proposed single storey extension will impact the view for the neighbour. Councillor Chumbley stated that both the applicant and neighbour are good friends and in dialogue about the matter and that this would be a good example of where the Planning Officer could offer support to both the applicant and neighbour. Councillor Chumbley stated that he did not believe that this is an application that the Parish Council should necessarily object to but stated that the issue between both parties created by the specific positioning of both properties does need addressing. Councillor Rowe informed that she had also visited the applicant and stated that the applicant is very much open to discussion and wants the best for themselves and for their neighbours. Councillor Rowe stated that the proposed extension at Number 18 would be built along the full width of the rear of the house alongside the adjoining fence, 0.5 metres higher with the garden boundary of Number 20 going in a diagonal line down across and behind the garden of Number 18. Councillor Rowe stated that if an extension were to be built up to the boundary fence between the two houses, it would be detrimental in terms of loss of amenity and light and stated that the plan should be reconsidered. Councillor Rowe stated that she was sure that a good agreement could be reached.

P/HOU/2022/00509, Redlands Farm, Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX

P/LBC/2022/00510, Redlands Farm, Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX

Councillor Chumbley reported that he had visited the applicant and seen the site and that the application is seeking approval for a carport which will be located against the Craft Centre side and an annexe which will be in the corner of the plot and back on to a wall in the garden of the neighbouring property. Councillor Chumbley stated that the applicant has confirmed that there have been no objections raised by neighbours and stated that he could not see any reason to object to the application.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

P/FUL/2021/05018, Broadwindsor Cricket Ground, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor: Granted

P/PABA/2021/05692, Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill, Seaborough, TA18 8PL:

Withdrawn

P/TRC/2021/04809, The Old Manse, West Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QQ: No Objection (Tree Works)

P/FUL/2021/02965, Pipe House, Pipe House to Hill Crest, Kittwhistle, DT8 3LG: Granted

P/FUL/2021/03608, Land to the West of Higher Way: Granted

P/HOU/2021/03227, The Old School House, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP: Granted

P/LBC/2021/03228, The Old School House, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP: Granted

P/FUL/2021/01826, Units 18-21 Horn Park Quarry Business Park, Broadwindsor Road, Beaminster, DT8 3PT: Granted

P/FUL/2021/02957, East Swilletts Farm, West Swilletts Farm Lane, Seaborough, DT8 3QX: Granted

P/HOU/2021/01463, Wood Farm, Wood Lane, Kittwhistle, DT8 3LG: Granted

d. Dorset Council Planning Department Procedures

The Clerk stated that she had recently discovered that Dorset Council had some time ago stopped sending out planning application result notices to parish councils but had failed to inform parish councils of that fact. The Clerk stated in order to find out results, you have to manually search on Dorset Council's website which was time consuming. The Clerk stated that the same lack of communication had been seen when tree works applications stopped being issued for parish council consultation. The Clerk stated that this lack of communication and consultation was extremely frustrating. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council should write to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and express these concerns. Councillor Leader stated that he agreed and that it was disgusting to see parish councils treated this way. Councillor Leader stated that parish councils play an important role in the planning process and not to be notified of results and tree works applications was disgraceful and stated that this notification should be reinstated immediately. Councillor Sewell stated that she hoped that this wasn't information being received by Councillor Christopher and not being passed on. The Clerk stated that the Planning Department is also failing members of the public and highlighted the example that a notice had not been sent to the immediate neighbour to where a planning application had been submitted for a single-storey extension.

10. BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY PUB PROPOSAL

Councillor Leader reported that the community had been extremely generous in its donations which was testament to how many people want to see the pub re-open. Councillor Leader stated that he was pleased to report that they are now the tenants and that all the legal work has been completed. Councillor Leader stated that they were now starting refurbishing works and hoped to be open for Easter. Councillor Leader stated that although the pub will be a place to eat, drink and meet friends, it will also be a meeting place for the community to use for all sorts of reasons, for example a computer club - a true community building. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Leader and the committee for their hard work. Councillor Sewell reminded people to vote for the pub catchphrase online.

11. LEWESDON HILL PROJECT

Councillor Hibbard stated that a report by Councillor Frampton had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and urged as many people as possible to attend the memorial event on 15 March. Councillor Sewell asked whether transport could be provided for those who may not be able to walk to the site, Councillor Hibbard suggested a tractor and trailer. Councillor Hibbard paid thanks to Councillor Frampton for bringing this story to light.

12. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Clerk stated that she had received an update from Mr. Adrian Gray, Chair of Broadwindsor Fun Group and read aloud his comments. The report stated that the Group continues to work with others to make the event happen and have advanced plans with the Church and School to involve them as much as possible. In his report Mr. Gray stated that the Group look forward to liaising with the new landlord/ landlady at the White Lion once they are appointed and with regard to the School, a particular challenge exists as the main event is during the school half term. Requests for community members to give up their time to run various children's games during the weekend have been circulated and the Group look forward to positive replies. Councillor Sewell reported that over 600 bunting triangles had now been made, with 1000 being needed and that in April the Guides and Brownies would be helping to sort into colours and count them, ready to be placed on heading tape. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Sewell and all those involved for their hard work. Councillor Chubb stated that there will be an event at Drimpton Village Hall where people can pop in for a light snack and drink. Councillor Hibbard stated that the grounds of Blackdown House had been offered for jubilee celebrations.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Leader asked if this report could be presented by Sheila Hawkins, this was agreed. Sheila Hawkins stated that her report had been circulated and that following the conversation about the Planning Department, she wanted to ask whether the Parish Council had seen the open letter from the Dorset Deserves Better Campaign objecting to the Local Plan and asking Dorset Council to rewrite it and would sign up to it. Councillor Hibbard asked Sheila Hawkins if she had heard the comment from Councillor Christopher that the Local Plan would most likely be delayed until 2026. Sheila Hawkins stated that 91% of comments received during the consultation of the Plan were objections and that the group Dorset Climate Action Network had joined with forty other organisations across the County to lead the campaign to get the Local Plan redrafted based on concerns about the level of housing and it being against the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy which Dorset Council had themselves signed up to. Councillor Sewell stated that she had been looking into this and stated that the Local Plan seems to want to urbanise West Dorset. Councillor Chubb stated that local farmers very much need supporting and as a rural farming community, we should buy local and be more eco-friendly and support this important industry and stated that local farmers are producing high quality products. Councillor Dyke stated that he wanted to add to the comments made by Councillor Chubb in that many remarks are made about farming being bad for the climate

and stated that in fact it is the opposite – farming helps the climate. Councillor Dyke stated that more positive messages need to be out there as well.

14. ALLOTMENTS

a. Review of Contract for Renewals

The Clerk stated that she had circulated the allotment contract prior to the renewals being issued and asked if Councillors had any amendments, no amendments were proposed. Sheila Hawkins stated that the Broadwindsor Allotment Group did not have any amendment request either and stated that she was pleased to report that all allotments were occupied and there was even a waiting list.

15. WELCOME PACK UPDATE

Councillor Rowe reported that she is still taking out the basic pack and that she and the Clerk were looking at how the packs could be improved. Councillor Rowe stated that many members of the community had offered their support and that she and the Clerk would be driving the project forward to get it going. Councillor Bassett reported that he had ran out of packs for Drimpton, Councillor Rowe stated that she would forward some to him. The Clerk stated that she had had a productive meeting with Councillor Rowe and wanted to highlight the extremely positive feedback from residents who had received a pack and stated that many had asked for more information about events, groups and clubs happening locally. The Clerk stated that there should be a strong Parish Council presence in the pack and that she would be meeting Councillor Rowe again shortly and would report back at the next meeting. Councillor Rowe stated that the packs were initially put together at very little cost and that she may come back to the Council for additional funds to help make the packs look more professional. Councillor Hibbard stated that this would be a good use of the Precept.

