



## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 9 DECEMBER 2019**

### **COMRADES HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Lloyd Curtis, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Susanna Laurie, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell.

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Chairman. There were twelve members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Meeting. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Mr. Brian Hedditch and family to the Meeting and on behalf of the Council thanked Mr. Hedditch for his service as a Councillor for the Drimpton ward for over twenty-four years and presented him with a gift.

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Chumbley, Frampton, Bodycombe and Hughes 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 Bassett and Councillor Chubb expressed an interest in Agenda Item 9n.

**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**

The minutes from the Meeting held on 11 November 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard and unanimously approved by the Council.

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

The Clerk stated that she had sent a letter to Councillor Walsh on behalf of the Parish Council but had not yet received a reply.

#### **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 Councillor**

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Christopher to the Meeting. Councillor Christopher stated that he had not sent a report and referred to the latest Dorset Council Magazine which had recently been published. Councillor Christopher stated that its front page encourages people to contact their Dorset Councillor, but inside, there are no contact details provided. Councillor Christopher stated that there is no report from Councillor Flower either due to the forthcoming General Election and subsequent purdah restrictions, but stated that there was a report from the Chief Executive Matt Prosser. Councillor Christopher stated that he had listened with interest to the matters discussed that evening and stated that with regard to electric charging points, that Dorset Council's very green-minded Planning Committee has insisted that charging points are included within plans for larger sites, for example Littlemore and Crossways. Councillor Christopher stated that he could discuss this further at the next meeting once the General Election had taken place. Councillor Christopher also stated that he listened with interest to what could be done to encourage local tourism, stating that an application for a car hire business to be situated next to a Dorset Railway Station had been submitted and stated that this provided a great link. Councillor Christopher stated that other Parish Councils had expressed an interest in installing electric charging points and reported that Chideock Parish Council was keen to progress this.

Councillor Christopher reported that the work of the Council continues during Election season and stated that in respect of the Planning Committee, if it is going to hear six to seven cases per month, then it will hear the arguments in respect of perhaps eighty to eighty-five planning applications in a year and if the Council receives 8,500 applications it is only about one in a hundred that go to Committee. Councillor Christopher stated that the local papers have recently featured reports about the issue of Council spending and the fact that it has spent a lot more money than was budgeted in respect of Children's Services. Councillor Christopher stated that there are 75,000 children currently in care in this Country, and stated that the Audit and Governance Committee had received a report from the Head of Children's Services that in the last two weeks a family of seven children had been taken into care and they will not be housed together. Councillor Christopher circulated leaflets from the Farm Crisis Network. Councillor Christopher asked if the Council had any questions.

Councillor Sewell asked Councillor Christopher about the matter of the 20mph sign which was discussed at a meeting on 23 July. Councillor Christopher asked the Clerk to send him an email regarding this after the Meeting.

Councillor Sewell asked Councillor Christopher about the Accelerating House Building Programme which was set up prior to the formation of the new Dorset Council to provide more new, high quality homes and the company which was set up to deliver the programme. Councillor Christopher reported that he had asked about this matter at the recent Audit and Governance Committee Meeting and questioned the amount of share capital which had been released and that he was currently awaiting a response.

Councillor Hardwill thanked Councillor Christopher for helping to finally get the resurfacing work in Broadwindsor completed and asked that thanks be passed back to the Highways Department. Councillor Hardwill stated that he and the Parish Council had been campaigning for this to be completed for over ten years. Councillor Hardwill stated that with the number of planning applications being submitted as reported by Councillor Christopher, that this usually means that the economy is doing well but questioned whether this was a true reflection. Councillor Christopher stated that the reported number of planning applications was correct.

Councillor Christopher reported that tranche two of redundancies at Dorset Council had begun and that there will be fundamental changes to personnel. Councillor Christopher stated that the loss of long-standing members of staff also meant that local knowledge would also be lost, Councillor Chubb stated that it was especially important that parishes are well represented by their Ward Councillor.

Councillor Chubb asked how Dorset Council is proposing to manage the significant overspend and spiralling costs of caring for the elderly and children. Councillor Christopher stated that he could not speak at length on this subject due to purdah restrictions but referred to the formation of the Bridport Care Hub.

Councillor Sewell questioned how much experience Dorset Councillors have in fostering and caring for children and asked if the Committee seeks the views of those involved and with experience. Councillor Christopher stated that Councillors have many different experiences and that there is certainly a desire to have more good foster parents in Dorset. Councillor Rowe stated that she hopes that the new Dorset Council will embrace a culture of listening to people, not from a top down approach. Councillor Christopher agreed stating that in this Country, generally experience is not recognised. Councillor Chubb stated that it was important to give the new Council time to settle and that he hoped that communication would be improved and communities better engaged.

