



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 9 NOVEMBER 2020 ONLINE MEETING

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Tim Bassett, Cllr. Cindy Bodycombe, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Susanna Laurie, 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 three members of the public in attendance. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the sixth online Parish Council Meeting and a minute's silence was observed to commemorate Armistice Day. Councillor Hibbard thanked those who had arranged wreath laying ceremonies at the weekend. Councillor Hibbard asked participants to refrain from using the chat facility to ask questions during the course of the meeting and asked anyone wishing to eat or use the telephone to turn off their video.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillor Madder-Smith 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 Frampton declared an interest in Agenda Item 9c.

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 online meeting held on 12 October 2020 were confirmed as a true record and unanimously approved by the Council. Councillor Hibbard duly signed the approved minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Hibbard invited members of the public to address the Council. No questions were asked.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillor Christopher to the meeting. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Christopher for his report and stated that it had been circulated and asked for any questions.

Councillor Rowe stated that she pleased to see the inclusion of footpaths in his report and stated that she had experienced difficulty over the last three years in getting footpath issues resolved. Councillor Rowe stated that she was intending on asking Parish Councillors that evening if a different system for reporting footpath problems could be established as currently problems are reported to her, she then reports them to Russell Goff at Dorset Council but stated that they take a king time to be addressed. Councillor Rowe stated that perhaps this was down to a number of reasons including staffing problems or COVID-19 but the delays were reflecting poorly in her and the Parish Council. Councillor Rowe stated that there were three outstanding issues, one of which dated back two years and she had brought these to the attention of Russell Goff a month ago and had received a reply directing her to Highways for two issues. Councillor Rowe asked Councillor Christopher if she could now hand these issues to him to resolve and whether she could write to those people concerned to inform them that he would be dealing with them. Councillor Rowe asked how further problems should be reported going forward. Councillor Christopher thanked Councillor Rowe for her comments and stated that she was welcome to send any resident queries regarding footpaths to him and that she would then liaise with the Portfolio Holder, Russell Goff and when necessary the Legal Officer. Councillor Christopher reported that he was supporting a neighbouring parish council which was awaiting a new footbridge and he had been informed by Russell Goff that he had thirty-two bridges ready for installation and stated that there was an enormous backlog of work. Councillor Christopher stated that footpaths are extremely important for people's physical and mental health and as such need to remain open.

Councillor Leader thanked Councillor Christopher for his report and stated that he found it comprehensive and pertinent to the Grouped Parish. Councillor Leader stated that he wised to raise one issue regarding social housing as the report mentioned that there was a growing desire of people wanting to move from rural areas to towns. Councillor Leader stated that he

had received many, many enquiries regarding the affordable housing in Drimpton which are yet to be built and stated that the report may be true in some areas but not in the Grouped Parish area. Councillor Christopher quoted two examples of people wanting to move from villages to towns for different reasons including to be closer to family and work and stated that the desired properties are not always available. Councillor Leader thanked Councillor Christopher for this reply.

Councillor Sewell asked if Councillor Christopher's report could be shared with members of the public, Councillor Christopher agreed. Councillor Sewell reported that private rental was 20% cheaper in Somerset than in this part of West Dorset and stated that she was pleased that footpaths were being dealt with. Councillor Sewell stated that poor broadband and telephone service could be instantly fixed for the residents of Stoke Abbott as the landslide in Norway Lane was covering the cables and stated that the Lane had been closed for at least twenty-two months and it was about time that the problem was sorted. Councillor Sewell stated that as minuted on 2019, the Parish Council had been lobbying for buses and asked Councillor Christopher what the school buses do during the day time, stating that they could be used to take people from the rural villages into town.

Councillor Christopher thanked Councillor Sewell for her comments and stated that he was sure that all issues would be captured by Clerk and that he will be able to pick up on the points raised. Councillor Christopher stated that he will contact Councillor Ray Bryan to see what extra can be done with the minibuses. With regard to Norway Lane, Councillor Christopher stated that he had accessed the Lane and understood the problems with the fallen trees. Councillor Christopher stated that a great deal of work had been carried out to try and resolve this problem and stated there was an issue regarding liability, he stated that he had outlined to Officers that he did not want any disaster to occur, as had in Beaminster on 6/7 July 2012. Councillor Christopher stated that Officers had informed him that due to the instability of the bank, it would be very difficult to place people to carry out the work needed without a cherry picker and stated that the cost would be quite considerable. Councillor Christopher stated that he had urged the Portfolio Holder to obtain a number of quotes and that delays were being caused regarding who would be liable to pay, the landowner or Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that he was eager to get the matter resolved as much as the Parish Council was and that he hoped that the work would be carried out and the Lane reopened as soon as possible.

Councillor Hardwill stated that he was very unsatisfied with the answer given to Councillor Rowe regarding footpaths and stated that at a previous Parish Council meeting, Russell Goff had presented a report and had promised everything. Councillor Hardwill stated that this had not been the case and that the level of service by Dorset Council was not satisfactory. Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Rowe to place the unresolved footpath matters in order of priority. Councillor Rowe stated that she had intended to and asked Councillor Chubb whether the gates at Drimpton had now been installed, Councillor Chubb confirmed that they

had been. Councillor Rowe stated that she was pinning all hopes on Councillor Christopher to deal with all future footpath problems.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that at the beginning of October Dorset Police received a call about a scam telephone call from a caller purporting to be from BT and was trying to get the recipient to give access to their computer and was asking for bank details. PCSO Bishop advised that there is no reason that BT would ever do this, so please just hang up if you get a similar call. On the 1 November, Dorset Police had a report of Cannabis plants being dumped in a layby, between Broadwindsor and Burstock. An Officer attended and collected a large amount of plants to be destroyed.

6. BROADWINDSOR CRICKET CLUB

a. Update on Fundraising

Councillor Frampton stated that he was pleased to report that the Cricket Club had successfully raised £35,000 within thirty days of the appeal being launched and stated that this was mainly through Crowdfunder. Councillor Frampton stated a donation of £12,500 was received from the Dorset Youth Fund, £10,000 from Sport England and over £1,000 from private donors in addition to the grant from the FMR Trust. Councillor Frampton stated that the Club had liaised with the owners of the site and that the contract was being finalised and it was hoped that they would be exchanged in December.

Councillor Frampton stated that some funds were still available and that the Club would like to install electricity to the site and would be looking for planning permission to place a transformer on a pole. Councillor Frampton stated that now that they are not restricted by their license, they would like to open the site up to other events, such as the fun day and the Girl Guides have expressed an interest in camping and archery. Councillor Frampton stated that they would like to ask for Parish Council support in seeking to extend the footpath to the Cricket Club which currently ends by the Craft Centre on the corner by the Magna Housing. Councillor Frampton stated that he had already spoken with Councillor Christopher who had forwarded this matter to Councillor Ray Bryan.

Councillor Frampton reported that the Club had been speaking with the Craft Centre about providing them with additional parking on non-match days in exchange for some financial support to install electricity on the site and Robert Tolley about the possibility of renting some ground at the top of his field to park approximately twenty cars. Councillor Frampton thanked the FMR Trust for its grant and stated that it was fantastic that the Club had been saved and would be held in trust for the whole village and that a sporting facility had been retained for the future.

Councillor Christopher reported that he had indeed been in touch with Councillor Ray Bryan, Portfolio Holder for Highways and also with Councillor Andrew Parry, Head of Children's services and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Spencer Flowers and he assured Councillor Frampton that Dorset Council was doing everything it could to support the Club.

Councillor Rowe congratulated Councillor Frampton and his team for their hard work, stating that it was an amazing achievement and that it was an absolute asset for the village and surrounding communities. Councillor Rowe stated that the Parish Council should do everything in its power to support the Club and that they should as soon as is possible, advertise what the facility is and how it can help the community. Councillor Sewell also passed in her congratulations and stated that it was Ragland Housing Association and not Magna as previously referred to by Councillor Frampton, and stated that they may have a pot of funding which could help with the footpath extension. Councillor Frampton congratulated Councillor Frampton but stated that he was intrigued that financial support may be forthcoming from the Craft Centre for additional parking as he had the impression that they may not have it available.

Councillor Frampton stated that the loan of the field had not yet been agreed, but that the Club did not want to take up any more of its ground for car parking as space is limited and they wanted to add benches and practice nets to the site. Subject to planning permission, a gap would have to be made in the hedge and a temporary structure installed. Councillor Frampton stated that he had met with the owners of the Craft Centre and that they were in need for additional parking for staff members and that the Club wanted to support them to do this. Councillor Sewell stated that she Ragland Housing Association had now been taken over by Stonewater Housing Association.

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

a. Parish Council Actions and Support During Lockdown

Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that the Parish Council was duplicating the support provided during the first lockdown and thanked those people who were helping to look after people and keep them safe.

b. Community Updates from Councillors

The Clerk provided an update from Councillor Madder-Smith regarding the Community Stores. Over the last six months the Stores has lost approximately fifty volunteers due to moving, ill health, COVID and holidays. However, they now have even more volunteers comprising new residents, furloughed residents and existing volunteers have stepped up to help more. The 'Click and Collect' service is still working well and will carry on through the lock down period. Councillor Sewell reported that the Post Office Service was still continuing twice a week and that she believed that the Community Stores 'Click and Collect' service would soon be operating from Comrades Hall, people would be able to collect their groceries from the side door avoiding having to use the main entrance to the Hall.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Census Engagement Dorset, Census 2021

The Clerk stated that she had circulated this communication prior to the meeting and that given that there was some time before the Census on 21 March 2021, she would add to the agenda again nearer the time. There were no questions.

b. DAPTC, Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation and Public Sector Survey

The Clerk stated that she had circulated this communication prior to the meeting and that any comments should be forwarded to her. There were no questions.

9. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive 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 2020/2021, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 October 2020 was £40,375.25. Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk about ring-fenced funds, the Clerk confirmed that £22581.20 of funds had been reserved for SID surveys and for Blackdown Village Hall. There were no questions.

b. To approve payment of £1.80 for HMRC (NI)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hibbard , seconded by Councillor Bassett and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved Agenda Item 9b.

c. To consider Parish Council Support for Broadwindsor Cricket Club

Councillor Rowe stated that she thought that the Parish Council, should make a financial gesture to the Cricket Club to help support their plan to install electricity to the site. Councillor Hardwill raised the recently circulated email regarding grants from Western Power, Councillor Harris stated that he believed that this grant programme was related to COVID-a9 and the Christmas period and would not apply to this project. Councillor Hardwill stated that as has been done begore, it would be the normal thing for the Parish Council to offer its verbal support to allow the Club to access grants and other funds and proposed this course of action. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hardwill , seconded by Councillor Hughes and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved to state its support for Broadwindsor Cricket Club.

d. To approve grant for Broadwindsor Community Store (Temporary Outdoor Shelter)

The Clerk provided an update from Councillor Madder-Smith which stated that a quotation of £950.00 had been provided to erect the temporary outdoor shelter and that the Parish Council was being asked for a contribution. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that the Community Stores had itself funds that could be used for this and that the Parish Council had awarded a number of grants to the Stores in recent time and asked Councillor Hughes for his thoughts. Councillor Hughes stated that the Community Stores has a pot of funds which will hopefully be utilised in the near future for a project and agreed that the Parish Council should make a small and not extravagant donation towards the shelter. Councillor Hibbard suggested a grant of £200.00, there were no other comments or objections and the Clerk was asked to add this to the December agenda.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/20/002170, Manor Farmhouse, Bridport Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RD

Councillor Bassett reported that he had been the lead Councillor for this application and stated that he had contacted the applicant and neighbours and that no objections had been raised. Councillor Bassett stated that he had been unable to make contact with the most immediate neighbour and stated that their house had recently been sold. Councillor Bassett stated that he could not see any reason to object the application, it was a reasonable proposal for an indoor structure that would not have any negative impact on others.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

None.

11. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

a. Working Group Update

b. Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation

Councillor Leader stated that this was a positive document which was aspirational and as long as action is taken as stated, it is a positive step forward. Councillor Hibbard thanked Sheila Hawkins for forwarding comments. Sheila Hawkins stated that no costs had been included within the action plan which although a draft document, made it meaningless. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council should respond by stating that they had noted the report. Councillor Hibbard stated that we must do our best within the Grouped Parish to meet these targets and that the Parish Council should keep an eye on this issue.

12. ADOPTION OF BT TELEPHONE KIOSKS IN BROADWINDSOR AND DRIMPTON

a. Review of Contracts

Councillor Hibbard stated that he had reviewed the contracts and could not see any issues. The Clerk read aloud a comment made by Councillor Chubb which stated that after reading the terms and conditions, the Parish Council needs to ensure that any working electric left in the boxes meets current legislation and proposed that after adoption an electrician is engaged to make sure that both boxes are safe. The Clerk stated that Councillor Chubb suggested that both boxes would benefit from LED lighting and that the box in Drimpton also requires a three-pin socket point as well. The Clerk confirmed that as the Responsible Financial Officer, she would sign both contracts on behalf of the Parish Council.

b. To approve formal adoption of BT Telephone Kiosks in Broadwindsor and Drimpton

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Chubb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the formal adoption of BT Telephone Kiosks in Broadwindsor and Drimpton.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Frampton reported that he had cut the top of the allotment hedge but unfortunately could not reach all of it. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Frampton. Sheila Hawkins reported that there are only 1.5 plots available and that this year had seen the highest take up of plots and that the allotments were looking great.

