



**MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
21 JUNE 2021  
ONLINE MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, 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 Leader. Councillor Leader welcomed Councillors and members of the public and informed that this meeting was an informal meeting of the Council and that any opinions expressed by the Council would seek approval through the Scheme of Delegation after the meeting. Councillor Leader stated that a decision to cancel the in-person meeting had been taken due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the area, the subsequent increase in hospitalisations and deaths and out of a duty of care to members of the Council, its employee and members of the community.

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**1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Hibbard, Hughes and Bodycombe and from PCSO Bishop and unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

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

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

Councillors Leader, Sewell, Rowe and Chumbley declared an interest in Agenda Item 9, P/FUL/2021/01358, Comrades Hall.

**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.**

Councillor Sewell reported that she had provided the Clerk with an updated Register of Interests.

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

Councillor Sewell stated that Councillor Rebecca Knox had been included in the minutes as representing Dorset Council and asked for clarification as to whether she was present as a member of the public or in her role as a Dorset Councillor. The Clerk stated that normally Councillor Knox attends meetings as a member of the public but at the last meeting she had spoken on matters in her capacity as a Dorset Councillor and therefore had been included in the minutes as such. Councillor Leader stated that many people are concerned about the gentleman referred to at the last meeting and stated that it was reassuring to learn from Councillor Christopher what Dorset Council are actually proposing to do. Councillor Leader stated that it was a difficult and tragic situation and hoped that something good will come from it. Councillor Sewell stated that she hoped that someone who knows the gentleman will take care of him and stated that it is a delicate situation. Councillor Leader stated that he is satisfied that everything that can be done for him is being done. The minutes from the online meeting held on 6 May 2021 were then confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **a. Tribute to Lloyd Curtis**

Councillor Leader reflected on the tragic passing of Lloyd Curtis who had been a member of the Council for over forty years, taking over from his father. Councillor Leader stated that Lloyd was always helpful, had a wonderful smile and always had time to talk. Councillor Leader stated that Lloyd had been born here and lived all of his life in the local area and that he very much loved this place and its people. Councillor Leader stated that Lloyd was both a friend and a colleague and had been taken too soon. Councillor Leader extended the Parish Council's condolences to his family. Councillor Leader read aloud a statement from Councillor Hibbard which stated,

"I have known Lloyd Curtis for quite a few years and I am confident that I can say that he has been a stalwart member of the Parish Council and of the local community overall, it was such a shock to learn of his death even though I had known that he had been battling cancer for a while. My thoughts go out to Alison and all the family at this sad time, and I am sure that you will all join me in passing on condolences from the entire Council. Lloyd was a fount of knowledge of the Parish especially regarding Hursey and Burstock, he had the most wonderful way of coming straight to the point when matters were being discussed at meetings and his contributions always had the most common sense approach. His presence will be sorely missed. We have not only lost a great Councillor but a great friend."

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Lloyd.

Councillor Sewell shared a fond memory of Lloyd, when attending a meeting in Common Water Lane one evening, heavy rain came down and blocked her exit, Lloyd kindly arrived in his tractor, smiling and dug her and the other members of the group out.

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Councillor Leader stated that he was aware that many members of the public were attending in relation to Agenda item 6c and therefore proposed to move this item forward, there were no objections.

Members of the public were then invited to address the Council by Councillor Leader. There were no questions.

### **a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council**

Councillor Christopher stated that he had circulated his report and asked for any questions. Councillor Christopher stated that Councillor Rebecca Knox is Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Chair of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority and former Leader of Dorset Council and stated that he finds it very helpful given her experience and knowledge of the Parish that she takes the time to attend Parish meetings. Councillor Leader agreed stating that Councillor Knox was a good friend of the Parish Council. Councillor Sewell referred to page ten of the minutes and asked Councillor Christopher if he had an update on the gentleman referred to. Councillor Christopher read aloud an email from Councillor Laura Miller, Cabinet Member for Adult Care at Dorset Council and stated that he had been informed that she had spoken with the Community Mental Health Team which had concluded that the gentleman has capacity, that he may benefit from treatment but is unwilling to engage. Councillor Christopher stated that the right people are aware of him and that there are no legal means to interfere against his will at present.

