



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
21 MARCH 2022  
BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, 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 six members of the public in attendance. A minute's silence was observed to remember Councillor David Leader.

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**1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Basset and Rowe 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 14 February 2022 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a. A Tribute to Councillor David Leader**

Councillor Hibbard, members of the Council and community paid tributes to Councillor David Leader.

##### **Councillor Hibbard**

*David Leader was not only leader by name but as all who knew him will agree was a Leader by nature, since he and his family arrived in Broadwindsor David became fully involved with the community in all aspects, be it helping at the school, maintaining the common and sports ground at Hursey. In recent years his enthusiasm and energies have been foremost in seeing the coming together of the new MUGA, a facility to be enjoyed by all ages. David's leadership with setting up the Community Land Trust in 2016 has resulted in the building of 15 affordable houses in the Parish, the formation of the CLT is a landmark project for the Parish. Under his Chairmanship the Comrades Hall has been given the Leader treatment with the modernisation of the heating system and the installation of solar panels. His involvement in seeing the White Lion become again part of the community and his involvement with the Parish Council, all this and I am sure many others I have missed just goes to show just how much David was part of our community and will be sadly missed. I am sure you will join me in sending our deepest condolences to Elaine and the children and all his friends. We will miss seeing David going around the village, but he will never be forgotten as so many things in our community were touched by David, an exceptional and inspirational member of our wonderful community.*

##### **Councillor Hughes**

*David was also a neighbour of mine and he was a man who never failed to give you support, no job was too much for him to take on and he was always there to help, a great example to everyone in the community. He had a great belief in being on time for every appointment, he didn't like lateness. He allowed everyone to speak at the meetings he attended, he canvassed all views and always ended up with a democratic vote. David was always encouraging to everyone, if you felt a bit down, you spoke to David and he would bring you back up and tell you your worth.*

##### **Councillor Frampton**

*There is an old saying that if you want something done, you ask a busy person. David was never not busy. I can't think of a village project that he wasn't involved in. We all know that he was a catalyst for the MUGA, White Lion campaign and the Community Land Trust schemes but he was also involved in managing Hursey Common, football coaching, he was Father Christmas at the school and involved with wildflower and tree planting. He would wander around the village in a plaster smeared jumper attending any meeting going and helping anyone who needed it. The fact that he helped so many of us made it impossible not to help him with something when he asked for it. Several times at this Council I have had an alternate view to his and then he would speak up for the subject setting out his case and I would always find myself switching horses and agreeing with him. His views were right. His opinions valued and his visions inspirational. When conflict and disagreements were aired his diplomacy at*

*defusing every situation were astounding. He cared. He worked tirelessly to make things better, make this village a better place for us and for the people who came here. We will never replace him. Five new councillors couldn't do the work that he did but we all owe it to him and his legacy to make this Parish a better place and to up our game to aspire to the standards and levels he achieved. David was a gentleman, reliable, honest, kind and thoughtful but above all he really was a leader. We will always remember him.*

**Councillor Dyke**

*I wish to echo all that has been said already but perhaps another measure of the man is that although I only knew David for a year, it feels so much longer. He has been involved with so much and he has very much influenced what I do and what I want to achieve. We are all going to feel this loss, none more so than his family.*

**Sheila Hawkins**

*On behalf of the Community Land Trust (CLT), we have been devastated by the loss of David and our hearts go out to his family. David has been the Chair of the CLT since its beginning in 2016 and he was passionate about and committed to the successful delivery of the project to provide affordable homes for rent for people from our community and he has worked tirelessly to achieve it. David has done so many things and we will miss his help and advice and leadership and everything he did for the community.*

Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for their comments.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public stated that she wished to raise a question about honouring the Neighbourhood Plan and stated that at the last meeting many concerns were raised in relation to the Land South of Fullers planning application relating to the considerable increase to the size of the houses rather than the number of houses and that this did not represent the Neighbourhood Plan. The member of the public stated that she had noted that there was an article in the Bridport News on 3 March announcing that Charmouth had become the latest Dorset area to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan and that Councillor Spencer Flower was quoted saying that, "This is one of a long list of communities to have a Neighbourhood Plan and we should be proud so many have got involved in the process – mapping out their own future." The member of the public stated that she had then written to Councillor Flower and Councillor Walsh asking why the Neighbourhood Plan for Broadwindsor was being ignored and that the housing needs for Broadwindsor had clearly been identified and asked why Broadwindsor was not being permitted to map out its future. The member of the public stated that she had received a response that day from Councillor Walsh stating that the comments were being noted. The member of the public stated that she very much hoped that in the future that any comments that go through the Parish Council can really try to keep to the Neighbourhood Plan. The member of the public stated that she was aware of the tremendous amount of work that had gone into producing the Plan and stated that if these plans are being honoured in

other areas of Dorset, why not Broadwindsor. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council did stress the importance of compliancy with the Neighbourhood plan in its corporate submission to Dorset Council.