16. HIGHWAYS

a. Report from the Footpaths Officer

Councillor Hibbard asked Sheila Hawkins to address the Council regarding Common Water Lane. Sheila Hawkins stated that she was sorry to report that 4x4 vehicles had returned again and made a terrible mess in Common Water Lane. Sheila Hawkins stated that she was very aware that Councillor Leader had spent much time and effort on this problem last Winter. Sheila Hawkins stated that it was now becoming dangerous for people and horses to physically get past and that the left hand verge towards Beaminster had now been damaged as well. Sheila Hawkins stated that unlicensed vehicles were being driven in the middle of the night when it was difficult to get the Police to come out. Councillor Hibbard stated that he understood the feelings of frustration and that this had been an ongoing problem for many years. Councillor Leader stated that he had spent a lot of time on this issue and still receives messages from local farmers and residents about the problem. Councillor Leader stated that the responsibility lies with Dorset Council who even after much pressure, state that they do not have the money or resources to do anything and stated that the Police response has been poor and that the matter is a very sad indictment of the failure of public bodies to resolve the problem. Councillor Leader stated that he does not know where to go from here apart from

maintaining the pressure on Dorset Council. Councillor Rowe asked if the GLEAM briefing document as circulated by the Clerk offered any glimmer of hope, Councillor Leader stated that it did not and stated that Common Water Lane is classified as a highway and as such vehicles are permitted to use it and this would be the case unless Dorset Council changes its status which would involve lawyers and enforcement. Councillor Leader stated that criminal damage is being carried out on the verges and although the land is not owned by Dorset Council, they have a legal responsibility for the verges as they are located on a highway.

Councillor Chubb stated that perhaps the Parish Council should look to see if the environmental side of Dorset Council could help. Councillor Hibbard stated that a positive response from Dorset Council stating that they would take action but cannot due to money with an estimated figure for how much it would cost would be helpful and then the Parish Council could look to see if it could be something that they could help fund. Sheila Hawkins stated that in reality, it would cost thousands to repair the damage which had been created over the last six years and stated that it would be beyond the ability of the Parish Council. Councillor Hibbard stated that it wasn't good enough and that he was concerned that someone would get knocked down. Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council could seek crowdfunding support and grants to help fund the cost. Councillor Leader stated that it needs Dorset Council to change the rules of use for the Lane and that this would cost a significant amount of money and stated that some of the people involved on this were extremely unpleasant, not the type of people you would want close to your home and as such presented a public safety concern. Councillor Leader stated that this problem had been ongoing for such a long time, he suggested writing to the Leader of the Council and demand that action be taken. Councillor Sewell stated that many 'green laners' video themselves and upload to YouTube and stated that you can see them churning up the lanes in the middle of the night. Councillor Sewell stated that this problem needs involvement from our MP, the Minister for Transport and Central Government. Sheila Hawkins stated that she would write to Chris Loder MP and Councillor Hibbard stated that the Clerk would draft a letter to the Leader of Dorset Council, Councillor Flower. Councillor Dyke stated that his former MP was Grant Shapps, the Secretary of State for Transport and stated that he would happily send him a copy of the letter.

b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Rowe stated that she has written a short piece for the Broadwindsor Parish News seeking a small team of people to get together to manage the project. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Rowe for her work.

c. Grouped Parish Speed Limits

The Clerk stated that she had not received any updates from Councillor Frampton relating to this agenda item and would add to the agenda for the March meeting. Councillor Leader reported that unfortunately the problems with the locally manufactured speed indicator devices as reported at the last meeting had not been resolved by Dorset Council and the manufacturer and that the only option would be to purchase another model which is widely

used and very reliable but regrettably more expensive, costing £2495 per device plus VAT and fixing costs compared to £1100 for the locally produced one. Councillor Leader stated that if it didn't work, it was no good for the Parish. Councillor Leader stated that will be three devices which will be rotated around the different approved sites. Councillor Chubb asked if the site in Blackdown had been considered, Councillor Leader stated that a number of sites were put forward for the survey but that the Blackdown site was rejected. Councillor Hibbard stated that it may have been due to it being a derestricted road. Councillor Chubb stated that speed limits in Blackdown should be on the next agenda as it is a major route in the area. The Clerk was asked to contact the Community Highways Officer and the Clerk stated that she would liaise with Councillors Frampton and Christopher.

d. Village Signage

The Clerk stated that she had kept this on the agenda in case there were other suggestions. Councillor Sewell stated that it would be lovely if someone would be able to donate a large piece of stone, a little like the one in Mosterton. Councillor Chubb stated that it would be very expensive to purchase. Councillor Harris stated that he had looked at the village sign at Drimpton Cross, hoping that it could be cleaned but had discovered that the paint was peeling off and needed either repainting or replacing. The Clerk stated that it was not necessarily the cost of the sign but the cost of its installation as Dorset Council would have to erect the sign and put in place the necessary traffic management to enable it to be safely put in place. Councillor Chubb stated that the Drimpton sign requires sympathetically repainting by a local person.