Councillor Leader stated that he is aware from correspondence that Councillor Christopher is working very hard to try and resolve the issue relating to Common Water Lane and stated that he does believe that he has a battle on his hands given the inertia in Dorset Council about this issue. Councillor Leader stated that he hopes that Councillor Christopher will continue to battle on. Councillor Christopher stated that he has a meeting this week with a solicitor and thanked Councillor Knox for her involvement as well. Councillor Christopher stated that with respect to expenditure, we must bear in mind the pressures on Dorset Council, despite the influx of tourists and the increase in parking charges, he has been told that the pressures on adult social care are even greater than earlier advised this year. Councillor Leader acknowledged the pressures faced by Dorset Council and stated that there are other important matters which Dorset Council must look at as well. Councillor Chubb thanked Councillor Christopher for his efforts in getting the roads resurfaced and hoped that Blackdown would be addressed. Councillor Christopher stated that he absolutely agreed with Councillor Chubb about the stretch of road, stating that it was horrendous and stated that he had been liaising with Councillor Cherry Brooks, Cabinet Lead for Highways and stated that Dorset Council will be looking at every metre of that section of road. Councillor Christopher stated that he would need to leave the meeting later to attend another Parish Council meeting, Councillor Leader thanked him for his attendance.

**b. Report from Dorset Police**

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that on 25 May, they received a call to say a property alarm had activated in Broadwindsor, fortunately this was a false alarm. On 15 June, Dorset Police were called about a possible abandoned vehicle at the entrance to Hursey Common, after contacting the mother of the owner it was established that the vehicle was not abandoned but going to be collected. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that whilst Dorset Police has not seen many incidents around the Bridport area (three over the last few months), there is a national rise in thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles. This is likely due to the rise in price of the precious metals they contain. The most common MO of the thieves is to use an angle grinder to remove the parts. PCSO Bishop advised in his report to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity on 101 and if you believe a crime is in progress (such as a grinding noise in the early hours of the morning) please call 999.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

**a. Windrose Rural Media Trust, Request for Grant**

Councillor Leader stated that a letter of request for a grant for this project had been circulated to all Councillors and asked Margery Hookings if she would like to address the Council. Margery Hookings stated that this is a community project taking in a variety of strands including heritage, art, song and stated that she would be leading the project on behalf of the Windrose Rural Media Trust. Margery Hookings stated that she had just received confirmation of funding from the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and that she was hopeful that Dorset Council would support the project as well. Margery Hookings stated that it is a project which will bring people together to celebrate what they all love about Broadwindsor. The Clerk informed that a grant of £100.00 had been requested. Councillor Rowe stated that she had submitted her comments prior to the meeting and stated that the project was important for the village and involves all strands of the community. Councillor Rowe suggested that the Parish Council offer to provide grant of £200.00. Councillor Leader asked for a show of hands from those who supported an offer of £200.00 and from those who supported an offer of £100.00 grant, the majority of Councillors supported an offer of a grant of £100.00. Councillor Sewell stated that this could be revisited should the project require additional funding. Councillor Leader asked that this be on the agenda for the July meeting.

**b. Dorset Council, Draft Working Protocol**

The Clerk reported that she had previously circulated this information and stated that Councillor Harris had responded with comments that it may increase the workload of the Clerk and impact upon the efficiency of the process. The Clerk stated that she was seeking any additional comments to feedback to Dorset Council. Councillor Sewell stated that she was pleased to see that the Dorset Councillor is the first point of contact as this is how it used to be and concurred with Councillor Harris about the potential to increase the workload for the

Clerk. The Clerk stated that she was not overly concerned at this point about a dramatic increase in workload.