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

Councillor Christopher stated that he was so desperately sad to hear of the loss of David Leader and stated that in the time that he had known him, he had become a very good friend. Councillor Christopher stated that he had been talking to local teachers about the disturbing scenes on television from Ukraine and the impact on young people. Councillor Christopher stated that he has been assured that teachers are working in a positive way to put children at ease. Councillor Christopher stated that in relation to Common Water Lane, he is continuing to press for better night time policing and that there is concern about the amount of fly tipping in the Marshwood Vale ward. Councillor Christopher stated that there are lots of positive things happening at the moment and referred to the memorial at Lewesdon Hill which had been extremely well planned by Councillor Frampton and stated that there seems to be some return to normality with both the Melplash and Dorchester shows returning this year. Councillor Christopher stated that despite that COVID was very much still an issue. Councillor Christopher asked for any questions.

Councillor Frampton asked Councillor Christopher whether he had an update about amending the speed limit past the Cricket Club, Councillor Christopher stated that he was still arguing the case with the Council and that it was a difficult one. Councillor Frampton asked about the possibility of extending the footpath from the Craft Centre to the Cricket Club and stated that the Club will be regularly hosting the annual firework event each year. Councillor Christopher stated that he was pressing for this and has invited the Lead Member for Highways to come back to review the problem and stated that he will speak to the Leader of the Council again about the matter. Councillor Dyke asked with regard to the Ukraine crisis and the number of people who had registered for the scheme to offer accommodation, whether this was being discussed at Dorset Council level. Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Dyke to send him an email about this and stated that he would seek a response. Councillor Hughes stated that as an area with a number of second homeowners, would it be possible to approach those people to offer accommodation to Ukrainian families. Councillor Christopher stated that this could certainly be something that the communications team could be working on. Councillor Chubb asked for an update about the speed restrictions in Kittwhistle as discussed at the previous meeting. Councillor Christopher stated that he has been working to get the road resurfaced, white lines repainted and cat's eyes replaced and cannot see any reason why there should be a national speed limit. A member of the public stated that in Kittwhistle there are no white lines, from Pipe House down to the main road. Councillor Christopher stated that he is pressing for this to be actioned. Councillor Chubb stated that this was a major road prone to fog, the member of public stated that if you didn't know the area you would not stop. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had raised this matter with Councillor Christopher.

Another member of the public stated that he had spoken at the last Parish Council meeting most notably about the Horn Ash crossroads and reducing the speed limit in Kittwhistle which was set ridiculously at 60 mph. The member of the public stated that he understood the difficulties faced by Highways receiving so many requests but stated that there needs to be a refocus on this particular issue and for Dorset Council to be challenged so that they can carry out a proper assessment. Councillor Christopher stated that it is helpful if Dorset Council could receive comments from the Parish Council.

Councillor Christopher asked to raise one final point in connection to the Land South of Fullers planning application and stated that at last week's Northern Planning Committee, an application to build twenty-six homes, ten of which would be affordable at Haywards Lane, Child Okeford was refused, going against the Officer's recommendation to approve the scheme. Councillor Christopher stated that this was a particularly interesting application, in that outline planning permission had already been granted but the Committee rejected the application as they did not like a number of aspects including the location of the houses within the site, the size of the houses and the communal car park. Councillor Christopher stated that this was an example of a planning committee listening to the local parish council. Councillor Chubb stated that there had been two planning applications which had several criteria which opposed the Neighbourhood Plan and in both instances, were approved. A member of the public stated that in relation to the planning application at Child Okeford, the decision making process had been devolved to the planning committee whereas for the Land South of Fullers application, the decision had been devolved to the planning officer.

