



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
9 JANUARY 2023
DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, Cllr. Stefan Nikolov, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, 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. There were two members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public and wished them all a Happy New Year.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Chumbley and Sewell 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 12 December 2022 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public asked whether Agenda Item 14 could be moved to this part of the meeting, there were no objections.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher stated that he had circulated his report prior to the meeting and asked for any questions. Councillor Christopher stated that he had attended a meeting with a Dorset MP together with two Dorset Councillors to raise the problem faced by Dorset Council with regard to social care provision and stated that this had been recognised by Stephen Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in the House of Commons. Councillor Christopher reported that three South West primary care authorities had entered into contracts with hotels to provide care facilities on a short term basis where suitable and stated that any suggestions for solutions to social care provision would be much welcomed by Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher expressed his frustration about the recent killing of a sheep by a dog, Councillor Chubb stated that this was a continuing problem and asked what the Police and Dorset Council can do about this. A member of the public stated that she was meeting with PCSO Bishop the next day and would raise this concern. Councillor Christopher stated that the Parish Council may wish to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss this problem and the wider issue of rural policing. Councillor Christopher stated that he very much recognises the importance of farming and food and its contribution to the rural economy. Councillor Christopher stated that locally, concerns about drainage, flooding, road safety and parking have been expressed to him by residents of the Grouped Parish. Councillor Dyke asked Councillor Christopher about his thoughts on the proposed reduction in support to businesses in relation to energy subsidies, Councillor Christopher stated that any support is welcomed but details would come out in the fullness of time. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher for his report.

b. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk reported that PCSO Bishop did not have any matters to raise at the meeting and that he would be in attendance the next day at Comrades Hall at 11.00 am.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Broadwindsor Resident, Plans for the Old George

Councillor Hibbard stated that this communication had been circulated and that the resident was in attendance at the meeting should Councillors have any questions. Councillor Hughes stated that this had been well written and that he had no objections to the proposal. Councillor Hughes stated that one concern would be the parking in the Square which will be discussed later in the meeting but stated that the village needs to have a B&B and it will benefit the local pub and shop. Councillor Dyke stated that he supported the comments from

Councillor Hughes and stated that he has no concerns about any negative impact on the pub. Councillor Hibbard stated that he supported the proposal and Councillor Chubb stated that the B&Bs in Drimpton very much benefit local businesses.

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

a. Community Updates from Councillors

Councillor Hughes reported that he had received a note from Councillor Dyke about the data presented and very much agreed that people are not testing as much or reporting cases. For this period, Councillor Hughes stated that the current data suggests that there are twelve cases of COVID in the DT8 area compared to three as reported at the last meeting, deaths had increased to six from four, there are thirty-one people with COVID at Dorchester County Hospital compared to seven and that the R rate was now 1-1.3 compared to 0.8-1. Councillor Hughes stated that COVID was still very much rampant. Councillor Dyke stated that the data does not really have any meaning and stated that now that people have to pay for tests, people are testing less and those who are testing are not all reporting cases. Councillor Chubb stated that perhaps the matter should be removed from the agenda but added again if the situation changed. A member of the public asked whether we should have to wait for Government intervention to wear masks again and stated that perhaps we should be wearing them in the Community Shop to keep people safe. Councillor Burt stated that there is still a strong anti-mask feeling. Councillor Hibbard stated that it was easier to ask people to wear a mask if the Government states that we should do and stated that people should be vigilant and if concerned wear a mask.

8. 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 31 December was £37,671.68 There were no questions. Councillor Bassett proposed that payments b to f be approved en bloc. There were no objections.

b. To approve payment of £8.76 for HMRC (NI)

c. To approve payment of £240.00 for PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit)

d. To approve payment of £28.00 for Comrades Hall (Hall Hire)

e. To approve payment of £1159.56 for the Clerk (Salary Adjustment October-December 2022)

f. To approve payment of £46.80 for X2 Connect Limited (Broadwindsor Telephone Kiosk)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Nikolov and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to f.

g. Precept Update 2023/2024

The Clerk reported that the Precept request had been submitted to Dorset Council for £31,708.05, representing a 7% increase for the financial period 2023/2024.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2022/07174, Unit 14, Horn Park Quarry Business Park, Broadwindsor Road, Beaminster, DT8 3PT

The Clerk stated that Councillor Sewell had consulted on this application and that she had carried out a site visit and supported the application. The Clerk reported that Councillor Sewell had stated that the application supported local employment but that she was disappointed that there were no local buses to transport people to the site.

b. Other Applications

P/PAPA/2022/07825, Birdsmoorgate Farm, Marshwood, DT6 5QG (For information only, prior approval)

Councillor Hibbard stated that this was an application to ascertain whether prior approval was required and that the Parish Council was not being asked for its comments at this time.

c. Results

No results. Councillor Frampton asked the Clerk if the Parish Council had received any information about the enforcement query in Wall Lane. The Clerk stated that a submission had been made to Dorset Council who are very aware of the enquiry and that she would ask for an update and report back. Councillor Raymond asked whether any planning application had been received from the property Havendale as she had noticed that a large barn structure was being erected and was considerable in size compared to the shed adjacent to it. The Clerk stated that she would check the next day and report back.

10. APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD FINANCE

a. Update on Application

The Clerk reported that the application was still with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and that she had responded to all questions raised. The Clerk stated that she had asked for an update but had not received a reply yet.

11. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

Councillor Dyke reported that there has been a facility to recycle tetra pack and tin foil for a number of years now in Broadwindsor, more recently the bins were relocated to Bernards' Place but that a lack of volunteers to empty the bins has resulted in rubbish littering the area which is not acceptable and needs addressing. Councillor Dyke stated that Comrades Hall Committee will take a decision as to whether they wish for the bins to be removed and stated that whilst he understood why this decision may be taken, it would be a shame to lose such a provision. Councillor Hibbard asked where the recycling is taken and by whom, Councillor Dyke stated that it is taken to Bridport Recycling Centre or Morrisons and that there had been a rota in place, but the number of volunteers has fallen.

Councillor Dyke reported that he has produced a first draft of the Climate and Ecological Policy which he has shared with Councillor Sewell and Sheila Hawkins for comment and will report back at the next meeting. With regard to tree planting, Councillor Dyke reported that homes for a good number of the tree saplings currently growing at Broadwindsor Allotments have been found and that they will be available for collection or distributed on the weekend of 21-22 January. Councillor Dyke stated that there are some saplings still available - for hedging, or to plant as individual trees and anyone interested should contact Sheila Hawkins on 01308 868806.

Councillor Dyke stated that the Great Big Dorset Hedge campaign is being run by Dorset CAN (Dorset Climate Action Network) and that Sheila Hawkins is co-ordinating volunteers in the local area and is keen to hear from anyone willing to volunteer. Councillor Dyke stated that the idea behind the campaign is to survey, map, plant, expand, extend and join up sections of hedgerow around and across Dorset into multiple corridors that promote biodiversity and help wildlife of all sorts (birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, wildflowers, trees, fungi) to flourish across the county. Volunteers are being recruited to help using major public walking routes - including the Jubilee Trail, the Wessex Ridgeway Trail, both of which run through the Broadwindsor Group Parish area, and the Brit Valley Trail, as well as others further afield. Dorset CAN is keen to liaise and form partnerships with parish councils with the aim of extending the reach of the 'hedge' to other parts of parish areas. More information about this project is available at www.dorsetcan.org/hedge

Councillor Dyke stated that the next meeting of the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Support Group, a monthly online meeting is 17 January will include an update on the revision of the Dorset Local Plan, introduced by Giles Watt of Dorset CAN.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Nikolov reported that the composting toilet was still under construction and that there were still two half plots available at the allotments. The Clerk asked whether any amendment to the existing fees or contract should be considered prior to the renewals being issued in February/March. Councillors were of the consensus that no changes were required.

13. MANAGEMENT OF THE MUGA

The Clerk stated that she had circulated a draft letter to Broadwindsor School, draft wording for a new sign and a quotation for a new sign and asked for comments. Councillor Hibbard stated that he approved the draft documents. The Clerk stated that she had tried to seek advice for the company which installed the MUGA as to how the surface should be maintained, but unfortunately it seemed that they were no longer in operation. The Clerk stated that looking at other companies, a brush and a power wash were recommended. The Clerk stated that she had also enquired with RoSPA about safety inspections and had been informed that if the inspection was booked for a date in May or June, a discounted rate of £75.00 would be charged, which compared to other companies was a competitive price. Councillor Chubb stated that it may be worth asking the school about their safety inspection

and see whether they could incorporate the MUGA when their play equipment was inspected. Councillor Raymond stated that the Headteacher had obtained a quote to pressure wash the MUGA and that this had been costed at £1000. Councillor Raymond stated that another person had advised that the MUGA should not be pressure washed as it had sand on it and would be blown off. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he recollected that when the MUGA was installed that advice was given that it should be re-sanded every couple of years. The Clerk was asked to contact other MUGAs/Sports Clubs to enquire about maintenance.

14. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III, 6 MAY 2023

Wendy Shields from Broadwindsor Fun Group reported that a questionnaire had been sent out to residents with a deadline of 15 January asking the community when they would like the next Fun Day to be held. Wendy Shields stated that a number of choices had been suggested and that the results would be back in time to report back at the Parish Council's next meeting in February. Councillor Dyke stated that he had seen the questionnaire and that it contained all the appropriate questions. Wendy Shields queried whether the Cricket Club was planning on organising an event as she believed that the groundsman opposed any event during match season. Councillor Frampton stated that he wanted to inform that the Cricket Club could be available for an event if required and that he had understood that the groundsman was happy for an event to be held at the Club.

15. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that he had hoped to have received an update from Jurassic Fibre to report back to the Council by now but stated that this had been delayed. Councillor Dyke stated that no further news is anticipated for a couple of months. With regard to mobile network coverage, Councillor Dyke reported that OFCOM published their annual report in mid-December 2022 which included an update on the availability of broadband and mobile phone reception. Councillor Dyke stated that the majority of operators have made some progress, albeit small. For 4G coverage, BT/EE have increased by 1% to 87% coverage by land mass, Virgin Media/O2 increased by 2% to 82%, Three increased by 1% to 80% and Vodafone remained unchanged at 82%. Councillor Dyke stated that areas with good coverage from at least one operator is up to 92%. Councillor Dyke stated that he had contacted EE and been informed that during the last year they have built or upgraded over 500 sites and that 900 more upgrades are planned by the end of 2024. Councillor Dyke stated that EE invite anyone to get in touch with their Newsroom by email and stated that he had done so, asking what their plans are for West Dorset. Councillor Dyke stated he was waiting for their response. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Dyke. Councillor Chubb stated that coverage in Drimpton had improved during the last couple of years but was not by any means perfect. Councillor Dyke stated that he was following the Shared Rural Network which was encouraging masts to be used by a number of providers.

16. HIGHWAYS

a. Parking in Broadwindsor Square

The Clerk stated that the Community Highways Officer had agreed to meet with the Parish Council to discuss this matter and asked that further photographs be forwarded to her. The Clerk asked for a Councillor to be available for a meeting onsite. Councillor Nikolov stated that he would be happy to attend and stated that local residents should also be included in the meeting. Councillor Dyke stated that he had been asked by another resident for a meeting to discuss a number of matters including parking in the Square. Councillor Hibbard asked Councillor Dyke to liaise with the Clerk about a meeting with the Community Highways Officer. Councillor Hughes stated that the problem seemed to have eased a little recently as many of the large contractor vehicles had gone. Councillor Frampton asked whether the semi-circle marking served any purpose and suggested that perhaps lines parallel to the road may be a better solution. Councillor Hibbard stated that it is not possible to stop people from parking there without the installation of double yellow lines. Councillor Frampton stated that residents of the Square should be involved with any new measures proposed.

b. War Memorial Project Update

Councillor Frampton reported that following the last meeting he has had correspondence with the RAF historian who helped with the Lewesdon Hill project and stated that he has been researching the RAF servicemen listed on the memorial and came across the story of the air crash over Drimpton. Councillor Frampton stated that he has spoken to the school and would like them to research the names and try and find out a little history of those involved. Councillor Frampton stated that he would like a QR code on the Parish Council's website page which can provide additional information. Councillor Frampton stated that the two airman who died in the Drimpton air crash are listed on the memorial and information about them will be on the page. Councillor Chubb stated that this was fantastic work and asked whether information could be included on the Drimpton website and newsletter. Councillor Frampton stated that it was proposed to unveil the memorial on 6 June, D Day and that he hoped to have military presence. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Frampton.

c. Flood Wardens

Councillor Curtis reported that he had not yet had the opportunity to remove the sandbags, the Clerk stated that she did originally have an offer from the Community Highways Officer to remove them and asked if she should ask him to do this, this was agreed. The Clerk stated that there were originally seventy-five bags and that she was still awaiting a reply from the Community Highways Officer with regard to using a grit bin to store them.

d. Fingerpost Sign Restoration Programme Update

Councillor Hibbard stated that he had found a couple of maps which were produced for the Neighbourhood Plan which may be suitable, Councillor Madder-Smith volunteered to take the maps and meet with Chris Edgerley. The Clerk asked that the matter of cleaning the fingerpost signs be agreed, the Clerk stated that she could ask for volunteers from the community and Councillor Frampton suggested that Councillors clean the signs in their own

area. Councillor Raymond stated that she had seen on Facebook that a local resident was seeking to restore and clean a sign which was missing a letter and that he had been in communication with Councillor Sewell about this. Councillor Hibbard suggested that Councillor Raymond contact Councillor Sewell to find out more information.

17. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

Councillor Hibbard reported that roofs were now going on to the properties and although a little behind due to bad weather and Christmas, no major problems had been reported and that the date for occupancy was still planned for May 2023.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Nikolov reported that he had received an email from a local resident about the condition of a footpath in Broadwindsor, it was agreed to forward this information to the Clerk.

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

The date of the meeting was agreed for 13 February 2023 at Drimpton Village Hall.

21. FMR TRUST

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Hibbard referred Trustees to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 December was £2,178.40. There were no questions.

b. To approve payment of £246.50 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Trust Administration)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bassett, seconded by Councillor Dyke and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved payment b.

22. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 8.38 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 8.41 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.