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

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that on 19 November the Police received a report of the theft of a bag from a vehicle that was parked by Lewesdon Hill, south of Broadwindsor. The report stated that items of value should not be left inside an unattended vehicle, especially in an isolated area. On the afternoon of 3 December, a report of a door knocker trying to sell something in Drimpton was received and it is likely that this was what is known as a 'Nottingham Knocker'. These are often males from the Nottingham area who have been in prison and are going door to door to sell items such

as household cleaning goods. The report stated that they are not initially committing any offences, so long as they have a Pedlars Licence and are not using aggressive sales tactics. The report stated that PCSO Bishop would not be attending his usual surgery in Broadwindsor on Tuesday 10 December, but would be at Comrades Hall on Friday 13 December instead.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

### **a. Life Education Wessex, Request for Grant**

The Clerk reported that this letter had been circulated to Members of the Council prior to the Meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Parish Council usually supports this charity which provides health, well-being and drug prevention education to schools, including Broadwindsor School. The Clerk stated that the Council usually provides a donation of £250.00. Members agreed that the Parish Council should support the charity and asked that this be added to the Agenda for January for payment.

### **b. Broadwindsor Resident, Parking Trusthams/Back Lane**

The Clerk reported that this letter had been circulated to Members of the Council prior to the Meeting. Councillor Leader stated that he had looked at the site in question and stated that cars were parked at the junction but these were the cars of those living in the properties in Trusthams. Councillor Leader stated that there was a large sign informing of the one-way system and stated that he believed if additional measures were introduced that the situation may become more problematic. Councillor Bassett stated that previous experience had demonstrated that the introduction of yellow lines was not popular. Councillor Sewell suggested that the matter be forwarded to PCSO Bishop for advice and stated that this would be a useful agenda item for the next Annual Parish Meeting.

## **7. DRIMPTON WARD VACANCY UPDATE**

The Clerk reported that the notice period for expressions of interest would end on 11 December and that to date two applications had been received. The Clerk stated that co-option would take place at the January Meeting.

## **8. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

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

Councillor Leader reported that a working group had been established and that a first meeting had been convened. The Clerk confirmed that notes from the meeting had been circulated with the supplementary papers. Councillor Leader stated that it was clear that there needs to be a move from fossil fuels to sustainably produced energy and the question of how the Grouped Parish area could help contribute on a small scale to this was raised. Councillor Leader stated that the first step will be for Low Carbon Dorset to carry out a survey and asked that this commission be supported by the Parish Council. Councillor Chubb stated that such a survey had been carried out in Drimpton and had proved to be very useful and stated that funding was available but must be applied for soon. Councillor Leader stated that he had approached the Governors of the School and that the building and land were owned by Dorset Council who has in the past, in respect of the MUGA, been supportive.

**b. Electric Vehicle Charging, Mr. Paul Davies**

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Mr. Paul Davies and thanked him for attending the Meeting. Mr. Davies addressed the Council and stated that when he had read in previous Meeting minutes that the Parish Council was considering installing electric vehicle charging (EVC) points, due his professional work, he had wanted to offer some advice. Mr. Davies reported that domestic and commercial grants of £500.00 are available to support the cost of EVC installation and would only be provided to sites with off-street parking and which meet certain standards. Mr. Davies stated that consideration of how a facility is policed should be given, stating that there are a number of different options, including paying by a mobile app, tokens, or free of charge to users. Mr. Davies stated that one condition of grant is that a charge cannot be made to the public in the first two years. Councillor Bassett stated that he owns a hybrid car and that there are so many variants and charges. Mr. Davies stated that he believed that the sector will calm over time and be less confused. Councillor Sewell stated that she did not believe that this was a viable option for Comrades Hall at this point in time but stated that a commercial business such as the Craft Centre may be better placed to house such a facility. Councillor Chubb asked Mr. Davies about who was actually purchasing EVC points, Mr. Davies stated that businesses, such as those involved with deliveries were installing them but that the take-up had not been as high as had been predicted. Mr. Davies stated that it may not be long until new housing schemes will be required to include an EVC point in their plans.

A member of the public addressed the Council stating that they were considering purchasing an electric vehicle and wanted to review the current infrastructure available and whether home charging would be a viable option. Mr. Davies stated that you need a lot of current to charge a car and many homes were already operating at the top of their current energy capacity, stating that not every house would be suitable. Councillor Bassett stated that he charges his vehicle at home and it costs £1.00 off-peak and £1.50 at other times and takes approximately two and a half hours to charge. Councillor Chubb expressed his concern that if EVC points were installed in housing estates that sub-stations would most likely need to be built. Councillor Laurie agreed that the infrastructure was not yet here and questioned the harvesting of lithium and its subsequent environmental impact. Mr. Davies agreed and stated that it may be that hydrogen powered cars may be the solution for the future. Councillor Sewell thanked Mr. Davies for the useful information. A member of the public asked whether EVC points would help encourage tourism and that there was a need to provide such a facility locally. Councillor Leader stated that in his own business, guests have so far only required access to a domestic supply of energy. Councillor Hibbard thanked Mr. Davies for his informative presentation.