Councillor Sewell asked if she could raise the Craft Centre application with Councillor Christopher. Councillor Chubb expressed an interest in this application and withdrew from the discussion. Councillor Sewell stated that the application had been refused and not taken to the Planning Committee and quoted an extract from the Service Manager for Development Management and Enforcement,

*"I concur with the view of the Chairman and am satisfied that under the provisions of Dorset Council's constitution this application can be determined as a delegated decision. Whilst the majority of Parish Councillors support the application, the Parish Council have nonetheless raised a number of concerns in their response. I consider that the officer's report identifies clear reasons for refusal based on conflict with Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan policies, and with a lack of supporting information provided to justify the loss of the retail units. I also note that the applicant will have the right of appeal. I have considered the request by Councillor Christopher for this application to be referred to the planning committee, but overall, taking all of the above into account, I consider that this is an appropriate application to determine under delegated powers."*

Councillor Sewell reported that Councillor Christopher had been asked for his opinion on 31 January 2022 and had asked for the application to be taken to the Planning Committee stating that the 'majority of Parish Councillors support the application, despite a perceived departure

from the Neighbourhood Plan.” Councillor Sewell stated that this was refused on 8 February, before the last Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Christopher stated that he had discussed this matter with Councillor Leader and stated that at that time he recalled that the majority of Parish Councillors supported the application, with some Councillors opposing it and therefore he felt it appropriate that it should go to the Planning Committee. Councillor Christopher stated that in the event it was not allowed to go to Committee for many reasons including the loss of employment land, proximity to a conservation area and historic wall. Councillor Sewell stated that she and Councillor Rowe had visited local residents and the retail units and all but one person opposed the planning application and stated that Parish Councillors are there to represent their parishioners. Councillor Sewell stated that those Councillors who objected to the application were representing the view of residents. Councillor Sewell stated that she was surprised that she wasn't informed of this decision at last month's meeting and that residents had to find out online. Councillor Christopher stated that at the time the application was supported by Broadwindsor Group Parish Council and during a discussion Councillor Leader had stated that if the decision had been taken at a later then a different decision may have been forthcoming, with the composition of the Parish Council changing.

#### **b. Report from Dorset Police**

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that fortunately there is little to feedback in terms of incidents/crimes but people should continue to be vigilant. On the evening of 16 February, Dorset Police had a report of two white Transit vans parked in the car park to Pilsdon Pen, two males were seen with the vehicles. It was felt that they may have been meeting up and it felt suspicious. Unfortunately, the caller was unable to get the registration numbers. The report stated that following on from the storm that we had recently, there was quite a bit of disruption on the roads and that PCSO Bishop had noticed some drivers were not adjusting their driving to the conditions. For example, some drivers were driving too close to other vehicles and not leaving adequate braking distance and some people were driving at normal road speed, when they should have been driving slower to keep better control of the vehicle. There are some roads in the area where it is exposed to cross winds and can be very hazardous. The report stated that a good thing to consider is to keep a two second gap in good, dry conditions, a four second gap in damp/wet conditions and a ten second gap in snow/very poor conditions. The report highlighted the website, [www.ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden) which takes people to the Neighbourhood Watch website and the latest campaign to help people target harden their property to help prevent burglary. The report stated that PCSO Bishop would be at Comrades Hall for his next surgery on Tuesday 12 April at 11.00 am.

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

The Clerk reported that one expression of interest had been received from Sonia Raymond who was in attendance at the meeting. All Councillors were in agreement, no objections to the co-option were raised and Sonia Raymond was asked to sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, duly witnessed by the Clerk. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Raymond to the Parish Council.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

**a. Wendy Shields, Editor Broadwindsor.org, Website Data**

The Clerk read aloud a report provided by Wendy Shields relating to the Broadwindsor.org website, stating that figures for the twenty-eight day period as at 16 February 2022 were as follows, 12,185 people reached and 11,249 unique visitors.

**b. Dorset Deserves Better Campaign Alliance**

The Clerk stated that she had circulated updates received from the Alliance. Councillor Sewell stated that she agreed with the majority of the content of the campaign.

**c. Dorset Council, School Transport Consultation**

The Clerk reported that this had been circulated to all Councillors and that the deadline for comments was 3 April. Councillor Chubb stated that the B5 bus service was unreliable and stated that the bus had broken down many times and despite emails being sent to parents to inform them, they were often received after parents had left their children at the bus stop. Councillor Sewell stated that she was concerned about the length of time children were spending on the bus, especially the younger children. The Clerk stated that she would submit these comments as the corporate response of the Council.

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

**a. Community Updates from Councillors**

Councillor Hughes reported that those testing positive for COVID has risen by 75% in the last week to 98 people, deaths have increased by 66%, hospitalisations are up by 120% and the infection rate for the Parish is 1002.8 against the national average of 831.8. Councillor Hughes stated that the UK national statistics report states that the number of those testing positive had increased by 36%, deaths have increased by 80% and hospital admissions have risen by 25% . Councillor Hughes stated that there is certainly a problem, Councillor Hibbard stated that the figures were quite frightening.