**c. Broadwindsor Resident, Proposed Field Gateway in Hursey**

Councillor Leader invited the applicant resident to address the Council. The applicant resident stated that the reason for seeking approval for a new entrance to the field was to be able to access the building to store his agricultural equipment. The applicant resident stated that there are already two existing access points, from Spillers Lane and opposite the end of the field. The applicant resident stated that it was not possible to drive his vehicle down the Lane and if he were to use the other access, then he would have to drive across the field to the other side to access the building which was not practical and could potentially damage the land. The applicant resident stated that he needs to use the shed for storage for his growing business and he is concerned that if he continues to store his equipment outside, that it would deteriorate. The Clerk shared with the meeting the map kindly provided by the resident. The applicant resident stated that his proposal would be to create a 15 ft gateway and a stone track on to the edge of the highway. The applicant resident stated that he had already had a meeting with the Highways Department and that they were happy with the visibility and did not have any issues. The applicant resident stated that he had approached the Parish Council after finding out that the verge was part of the Common.

The Clerk read aloud the names of local residents who had submitted comments regarding this agenda item. Councillor Leader stated that he had read all comments received and that he could confirm that all were against the proposal. Councillor Leader asked if members of the public would like to address the Council on this matter.

A local resident stated that it was his understanding that the Parish Council was not in a position to make a decision on this matter and that any request would have to go to Dorset Council as it is Common Land. Councillor Leader stated that his understanding was correct and that the Parish Council was being asked to express a view on the proposal but in terms of decision making the process would be for Dorset Council and most likely the Government due to the land being Common Land with no known owner.

Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council was there to facilitate getting information to the community and feeding back into the process. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council has no legal right to make a decision and stated that in terms of access, Dorset Council should address green lanes. A second local resident stated that Councillor Sewell had highlighted a wonderful concept which would answer two problems by one action, to do something about the Lane.

A third local resident asked the applicant resident for a point of clarification about the building which had been previously discussed, he stated that it seemed to be currently derelict and was unsure how it could be used for storage. The applicant resident stated that the roof had

collapsed but that he was in the process of repairing it, he had already cleared the concrete yard at the front and a new roof will be erected to preserve the building.

A local resident stated that when the building was originally constructed, access had been constructed either at the same time or prior to the construction and stated that this access was perfectly acceptable at the time and for decades to follow. The local resident stated that it would be ludicrous to concrete over an area of natural wild habitat and common land on a narrow lane with a double bend and blind corner and stated that this would be asking for accidents and possibly deaths to occur and could not see any reason why anyone would be in support of this. The applicant resident stated that the original access was through Hursey Farm which was sold separately to the barn and field in the early 1970s. This meant that the main access via hard standing was lost and that the only access remaining was through the field. The applicant resident stated that he is seeking to gain access by the shortest possible route to the road to prevent damage being caused to habitats in the field and that he is not looking at concreting anything, but seeking a gravel trackway. The applicant resident stated that the Highways Department were happy with the visibility on the road.

A local resident stated that he was worried that if the proposed site of access was going to be used primarily by farm vehicles and machinery that the strip of road will become churned up and asked the applicant resident if he was prepared to accept the cost of maintaining the carriage way. The applicant resident stated that as his business was agricultural fencing, he only had small items of equipment and stated that even if Spillers Lane was upgraded, he would still have to go right through the village to the pull in to come back up the Lane. Councillor Leader summarised the letters received and stated that the main issues raised were the dangerous location on the bend, that the land is Common Land, a negative precedent would be set, the height differential between the road and the field would be dangerous for vehicle movement up and down and the general impact on the Common.

Councillor Sewell stated that the applicant resident would have been aware of the access when purchasing the property and wanted to ask whether it would be possible to build something closer to his home rather than spend a lot of money on the existing building which is more or less derelict. Councillor Chubb proposed that the comments received be sent to the applicant resident so that issues highlighted could be addressed. Councillor Rowe stated that she had had meetings with Council Officers regarding the terrible state of the green lanes in Hursey and Burstock and she has been told by Dorset Council that they cannot afford to improve them and that their solution is to close them. Councillor Rowe stated this could also be raised at the same time.