e. Reinstallation of HGV sign in Netherhay Lane, at the Junction with Chard Road and Kerb

Councillor Harris stated that this matter had been raised previously and stated that the HGV sign in Netherhay Lane had been knocked down some time ago and although the Community Highways Officer acknowledges that there was once a sign there, he is reluctant to replace it. Councillor Harris stated that the road sign acts as a warning that the road is not suitable for large vehicles and stated that he would like to push for this to be reinstalled. Councillor Harris stated that he would also like to ask that kerb stones be laid on the corner of Netherhay Lane to help prevent damage to the side of the road caused by vehicles trying to turn for Chard Road. Councillor Harris stated that there are already kerb stones on the opposite side of the road to protect that corner and stated that unfortunately this is not something that he can do as a resident as it requires consent from Dorset Council.

Councillor Chubb stated that there does need to be another sign to replicate the one at the other end of the Lane and stated that it is a tricky corner and that you can't stop HGVs from going along the road. Councillor Harris stated that it is a narrow track and when two vehicles meet, one has to back up. Councillor Chubb stated that the Stop Sign on the opposite side of the road is being hidden by the overgrown hedge and does need cutting back. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council will send a letter to the Community Highways Officer and copy in Councillor Christopher and the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

17. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Leader stated that work is progressing well and that drainage works have more or less been completed. Councillor Hibbard asked about site vehicles parking on the road, Councillor Leader stated that he had asked the Site Manager about this and stated that he is very sensitive to the local community and wants to ensure that there are good relations and not cause any obstruction on the road. Councillor Leader stated that when he had visited the site that day, he had noticed one vehicle parked in a pull in area on the road but that all other vehicles were parked on the site. Councillor Leader stated that once the roads had been put in, all vehicles would be parked on site. Councillor Leader stated that the Site Manager was adamant that the reported damage caused to the bank was not caused by a site vehicle, Councillor Harris stated that he had seen the vehicle from a neighbour's property and then seen it parked outside of the site. Councillor Harris asked Councillor Leader if he had any update regarding the question he raised at the last meeting about the possibility of the sewer joining the main sewer at Oxhayes. Councillor Leader stated that a meeting had been held and that there is a plan which has not yet been finalised but stated that as soon as it is, he will share that with Councillor Harris. Councillor Leader apologised for the delay and stated that Wessex Water had been very slow in coming back. Councillor Harris asked whether easement rights would be required, Councillor Leader stated that he has been informed that no easement rights would be required as they have statutory rights.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Hughes informed that interviews for a successor to Kevin Madder-Smith were currently taking place and that the new appointment may be able to be reported back at the next meeting. Both Councillor Hughes and Councillor Hibbard paid thanks to Kevin Madder-Smith for his role in making the Community Shop so successful. Councillor Dyke raised the issue of poor broadband coverage across the Grouped Parish area, especially in Hursey and asked if the matter could be added to the March agenda. Councillor Dyke asked Councillors for their thoughts on whether the Parish Council should be pushing this and stated that he would be happy to lead on it. Councillor Dyke stated that he was aware that Chris Loder MP had spent a lot of time on this matter but was disappointed that after Michael Gove's announcement about levelling up with specific reference to gigabit broadband, Chris Loder MP asked what this meant for Dorset and broadband was not mentioned.

Councillor Sewell stated that she had not realised that Hursey had such poor broadband and stated that broadband is an essential requirement of life today. Councillor Hibbard stated that this was an excellent idea and welcomed Councillor Dyke's offer to lead on the matter. Councillor Sewell stated that there was a broadband team of officers at Dorset Council. Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton has reasonable coverage but poor mobile signal and suggested that Councillors feedback information to Councillor Dyke about the situation in their own villages. Councillor Hibbard stated that coverage across all of the Grouped Parish needs improving. Councillor Chubb stated that he had been informed that in the future access

will be through mobile technology rather than cable. Councillor Dyke stated that to understand where improvement is needed across the Grouped Parish would be helpful.

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 this Agenda or raise issues for future consideration. There were no comments.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillor Hibbard confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be 14 March 2022 and that this would take place at Blackdown Village Hall.

21. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.52 pm, Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.