A member of the public asked if this would mean that the Parish Council will go back to convening online meetings. The Clerk stated that despite lobbying Government to amend current legislation to allow parish councils to convene both in-person and online meetings, they have refused to do so and by law, the Parish Council must hold at least four in-person meetings a year and certain types of business such as the setting of the Precept and co-options cannot be transacted during an online meeting. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council is looking at ways to live stream meetings. Councillor Sewell stated that test packs are currently free but as from 1 April, a charge will be applied. The Clerk stated that she had

experienced difficulty in ordering test packs recently but had managed to obtain a pack from Beaminster Pharmacy. Councillor Frampton asked Councillor Hughes if he had the R number in relation to COVID. Councillor Hughes reported that the R number for the south west region was 1.0 to 1.4, Councillor Hibbard stated that the Government had always stated that they wanted the rate to be under one.

#### **b. Format of Future Meetings and Compliancy**

Councillor Chumbley asked if Councillors would be allowed to take part in an in-person meeting via a live stream, the Clerk stated that they could view and make comments but as a member of the public rather than a Councillor. The Clerk stated that live streaming an online meeting was relatively easy through the Zoom platform but slightly more complicated for an in-person meeting. The Clerk stated that she had made some enquiries but and would report back at the next meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had spoken with Chris Loder MP on several occasions about this matter and stated that he agreed with the Parish Council's view that legislation should be amended to allow online meetings to convene.

### **8. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

#### **a. Date, Venue and Content**

The Clerk reported that the date for the Annual Parish Meeting should be between 1 March and 1 June inclusive. It was proposed that the date be set for Monday 23 May at Comrades Hall and that Michael Dower be approached as a guest speaker. Councillor Hibbard stated that if COVID rates remained high at that time, then it may be necessary to convene an online meeting.

### **9. ACCOUNTS**

#### **a. To receive the Finance Report**

Councillor Hibbard referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 28 February was £31,985.96. Councillor Frampton asked if the invoice from CJ and JW Penney had been itemised, the Clerk stated that she would review it after the meeting and report back to him. Councillor Chubb proposed that payments b to l be approved en bloc, this was seconded by Councillor Chumbley.

- b. To approve payment of £60.00 for DM Payroll Services Ltd (Payroll Support)
- c. To approve payment of £6.26 for HMRC (NI)
- d. To approve payment of £156.00 for CJ & JW Penney (Hedge Trimming)
- e. To approve payment of £40.00 for Alison Mitchell (Allotment Deposit)
- f. To approve payment of £91.50 for Cllr. D Leader (Telephone Kiosk Materials)
- g. To approve payment of £115.35 for Mr. C Edgerley (Telephone Kiosk Materials)
- h. To approve payment of £200.00 for Bridport and District Citizens Advice (Grant)
- i. To approve payment of £150.00 for Broadwindsor Group Community Land Trust (Grant)
- j. To approve payment of £67.78 for the Clerk (Expenses February, March 2022)
- k. To approve payment of £21.00 for Dorset Council (Litter Bin Collection)



I. To approve payment of £118.80 for Total Web Solutions (Domain Name Two Years)

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb seconded by Councillor Chumbley and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to I.**

## **10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

#### **P/VOC/2022/01368, Hillside, Stony Knaps, Winsham, TA20 4NY**

Councillor Hibbard stated that the applicant had applied for a license to wholesale cider from the premises but after losing income during the COVID pandemic he now wished to retail from his premises. Councillor Hibbard stated that he could not see any reason to object to this application.

#### **P/HOU/2022/01541, 11 Bridport Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RD**

Councillor Harris reported that this application sought permission to erect a two storey and single storey extension and a car port with room over and for the formation of dormer windows. Councillor Harris stated that he had made a site visit and spoken to both neighbours and no concerns were raised. Councillor Harris stated that there did not seem to be any issue about loss of privacy, the design is sympathetic to the existing property and that the works would provide additional living space. Councillor Harris stated that his recommendation would be to support the application.

#### **P/FUL/2022/01699, Comrades Hall, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP**

Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he had agreed to lead on this application and as he had only just received it, he would report back at the next meeting.

#### **P/HOU/2022/01638, Old Village Hall, Red Lane Junction to Junction at Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY**

Councillor White reported that she had visited the site and stated that the Old Village Hall was located up a bank and that the car parking area is on a level terrace and this is where the annexe will be. Councillor White stated that the proposed design is similar to the farm building next to it. Councillor White stated that the most impacted property is the building opposite, and that she had tried to contact the owner but had not been able to speak to them yet. Councillor White stated that in principle she could not see any reason to object to the application.