14. HIGHWAYS

a. Report from the Footpaths Officer

No additional comments were made.

b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Rowe stated that there were a number of issues and she hoped that Councillor Christopher may be able to help with these as well. Councillor Rowe stated that she had believed that the verges in Broadwindsor had been cut in mid-July but had only found out in late September that they had not been cut at all and that complaints had been made about the length of the grass. Councillor Rowe stated that many positive comments had been made about the wildflower beds. Councillor Rowe stated that looking ahead, she believed that these verges were most likely the largest verges within the Grouped Parish and that she would like to propose that the Parish Council adopt them which would allow more control over the cutting and perhaps some monetary support from Dorset Council to pay for the work to be carried out. Councillor Rowe stated that she would like this matter adding to a future agenda so that discussion could take place. Councillor Rowe also stated that she would like the discussion about wildflower verges to be opened up and discussed by the Parish Council to see how this matter can be taken forward.

Councillor Hardwill stated that he would like to raise the matter of hedge cutting cross the Grouped Parish and stated that farmers are responsible for cutting anything above 1.5 metres and he would urge all farmers to cut hedges as soon as possible when as they are soft and easier to cut at the moment. Councillor Hardwill asked that they are well cut back to stop mirrors from lorry vehicles being hit and recommended cutting them at a 5-degree angle from the edge of the road. Councillor Hardwill stated that in a number of places, the hedges are very overgrown. Councillor Hardwill also stated that the allotment front hedge has been a disgrace throughout the summer. Councillor Rowe stated that she had discovered that contractors working in behalf of Dorset Council only cut the verges when asked to and not on a regular basis and stated that she welcomed input from Councillor Christopher on how to move forward with verge cutting. Councillor Christopher asked for an agreed statement from the Parish Council with respect to verge cutting and he would then pass in to those responsible.

c. Installation of Kissing Gates Update

No comments.

d. Speed Indicator Device Update

Councillor Leader reported that he was waiting for Dorset Council to carry out their week-long of all traffic movement in the given locations and stated that he hoped that this would be completed shortly. Councillor Hughes stated that after the last Parish Council meeting he wrote to Councillor Christopher asking for his support in pushing this through and stated that although he has asked at Dorset Council level, a reply has not yet been received. Councillor Hughes also stated that the Speedwatch Group has to suspend its activity until at least the end of December and therefore wondered if it would be possible to carry out some unauthorised speed checks in the village which might provide a useful and true indication of the real speed issues. Councillor Sewell stated that all activity had to be authorised and approved and the Speedwatch Group must be visible when carrying out its checks. Councillor Leader stated that he understood the sentiment from Councillor Hughes but agreed with Councillor Sewell.

e. Reported Highway Problems Update

Councillor Chubb stated that there are two issues in Drimpton which hopefully with the support of Councillor Christopher are being addressed, these being the overhanging trees and hedge by Orchard Close and a blocked drain and flooding on the Drimpton to Littlewindsor road. Councillor Chubb stated that this road was constantly flooding at bottom and the problem was always being reported and that he now hoped that drain could be unblocked and that the matter could be resolved for the future.

Councillor Frampton reported that a sink hole had appeared between Broadwindsor and Burstock and that he was unsure as to who would be responsible - Dorset Council or Wessex water as they had renewed the watermain in that area some ten years previously. Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Frampton to forward him details of the matter and then he would move it forward. Councillor Christopher stated that he had made Officers aware of the flooding problem in Drimpton and that he had also raised the problem of speeding traffic most notably through Broadwindsor with Officers and Dorset Police.

f. Parking in Broadwindsor Square

Councillor Hardwill stated that he had a suggestion on how to resolve the car parking problem in Broadwindsor Square and stated that if part of the corner of Bernards' Place was removed this would allow traffic coming from Drimpton to carry straight on and stated that this would improve the situation and tidy up the Square greatly. Councillor Hardwill also stated that traffic coming from the Bridport Road could turn right going back towards Mosterton.

