



## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 8 JULY 2019**

### **BROADWINDSOR CRICKET CLUB PAVILION**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Cindy Bodycombe, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Susanna Laurie, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell.

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Chairman. There were four members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Meeting and thanked Councillor Frampton for arranging the venue and for organising the room.

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#### **1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Leader and Hardwill 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.**

Councillor Hedditch declared an interest in Agenda Item 16a and Councillor Chumbley declared an interest in Agenda Item 20c.

##### **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.**

No updates were received.

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

Councillor Rowe informed of missing text at BGPC/06/8/12a, the Clerk stated that she would amend accordingly. The minutes from the Meeting held on 10 June 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

Councillor Hibbard thanked the Clerk for her summary of the comments received in respect of the affordable housing planning application at Netherhay and the Clerk thanked Members of the Council for their feedback.

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

None.

#### **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

##### **a. Report from Dorset Council Councillor**

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Christopher to the Meeting and thanked him for his report which had been circulated to Members of the Council prior to the Meeting. Councillor Christopher stated that it had been a busy month and that the Planning Committee which convened last Thursday had reached useful conclusions. Councillor Christopher stated that he had attended a meeting with Councillors Leader and Rowe and a representative from the Highways Authority to inspect the road surfaces within Broadwindsor and stated that he had spoken with Council Officers regarding the different road treatments and would most likely be discussing this with Councillor Hibbard in the near future. Councillor Rowe reported that following this meeting she had received an email from Councillor Leader regarding the condition of local roads and asked if she could read it aloud to the Council. This was agreed. Councillor Rowe stated that Councillor Leader was insistent that the Parish Council with the support of Councillor Christopher needs to persuade Dorset Council to replace the failed road surface in the Square, one way system and roads into the Square including West Street, part of Trusthams, the car parking area outside the School and Yarnbarton. Councillor Leader had stated in his email that the existing failed surface should be planed off and resurfaced using the best materials available and stated that Broadwindsor is a road hub and takes a lot of heavy traffic including farm and commercial on the B roads and a cheap and inferior surface will break up quickly and not be cost effective. Councillor Leader had stated in his email that a tar and chip process to tick a box is a complete waste of time and money, that the village did not want it, that it won't work and that the road will be a mess again in a very short period of time.

Councillor Sewell reported that a cyclist had been seriously injured in the Marshwood area due to a pothole and stated that she was concerned that someone would be injured in Broadwindsor due to the poor condition of the local roads. Councillor Sewell reminded Councillor Christopher of the problem with reduced lighting and poor road surface in Yarnbarton which also presented a security problem for the School. Councillor Christopher stated that this matter had also been discussed at the recent meeting. Councillor Chubb asked if the speed limit of a road made any difference to whether it was scheduled for resurfacing, Councillor Christopher stated that there was indeed a distinction made between A and B roads. Councillor Chubb stated that it had taken a year for the road to be patched in Drimpton,

with the help of Ian Newport. Councillor Christopher stated that these issues were of great concern and that he had recently received correspondence about heavy lorries and the damage that they cause to roads. Councillor Christopher stated that he was hopeful that these works would be completed.

Councillor Sewell made reference to the Local Development Scheme for Dorset and stated that this had been granted Cabinet approval on 25 June and asked why Councillor Christopher had not notified the Clerk of this and stated that the six-week consultation period was now underway. Councillor Christopher stated that the consultation period still continues. Councillor Christopher stated that he had been advised by the Dorset Council Monitoring Officer that on the basis of a pending planning application that as Chair of the Planning Committee, it would not be appropriate to send emails to third parties regarding issues that would be dealt with on a formal basis at a later time. Councillor Christopher also stated that he had spoken with Councillor David Walsh who holds the Portfolio for Planning who had advised that he not attend a meeting with the Community Land Trust on the basis of public opinion and transparency.