#### **P/HOU/2022/01734, Oakhart, Greenham Lane, Crewkerne, TA18 8QE**

Councillor Sewell reported that she had visited the site and although the neighbours are selling their property, they did not have any objections. Councillor Sewell stated that the reason for the application is to provide a larger workspace and stated that it was a good use of space and therefore fully supported the application.

### **b. Other Applications**

None.

**c. Results**

Councillor Hibbard reported the following results.

P/NMA/2022/01035, Hillside, Stony Knaps, Winsham, TA20 4N (Amendment to planning permission WD/D/18/000053): Refused

P/TRT/2022/00039, Chestnut Cottage, Chard Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RF: Consent (Tree Works)

P/LBC/2021/04144, Rose Cottage, B3165 School Lane, Blackdown, DT8 3LE: Granted

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

WD/D/20/001756, Broadwindsor Craft and Design Centre, Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Refused

P/HOU/2022/01177, Ashleigh, Chard Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RF: Withdrawn

TPO/2021/0042, Hursey Common, Common Hill, Broadwindsor, Dorset, DT8 3LN: Confirmed

**11. BROADWINDSOR COMMUNITY PUB PROPOSAL**

Councillor Dyke reported that this was one of Councillor Leader's many projects and that the Committee who were in utter dismay at the loss of Councillor Leader were determined to deliver the project in the style that he would have wanted. Councillor Dyke stated that he had agreed to become Chairman alongside Margery Hooking as Deputy Chairman and that they had a week ago held a customer workshop which provided training for the manager and chef on how to deal with difficult customers and a session on licensing laws. Councillor Dyke stated that thinking ahead, Councillor Frampton had kindly agreed to help organise a farmer's breakfast which would be a great way to involve the community. Councillor Dyke stated that there was however a lot to do before that event including painting, flooring and installation of kitchen equipment and they were looking at opening as soon as possible. Councillor Dyke stated that it would be a soft launch in so much as day one would just be a bar offering and that services would then be introduced as time went on. Councillor Dyke stated that they were targeting as close as possible to Easter for the launch but that it was a tall ask. Councillor Chubb asked whether the system for bookings would be either online or by telephone like many venues do, stating that he would imagine that there would be many requests and if people aren't responded to, this may damage future trade. Councillor Dyke stated that this was a great suggestion and exactly what they intend to do. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Dyke for his report.

**12. LEWESDON HILL PROJECT**

Councillor Hibbard stated that he had attended the memorial event and that it was lovely to see so many people turn up. Councillor Hibbard stated that he could see that the relatives of Jean De Cloedt were very moved by the occasion. Councillor Frampton stated that a lot of effort had gone into the project and that he had received so much help from several people. Councillor Frampton stated that he had asked the Clerk to write letters of thanks and also thanked the Parish Council for its support. Councillor Frampton stated that not all had gone to plan and informed that a spitfire was supposed to have carried out a flyover, its servicing had been fast tracked during the winter and it had a successful trial run three days before the event, unfortunately on the morning of the event it had an oil leak and was not able to fly.

Councillor Frampton stated that he had found the event emotional, very moving and quite powerful and thanked Wendy Shields for filming the occasion. Councillor Frampton read aloud a letter from the Great Niece of Jean De Cloedt which he had received the day after the event, thanking him and all those involved for their considerable efforts and what it had meant to her father. The letter stated that Jean De Cloedt had always been remembered in her family and that they were overjoyed and grateful that Jean De Cloedt will continue to be remembered in Broadwindsor and that it was an honour for her to be able to attend the memorial event. Thanks were paid to the people of Broadwindsor in the letter. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Frampton for his hard work and there was a round of applause. The Clerk stated that Councillor Rowe had asked her to pass on her thanks for a wonderful event.

### **13. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

#### **a. Broadwindsor Fun Group, Request to Plant Tree**

Councillor Dyke reported that he had met with the Chairman of the Fun Group who had explained that they had already acquired the tree and wished to plant it in Bernards' Place, near to the Square, just set back from the hedge. Councillor Dyke stated that the tree will be 8ft once grown and that the blossom would look splendid. Councillor Dyke stated that the proposed position of the tree will not interfere with the play equipment. A member of the public asked if the tree which she believed to be a crab apple tree, would be located close enough to the hedge for branches to overhang the pavement and stated that fallen crab apples could be hazardous if not cleared away. Councillor Dyke stated that it might have to be located a little further back. The Clerk stated that permission had been sought from the Parish Council for the planting of the tree in Bernards' Place, the Clerk stated that she had informed that permission would need to be sought from Comrades Hall Management Committee. The Clerk read aloud an update report from the Chairman of the Fun Group which stated that the Church are linking into the schedule, the WI are taking on refreshment duties, the school PTA are working with the Group regarding a parade, village musicians are working to form bands and an audio diary of people's coronation memories is being collated. The update also stated that in line with the village Jubilee plans they will soon be launching a new initiative called 'Leave no one Behind'. The thought behind the initiative is that they want to encourage everyone in the village to speak to their neighbours to ensure that everyone can attend at least the picnic, for example some people may have transport issues or maybe can't make their own picnic. The report stated that the Group will be asking people to invite others to share food and if transport is an issue to let them know and they will try and help. The report stated that other villages within the Parish are welcome to make contact should they wish to contribute to the celebrations. Councillor Hibbard stated that due to the cancellation of the Blackdown Village Hall AGM, he could not update about events in Blackdown at that time but once known, he would report back. Councillor Chubb stated that a marquee will be erected at Drimpton Village Hall and refreshments served.

#### **14. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

##### **a. Working Group Update**

The Clerk stated that a report had been circulated, Councillor Dyke agreed to be the nominated lead Councillor for the Working Group. There were no questions.

#### **15. ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Madder-Smith reported that all allotments apart from one part plot were now occupied and that the Beaminster Beaver Group had recently visited the Allotments. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that a trailer load of wood chippings from trees felled at the White Lion pub had been donated and will be used to infill the bottom vehicle track.

#### **16. WELCOME PACK UPDATE**

The Clerk read aloud a report from Councillor Rowe. The report stated that Councillor Rowe has been managing the Welcome Packs since Councillor Bodycombe left the Parish Council and as we come out of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns many details/personnel listed in the welcome letter have changed. Councillor Rowe stated in her report that with the help of the Clerk she has been able to continue with a temporary pack, with updated details for both Broadwindsor and Drimpton and this has meant that people moving into the Parish have received a Welcome Pack. The report stated that both Councillor Rowe and Councillor Bassett have taken the packs out personally and the feedback from new residents has been extremely positive. The report stated that Councillor Rowe and the Clerk are now working together on improving both the presentation of the pack and the information contained within and Councillor Rowe stated that she very much hopes that the Parish Council will continue to support this project. The Clerk stated that she has organised for a new folder to be produced and that she will present this at the next meeting and asked for other villages to feed in their local information to be used in the pack.

#### **17. BROADBAND SERVICE WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA**

Councillor Dyke stated that there are also issues with telephony as well as broadband service within the Grouped Parish. Councillor Dyke stated that from feedback received there only seems to be a problem with broadband in Hursey and asked if Councillors agreed with that statement. Councillor Chumbley stated that he has not experienced any problem with his broadband service and that his download speed was satisfactory and stated that perhaps someone running a business would not be as satisfied, stating that it is very much about what you want to do and what you can do. Councillor Chumbley stated that he may receive a good service as he lives close to the green box. Councillor Dyke stated that his broadband speed is appalling and if he wishes to download something to watch on television, it isn't possible. Councillor Raymond stated that the service for a member of her family living in Hursey is absolutely fine. Councillor Chubb stated that there are some places in Drimpton where the cable from the road to a house has deteriorated and that this may be causing some issues. Councillor Dyke stated that he would remove broadband from the agenda but stated that telephony was very much an issue. Councillor Dyke stated that as he understands it if you are a O2 customer then you are fine, but if you are with other service providers, there are

problems and stated that it is something that needs to be addressed. Councillor Dyke stated that during the recent storm, when the power went off, you no longer had a mobile signal and stated that this is a far more widespread problem. Councillor Chubb stated that he is a BT customer and is being pushed to be transferred to BT Digital which uses Wi-Fi and stated that if there was a powercut, then he would lose connection. Councillor Chubb stated that this was more an issue for the providers than for the Council. Councillor Christopher stated that he is constantly feeding back information to Officers and Chris Loder MP about where there are shortcomings. Councillor Chumbley stated that when the new mast was erected on Hollis Hill, the service from O2 greatly improved and that other companies need to be on that mast. Councillor Dyke stated that he has also been sharing information with Chris Loder MP and that he is supportive but there is not going to be a quick solution to this problem. Councillor Chubb asked if the contact details for the Officers as quoted by Councillor Christopher could be shared with the Parish Council.