A local resident stated that it was his understanding that the applicant resident already had a large storage yard in Burstock and asked for clarification of why additional storage was

required. The applicant resident stated that he does not own any other storage but rents an area. The applicant resident stated that he does not have any indoor storage and as his business is progressing he has more and more machinery which is currently stored outdoors and is deteriorating due to the weather. The applicant resident stated that it would be silly not to use the barn in his own field to its full potential and stated that there is no land available to rent or buy closer to his home.

Councillor Harris stated that the proposal would he thought require planning permission and stated that no application had been submitted. Councillor Leader concurred and stated that he believed that it would or at the very least Highways permission and stated that it would also require permission from Dorset Council and probably the Government as it includes crossing Common Land. The applicant resident stated that he had already had permission from the Highways Department, Councillor Leader asked if permission had been received in writing, the applicant resident stated that he believed that he had an email and stated that as far as he was aware, he is permitted to put back a roof on the building without permission as long as it is not altered. The applicant resident asked whether it would be preferred if he closes off the existing gateway which is of no use and thereby not increasing the number of entrances to the field. Councillor Leader stated that he sensed that it was more the location and going over Common Land which caused concerns and asked members of the Council to indicate whether they support the proposal or not by means of a vote. By a show of hands, one member of the Council supported the proposal, two members of the Council abstained and eight members of the Council did not support the proposal. Councillor Leader advised the applicant resident that he would need to approach Dorset Council should he wish to progress the proposal and possibly the Government given the unique status of Hursey Common. Councillor Leader thanked members of the public for their contributions to the debate. A local resident asked the applicant resident if he had a fall back plan if his proposal was refused and stated that a major concern which has not been mentioned is that there are no reasonable passing places between the proposed entrance and Common Water Lane for normal vehicles to get past farm machinery and stated that new passing places might need to be created on Common Land which was a further issue.

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

### **a. Community Updates from Councillors**

No updates.

## **8. ACCOUNTS**

### **a. To receive the Finance Report (Balance £40,677.00 as of 13 June 2021)**

Councillor Harris stated that he did have cause to question whether the level of Precept as agreed by the Council had been set as he had seen a reduction of 4.7% on his bill. The Clerk stated that the Precept was at the level agreed by the Council but that each year Dorset Council sets a tax base which is used to work out how much a Band D household would pay. The Clerk stated that the tax base fluctuates each year and this year has changed, which

allows the Precept to remain the same as last year but for a bill to show a reduction in the charge made to parishioners.

**b. To approve payment of £50.40 for Total Web Solutions (Storage)**

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

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Chumbley and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously expressed their opinion to approve payments b and c.**

**d. To approve payment of £558.00 for Defib Shop (Kittwhistle Defibrillator Cabinet)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Chubb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously expressed their opinion to approve payment d.**

**e. To approve payment of £8,953 for Dorset Council (2 x Speed Indicator Devices for Broadwindsor and Drimpton, Poles, Panels, Fixing and Installation)**

Councillor Leader reported that the Parish Council had received a number of comments relating to this agenda item and the Clerk read aloud the names of those who had submitted comments stating that they had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and that all were in support of this expenditure. Councillor Hardwill stated that he had sent a letter to the Clerk, the Clerk confirmed that this had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Hardwill stated that he wanted it recorded that he was totally against this expenditure. Councillor Leader thanked Councillor Hardwill for his comments. Councillor Sewell stated that in one way she agreed with Councillor Hardwill that the Parish Council should not have to pay for the speed indicator devices (SIDs) and suggested that this be noted to Dorset Council at the time of payment. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council has been continually paying out for a number of years for items which were once funded by Dorset Council but stated that she was in support of speed indicator devices.

Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council has to listen to the concerns of its parishioners who are worried about speeding traffic throughout the Grouped Parish. Councillor Chubb asked if any grants were available, Councillor Leader stated that they were not but reported that the Council has had the offer of two donations from Specsavers and from Councillor Hughes. Councillor Harris stated that the cost of this was not included in the budget for this year and asked if it could therefore be included next year and included within the Precept request.

Councillor Hardwill stated that he would not think that there is another village in Dorset with a 20mph limit throughout the entire village, from outskirts to outskirts and stated that it is totally wrong in his opinion. Councillor Hardwill stated that the only speeding controls which



work is a police officer with a speed gun. Councillor Hardwill expressed his concerns about the service provided locally by the Police in controlling traffic throughout Broadwindsor.

Councillor Rowe stated that much work has been done on checking the speed of vehicles entering Broadwindsor and that it was fair to say that people are speeding and that SIDs are needed. Councillor Leader stated that a week-long survey was carried out during partial lockdown and even with numbers being lower than during normal times, every location surveyed apart from the one in Greenham, coming towards Drimpton recorded significant speeding by vehicles. Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council may need to look at Blackdown's road next year to assess if there are any speeding problems. Councillor Leader stated that this was a good point. Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Hardwill to send him an email highlighting his concerns as raised previously and that he will liaise with the Police and Crime Commissioner about his concerns regarding the level of police involvement.

A local resident asked if this was an initial payment and expressed concern about potential ongoing costs and asked what plans would be put in place to review whether the process is effective. Councillor Leader stated that this was a one off payment and that there were no repeat payments and stated that the moving of devices every six weeks would be carried out by volunteers at no cost. Councillor Leader stated that there is a lot of evidence to support the case that SIDs do work and that there is a compelling case that they have a positive impact on speed problems. Councillor Sewell confirmed this and informed that Speedwatch Groups receive a printout of speeds and have clearly seen the positive effects of SIDs slowing traffic down. A member of the public addressed the Council and stated that he was a member of the Speedwatch Group and stated that he has noticed that the traffic through Mosterton and Misterton is much slower than in Broadwindsor and stated that he believes that this is due to the fact that SIDs are installed there. The member of the public asked if there had been any feedback from local areas about how effective the SIDs have been. Councillor Leader stated that he has had positive feedback that people are in favour of them.

Councillor Christopher stated that he has spent a lot of time speaking with the Road Safety Officer and has been informed that SIDs do have a positive effect on combatting speeding. Councillor Christopher stated that SIDs do have a cut-off point, they do not register above a certain speed to detract 'boy racers'.

A member of the public stated that she was also a member of the Speedwatch Group in Broadwindsor and stated that she had put a letter in the Community Shop asking for support for the SIDs from local residents. The member of the public stated that she would collect and pass on to Councillor Leader. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council's current balance as reported earlier is £40,677.00 and that an additional £2880.00 had been received from the Community Infrastructure Levy which can be used to fund community projects. The Clerk stated that there had been an underspend in the maintenance budget for the last two years providing an additional £3000.00 of funds and that the projected spend without the SIDs for this financial year had been projected as being £29,820.00. The Clerk stated that the Parish

Council had a healthy and robust financial position. A member of the public asked if the Speedwatch Teams were operating again, Councillor Leader stated that they were.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Chumbley and agreed by a show of hands, with one objection the Council by majority expressed their opinion to approve payment e.**

**f. To approve payment of £540.36 for DAPTC (Annual Subscription)**

**g. To approve payment of £35.00 for DAPTC (Councillor Training)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chumbley, seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously expressed their opinion to approve payments f and g.**

**h. To approve payment of £773.50 for Dorset Council (Waste Services March 2021 – March 2022)**

Councillor Sewell asked if the price had increased this year, the Clerk stated that it had as the number of bins had increased but stated that she would check the individual charges and report back after the meeting.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Rowe and agreed by a show of hands, with one abstention the Council by majority expressed their opinion to approve payment e.**

## **9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

#### **P/HOU/2021/01724, Forge Cottage, Chard Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RF**

Councillor Chubb reported that he could not see any problems with the application and stated that the owner of the property had spoken with many local residents about the proposals. Councillor Chubb stated that one comment had been made about using grey plastic and that it was not in keeping with the village. Councillor Chubb stated that he could not see any reason to object to the application.