Councillor Chubb asked Councillor Christopher whether if the need arose, he could support the Parish Council with a particular planning matter and provide representation for the Grouped Parish at Committee level. Councillor Christopher stated that due to his position, that he could not. Councillor Chubb stated that this would leave the Grouped Parish without any representation and that this did not seem fair. Councillor Christopher stated that the Parish Council could ask another Dorset Councillor to speak on their behalf, Councillor Chubb stated that a Councillor from another area, would not be aware of or understand local issues. Councillor Christopher stated that this was a new situation for a new Council and stated that the Planning Committee does have a Vice Chairman. Councillor Chubb asked if this problem could be reported back to Dorset Council.

Councillor Rowe stated that she was pleased to see that Councillor Christopher had been speaking to lots of different people and asked if Mr. Giles Nicholson as mentioned in his report was senior to Mr. Russell Goff. Councillor Christopher stated that he believed that he was and that he would provide contact details.

Councillor Christopher stated that things are constantly changing at the Council, Councillor Hibbard stated that he had noted the many meetings attended by Councillor Christopher. Councillor Christopher reported that he had been invited to be part of the Dorset Council Economic Advisory Panel.

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

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that on Monday 1 July, an unknown male knocked on the back door of a property in Horn Ash and was seen looking through windows. When answered the male said that he was short of petrol and needed some directions. He was directed towards Chard and then drove off in that

direction. PCSO Bishop advised in his report that should anything like this occur, call the Police on 101 and if you are able to, get details of any vehicles being used. The report also stated that there had been a recent dog attack on a sheep, causing its death and stated that dog owners need to keep dogs under control. If you are walking dogs through fields, you must ensure that there are no other animals in the field before letting them off a lead. The report concluded by stating that PCSO Bishop would be at the Post Office on Tuesday 9 July at 11.00 am.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

### **a. Citizens Advice Bridport & District, Invitation to Annual General Meeting**

The Clerk stated that this had been addressed to and forwarded to the Chairman.

### **b. Councillor Turner, Beaminster Town Council, Revisions to Bus Timetable**

The Clerk stated that she had circulated the new timetable for the CB3 Community Bus and stated that Beaminster Town Council welcomed any feedback about the revisions.

### **c. NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, Invitation to Annual General Meeting**

The Clerk stated that she had circulated this invitation to Members of the Council prior to the Meeting.

### **d. Local Development Scheme for Dorset**

The Clerk stated that she had circulated this document to Members of the Council prior to the Meeting, there were no questions.

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

### **a. The Finance Report**

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first quarter of 2019/2020, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 June 2019 was £19,012.78. The Clerk stated that since the publication of the Agenda the first Precept payment, which had been delayed, had now been received, providing a current balance of £31,872.31. There were no questions.

b. To approve payment of £66.00 for Councillor Rowe (Compost/Seeds for Wildflower Verge)

c. To approve payment of £95.76 for Councillor Leader (MUGA Fencing Materials)

d. To approve payment of £775.67 for Community First (Insurance)

e. To approve payment of £6.71 for HMRC (NI)

f. To approve payment of £72.00 for GeoXphere Ltd (Parish Online Annual Subscription)

g. To consider a grant of £50.00 for the Beaminster Eco Group (Wildlife Meadow)

h. To approve payment of £76.71 for the Clerk (Expenses April, May, June 2019)

i. To approve payment of £920.70 for the Clerk (Salary Adjustment April, May, June 2019)

Councillor Hibbard asked that all payments, with the exception of item 7g, be approved en bloc. This was agreed.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Chubb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b, c, d, e, f, h and i.**

The Clerk was asked to invite the Beaminster Eco Group to the next Meeting and ask that they provide further information about the Group and the proposed wildflower meadow.

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

None.

### **b. Other Applications**

None.

### **c. Results**

The Clerk reported the following results:

WD/D/19/000774, Old Village Hall, Seaborough, DT8 3QY: Approved

WD/D/19/000312, Hillside, Stony Knaps, Winsham, Chard, TA20 4NY: Approved

## **9. GROUP PARISH WELCOME PACK**

Councillor Rowe reported that this was a work in progress and that she would report back at a later time.