## **9. ACCOUNTS**

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

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first, second and third quarters of 2019/2020, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 November 2019 was £39,236.94. There were no questions.

### **b. Budget Planning for 2020/2021 and Precept Requirement**

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to the Draft Budget for 2020/2021 as circulated prior to the Meeting and stated that a 5% increase in the Precept would equate to £27,956.31. The Clerk reported that Councillor Hibbard had suggested looking at a 6% increase to allow for any future reductions. The Clerk stated that the budget could be signed off at the January Meeting and would circulate an amended version.

### **c. To approve payment of £1700.00 for Broadwindsor Community Stores (Grant)**

### **d. To approve payment of £68.12 for Focus (HS) Limited (Internal Audit)**

### **e. To approve payment of £42.00 for DM Payroll Services (Payroll)**

### **f. To approve payment of £103.34 for T Emmott (Grass Cutting)**

### **g. To approve payment of £6.71 for HMRC (NI)**

### **h. To approve payment of £25.00 for Victoria Saines (Allotment Deposit)**

### **i. To approve payment of £25.00 for Alison Pring (Allotment Deposit)**

### **j. To approve payment of £25.00 for R L Abrahamson (Allotment Deposit)**

### **k. To approve payment of £12.00 for Comrades Hall (Room Hire)**

### **l. To approve payment of £70.00 for DAPTC (Clerks Seminar)**

### **m. To approve payment of £104.21 for the Clerk (Expenses October, November and December 2019)**

### **n. To consider a loan of £2000.00 for Drimpton Village Hall and Recreational Trust**

In respect of Agenda Item 9 h, Councillor Hibbard reported that the Broadwindsor Allotment Group had recommended that the deposit for this plot be retained due to the fact that the plot had not been well maintained and that it would have to be cleared for the next tenant. Councillor Hibbard referred Members of the Council to the photographs of the site as circulated within the supplementary papers. It was agreed that the deposit be retained. Councillor Hibbard read aloud the list of payments and asked that they be approved, with the exception of item h, en bloc. This was agreed.

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Rowe and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments c, d, e, f, g, i, j, k, l m and n.**

## **10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

#### **WD/D/19/002473, Glebe Cottage, Church Path, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QE**

The Clerk stated that Councillor Madder-Smith had been the lead Councillor for this application. Councillor Madder-Smith reported that no objections had been raised by neighbouring properties and that he could not see any reason for the Parish Council to not support the proposal. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that although not in the remit for the consultation, a concern had been raised about the future potential use of the property as a holiday let.

#### **WD/D/19/002596, West Swilletts Cottage, West Swilletts Road, Seaborough, DT8 3QZ**

The Clerk stated that Councillor Laurie had been the lead Councillor for this application. Councillor Laurie stated that there seemed to be very little activity due to issues with the presence of bats. Councillor Laurie stated that she had consulted on the same application earlier in the year and was unsure why this had been received again. The Clerk stated that she would make enquiries. Councillor Chubb stated that after viewing plans, he believed that the proposal would benefit the property. Councillor Laurie stated that she could not see any reason for the proposal to not be supported.

### **b. Other Applications**

#### **WD/D/19/002699, 12 Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3ST**

Councillor Rowe agreed to be the lead for the consultation process. The Clerk stated that she would be asking for an extension to the set deadline to allow comments to be discussed at the January Meeting.

#### **WD/D/19/002481, Greenways, Causeway Lane, Blackdown, DT8 3LE**

The Clerk reported that this application had not been received in time for the deadline but stated that she would be asking for a short extension to allow comments to be made. Councillor Hibbard stated that he would lead the consultation process and feedback comments to the Clerk.

### **c. Results**

The Clerk reported the following results:

WD/D/18/002061, Belmont House, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD: Approved

WD/D/18/001604, Blackbird Cottage, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD: Refused

WD/D/19/001614, Common Farm, The Common, Hursey, DT8 3LN: Approved

### **d. Receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy (WD/D/18/002118, Higher Park Farm, B3164 Whetley Cross to High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QT)**

The Clerk stated that no other proposals for projects had been received. Councillor Hibbard stated that some of the funding had been set aside for car park improvements for Blackdown Village Hall as previously discussed. Councillor Chubb suggested that CIL monies could support projects relating to climate change emergency. Councillor Sewell stated that the Council has up to five years to spend the money, Councillor Hibbard suggested waiting for the moment before committing to any new projects. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council

should ensure that it receives all CIL monies from local developments and that funds do not get put in a central pot.

#### **11. HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The Clerk stated that Sheila Hawkins had very kindly produced a draft risk assessment for the Allotments and stated that this had been circulated to Councillors. Councillor Hibbard stated that the document was comprehensive and seemed to cover all matters. Councillor Chubb stated that the water harvester should be included to ensure that a record is maintained that it has been checked and is in good condition.

#### **12. GROUP PARISH WELCOME PACK**

Councillor Leader reported that work on the Welcome Pack was still ongoing and would be reported at the next Meeting.

#### **13. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY**

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to the report circulated prior to the Meeting and stated that she was considering contacting DAPTC to ask whether funding could be made available to support smaller public sector bodies such as Parish Councils to implement changes to their websites in order to be compliant with the new regulations. Councillor Hibbard stated that this would be a good idea. There were no questions.

#### **14. ALLOTMENTS**

No update.

#### **15. HIGHWAYS**

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

Councillor Rowe reported that a complaint had been received again regarding the footpath sign in Hursey, stating that the post was rotten and in the hedge. Councillor Rowe stated that she had asked that this be inspected by Dorset Council, Councillor Curtis confirmed that it had yet to be repaired. Councillor Chubb reported that he had had a productive meeting with a Dorset Council Ranger who had agreed to install a new gate between Netherhay and Oathill at a cost of £161.00. Members of the Parish Council agreed to support this cost.

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

Councillor Rowe reported that she had applied for a grant of £2850.00 from the Dorset AONB for the clearing and planting of two wildflower verges and stated that she was hopeful of a positive decision.

##### **c. Dog Fouling**

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to the update provided prior to the Meeting, stating that the Dog Warden had logged both complaints raised by parishioners and that he had agreed to visit the locations. The Clerk stated that the Dog Warden did not believe that the use of CCTV cameras would be helpful in these situations.



#### **d. Update on Highway Safety Concerns**

Councillor Chubb reported that he had attended a site meeting with the Community Highways Officer and discussed the speed restrictions in Netherhay Lane. Councillor Chubb stated that the cost of changing the existing Traffic Regulation Order was approximately £20,000 and without evidence of reported accidents and statistics to support the request, it was very unlikely that this change would be approved. Councillor Chubb also reported that the Community Highways Officer had agreed to remove the 'New Road Layout' sign which was not required and that a request for a blocked gully to be cleared was raised. Councillor Leader reported that he had met with the Community Highways Officer in Broadwindsor and reaffirmed that although the Community Highways Officer thought that staging from 60, to 40 and then to 20 mph would be a good idea, given the cost of changing the Traffic Regulation Order and without statistics to support the request, he had been informed that it was unlikely to be approved by Dorset Council. Councillor Leader stated that he would look to review guidelines about whether a staged reduction in speed in such areas is recommended. The Clerk stated that from her communication with the Community Highways Officer, it would be very important to collate relevant data and that a formal application would have to be made to Dorset Council.

Councillor Leader reported that the parking problem in Fullers was still ongoing and that both Magna Housing and Dorset Council have not claimed ownership of the small piece of land which was being proposed as a solution. Councillor Sewell suggested that Councillor Christopher be engaged.

### **16. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

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

Councillor Leader reported that the application was still with the Planning Department and stated that he had attended a lengthy meeting with the Department and Highways. Councillor Leader stated that the application was not being supported by Highways with the reason being that they deem that the junction at Drimpton Cross is dangerous. Councillor Leader stated that they have taken this position despite the fact that there have been no reported accidents in the last twenty years and no anecdotal reports since it was introduced. Councillor Leader stated that he agreed that it was narrow, like so many junctions, but that motorists slowed down on their approach. Councillor Leader stated that if Highways formally object to the application, then it will be refused by the Planning Department and stated that the most likely scenario will be that the application is taken to the Planning Committee. Councillor Leader stated that the footpath issue as reported at previous Meetings can be easily resolved, but this issue is much more problematic. Councillor Chubb reminded the Council that the land had been included for development in the Neighbourhood Plan and in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA.) Councillor Leader stated that this project had been supported by the Parish Council. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Leader for the update.

## **17. 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.

## **18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public raised the subject of speed indicator devices (SIDs) and stated that the recent Dorset Council Magazine had made reference to SIDs and the article seemed to imply that they were readily available and easy to obtain. The member of the public stated that he had previously enquired with the former Dorset County Councillor about obtaining a SID for this area and had been told that it was not possible. Councillor Hibbard stated that the Council had just received information about SIDs and the cost to purchase one was £2495.00 plus VAT. The Clerk reported that she had made enquires as to whether any grants were available to help with such a purchase and would report back at the next Meeting. Councillor Hibbard thanked the member of the public for their comments.

## **19. CLOSE**

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.06 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and the Clerk for setting up the room and arranging the festive refreshments. Councillor Hibbard wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.