#### **P/FUL/2021/01358, Comrades Hall Management Committee, Broadwindsor**

Councillor Harris reported that the application seeks consent to construct a solar panel array on the roof of Comrades Hall, install two air source heat pumps which will be located at the rear of the building replacing existing oil tanks, a replacement covered seating area which will be slightly larger but located in the same position and a new climbing frame which will rise to the height of 6m high and be visible from various aspects, but will not be intrusive. Councillor Harris stated that the solar panels will be clearly visible and will be in contrast to the colour of the existing roof, stating that whilst noticeable the case for installation is clearly beneficial. Councillor Harris stated that he had not been able to speak with the closest neighbours at Glebe Cottage and the Old School House as these are second homes but stated that he has

spoken to other local residents who have not raised any objections and seem pleased about the new playground equipment. Councillor Harris stated that he recommends that the Parish Council endorses the application. Councillor Chubb stated that this was a fantastic project, congratulated those involved and stated that he hoped that they would be able to access grants to support the project.

**b. Other Applications**

**P/HOI/2021/01969, 6 Netherhay Lane, Drimpton, DT8 3RL**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Bassett had agreed to lead the consultation for this application. Councillor Bassett stated that he had not yet been able to visit the applicant but would report back to the Clerk and report at the next meeting.

**c. Results**

None.

**10. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

**a. Working Group Update**

Councillor Leader stated that he believed that the report from Sheila Hawkins had been circulated to Councillors and asked for any questions. Sheila Hawkins stated that at the bottom of the report she has referred to the crisp recycling initiative and stated they are finding all sorts of other items in the container and that it is becoming hazardous. Sheila Hawkins asked whether Drimpton had experienced similar problems and wanted to ask the Parish Council for advice. Councillor Chubb stated that thankfully, they had not experienced these problems. Sheila Hawkins stated that the bin had a very legible notice informing of exactly what items should be placed within and stated that if this problem continues then the facility would have to be removed. Councillor Rowe asked whether the bin could be placed in a different location, Sheila Hawkins stated that it had been placed in an easily accessible location but stated that perhaps it could be moved with permission to where other recycling bins were outside of the Craft Centre. Councillor Sewell asked whether it was worth while putting something on Facebook and writing to the School. A member of the public stated that he was unaware of the bin and asked whether it was co-located with other bins. Sheila Hawkins stated that it was located at Bernards' Place and that there was a litter bin just behind it. Councillor Leader thanked Sheila Hawkins for bringing the matter to the Parish Council's attention.

**11. BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY PUB PROPOSAL**

Councillor Leader stated that the letter from Palmers had been circulated prior to the meeting and stated that the current licensees would be leaving soon, that there isn't anybody to take over from them and that the pub was in real danger of closing. Councillor Leader stated that most likely as a last resort Palmers has written to the Parish Council to ask whether the community would consider taking on the pub as a community pub. Councillor Leader stated that on the surface, this looks like an attractive offer and that a number of people are interested in becoming involved. Councillor Leader stated that a huge stumbling block is the

terms of offer, it has to be financially viable and that currently he was waiting for Palmers to come back with a fixed proposal. Councillor Leader stated that there had been discussions with Palmers but that no satisfactory conclusion had yet been reached. Councillor Leader stated that he will come back to the Parish Council once firm proposals have been received from Palmers and a public meeting will be held to inform the community and seek their comments. Councillor Sewell asked whether Councillor Leader had seen the lease which was in place for the New Inn at Shipton Gorge and stated that she advised that a structural survey be requested as she was aware that former licensees were always paying for things going wrong. Councillor Leader stated that there had been numerous discussions with the New Inn which was the only community pub owned by Palmers and that he had learnt a lot from them. Councillor Leader stated that he had asked Palmers whether they would sell the building and they stated that they would not and that the first proposal received was a 'full repairing' lease which is not acceptable. Councillor Leader stated that they are now waiting for Palmers to come back. A member of the public stated that it would be interesting to understand what Palmer's fall back plan is, if it is not continued as a going concern, what they would do with the building.