## **10. RURAL TRANSPORT**

Councillor Sewell stated that the Government had produced a White Paper in June with the focus on bus services and that she had produced a report in the hope that Broadwindsor Group Parish Council could lead the way and forward these concerns to both Dorset Council and the Member of Parliament. The report has been summarised below.

- In most places local authorities help to fund socially necessary services, where such services are not being provided on a commercial basis by a bus operator.
- Financial pressure on all non-statutory council services is, however, putting such routes at risk.
- Routes are being withdrawn, their frequency reduced, and the communities they serve are becoming isolated.
- Bus passengers want reliable and timely services, they want to know when and where a bus will turn up.
- A competent bus strategy is needed to halt the decline in bus use and give passengers a fairer deal.

Councillor Sewell stated that given the scale of the contribution that taxpayers make to funding bus services, the Government should more clearly set out what it expects to achieve from the way they spend our taxes. Councillor Sewell stated that free local concessionary bus travel, with the aim of improving the lives of older and disabled people, was introduced across England in 2008. When the national bus pass came in, West Dorset District Councillors were informed that all buses would be fitted with new ticket markets that would 'capture' the information from each individual's bus pass and that the issuing area would reimburse West Dorset, but of course this never happened.

Councillor Sewell stated that at present reimbursement of concessionary fares for bus operators does not meet the original principle of 'no better and no worse off' it is 99p per journey. Councillor Sewell stated that there needs to be a 'root and branch' investigation into how concessionary bus passes are funded.

Councillor Sewell stated that now young people are required to be in education or training until they are eighteen, that they should also benefit from a concessionary fares scheme. Young people are also key to securing the future of bus use.

Councillor Sewell stated that in the past, before the County Council took over the responsibility for buses - WDDC simply advertised routes as a 'block' however that has all changed. Councillor Sewell stated that bus operators now tender simply for the most profitable routes, leaving the unprofitable ones for volunteer groups to run - this must change.

Councillor Sewell stated that policy states that franchising allows local authorities to decide how bus services are provided, determine routes etc but this is not how it happens in Dorset. FirstGroup have said that the *"Government invests significant sums in the bus sector, but it is uncoordinated, fragmented and piecemeal"* again not joined up, local authorities spend public money on buses by political choice, not by actual need. Councillor Sewell stated that bus operators pay fuel duty, while aviation and rail services do not.

Councillor Sewell stated that the statutory scheme provides for travel between 09.30 and 23.00 on weekdays and at any time at weekends and on Bank Holidays on scheduled services. Pass holders can travel for free on any local bus service in England, but stated that this is not true.

Councillor Sewell stated that in Devon, the County Council have a Total Transport Budget and that they have been able to provide real benefits for their rural areas and stated that they also still fund a patient transport advice service. Councillor Sewell stated that they have achieved this by building up partnerships that make things happen, better planning, refining eligibility, good financial management and sharing information to make sure processes go forward. Councillor Sewell stated that perhaps Dorset needs to talk to Devon.

Councillor Christopher thanked Councillor Sewell for her report. Councillor Christopher stated that as the Planning Committee did not serve the Dorchester and North Dorchester area, that he felt that it was appropriate for him to refer to the proposed large-scale housing scheme. Councillor Christopher stated that there had been many negative comments made about the proposal but wanted to highlight that many more people work in Dorchester than live there and that it was important that people have the opportunity to either walk to work or catch a bus to their work place. Councillor Christopher stated that transport costs money and unlike other counties in England, Dorset has an ageing population, with 28% of residents being over sixty-five compared to the national average of 18% and that there is considerable pressure on funds. Councillor Christopher stated that Devon did provide a good example of how new homes can be built, close to transport hubs such as the railway and that this may be the way forward. Councillor Hibbard stated that with such housing schemes, a considerable amount

of Community Infrastructure Levy could be secured. Councillor Chubb stated that there should be better links to train stations to allow people to commute to other areas. Councillor Christopher stated that he would be discussing concerns about pollution with the Member of Parliament including increasing the number of electric vehicles, better transport links and improving the A303 to reduce the number of vehicles on local roads. Councillor Chubb stated that there was no infrastructure for buses and Councillor Sewell stated that it was not about new monies, but working with existing services, joined up thinking and making the best use of what we have.