g. Car Parking Area Outside Broadwindsor School

Councillor Leader stated that the car parking area outside of the School is in very poor condition and stated that he believes that there is a history of who is responsible, Highways or the School. Councillor Leader stated that the School does not think that the responsibility lies with them. Councillor Leader stated that the area has now become dangerous and that

something needs to be done, and asked Councillor Christopher to review this. Councillor Christopher stated that he will forward the matter to the appropriate Cabinet Members.

h. Common Water Lane Verges

Councillor Leader reported that the verges on the side of Common Water Lane had been destroyed by 4x4 vehicles and that an awful mess had been made. Councillor Leader stated that he had spoken with the landowner, Dorset Police and Councillor Christopher about this matter and had been advised that the only way forward would be to find out who was responsible for the damage. Councillor Leader stated that Common Water Lane was classified as a highway and as such vehicles were permitted to travel along there and that under current legislation, Highways would be responsible. Councillor Leader stated that Councillor Christopher was trying to ascertain Dorset Council's position on this matter. Councillor Christopher reported that he had spoken with Legal Officers at Dorset Council and was awaiting a response and stated that he understood that this was a pressing matter. Councillor Christopher asked the Parish Council to forward any comments that they may have regarding vehicles travelling in convoy at night.

Sheila Hawkins stated that the activity takes place between 3.00 am and 4.00 am and has been going on for a long time. Sheila Hawkins stated that the Friends of Common Water Lane was set up some years ago and it did carry out a project to fence off the area which did help. Sheila Hawkins stated that the verges have been designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and contain several Dorset notable plants. Sheila Hawkins stated that those responsible have no respect for others and that it has not been possible to date to identify them. Councillor Christopher thanked Sheila Hawkins for her comments and asked her to email them to him so that he can pass on and be in a better position to get something done. Councillor Hardwill stated that he had been involved with the Friends of Common Water Lane and that a lot of work had been carried out. Councillor Hardwill stated that this problem was also happening on Somerset, near Crewkerne and suggested that the Police be involved and liaise with Somerset Police.

15. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

a. Report from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust

Councillor Leader reported that matters were moving forward, legal issues were still ongoing and that some very reputable companies had responded to the request for expressions of interest.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Rowe stated that her request that verges and wildflowers be discussed as separate agenda items be noted. Councillor Bassett asked the Clerk about the dangerous tree on the Crewkerne Road in in Drimpton, the Clerk stated that she was awaiting for the matter to be resolved before reporting back but stated that it had not been and the matter was now with Dorset Council's Legal Department and she would report an update at the December meeting.

Councillor Laurie asked when the vacancy for the Seaborough ward would need to be on the agenda, the Clerk stated that this depended on when a resignation was received. Councillor Bodycombe stated that she had a number of Welcome Packs available for distribution to new residents of the Grouped Parish and asked for volunteers to help deliver them. Councillor Basset with help from Councillor Chubb agreed to take this on for Drimpton and Councillor Rowe stated that she would liaise with Councillor Leader for Broadwindsor. Councillor Leader stated that he had just received an email from Dorset Council informing that the SID survey would be carried out the week after the lockdown period had ended.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

A member of the public stated that dog fouling was an escalating problem in Broadwindsor and that complaints from residents had been made. The member of the public stated that some local people can actually identify offenders but do not feel comfortable in making this public and that the route to School was particularly bad for dog fouling. Councillor Hibbard stated that this was a long-standing problem and he believed that the Parish Council had done as much as it could do but would add the matter to the next agenda. Councillor Hibbard stated that it would perhaps take one brave person to report someone who is then fined to make a difference to the current situation.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public stated her congratulations to Councillor Frampton for the fundraising achievements of the Cricket Club. The member of the public also suggested that the next meeting agenda should state that the chat facility is not to be used during a Parish Council meeting. The member of the public asked Councillor Bodycombe if the Welcome Packs included reference to the website Broadwindsor.org, Councillor Bodycombe confirmed that it was. The member of the public stated that she was aware of the problem with parking in Broadwindsor Square and stated that cars park at different angles and often where the pavement dips, cars often are parked and block access which can cause difficulties for those with motor scooters.

Another member of the public asked whether the Parish Council was using the chat function during online meetings, the Clerk confirmed that it was not. The member of the public had asked through the chat facility if rights of way could be raised at a Parish Council meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk confirmed that the date of the next online Parish Council meeting would be Monday 14 December.

19. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.03 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for taking an interest in the Grouped Parish and contributing to the debate.