Councillor Leader stated that Palmers has said that an option is to mothball the pub and close it. Councillor Chubb asked if the pub will only be permitted to sell Palmers' beer. Councillor Leader stated that as part of the lease or tenancy, there would be an exclusive agreement for the supply of Palmers' beer, wine and spirits. Councillor Chubb stated that Palmers is a great brewery but its costs are steep and stated that the majority of the community do not use their local pub. Councillor Leader stated that it is a difficult situation and that Palmers have closed and mothballed some of its pubs and successfully applied to convert some to residential properties. Councillor Leader stated that the general consensus seems to be that it would be a real shame to lose the pub in Broadwindsor and the many social benefits that it brings but stated that at the end of the day, the money has to make sense, if not the community will have to walk away.

A member of the public stated that it is important to be clear on what financially viable means and stated that the pub is too small to make a living for anyone who is generally good at running a pub, but if it didn't need to make a living, there might be a balance sheet that could work. The member of the public stated that the proposal definitely needs pursuing and that it would very much come down to how much voluntary support you can get. Councillor Leader thanked the member of the public for his offer of help and support.

## **12. ALLOTMENTS**

Sheila Hawkins reported that all plots apart from one half and one quarter plot are let and that she has recently completed the annual risk assessment and all is well. Sheila Hawkins stated that the vegetation on the roadside bank is now causing a hazard on exiting the site and asked the Parish Council if they would arrange for the bank to be cut back. Sheila Hawkins stated that the new owners of North Cottage have asked if they could plant up a small patch of land which they do not own beside their boundary wall which is currently full of weeds and

stated that the Allotment Group have no issue with this request. Sheila Hawkins also asked what the Parish Council intend to do about the compost bin which was set up for grass cuttings and stated that if the Parish Council no longer requires it, then the Allotment Group will do something else with it to make it more attractive. Sheila Hawkins stated that she had received a request from a plot holder to keep a beehive on the site and asked the Parish Council for their opinion. Councillor Rowe stated that the first cut and collect cutting had been completed and understood that cuttings would be put on the compost heap, Sheila Hawkins stated that they had not been. Councillor Rowe stated that she would find out about this and report back. Councillor Leader asked about the type of plants the owners of North Cottage wish to plant, Sheila Hawkins stated that it would be similar to what was planted on the other side, annual flowers. Councillor Sewell asked whether any claim for ownership could be made after a set period of years on this land. Sheila Hawkins suggested that the area be planted up by the Allotment Group and the owners of North Cottage could chose which flowers they wished to be planted close to their property. Councillor Leader stated that this was a practical and sensible answer. Councillor Chumbley asked if there were any guidelines for keeping beehives, Sheila Hawkins stated that the Allotment Society has produced guidance which could be followed, stating that it would most likely be located in an area in the top right corner of the site and that there is guidance about it being fenced or hedged off. Councillor Chumbley stated that he would not be against this request if the guidance is followed. Councillor Leader asked Sheila Hawkins to forward the guidance to the Clerk who would circulate prior to the next meeting and then an informed decision can be taken by the Council. Sheila Hawkins stated that the matter was also going to be discussed by the Allotment Group at its AGM next week. Councillor Leader stated that it was great to see the Allotments all being used and busy and thanked Sheila Hawkins.

### **13. HIGHWAYS**

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

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

Councillor Rowe stated that she had sent her report to the Clerk, the Clerk stated that she had circulated it to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Rowe stated that she was disappointed that the wildflowers seem to be very slow this year but that she was optimistic that they would have some better displays before long. Councillor Chubb stated that with the rainy weather, many verges on both minor and major roads need cutting back urgently as they are becoming dangerous to drivers and pedestrians. Councillor Rowe stated that general concerns about verges should go through the Clerk, the Clerk agreed to contact Dorset Council.

Councillor Madder-Smith reported that he had received a large number of complaints regarding how unsightly the verges at the Cross Keys were looking, stating that the grass was so long, those walking their dogs could not pick up their dog mess. Councillor Rowe stated that she was surprised that not all of verge had been cut and stated that perhaps the new cut

and collect machine only cuts a smaller area. Councillor Rowe stated that she would contact Russell Goff the next day.

Councillor Hardwill asked about the allotment hedge and reminded that no action was agreed. Sheila Hawkins stated that it was not the hedge but the grass on the front bank which was causing visibility problems for those leaving the allotment site. Councillor Chubb stated that it should be Dorset Council who carries out the work. Councillor Frampton stated that for a number of years he has cut the top hedge of the allotment and Lloyd Curtis cut the bottom hedge and bank. Councillor Frampton stated that Stuart Curtis was in attendance and asked whether he may take this role on. Councillor Leader welcomed Stuart Curtis to the meeting and thanked him for giving up his time to attend the meeting. Stuart Curtis stated that he would be happy to take on this role. Councillor Leader thanked him.

**c. Common Water Lane Update**

No further updates.

**14. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

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

No further updates.

**15. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION**

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

Councillor Chubb stated that an assessment of the telephone box in Drimpton had taken place and that it requires a substantial amount of repairs. Councillor Chubb asked Councillor Leader about the box in Broadwindsor, Councillor Leader said that things were moving forward slowly and that they could have a conversation to co-ordinate efforts outside of the meeting. Councillor Sewell asked that the Bus Back Better strategy be added to the July agenda to allow Councillor Christopher the opportunity to report back on action taken by Dorset Council.

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

A member of the public stated that the milestone marker located opposite West View has significantly deteriorated over the years and stated that his suspicion was that there is an engraving behind the metal plaque. The member of the public stated that it is important to maintain assets such as these and asked the Council to consider this and that he would be happy to offer help. The member of the public stated that some very good work has been carried out restoring fingerpost signs and stated that unfortunately they do not have the digit grid references on them which he has always found helpful. The member of the public stated the roundel on the sign at Common Hill has been broken off and asked the Council if this could be repaired. The member of the public stated that when you exit Broadwindsor from the High Street on the B3164 you go through a deep embanked side trench on the way out and stated that there have been recent rock falls there and given the amount of rain that has fallen, he was concerned that the land may slide onto a passing vehicle. Councillor Leader stated that there is an ongoing programme of fingerpost restoration and that the roundel in question had

been broken off by vandals but had been recovered and was awaiting repair. With regard the milestone, he stated that the member of the public was welcome to remove the metal plate and see what is behind it. Councillor Chumbley stated that the sign most likely belonged to Dorset Council Highways and it may not be for the Parish Council to give permission. Councillor Leader stated that the sign was very old and on private land and that he would be happy for the member of the public to go ahead. There were no objections. Councillor Leader stated that unfortunately it would be too costly to include grid references on the fingerpost signs. Councillor Leader asked the Clerk to contact Councillor Christopher and ask that an immediate risk assessment of the road be carried out.

#### **16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Councillor Leader asked for any comments from members of the public. The Clerk stated that she had received a text from a member of the public asking about the height of the proposed play equipment at Comrades Hall and stated that she had not been asked for her comments although she lives opposite. Councillor Harris stated that he did speak with a number of local residents but unfortunately did not write down their names and confirmed that the play equipment would be 6m high. Councillor Leader stated that there is a planning notice on a post outside Comrades Hall with all the relevant details on it and stated that he would speak with the member of the public.

#### **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk reported that the date of the next meeting is 12 July and stated that the format and venue are yet to be confirmed.

#### **18. CLOSE**

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.40 pm. Councillor Leader thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution.