



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING 9 SEPTEMBER 2019
BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. David Leader (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Cindy Bodycombe, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. David Chumbley, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Peter Hardwill, Cllr. Brian Hedditch, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Susanna Laurie, Cllr. Kevin Madder-Smith, Cllr. Dorothy Rowe, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell.

ATTENDANCE: Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by the Chairman. There were six members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bassett and Curtis, Councillor Christopher 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 14a, Councillor Frampton declared an interest in Agenda Item 8a (WD/D/19/001780) and Councillor Sewell declared an interest in Agenda Item 7e.

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 8 July 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Hibbard 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. There were no comments made.

a. Report from Dorset Councillor

The Clerk informed that Councillor Christopher was unable to attend the meeting and that she had circulated a copy of his report. Councillor Sewell stated that with regard to Yarn Barton, it was not only the lighting that had been raised as a concern but the poor quality of the road and pavement surface and the risk to school security. Councillor Sewell also asked what the application process was for the additional Superfast Broadband funding and whether the effect of the approval of additional dwellings was going to have a positive or negative effect on the five-year land supply for Dorset.

Councillor Leader thanked Councillor Christopher for helping to push forward the resurfacing of Broadwindsor Square and confirmed that Dorset Council had now provided a start date of 12 November for the resurfacing of the Square, the one-way system, part of West Street and the entrance to Trusthams. Councillor Leader stated that he had contacted the Council to discuss the materials and process for the works. Councillor Leader confirmed that he will be continuing discussions with Dorset Council to ensure that the works will be to a high quality. Councillor Sewell stated that the Speedwatch Group could provide data on the number of vehicles using this area and Councillor Chubb stated that data is also available online. Councillor Hughes asked whether the parking problems had been considered and Councillor Hibbard stated that this would provide a good opportunity to review all road markings and that it would be discussed with the Highways Authority prior to the works commencing. Councillor Rowe stated that those people living in and close to the Square should be consulted and Councillor Chubb suggested a Parish-wide review. Councillor Hardwill stated that the Parish Council had been requesting these works for over ten years and stated that he was very pleased that it was now going ahead.

b. Report from Dorset Police

In the absence of PCSO Bishop, the Clerk read aloud his report. The report stated that there had been several reports relating to a suspicious male and vehicle often seen in unusual circumstances, such as being parked on a driveway or track or looking into people's windows. This is a male who has come to the Police's attention many times over the last few weeks but with no sign that he is involved in any form of crime. PCSO Bishop asked in his report that should anyone notice any suspicious activity like this, to report it on 101, or via the Dorset Police website. The report also stated that PCSO Bishop had noted a decline in the number of scams reported to the Police, stating that he did not believe this to be due to a decrease in scam communications, but due to people becoming more aware of the threats that cold calls can pose and are actively avoiding them. In his report, PCSO Bishop apologised to anyone

that was expecting him to attend the coffee morning/post office in Broadwindsor on Tuesday 13 August, stating that he was unable to be there. The report concluded by stating that he would be attending the next coffee morning/post office on Tuesday 10 September.

c. Sheila Hawkins and Susannah Madigan, Request for Parish Council to Consider Climate Emergency and Community Response

Councillor Hibbard welcomed Sheila Hawkins and Susannah Madigan to the meeting. Sheila Hawkins stated that they were addressing the Parish Council as individual members of the community and were not representing any group. Sheila Hawkins stated that an article in a recent edition of The Ecologist magazine suggested that climate action at a local level can transform people's quality of life for the better, with clear net benefits to health, air and water quality, employment, energy affordability, community cohesion and biodiversity and together with Susannah Madigan requested that the Parish Council consider declaring a climate emergency, following the declarations already made this year by Dorset Council on 4 June and Bridport Town Council at the end of May. Sheila Hawkins stated that if agreeable, the Parish Council may wish to consider the installation of solar panels on community buildings and the provision of additional e-charging points for the local community. Members of the Parish Council stated their approval for such a declaration. Councillor Rowe thanked Sheila Hawkins and Susannah Madigan for bringing this matter forward to the Parish Council. Councillor Sewell suggested that a working party be formed to lead the project.

