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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13th February 2013 at Monkton Village Hall at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chairman - Mr R. Harrison. Vice-Chairman - Mr R Williams. Councillors; Mrs U. Norman, Mr C. Norman, Mrs Y Doble, Mrs M. Miller, Mr C. Foot, Mrs S. McSeveny, Mr A Walters

Dorset County Council: Mr D. Crowhurst

West Dorset District Council: Mr S. Slade

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison

Public: eight members of the public

Apologies: Mrs L Cheeseman, Mr A. Miller, Mr D. Read

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

2.1. Cllr M. Miller declared an interest in agenda items 6.1 and 6.7.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 7th November 2012 - the Minutes were accepted by the Council and signed as being correct by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1. All matters arising were dealt with in the agenda items below.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE

5.1. The Chairman asked Cllr Crowhurst to provide a brief update from Dorset County Council. Cllr Crowhurst replied that the County Council were meeting to discuss the budget for the forthcoming financial year. This would form part of a four year programme to save £80m, resulting in a loss of around six hundred staff (both full and part time) by the end of the 2013/14 financial year. He continued that some of this saving was being achieved by greater cross-working with Bournemouth and Poole Borough Councils, especially in the area of public health, responsibility for which is being returned to local government as part of changes to the NHS. He added that DCC had not risen its council tax figure for the coming year and as such was in receipt of a grant from central government of £2m.

5.2. The Chairman asked Cllr Slade to provide a brief update from West Dorset District Council. Cllr Slade replied that flooding along the Winterborne valley was still an ongoing problem, however a flood team had now been set up, headed by Brian Richards (Flood Risk Manager, Dorset County Council). He continued that WDDC had completed their move to new offices at South Walks House, and noted that numerous meeting rooms were available for Parishes and groups to use. Turning to the Local Plan he made reference to the proposed site to the south-east of Dorchester, and noted that another Parish had also objected to the proposed park and ride site on the A354.

6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

6.1. West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan.

6.1.1. The Chairman outlined the current status of the local plan procedure. He informed Councillors that in December West Dorset District Council had released a paper on alternative sites that had been submitted to them during the draft local plan consultation. While they did not promote these sites they were required to publish them and consult. He explained that two sites within Bincombe had been submitted and pointed them out to Councillors. WFPC submitted an objection to these sites, as did Weymouth Civic Society, Upwey Society, Dorset Wildlife Trust,

the Highways Agency and Dorset AONB amongst others.

- 6.1.2. South-east Dorchester site. The Chairman outlined the current position. He explained that the site had been put forward by West Dorset District Council officers, whereas most sites are put forward by landowners or developers. He explained that it had previously been considered for potential use in 2008 but was ruled out as being unsuitable, mainly due to the prohibitive infrastructure costs associated with such a development. He continued that the intention would be for the land to be used for the strategic growth of Dorchester after the year 2021.

Cllr M. Miller confirmed that Came Estates as one of the landowners had had no involvement in the putting forward of this site.

Cllr Walters stated that the proposed use of the site had not arisen out of any rational decision making process, and that it had been difficult to get hold of the facts around it, the consultation material not being very substantial. He stated that the Sherborne site was far superior, and referred to the sustainability appraisal which bore hallmarks of an attempt to justify the decision after it had been made.

He informed the Council that he had contacted Stella Jones, a Dorchester Town Councillor and had had a meeting with her earlier that day. Cllr Jones had told him that the Sherborne objectors were successful because eighty people had turned out to a public meeting. Cllr Walters said he would try to organise a similar meeting and put out a notice. He continued that WDDC's consultation made no mention of the heritage aspects of the site, and relied on flood assessments from 2008 that were now out of date. Cllr M. Miller agreed that assessments of this age would not take into account works done on the Winterborne near West Stafford.

Cllr C. Norman noted that nitrogen offset would be required as water from the site drains into Poole Harbour, while Cllr U. Norman noted that the sewer system as is stood was not suitable.

Cllr Walters stated that the process was in his opinion inadequate and asked whether Dorchester had seen enough development?

The Chairman said that he felt that the site had been brought forward in an underhand manner. Cllr Slade agreed, and noted that individual objections to the proposal would be just as important as WFPC's.

Cllr C. Norman enquired as to the Duchy of Cornwall's position with regard to the proposal, being one of the major landowners on the site. Cllr Williams replied that the Duchy had not been involved and had not been consulted.

The Chairman turned to the Halcrow and Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment reports, and stated that WFPC's response should remind WDDC of the comments within them relating to the proposed site.

Cllr Walters proposed that the Parish Council object on the grounds that the site is located outside the Dorchester bypass, is subject to flooding, is a heritage site, close to the parkland of Came Park and adjacent to the AONB. This was seconded by Cllr C. Norman and carried unanimously. The Chairman then asked members of the public present if they had anything to say on this matter. There was some discussion, précised below.

- The concept of a drop-in to discuss proposals is one-sided, as opposed to a public meeting.
- While the consultation is being run predominately online, lots of people have no internet access.
- The site will affect Dorchester residents as much as WFPC residents and they must have the

chance to have their say.

- While the drop-ins will take place at four locations, three of them stand to benefit from these plans so this should be borne in mind when looking at feedback.

- 6.2. Application to upgrade Bridleway 1 to a byway open to all traffic – Bincombe. The Chairman explained that an application to upgrade this bridleway was submitted by the Dorset Trail Riders in December 2005. Due the backlog in dealing with these applications, DCC only began to process it in December 2012. He reminded Councillors that the law regarding byways changed in 2005. Prior to this date it was possible to claim current and recent use of a right of way as such that it should be upgraded to a byway. Since 2005 the presumption has been that byway status shall not be granted; this being referred to as the “general extinguishment of right of way for mechanically propelled vehicles”, however there are five criteria of exception to this presumption. He explained that WFPC had made a submission of evidence to the rights of way department at DCC to demonstrate that four of these criteria did not apply, and that the applicant had produced no evidence to support the fifth. He continued that Gonville and Caius College, as landowners, had made a similar submission. The application will be considered by the rights of way committee of DCC in June.
- 6.3. Redesign of Dorchester Road/Weymouth Relief Road/Bincombe Junction. The Chairman explained that this junction had been redesigned to force drivers going to Bincombe to make a left turn, and to force drivers emerging from under the bridge to give way to other traffic. He noted that the new arrangement seemed to be working well but that some cars were using the wide pavement under the bridge to park – generally these seemed to be ramblers or dog walkers; however the potential exists to obstruct the pavement. He noted that DCC had placed two bollards at the west end of the road under the bridge and that WFPC had suggested that a similar arrangement would be required on the east side as well.
- 6.4. DCC – temporary road closure between Monkton and Herringston, daytimes 18th-20th March for BT to replace telegraph poles. The Chairman explained that BT had applied to close part of the road between 9:30am and 3:30pm on the 18th, 19th and 20th March to allow them to replace telegraph poles.
- 6.5. DCC – Verge Management Trials. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 6.6. DCC – Dorset Highways Provisional Capital Programme 2013/14. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted. There were no capital highways works planned for the WFPC area for next year. Icen Lane at Bincombe was meant to be resurfaced this year but had not yet been done.
- 6.7. DCC – Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Core Strategy. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted. The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Core Strategy has now been submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The next stage will be an independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate which will probably take place in May.
- 6.8. DCC – Statement of Community Involvement on County Council Planning Matters. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Full details of planning applications and decisions can be viewed at:

<http://webapps.westdorset-dc.gov.uk>

- 7.1. WDDC 1/D/13/000009 - *Change of use of existing buildings and storage of materials in adjacent fenced compound (Full), WEST FARM, LOWER BINCOMBE, WEYMOUTH DT3 5PS.* New

application, no comments made.

- 7.2. WDDC 1/D/12/001395 – *Proposed single storey extensions, and detached garage and store (Full), GREENACRES, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER DT2 8NP.* This application was approved on 26th November 2012.
- 7.3. WDDC 1/D/12/001409 – *Retain roundabout sponsorship signs, Bincombe Bumps and Jurassic Roundabouts, BINCOMBE.* This application was approved on 30th November 2012.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Boundary Commission Review update. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted. The next Parliamentary constituency boundary review has been postponed until 2018.
- 8.2. Rural Crime Prevention Event. The Chairman explained that an event would be taking place at Kingston Maurward on 26th April, but no further details had been received as yet. For more information contact Elaine Ryan at Dorset Police on 01305 226865.
- 8.3. Update – South West Ambulance Service. The Chairman outlined the contents of document, which were noted.
- 8.4. Change of meeting date. The Chairman asked if Councillors objected to the date for the next meeting being changed to 8th May. There was no objection to this.

9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. No matters of interest/information were raised.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

- 10.1. Accounts 1st November– 31st January – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 10.2. Localism of Council Tax Support. The Clerk explained how government changes to Council Tax Support had changed the council tax base at a very late stage. He explained that WDDC would be bridging the shortfall from the council tax support grant, a total of £191.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- 11.1. Mr. O'Neill from Bincombe explained that he was suffering from flooding at the front of his property and that the diversion of water as part of the Weymouth Relief Road works was not adequate. The Clerk undertook to contact Mike Read on this subject. Mr O'Neill also noted that the Icen Lane Link was regularly being used for parking and potentially other illegal activities. He stated that a dark, isolated piece of road had been created which was causing concern. The Clerk undertook to contact Dorset Police on this subject.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8th May 2013

The meeting closed at 2030 (8:20pm)