Councillor Dyke stated that this is a national issue and stated that there had been many letters in the national press complaining about BT and how their digital transfer plans will affect many including older people. A member of the public stated that although BT has been the first to alert its customers, all landlines nationwide will be going over to a new digital system by 2025. Councillor Hibbard asked whether handsets would need to be changed, Councillor White stated that she had been informed by BT that she would have to purchase new handsets and stated that she has challenged BT to why she has to pay for their upgrade and stated that no response has yet been forthcoming. Councillor White stated that she was unsure as to what advice to provide to parishioners. Councillor Chubb asked what would happen to those without broadband, Councillor White stated that they will lose their landline. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council should keep an eye on this matter. Councillor White stated that it was Outreach who are carrying out the upgrade. Councillor Sewell asked whether Broadwindsor.org would be able to help raise awareness of this matter, Wendy Shields agreed. Councillor Sewell informed that BT offers a service for pensioners on benefits – BT Basic and stated that it is not widely advertised.

## **18. HIGHWAYS**

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

The Clerk read aloud a report from Councillor Rowe. The report stated that Brian Hesketh is seeking funding for the circular trail around the Parish and that Councillor Rowe and Margery Hookings and are in contact with Brian and on hand to offer any help he might need as the project progresses.

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

The Clerk read aloud a report from Councillor Rowe. The report stated that she had been in discussion with Councillor Leader about how to take the wildflower project forward this year and as usual, in spite of his many other commitments, Councillor Leader was always available to talk about the project, to offer practical support and to gather volunteers whenever they needed them for preparation and sowing of the plots. In her report Councillor Rowe stated

that we were all disappointed with the wildflowers last year, due to a number of factors including the cold, wet Spring. Councillor Rowe stated in her report that she was determined to succeed in 2022 and had had several conversations with Louise from Castle Nurseries in Sherborne who provided a great deal of advice for the first year of planting and has come up with some ideas for success this year. In her report Councillor Rowe stated that she had written a piece for the March edition of the Broadwindsor News outlining the plan to enrol a small group of volunteers to help with the sowing and then to share responsibility for looking after the wildflower beds until they are established. A number of positive responses were received and five people have already offered their help and it is anticipated that they will prepare and sow the beds on the weekend of 24 April. The report stated that Councillor Rowe had discussed with Councillor Leader that the Parish Council would take responsibility for cutting the edges of the verges, using the recently acquired mower, leaving Dorset Council to manage the main areas with the cut and collect machine. Councillor Rowe stated that she would appreciate some help from the Parish Council in organising the cutting of the verge edges during the Summer months. To conclude, the report stated that Councillor Leader was involved in and passionate about so many aspects of the Parish and stated that Councillor Rowe would do her best to make sure that the wildflower verges bloom successfully this year and that they will be a fitting tribute to this amazing man who gave so much of himself to enriching the lives of others.

Councillor Madder-Smith stated that the Parish has been very kindly offered a ride on mower and shredder by a local resident, Councillor Hughes welcomed the offer and stated that the Parish Council should accept as the new mower was quite big and it may be difficult to use it to cut the verges. Councillor Hughes raised the matter of who would now be responsible for maintaining Hursey Common going forward and suggested that Councillor Frampton has knowledge and expertise. Councillor Frampton stated that he has in the past put his sheep on the field to help keep the grass down but it was a difficult site as there is no access to water. Councillor Hibbard stated that all of the projects that Councillor Leader was involved with should be reviewed in order to ensure continuity and suggested that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Sheila Hawkins stated that she understood that there was a management plan for the Common, the Clerk stated that there was and that it was available to view on the Parish Council's website. Sheila Hawkins stated that the wildflower meadow is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and needs to be carefully managed. Councillor Raymond stated that Beaminster Young Farmers had used the sports field many times last year and had made bookings through Councillor Leader. Councillor Madder-Smith reported that there had been complaints from local residents regarding an overhanging tree on Back Lane which had already been hit by two vehicles and had been informed that it was Magna's responsibility. The Clerk asked if anyone had contacted Magna, Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he believed that they had been alerted. Councillor Curtis stated that the school bus had hit the tree and that glass had shattered and fallen onto children. The Clerk agreed to contact Magna, Councillor Chubb stated that perhaps Highways should also be involved as this presents a highway safety issue.

### **c. Grouped Parish Speed Limits**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **d. Village Signage**

Councillor Chubb reported that the Drimpton sign located at the crossroads has now been beautifully restored and thanked Robert Moses for carrying out the work. Councillor Chubb also stated that the speed signs are worn out and you cannot see the information. The Clerk asked if the Parish Council was still looking to pursue new signage, the general consensus was that it would cost too much money. Councillor Dyke suggested contacting Chis Edgerley.

The Clerk stated that she had received a response from Dorset Council with regard to the request to reinstall the HGV sign in Netherhay Lane, at the Junction with Chard Road and the request to install kerb stones on the corner. The Clerk read aloud the reply,

*“Since the sign is advisory, not mandatory, there is no Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place prohibiting or restricting access by HGVs and it is not under our code of practise to replace signs of this type, I am not able to raise a works order to have it renew or reinstated. Minor scrape damage to the verge by passing vehicles cannot be prevented by the inclusion of a kerb line at the Netherhay junction would not be cost effective and as explained to Cllr Harris only serves to urbanise a rural area. I am therefore not able to instigate these works.”*

Councillor Hibbard stated that it does beg the question as to why there are kerbs on all four corners of the Horn Ash crossroads where there are no houses and stated that surely they should want to deurbanise this area. Councillor Harris stated that new kerb stones were installed outside number 2 Netherhay Lane approximately five years ago. Councillor Sewell suggested that the Parish Council ask Dorset Council to justify why there are kerb stones at Horn Ash, the Clerk agreed to action this.

## **19. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

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

Sheila Hawkins provided an update and stated that the Netherhay Lane construction project is running to schedule and that representatives of the Community Land Trust (CLT) are participating in monthly site meetings with the main contractors CG Fry & Son Ltd, the development partners Abri (formerly Yarlington Housing Group) and their Quantity Surveyors, Frazer Garner. Sheila Hawkins stated that all drainage (foul and rainwater) is now in place within the construction area and tarmac has been laid on the road network to allow the site office, facilities and storage areas to be moved to their permanent position, and for work to begin on construction of the foundations for the housing units. In addition, the footpath extension between the site and the public right of way leading to Chard Road has been laid out. Sheila Hawkins reported that as an additional bonus, CG Fry has, at the CLT's request, cleaned out the drainage ditch between the site boundary and the existing dwellings on Netherhay Lane, and removed some fly-tipped material from the bank of the Small Axe.

The CLT is planning the details of a community project, 'Homemaking', which will be coordinated in Drimpton by Andrew Pastor with one or two members of the CLT Board. Sheila Hawkins stated that it will run throughout the construction period, and more details will be publicised soon. The project will comprise of elements of music and song, craft based activities, including using waste wood, brick and other useable materials from the construction site, art and photography. Sheila Hawkins stated that Jenny Beck from Drimpton has been commissioned to create a piece of art from which prints will be made and given to each new home. Sheila Hawkins stated that the original piece could tour around the village halls as it will belong to the Grouped Parish. Sheila Hawkins stated that in addition to photographs being taken by the CLT, Abri were also going to be setting up time lapse photography so that once complete you can see it as a whole project. Councillor Hibbard thanked Sheila Hawkins for her report.

Councillor Harris asked about the ditch and stated that he had received a telephone call from the residents of number 6 Netherhay Lane who were not too pleased about the way that the ditch had been excavated, most notably that it falls short of their property which defeats the object of having the ditch cleared out. Councillor Harris also stated that two bales of straw had been found in the cavity and a pond was developing. Councillor Harris stated that the residents have contacted Brian Hesketh and that he was waiting for the outcome of that communication. Councillor Harris stated that this does raise the issue of the maintenance of the ditch and asked whether it was on CLT land or land managed by the housing association. Sheila Hawkins stated that as far as she understood the situation, Councillor Leader had agreed that the CLT and Parish Council would manage that area as it runs alongside the footpath. Councillor Harris asked who will pay for it and where will the money come from. Councillor Hibbard stated that there will be monies coming into the CLT to support these types of costs. Councillor Harris stated that the residents would like something in writing for future reference in case they wish to sell their property. Sheila Hawkins stated that the CLT were having their board meeting on Wednesday 23 March and this would be discussed then.

## **20. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION**

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

None.

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

None.

## **21. 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.

## **22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Hibbard confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be 11 April 2022, venue to be confirmed. Councillor Hibbard stated that he will need to give his apologies for the



meeting and stated that Councillor Sewell had agreed to chair the meeting. Councillor Chubb also offered his apologies for the next meeting.

**23. CLOSE**

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.21 pm, Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation. Councillor Hibbard reiterated that the Parish Council's thoughts are very much with the family of Councillor Leader at this time.