#### **11. MOTORCROSS BIKING**

Councillor Laurie stated that she had asked for this matter to be on the Agenda and stated that she had received a sizeable amount of complaints from residents in Seaborough regarding the noise produced from motorbike racing on a site between Mosterton and Seaborough. Councillor Laurie stated that she had visited the site last year and had requested that a break for lunch be observed and although this had been agreed and implemented, Councillor Laurie stated that there still seems to be a great deal of activity, leading to significant noise pollution. Councillor Laurie stated that she was unsure as to whether the site was classed as commercial, if it was she believed that the maximum number of operating hours was fourteen and if the site was not classed as commercial, the maximum number of operating hours in any one year was twenty-eight. Councillor Laurie stated that of course, the owner had rights and that she was keen to strike a balance. Councillor Christopher stated that he would speak with Council Officers to find out further information and liaise with Councillor Laurie.

#### **12. BEAMINSTER AND VILLAGES LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP (BAVLAP)**

Councillor Sewell stated that the BAVLAP Plan had been circulated to Members of the Council prior to the Meeting and stated that funding for BAVLAP was currently only guaranteed until 2020. Councillor Sewell stated that BAVLAP provide many important functions for Parish Councils including networking, information sharing and collaboration. Councillor Sewell stated that previously Parish Councils had been asked to contribute financially to BAVLAP and asked the Parish Council to consider making a small financial contribution, which would also help to demonstrate need when BAVLAP approach Dorset Council for continued support. Councillor Sewell stated that BAVLAP comprises of volunteers and one paid position. Councillor Chubb reported that he had attended an event organised through BAVLAP and had found it very informative and helpful. Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk to add this matter to the Agenda for September.

#### **13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

##### **a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee**

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Referendum had been agreed for 8 August and that voting would take place in Broadwindsor, Blackdown and Drimpton at each respective village hall, between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm. Councillor Hibbard stated that the official count would most likely be held at Comrades Hall after the polling had ended. Councillor Hibbard stated

that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee had produced a number of hard copies of the Plan and that these would be made available at key community locations across the Grouped Parish area. Councillor Hibbard stated that eight hundred leaflets had been printed and that these would be hand delivered to every household. Councillor Hibbard stated that he hoped that there would be a good turnout and had every hope that the Plan would be endorsed. Councillor Sewell asked if a member of the Committee could be present at the count, Councillor Hibbard stated that he could not see any reason to not allow this and suggested contacting Dorset Council Electoral Services. Councillor Hughes asked if a majority was required for the Plan to go through, Councillor Hibbard stated that if three people were to vote, then two would have to approve in order for the Plan to be endorsed.

#### **14. ALLOTMENTS**

No report.

#### **15. HIGHWAYS**

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

Councillor Rowe stated that she was unsure as to how to progress this area of work and stated that she would like to use the website to engage with local walkers. Councillor Chubb stated that a lot can be achieved by just talking to people. Councillor Bassett reported that he had been asked by a local resident if it would be possible to change a stile for a gate on the footpath between Netherhay and Oathill, Councillor Chubb stated that he had looked at this and taken photographs and had received a reply from Russell Goff. Councillor Rowe stated that she was still waiting for information about training for herself and for volunteers.

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

Councillor Rowe stated that she was delighted with the progress of the wildflower verge. Councillor Rowe reported that Dorset had been named in the top eight counties for verge management but that the new system of cut and collect had yet to reach West Dorset. Councillor Rowe stated that she had been in contact with the person who cuts the verges and had been informed that a new machine had been purchased and if the Parish Council wished to be part of the new cut and collect scheme, then they must identify a suitable place for the grass cuttings to be deposited, and that this must be on Council owned land. Councillor Rowe stated that a discussion with Sheila Hawkins from the Broadwindsor Allotment Group had taken place and that she had stated that an area on the Allotments could be made into a community composting area.

##### **c. Redlands Lane**

Councillor Rowe reported that a meeting had taken place on 12 June attended by local residents, Councillor Christopher and a Dorset Council Officer. Councillor Rowe stated that the propose development on the land south of Fullers was discussed and that the pinch point could be installed further down the road into the village. Councillor Hibbard reported that he had spoken with the nephew of the land owners and that he had confirmed that there is no developer engaged at the moment and that he had agreed that when a developer is identified, that they would come and talk to the community regarding the pinch point and construction traffic. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed this to be a positive step



forward. Councillor Rowe stated that she had not found the Dorset Council Officer to be helpful, but rather defensive and that he did not seem to take the views of local residents on board. Councillor Rowe thanked Councillor Hibbard for attending the meeting.

**d. Parking in Fullers**

The Clerk informed that Councillor Leader has a meeting arranged with Magna Housing on 15 July and will report back at the next Meeting.

Councillor Rowe asked Councillor Christopher what he will do next with regard to the problems of the poor road surfaces in Broadwindsor. Councillor Christopher stated that he would be pleased to receive the email from Councillor Leader and stated that he will take these matters directly to the Portfolio Holder and Member of Parliament and put pressure on the Council to address the matters. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a letter to be drafted and sent to Councillor Christopher and the Member of Parliament.

Councillor Hibbard stated that he wished to raise three matters. Firstly, with regard to Yarnbarton, Councillor Hibbard stated that the road surface problem and pothole had been reported online and that the local resident had received an email stating that the matter had now been 'dealt with', but that no action had in fact been taken. Councillor Chubb stated that the online system was in need of updating. Councillor Chumbley stated that he believed that when a request is passed on, it is marked as being actioned and stated that Dorset Council should chase the contractor but does not. Councillor Hibbard referred to Stoney Knaps and Councillor Christopher confirmed that he had visited the resident. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had been contacted by a local resident about parking in Broadwindsor Square again and that they had complained that access was still being restricted. Councillor Hibbard suggested that when the Square is finally resurfaced, that the white line be pulled in a little, parallel to the pavement and stated that this may ease the situation. Councillor Curtis stated that something must be done as West Street had been blocked on many occasions. Councillor Sewell stated that all markings could be reviewed with Dorset Police and the Highways Authority at the time of resurfacing. Councillor Sewell stated that a number of gullies were blocked, Councillor Chubb advised to report the matter using the online system.

**16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

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

No report.

**17. LEISURE**

**a. Update of the Multi-Use Games Area Project**

The Clerk stated that Councillor Leader had reported to her that the MUGA was being well used by both the School and members of the public. The Clerk stated that an audit /monitoring visit had taken place on 25 June, and that a member of the Dorset Leader Programme Team had viewed paperwork and had attended a site visit to the MUGA. Councillor Rowe stated that a rota system to open and close the MUGA needs to be established. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he had agreed to be part of this.

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

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

Councillor Bassett asked that it be formally recorded that Drimpton Village Hall and Recreational Trust was very grateful for the loan from the Parish Council to allow for works to its car park to be completed. Councillor Bassett confirmed that the loan had now be paid back in full. Councillor Chubb asked that the Parish Council consider a request to move the concrete seat located at the bridge in Drimpton so that it faces the river, rather than the road. Councillor Chubb stated that he would obtain a quotation for the works from a local contractor, Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk to add this to the Agenda for the September Meeting. Councillor Rowe stated that she had been asked by a local resident for an urgent planning review to take place for the land south of Fullers development on the grounds of inaccurate information. The Clerk was asked to add this to the agenda for the September Meeting.

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

None.

## **19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

## **20. THE FMR TRUST**

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

The Clerk referred Trustees to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first quarter of 2019/2020, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 June 2019 was £1,899.80. There were no questions.

### **b. To approve payment of £226.00 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Administration)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved payment b.**

### **c. To consider a grant for Comrades Hall (Repair of Projector)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved a grant of £200.00 for Comrades Hall.**

## **21. CLOSE**

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 8.54 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trustees was formally closed at 8.59 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending.