



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

26 SEPTEMBER 2022

BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard, (Chairman), Cllr. Jacqui Sewell (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Stefan Nikolov, Cllr. Sonia Raymond.

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. There were three members of the public in attendance. A minute's silence was held in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk and the Vice Chairman for their efforts in carrying out the duties of the Parish Council following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Councillor Sewell stated that protocol was correctly followed.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Chumbley, Hughes, Madder-Smith, and White 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 Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 July 2022 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Councillor Rowe, Letter of Resignation

Councillor Hibbard reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Councillor Dorothy Rowe and stated that she has been a driving force within the Parish Council – an excellent Footpaths Officer and had worked hard to implement the wildflower verges and would be sadly missed. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

5. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION FOR THE REVERSAL OF PARISH COUNCIL RESOLUTION BGPC2022/07/6/10B (COMPLIANT WITH STANDING ORDER 17)

The Clerk reported that she has received feedback from DAPTC on the application for borrowing approval which was submitted on 28 July which indicated that the minuted wording of the resolution as above would need to be amended and that a budget for next year needs to be submitted for consideration. The Clerk stated that this could only be done by reversing the resolution made on 11 July, as the resolution is valid for a period of six months and for the Parish Council to reconsider the business case again with the existing supplementary documents and draft budget for 2023/2024. There were no questions.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Chubb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the Special Resolution to reverse the Parish Council Resolution BGPC2022/07/6/10B made on 11 July 2022.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. There were no comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

The report from Councillor Christopher had been circulated prior to the meeting and Councillor Christopher asked for any questions. Councillor Chubb asked that Councillor Christopher's report be sent out earlier as he has not had the opportunity to read it before the meeting. Councillor Christopher stated that it is always difficult to know when to send out a report as information is ever changing and that he always tries to send out the very latest updates. Councillor Hibbard suggested that a report be sent out a little earlier and the latest update be provided at the meeting. Councillor Sewell commented that in his report, Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council has been in conversation with Government officials and has expressed an interest in being part of the Investment Zone, despite the fact that this will result in a lowering of planning regulations and a reduction in the legal protection for wildlife. Councillor Christopher stated that it was not yet known if Dorset would be part of the Zone, Councillor Sewell stated that it had just been announced that Dorset had been identified by the Government as an investment zone. Councillor Christopher stated that the specific parts of the County had not been agreed and that Councillor Flower had released a statement on Friday and suggested that the Parish Council raise this matter with him. Councillor Christopher stated that there is currently a great deal of concern in relation to the

possible closure of ticket offices and suggested that the Parish Council may wish to register their concern with the Member of Parliament. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher, Councillor Christopher left the meeting at 8.10 pm.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In his absence, the Clerk read aloud a report from PCSO Bishop. The report stated that a Land Rover had been stolen from the Drimpton area between 18 and 19 September and a Campervan had been stolen from the Broadwindsor area between the 5 and 7 September. The report stated that there has been a spate of Land Rover thefts across North and East Dorset in recent months and it may be possible that these local thefts are linked. In his report, PCSO Bishop stated that he would be at the Post Office on Tuesday 11 October at 11.00 am for his usual monthly engagement.

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

The Clerk reported that only one expression of interest had been received from Stefan Nikolov and that he was in attendance at the meeting should there be any questions. The expression of interest comprising a CV and covering letter had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions. Councillor Chubb proposed the co-option, seconded by Councillor Hibbard, there were no objections or abstentions.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Hibbard and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the co-option of Stefan Nikolov to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council.

Councillor Nikolov signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, duly witnessed by the Clerk, Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Nikolov to the Parish Council and invited him to join the meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Broadwindsor Resident, Affordable Housing