Councillor Chubb stated that Drimpton Village Hall already had solar panels and that he was currently looking at funding to allow modifications to the Hall's lighting to make the building more energy efficient. Councillor Chubb stated that he would like to see the Hall utilise the energy it generates. Councillor Chubb stated that all three village halls should be working more closely together, Councillor Sewell agreed. Councillor Sewell stated that solar panels are permitted in conservation areas.

Councillor Sewell informed the Council of a new fund available from Dorset Council, the Community Impact Fund. This Fund has two streams, a micro fund for grants up to £1000 and a main fund for grants up to £6000.

Councillor Leader stated that Broadwindsor School would be a suitable site for the installation of solar panels. Councillor Laurie stated that it was important to look at a wider spectrum of issues. Councillor Chubb asked that further information could be discussed at the next meeting and Sheila Hawkins offered to support the Parish Council in taking this forward. Councillor Hibbard thanked Sheila Hawkins and Susannah Madigan for attending the meeting and stated that there was broad agreement amongst the Council to support this measure.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously agreed to formally declare a Climate Change Emergency.

d. Beaminster Area Eco Group

The Beaminster Area Eco Group were not in attendance.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Dorset Council, Consultation on Extension to Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Orders

The Clerk stated that this communication had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. There were no comments.

b. Dorset Council, Consultation on Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk stated that this communication had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Sewell stated that it was an excellent Plan. There were no comments.

c. Mandy Selhurst, Night Lighting in Broadwindsor

The Clerk stated that this communication had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. In response to the communication, Councillor Hibbard stated that it would be very difficult to stop speeding vehicles. Councillor Chubb stated that his research had implied that it was a legal requirement for there to be lighting in an area where speed bumps are present. Councillor Hibbard suggested that the Parish Council contact the Highways Authority to enquire whether the speed bumps in Drimpton Road were still required now that the area had become a 20 mph zone and if not, whether they could be removed. Councillor Hibbard stated that if the speed bumps were removed then there may not be a case for lighting to be kept on at night.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. The Finance Report

The Clerk referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure for the first and part of the second quarter of 2019/2020, which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 August 2019 was £85,942.11. There were no questions.

b. To approve payment of £55.44 for Bridport Foundry (Fingerpost Letters)

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

d. To approve payment of £42.00 for DM Payroll Services (Payroll Service)

e. To consider a grant for Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership

f. To consider a grant of £50.00 for Beaminster Area Eco Group

g. To note payment of £1250.00 to Mr. R Hedditch (Fingerpost Restoration)

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

Item f was removed from the Agenda. Councillor Laurie asked how long the Fingerpost Restoration Programme will go on for, Councillor Leader stated that funding is required for a further year. Councillors agreed that a grant of £100.00 should be offered to the Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Rowe and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment e, a grant of £100.00 for the Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership.

Councillor Hughes reported that the Broadwindsor sign on the Beaminster Road had again become bent. Councillor Leader stated that this sign had been repaired many times and that discussions had been held about installing more aesthetically pleasing signage. Councillor Hibbard stated that once all the fingerposts had been restored, that other signage could be renewed if the budget permitted.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

WD/D/19/001780, Westlea, West Dairy Farm Access Road, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

Councillor Laurie stated that she would be reporting on this application at the next meeting and that she would feed back her comments to the Clerk the next day for submission to Dorset Council. No further comments were made.

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

Councillor Chumbley reported that he had visited the site and had identified the location of the proposed building and stated that it would sit well and not cause any detrimental effect. Councillor Chumbley stated that he could see no reason for the Parish Council to raise any objections.

WD/D/18/002110, Sandpit, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3RS (Planning Appeal)

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had originally supported this application and that the Council was not obliged to comment again unless it wished to raise additional points. The Clerk stated that Councillor Bassett who was the lead Councillor for the original application would be visiting the applicant and would report back. Councillor Sewell stated that the application was refused as it was located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) but the proposal would not cause any detrimental effect. Councillor Sewell stated that she supported the planning appeal. Councillor Chubb stated that the applicant believed that the Planning Department did not identify the correct location. No concerns or objections were raised by Councillors.

WD/D/19/001688, Ley Cottage, Red Lane, Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

Councillor Laurie stated that she had been appointed as the lead Councillor for this application and that she had carried out a site visit and spoken with the applicants. Councillor Laurie stated that the proposal included a modest rear extension and a front extension. Councillor Laurie stated that the building is not listed, is set back from the road and would have no impact on any neighbouring properties. Councillor Laurie stated that she could see no reason for the Parish Council to raise any objections.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results:

WD/D/19/001724, Southdene, West Swillets Road, Seaborough, DT8 3QZ: Approved

d. Land South of Fullers

Councillor Rowe stated that she had received communication from a Broadwindsor resident Jackie Riley and a copy of a letter that she had sent to Councillor Christopher regarding the planning application WD/D/17/000800, Land South of Fullers. Councillor Rowe stated that she had been asked to add this matter to the Agenda for the meeting and inform Councillors of the actions taken by Jackie Riley to date. The Clerk confirmed that a copy of the letter dated 18 June had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Rowe stated that the letter from Jackie Riley to Councillor Christopher asked for a review of and an appeal to the planning application approval which she believed had been based on inaccurate information. Councillor Rowe stated that to date, a reply had not been provided to Jackie Riley from Councillor Christopher. Councillor Rowe stated that Jackie Riley had made considerable efforts in this matter and Councillor Hibbard stated that a reply was deserved.

A member of the public asked the Chairman if she could address the Council, this was agreed. Sandra Burrows stated that she had read with interest the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10 June 2019 and specifically noted reference to the report from Councillor Christopher, Agenda Item 5a, *'Councillor Christopher stated that he would not determine any planning applications in this area however large or small on the basis of pre-determination and stated that this was under the instructions of the person who has the planning portfolio, David Walsh.'*

Sandra Burrows stated that this had raised a number of concerns for her with reference to planning application WD/D/17/000800, Land South of Fullers and that she had written to Councillor David Walsh on 13 August to express these concerns. Sandra Burrows stated that the Planning Report used at the Planning Meeting on 22 March 2018 was misleading and gives the impression that the population figures quoted are for the village of Broadwindsor, but were actually figures for the whole of the Grouped Parish area. Sandra Burrows stated that it would be reasonable to assume that members of the Planning Committee would rely heavily on that report to make an informed decision and that they would assume, wrongly, that the infrastructure in place was already serving a much larger population. Sandra Burrows stated that she had also raised the matter of whether predetermination had occurred. Sandra Burrows stated that she had not received a reply from Councillor Walsh and asked the Parish Council to consider these concerns and seek to find an explanation.

Councillor Sewell stated that her input as West Dorset District Councillor had much been ignored and that Dorset AONB had not been consulted on the original outline planning application. Councillor Hardwill stated that these issues would normally be addressed at the time of full planning application submission. Councillor Leader stated that it was obvious that further clarification was required on the protocol for Councillor Christopher as the elected representative for the Grouped Parish and as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Hibbard suggested that the Parish Council formally write to Dorset Council to seek a response and further clarification and thanked Sandra Burrows for attending the meeting. Members concurred and the Clerk was asked to draft the letter.

9. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Sewell reported that some of the contact details within the Emergency Plan required updating. Then Clerk stated that she would complete this task.

10. GROUP PARISH WELCOME PACK

Councillor Bodycombe reported that this project was moving forward and that the Working Group had agreed the contents of the pack which will include information about local groups, organisations, activities, village halls, schools as well as the latest copy of the Parish News and Team News and asked that the relevant Councillors provide a list of these for each area of the Grouped Parish. Councillor Bodycombe stated that the packs would be provided to people moving into the Grouped Parish, and that it had been estimated that between twenty and thirty would be produced each year. Councillor Bodycombe stated that the Clerk would be supporting the project by uploading the information to the website. Councillor Bodycombe stated that a prototype was being put together and that this will be brought to the next meeting. Councillor Bodycombe stated that the project would not incur a huge cost and asked that the Parish Council consider providing funding of approximately £200.00. Councillor Chubb stated that it would be useful to provide to all households. Councillor Hardwill stated that he did not believe that the pack was necessary and was not in support of the Parish Council funding the costs of its production, stating that all of the information could be available on the website. Councillor Rowe stated that she strongly disagreed, stating that there was a need to provide this information to those who do not access the internet. Councillor Rowe asked members of the public present at the meeting for their views on the need for such a welcome pack, a comment was made that other schools local to the Blackdown area should be included and a member of the public stated that the pack would have been useful to him when he first moved to the area. Councillor Chubb suggested obtaining sponsorship for the pack. Councillor Bodycombe stated that it was a low-cost project and that perhaps further discussion could take place at the next meeting after viewing the prototype.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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

Councillor Hibbard reported that the Referendum had taken place on 8 August and that the Plan had been supported. Councillor Hibbard stated that following a period of six weeks which is required in case of any legal challenges, the Plan will become a legal document and statutory part of the development plan for the area and will carry significant weight in how planning applications are decided. Councillor Hibbard thanked members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and Clerk for their dedication and hard work in helping this project come to fruition. Councillor Leader stated that it was an excellent document and thanked Councillor Hibbard and the Committee for their considerable efforts. Councillor

Chubb stated that a letter of thanks should also be sent to Jo Witherden, the consultant who supported the process. Members concurred.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Frampton asked if the Allotment hedges require cutting, this was agreed. Councillor Hibbard asked if there was space for the installation of solar panels on the Allotment site, Sheila Hawkins and Susannah Madigan both stated that it might be possible.

13. HIGHWAYS

a. Report from the Footpaths Officer

Councillor Chubb stated that he was currently in discussion to arrange the installation of two new gates between Netherhay and Oathill Farm. Councillor Rowe stated that the wildflower meadow for Hursey Common as proposed by the Beaminster Eco Group was not proceeding at this time. Councillor Leader confirmed that there was concern that the introduction of new species could be detrimental to those already existing there. Councillor Leader stated that the Eco Group had agreed to use its grant to support the costs of cutting the small meadow but that the Parish Council would as it normally does, be required to pay for the cutting back of the remaining part of the site. No concerns were raised by Members of the Council.

b. Verge Management in the Grouped Parish Area

Councillor Hughes stated that he had noticed that a number of cars had been parked on the land opposite the Cross Keys and was concerned as they blocked the sight of traffic arriving from the Salway Ash direction when arriving from Beaminster. Councillor Hibbard asked that this situation be monitored. Councillor Rowe stated that it was possible for the Parish Council to formally adopt a verge and stated that communication from Dorset Council of when verges were being cut was quite poor at times. Councillor Chubb stated that if the Parish Council were to adopt a verge, it would become responsible for its cutting and therefore would incur costs which are currently being met by Dorset Council. Councillor Hardwill encouraged farmers and landowners to cut back hedges as much as possible to ensure highway safety. Councillor Hedditch referred to a small overhanging tree in Drimpton which was causing cars to pull out into the road, Councillor Chubb agreed to review the location with Councillor Hedditch.

c. Redlands Lane

No update provided.

d. Parking in Fullers

Councillor Leader stated that there was an ongoing problem of cars parked on both sides of Fullers which was causing access to be restricted and that despite cars being leafleted by the Fire Service, the problem had not been resolved. Councillor Leader stated that there was a small piece of land on the left-hand side, owned by Dorset Council which could be offered to residents for additional off-road parking. Councillor Leader stated that he was currently in discussion with Dorset Council about this matter and that the residents that he had spoken to were in favour of this solution.

e. Update on Fingerpost Restoration Programme

Councillor Chumbley reported that he had been asked by a local resident whether the Parish Council could also restore the stone mileage sign. Councillor Leader stated that a metal plate had been added and that this could be removed to see the extent of the renovation that would be required. Councillor Chumbley reported that the local resident had informed that the fingerpost sign to Hursey had originally included a finial and asked that the Parish Council consider replacing it. Councillor Leader stated that it was possible to assess whether a sign would have had a finial by its design and stated that this could be considered at the end of the Programme, if budget permitted. Councillor Hardwill asked that it be noted that Mr. Rob Hedditch was doing a very good job at restoring the fingerpost signs, Members of the Council concurred. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had received a comment with regard to the fingerpost at Coles Cross stating that the lettering was misaligned. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had spoken with Mr. Rob Hedditch and discussed the matter, Councillor Leader stated that he had also spoken with Mr. Hedditch.