Councillor Sewell stated that with reference to the matter raised about affordable housing, the only way of protecting this was through a neighbourhood plan and/or through a community land trust which protects affordable housing in perpetuity. Councillor Sewell stated that she very much agreed with the comments made within the letter and stated that in her opinion smaller houses were needed and not larger executive homes. Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council has been very proactive – supporting the Parish Plan and its conclusions and initially forming the Community Land Trust and although the Parish Council does not have any legal authority in planning matters, Councillor Chubb stated that the Council does carefully review and consider each planning application. Councillor Chubb asked whether the Parish Council should contact the Enforcement Team at Dorset Council. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had spoken to the landowners and they have confirmed that they are not in a position to complete what they had hoped to do and had been in contact with a company who may well submit a planning application. Councillor Hibbard stated that in his opinion this did not warrant contacting Dorset Council and that the Parish Council could

only formally comment once a planning application had been received. Councillor Sewell stated that there was an uplift clause placed on the site when it was originally sold. Councillor Chubb stated that planning regulations had not been followed, the Clerk was asked to pass on contact details of the Enforcement Team to the parishioner within the reply. Councillor Curtis asked whether the original application was reviewed by the Parish Council, Councillor Sewell confirmed that it had been. Councillor Dyke stated that there was also a public hygiene matter, Councillor Sewell stated that Environmental Health should be contacted. The Clerk was asked to forward a reply on behalf of the Parish Council to the parishioner.

b. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Rural England Prosperity Fund

Councillor Sewell stated that information about this fund should be circulated as it may be useful for groups wishing to access money. Councillor Dyke stated that the notes that came with the application made reference that applications should provide specific additional information as an addendum to the UKSPF investment plan and stated that it seemed a good opportunity but perhaps rather complex to access.

c. British Heart Foundation, Recall of Defibrillators

The Clerk stated that she had circulated information about the recall to contacts in each of the villages and stated that Drimpton had already acted and removed the defibrillator and had arranged for its repair. Councillor Sewell suggested contacting Mick Massey for Broadwindsor. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had changed the pads and batteries and had contacted the Ambulance Service to ask if they could come out and check the device but had not heard anything from them. The Clerk suggested that an annual service for all three defibrillators may be useful and that she would look into this and report back. All agreed.

d. Comrades Hall Committee, Request for Short Term Loan

Councillor Sewell abstained from this agenda item. Councillor Hibbard asked Councillors if they support the request from Comrades Hall for a short term loan of £5,000 to allow them to complete the play equipment project in Bernards' Place. Councillor Chubb stated that the Parish Council supported Drimpton Village Hall in a similar way and that it was a great help. Brian Stone, Treasurer for Comrades Hall confirmed that monies were in place but the drawing down process meant that there would be a short temporary shortfall. There were no objections, and the Clerk was asked to add this to the accounts for the October meeting.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Frampton and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved providing a short term loan of £5,000 to Comrades Hall.

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

a. Community Updates from Councillors

Councillor Sewell reported that COVID booster vaccinations are being offered at Beaminster Town Hall.

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 30 August was £25,405.16. There were no questions.

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

c. To approve payment of £20.00 for Comrades Hall (Table & Chair Hire)

d. To approve payment of £134.84 for T Emmott (Hursey Common Grass Cutting)

e. To approve payment of £120.00 for DM Payroll Services Ltd (Payroll Support)

f. To approve payment of £85.36 for Dr. G Small (Petrol for Mower)

g. To approve payment of £1182.00 for Dorset Council (SID Solar Setups & Brackets)

h. To approve payment of £66.00 for Focus (HS) Limited (Internal Audit Fee)

i. To approve payment of £90.32 for Clerk (Expenses August & September 2022)

j. To approve £40.00 for ICO (Data Controller Fee)

Councillor Hibbard proposed that payments b to j be approved en bloc. There were no objections.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to j

k. Update on Compensation Request for Damaged Lawn Mower

The Clerk reported that the insurance company had made contact, the Parish Council had admitted liability and that Dr Small was being offered a full replacement. The Clerk stated that she had asked the insurance company to assess the liability for Dorset Council. Councillor Curtis asked if the metal pole was still in the ground, the Clerk stated that she had noted that the cone had been removed and that she had asked Dorset Council to remove the pole on a number of occasions as it posed a danger. Councillor Dyke stated that he would go and look to see if the pole was still in the ground.

l. Budget & Precept Preparation 2023/2024

The Clerk stated that she had circulated a report from NALC relating to precepts and stated that the Parish Council had not increased its precept request for the last two years but will need to consider projects coming forward and the general increase in living costs. The Clerk stated that she would prepare a draft budget for discussion at the next few meetings and stated that the precept request must be submitted by the end of January 2023.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2022/04339, Common Hill, Hursey, DT8 3LN

The Clerk stated that this application was reviewed by Councillors Dyke and Hibbard and a corporate view was submitted to Dorset Council in August. Councillor Dyke stated that the period of review had been extended to 11 October due to a late submission of an arboricultural report.

P/HOU/2022/05487, 12 Yarnbarton, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QW

The Clerk stated that this application had been allocated to Councillor Chumbley who was not in attendance and stated that she would contact him after the meeting for his comments.

P/FUL/2022/05552, Dorset Farm Littlewindsor Beaminster DT8 3QU

The Clerk stated that she had received the following comments from Councillor White. The original planning application was reviewed and fully supported by the Parish Council in October 2021. The application was then subsequently withdrawn by the applicants on the advice of Dorset Council as the proposal was deemed too small and outside of the settlement. The site comprises derelict buildings containing old fridges and freezers which would not be suitable for re-use in any food production system and has been on the market for four years. In her report Councillor White stated that it would not be financially viable for anyone to rent, remove and rebuild and not an attractive proposition with many purpose built units available in various business parks in the area with better vehicle access. A market viability report has now been requested by Dorset Council. Whilst awaiting the original application to be reviewed legislation changed and a bat survey was then required which has been delayed until any maternity roosts were vacated as bats have been found on the site. The report stated that there had been mixed messages from Dorset Council on what is acceptable – previously holiday lets was the preferred route, now residential applications seem to be preferred. The proposed planting schemes include native species and wildlife boxes have been included in landscaping and a wildlife pond. The report stated that the phosphate issues have been addressed with the installation of a new septic digester system. In her report Councillor White stated that she fully supported the application as it would improve the appearance of the site and would re-use existing buildings. Councillor Sewell stated that the site was not isolated and does form part of a hamlet with houses nearby.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results:

P/NMA/2022/04881, Old Stables, Seaborough Court Access, Seaborough, DT8 3QY: Granted

P/OUT/2022/04123, Manor Farm, Common Water Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QR: Withdrawn

P/HOU/2022/04129, Ashleigh, Chard Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RF: Granted

P/HOU/2022/03998, 1 Bridport Road, Broadwindsor, Dorset, DT8 3LA: Granted

11. APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD FINANCE

a. Update on Application, Feedback from DAPTC

The Clerk reported that she has received feedback from DAPTC on the application for borrowing approval which was submitted on 28 July which indicated that the minuted wording of the resolution would need to be amended and that a budget for next year needs to be submitted for consideration.

b. Report to Council (Summary of the project, business case and budgets)

The Clerk stated that she had circulated a report to Council highlighting the business case, the current budget, the draft budget for the financial year 2023/2024 and recommendations and asked for any questions, there were no questions. The Clerk stated that there will not be any increase to the Precept to directly support the repayment of the loan.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Hibbard and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the business case, its recommendations and the draft budget for the financial year 2023/2024 and approved a nil increase to the Precept to support the repayment of the loan.

c. To resolve to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £50,000 over the borrowing term of 30 years to support the purchase of the freehold of the Old Telephone Exchange building by Broadwindsor and District Community Enterprise Ltd (BADCE).

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard, seconded by Councillor Dyke and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £50,000 over the borrowing term of 30 years for the purchase of the freehold of the Old Telephone Exchange building by Broadwindsor and District Community Enterprise Ltd (BADCE).

It is not intended to increase the Council Tax Precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

12. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Dyke reported that he and Sheila Hawkins had attended a Zoom meeting of the Dorset Councillors' Climate & Ecological Emergency Support Group, a monthly meeting attended by both County and Parish Councillors centred on a specific theme. Councillor Dyke stated that the theme for this meeting had been a 2030 vision for climate change and stated that although this meeting very much focussed on Lyme Regis, it was something that could be applied on a larger scale. Councillor Sewell stated that Councillor Christopher could take this forward on a ward level. Councillor Dyke stated that as part of the Big Green Week, there had been a litter pick in Broadwindsor and thanked Councillor Nikolov for coordinating and stated that next weekend there was an event in Comrades Hall organised by the Eco Group

with a number of stalls and activities for children. Councillor Dyke stated that there will also be an opportunity to view the solar panels and ground source heat pump. Councillor Dyke stated that a number of native saplings are now ready to be replanted and that ideas are being sought on where they should go. Sheila Hawkins stated that the saplings were a donation from Groves Nurseries and she had originally intended to offer them to the CLT site in Netherhay but had been told that she could not contribute to the landscaping plan until they were in full possession of the site. Councillor Sewell asked whether they could be given to a neighbour of the site, Sheila Hawkins stated that could be a possibility and welcomed other suggestions on where they could be planted, ideally in a public space so that they could be enjoyed by all. Councillor Dyke stated that the collection bins for the tetra packs and aluminium foil were being somewhat abused and another way of recycling these items may need to be found. With regard to crisp packets, Councillor Dyke stated that he may have found an opportunity for these to be made into insulated blankets to support homeless people. Councillor Sewell stated that Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council had produced a Climate and Ecological Policy which can be used as part of the planning consultation process and stated that she will forward to the Clerk for circulation.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Nikolov reported that there has been a skip onsite and this has allowed for a lot of rubbish to be removed and that they have started to clear the site ready for the composting toilet. Councillor Nikolov thanked the Parish Council for their support. Councillor Nikolov reported that there are currently two half plots available on the allotments.

14. WELCOME PACK UPDATE

The Clerk reported that she will collect all existing packs from Dorothy Rowe and be the main point of contact. The Clerk stated that she would still like flyers from village halls and a contact for each of the villages to take packs out personally and meet new residents.

15. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that he had contacted a local company called Jurassic Fibre, who have already been out in Hursey to survey and stated that he had suggested to them that they attend a Parish Council meeting to provide an overview of their work and gain feedback. Councillor Dyke encouraged people to register their interest at <https://jurassic-fibre.com> and reiterated that this does not create any commitment, it is purely registering interest and the greater the interest, the greater the likelihood of the work being done. Once on the site, select 'Check your Postcode', enter your postcode and select your address and then check availability. As the service is not yet available, you are taken to a 'Register your interest' form, enter your details and submit.

16. HIGHWAYS

a. Appointment of Footpaths Officer

The Clerk stated that with the resignation of Dorothy Rowe, a new Footpaths Officer needs to be appointed. Councillor Nikolov stated that he may be interested in this role but would

like to find out more information about the position and its responsibilities. The Clerk stated that he could speak to Dorothy Rowe and stated that she could arrange this.

b. Grouped Parish Speed Limits & Traffic Calming Measures

The Clerk stated that a letter had been sent to Councillor Flower at the beginning of August and read aloud the reply as follows.

My apologies for the delay in coming back to you. I have recently visited the Ward and was indeed shown the area in question by local member, Councillor Simon Christopher. I am fully aware of the ambitions to have footpath access to the cricket ground. Indeed, I have had a conversation with the Lead Member for Highways, who has also visited the location, and I am continuing dialogue with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Ray Bryan and senior officers in order for us to review this request in detail so that we are able to establish feasibility moving forward. I am sorry I am unable to give you a firm answer today, but I will come back to you in the next four weeks with something definite.

The Clerk stated that she had also circulated a reply that been sent from Councillor Flower to a parishioner who had written a letter at the same time as the Parish Council asking for speed limits to be reviewed. The Clerk stated that in this reply, Councillor Flower had stated that he did not think that such a request would be supported or a high priority for the Council. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that the cost of changing traffic regulations should be reviewed and stated that the Parish Council will continue to press for these issues.

Councillor Dike made reference to a web link that had been circulated with the supplementary papers which was a newspaper article about a village in Holland where tree planting had been used as an alternative traffic calming measure and stated that a resident in Broadwindsor was considering planting something in the centre of the village. Councillor Chubb urged caution as they could be liable for any damage or injury. Councillor Chubb asked if the Council could obtain data from the speed indicator devices, the Clerk agreed to contact Dorset Council. Councillor Sewell asked whether parking in Broadwindsor Square could be revisited again and stated that community involvement will be required. Councillor Nikolov stated that he had been approached by a parishioner about this problem. Councillor Hibbard stated that the only sure solution would be double yellow lines which most people do not want.

c. Bus Services – Dorset Council Bus Service Improvement Plan & No 6 Bus

The Clerk stated that Councillor Sewell had attended a meeting at Dorset Council. Councillor Sewell commented that nothing is going to happen and that the service will most likely be lost, stating that bus companies want to make a profit. Councillor Chubb stated that if services are not financially viable then they will not operate and suggested that alternatives need to be looked at. Councillor Sewell stated that within Dorset Council there is no department with responsibility for rural issues and stated that rural areas deserve bus services just as much as urban areas, but this has to come from the Government, top down.

d. War Memorial Project Update

Councillor Frampton reported that he has a strong desire to progress this project and stated that following the July meeting with help from Councillors White, Harris and Raymond he has collated the names of all the soldiers who lost their lives in World War 1 and World War II from across the Grouped Parish area, taken from plaques in local churches. Councillor Frampton stated that there are fifty-seven in total, forty-four from World War I and thirteen from World War II. Councillor Frampton stated that he had contacted the War Graves Commission and had found out a lot of information about the World War II soldiers including their rank, age when they died but stated that it had proved more difficult for soldiers from World War I. Councillor Frampton stated that the original plan was to engrave names on a piece of stone but given the number of names, this would be difficult and costly and stated that his revised proposal would be to have all the names listed on an A1 acrylic memorial plaque, alongside side a black and white image with red poppies, fixed to a piece of limestone measuring approximately 2m by 1.5 m, blending the modern with the traditional. Councillor Frampton stated that he would donate the piece of limestone and the cost of the board and graphic design would be £530.00. In terms of location, Councillor Frampton suggested that one possibility would be on the large green verge, opposite the wildflower verge on the Orchard Mead side of the road. Councillor Frampton stated that the memorial would be set back as to not obscure highway visibility. Councillor Frampton stated that the School could be involved with the official opening of the memorial as many will have family members listed on the plaque. Councillor Frampton stated that he had spoken with Councillor Christopher who believes that the land is not actually owned by anyone and Councillor Frampton stated that therefore planning permission may not be required. Councillor Frampton stated that he would welcome feedback from the local community as there needs to be consensus. Councillor Chubb stated that he remembers that research about the soldiers who lost their lives from Drimpton took place some years ago and will look into this and report back. The Clerk stated that she will add this to the agenda for the next meeting. Councillor Raymond asked about the weight of the stone and whether it could easily be knocked over by a vehicle and whether there could be a pathway up to the memorial to allow for access for all people. Councillor Frampton stated that the stone will be compacted in with stone and soil and will be well supported and that a pathway could be easily created. Councillor Frampton stated that Adrian Gray had raised money for two Tommy soldiers which were metal and installed on a spike and would be positioned either side of the memorial.

e. Management of Hursey Common

The Clerk reported that a meeting is planned for the next day with Councillors Dyke and Nikolov, Sheila Hawkins and Dorset Wildlife Trust to discuss the future management of Hursey Common and stated that this will be reported back to the Parish Council.

17. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust (CLT)

Councillor Hibbard reported that the houses are coming along well and stated that there may be a slight delay at the end of May next year. Councillor Hibbard stated that there had been a couple of problems with the supply of lintels, as the size received was incorrect. Councillor Hibbard reported that the electricity supply would be installed in October, Sheila Hawkins commented that some houses now have rafters. Councillor Hibbard stated that an open day is planned for early next year, once there is more to see and members of the public will be able to visit the site.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Frampton asked that the fireworks event at Broadwindsor Cricket Club be added to the next agenda and Councillor Sewell asked that hedgehog signs be added to the next agenda.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents were invited to give their views and ask questions of the Parish Council on any outstanding issues on the agenda or raise issues for future consideration. There were no comments.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Given the rescheduling of the September meeting it was agreed to convene the next meeting on 17 October at Blackdown Village Hall. Councillor Hibbard stated that Philip Bailey had completed the full renovation of the outside wall which had to be rebuilt completely and stated that he had done a marvellous job.

21. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.10 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.