f. Broadwindsor Highway Safety Concerns

- Speed Limit Extension Past Honeycombe Farm

Councillor Leader reported that he had attended a meeting with Dorset Police and Mr. Malcolm Heaver, Chairman of the Broadwindsor Speedwatch Group to discuss highway concerns in the village, most notably the disparity between the speed of vehicles coming from the national speed limit straight into a 20 mph speed limit, without prior warning or any measures in place to physically slow motorists down. Councillor Hibbard referred to a letter of concern received concerning the speed limit past Honeycombe Farm asking the Council to pursue a new road surface and reduced speed limit on the B3163. Councillor Leader stated that the introduction of an additional 40 mph zone was suggested and proposed that the Clerk write to the Highways Authority to seek guidance on this matter. Councillor Leader stated that Mr. Heaver had informed that signage could be produced locally and that he had expressed an interest in raising funds to purchase an Electronic Speed Repeater. Councillor Leader stated that the cost for such a device would be just over £3000 and that they can be moved to different locations and are powered by solar energy. Councillor Madder-Smith stated that he had spoken informally to Dorset Police who had stated that they cannot police a 20 mph zone due to limitations on their speed camera. Councillor Sewell stated that the speed restriction area should be extended as far as Broadwindsor Cricket Club. Councillor Frampton stated that efforts had been made for many years to try and extend the speed restricted zone, without success. Councillor Hibbard stated that it was important to keep the roads as safe as possible and that the Police seem to support the introduction of a 40 mph zone. Councillor Hibbard asked the Clerk to add this to the Agenda for the next meeting.

14. 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 the Highways Authority had expressed concern over the proposed entrance in Netherhay Lane. Councillor Leader stated that this was being reviewed by the Community Land Trust.

15. LEISURE

a. Update of the Multi-Use Games Area Project

Councillor Leader reported that the MUGA was being well used by both the School and members of the public and had been particularly busy during the recent summer holidays. Councillor Leader stated that in order to meet funder requirements there has to be an official opening, an event he suggested which could be attended by the local community, young and old. Councillor Leader stated that he would speak with Broadwindsor School in order to agree a suitable date and time. Councillor Chubb stated that apart from a sporting celebrity, he believed that the facility should be formally opened by Councillor Leader who had worked tirelessly to make the project happen. The Parish Council applauded Councillor Leader. Councillor Leader stated that many people had contributed to the project.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Leader reported that the annual Hursey Common Work Party would take place before the end of the year and asked that this be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

The Clerk reported that she had been asked by Mr. Andrew Hookings to add a request for support for Broadwindsor Community Shop to the Agenda for the October meeting.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to address the Council by Councillor Hibbard. A member of the public stated that she wished to express concern about the community defibrillator located at Comrades Hall. The member of the public reported that the defibrillator had been used on several occasions recently and that on the last occasion, she was asked to enter a code which she did not know and stated that it had been changed. The member of public stated that this delay could be critical for some patients. The member of public stated that she had reviewed other defibrillators in the area and stated that these provided free public access and stated that the location of each defibrillator can be viewed online. The member of public stated that the Kittwhistle and Broadwindsor defibrillators were not listed. Councillor Sewell stated that the code for a defibrillator should be provided by the operator for South West Ambulance Service. Councillor Sewell stated that the insurance for the defibrillator would be invalidated if the code was visible to all. Councillor Hibbard stated that this matter should be resolved and asked for contact to be made with the South West Ambulance Service and stated that local people need to know the correct process. Councillor Hibbard thanked the member of the public for bringing this matter to the attention of the Parish Council.

A member of the public raised the matter of parking in Broadwindsor Square and acknowledged that the Parish Council was seeking to address the problem. The member of the public stated that he had witnessed cars parked on the pavement on numerous occasions and seen people having to walk on the road. Councillor Hibbard stated that he believed that the introduction of yellow lines would be not be met with favour by residents but confirmed that the Parish Council will continue to seek to find a resolution to this ongoing problem.

18. CLOSE

The Council Meeting was formally closed at 9.50 pm. Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending.