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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6th November 2013 at Monkton Village Hall at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chairman - Mr R. Harrison. Councillors; Mrs U. Norman, Mrs Y Doble, Mr C. Foot, Mrs S. McSeveny, Mr A Walters, Mr D. Read, Mr C. Norman, Ms J Webster

Dorset County Council: Mr A. Canning

West Dorset District Council: Mr S. Slade

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison

Apoloiges: Mrs M. Miller, Mr A. Miller, Mr R. Williams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

2.1. There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 21st August 2013 - the Minutes were accepted by the Council and signed as being correct by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1. All matters arising are referred to in the subsequent minutes.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE

5.1. Mr Canning updated the Council on a number of issues:

5.1.1. Bus service cuts – Reductions in public transport funding were affecting residents in the area, with numerous Saturday service withdrawals, and cutting back of other services. He informed the Council that while services 10 and 31 were wholly commercially operated by First and not affected, Wilts and Dorset service 183 which ran from Salisbury to Weymouth would now only run to Dorchester, and that Damory services 101 and 103 (Dorchester to Crossways and Bovington) would be altered as well.

5.1.2. Speed limit policy – Funding for speed limit changes continued to be very limited, but DCC were trying to change this in co-operation with the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. Mr Canning hoped there would be news on this early in 2014, when it is hoped that new government regulations will make it easier to apply speed limits. Mr Read asked how the costs would be reduced. Mr Canning replied that the current regulations required highway authorities to put "architecture on the ground" in the form of painted narrows, street furniture etc., which it was hoped could be avoided in the future.

5.1.3. It was intended to put a new programme of verge cutting in place for 2014 in answer to concerns that this had not been done enough in previous years. Mr Norman and Mr Walters both pointed out that ragwort was still a problem locally.

5.1.4. Digital car parking signage was being installed around Dorchester to direct drivers to available parking spaces. The Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan had met with a lot of opposition at the consultation stage and would be looked at again by officers.

5.1.5. Badger culling – The DCC policy on culling was that it should be evidence based. The Chairman noted that everyone's views on this subject were now known.

5.2. The Chairman then gave the Council an update on District matters, received from Mr Slade:

5.2.1. No date for the local plan inquiry had been set, but it was envisaged to take place during the first part of 2014.

5.2.2. The public litter bin at Bincombe was still under consideration, but the installation had been complicated by the transfer of the waste collection service from WDDC to the Dorset Waste Partnership.

5.2.3. David Clarke, Chief Executive of WDDC/WPBC had announced his retirement.

6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

6.1. West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan. The Chairman outlined the current status of the local plan. Some modifications were made to the proposed local plan which were consulted on during September and October. While these were mainly detail changes WFPC took the opportunity to submit a further consultation response, restating our policy objections. A fresh objection was lodged regarding some text at the bottom of one of the maps which read "Current Area of Local Landscape Importance and Important Open Gap designation will no longer apply within the Defined Development Boundary".

He continued that the Council had also placed on record the objections made by Borough Councillor Rachel Rogers to the Littlemoor proposals, featured in the Dorset Echo at the time. In addition, at the Chairman's instruction the Clerk sent a message to Cllr Rogers setting out WFPC's position following the appearance of the article.

Mr Walters stated that while the Came View site had been removed from this plan there was still a threat that it would be put forward again at a future date. Mr Canning stated his belief that it had been kicked into the long grass, especially with HMP Dorchester and the TA Centre in the town centre becoming available for housing.

6.2. WDDC – Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan. The Chairman reminded the Council that this plan was first announced in 2003 but was dropped after a long period in limbo due to lack of funds. However WDDC were under some pressure to improve the air quality in Dorchester town centre, particularly in High West Street and High East Street where air quality levels fall a long way short of government requirements. This meant that the DTEP had been resurrected, however many of the details had been changed. The main focus of the DTEP was now the removal of traffic from the High Street, and numerous traffic changes were being proposed to achieve this. Dorset County Council had agreed to fund the works.

The Chairman then explained the detail of the proposals and there was some discussion on the various points. Mr Canning informed the Council that one of the main concerns was the routeing of all bus services using Trinity Street into Princes Street. It was felt that as the plan

had been sent back to officers for a rethink, it would be wise to await a new proposal before commenting.

- 6.3. Refurbishment of Fingerpost, Greenhill Barton. The Chairman reminded the Council that it had been approached by Mr Jones, a resident of Sutton Poyntz, who was applying for a grant to refurbish a damaged fingerpost at Greenhill Barton. With WFPC's support, he had applied to the Conservation Community Planning Grant scheme for part-funding but had been turned down. He was now attempting to secure funding from elsewhere and requested WFPC's help in funding the specialist paint required, to the sum of £50. The Chairman explained that this grant would not be given to Mr Jones until he had identified all the funding. Proposed Cllr Walters, seconded Cllr Foot, carried unanimously.
- 6.4. Naming of roundabout, West Stafford bypass. The Chairman reminded the Council that it had been consulted on the naming of this roundabout. WFPC's choice (along with West Stafford PC) was Stafford Gate Roundabout, however Dorchester Town Council and the relevant County Councillors preferred Came View Roundabout, which was the "winning" choice.

Mr Canning left the meeting at 1950 (7:50pm)

- 6.5. Salt bags and dumpy bins. The Chairman explained that DCC would be checking and filling all salt bins before the onset of winter. Should a bin require refilling a request would need to be made to DCC for this to be done.
- 6.6. Dorset Police – Community Speed Watch – The Chairman outlined this community volunteer programme, where local residents can use handheld devices to record vehicle speed, and instances of drivers using mobile phones or not wearing seat belts. While arrests would not be made as part of this programme, the registered keepers of the identified vehicles would receive a warning letter from Dorset Police. Ms Webster undertook to investigate this programme.
- 6.7. DCC – New highways areas. The Chairman outlined a number of organisational changes taking place within Dorset Highways
- 6.8. DCC – Security of Whitcombe Pit depot. Mr Walters reported that while the depot had been filled with stone it was still not routinely being locked. The Clerk undertook to contact DCC again about this.

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/13/001294** – *Erect 8No. Flats (Reserved Matters), POUNDBURY PHASES 3 AND 4, PEVERELL AVENUE EAST, DORCHESTER.* Adjoining Council consultation for discussion. The Chairman explained that this was a reserved matters application, changing a building that formed part of an already approved application from houses to eight flats, the site being next to the Dorset Cereals factory. There were no objections.
- 7.2. **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. This application was approved on 20th September.

- 7.3. WDDC/1/D/13/000986 – *Proposed two-storey extension, 19 NIGHTINGALE DRIVE, WEYMOUTH DT3 5ST.* No objection from WFPC, this application was approved on 24th September.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Boundary Commission – review of WDDC ward boundaries. The Chairman explained that the Boundary Commission had determined that the number of District Councillors should be reduced by five to 43. The favoured model of WDDC would keep Winterborne Farringdon as part of the Winterborne St. Martin ward, while adding Bradford Peverell. It was felt that this was generally acceptable, and the Clerk undertook to respond to the consultation.
- 8.2. Update – Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chairman outlined the contents of document, which were noted.
- 8.3. Update – Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman outlined the contents of document, which were noted.
- 8.4. Update – Public Health Dorset. The Chairman outlined the contents of document, which were noted.

9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. There were no items raised.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

- 10.1. Accounts 1st August – 31st October – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 10.2. Precept for 2014-15 – The Clerk explained that the financial requirement was the same as for the current financial year, and although the budgets for insurance and the DAPTC subscription had been raised, equivalent savings had been found in postage and printing as most official correspondence was now by email or online. Given the current bank balance WFPC was expected to end the financial year with a good surplus, allowing the precepted figure for 2014-15 to be reduced by £70 on the year before, representing a small saving for the council tax payer. He continued that WDDC would be passing on the Council Tax Support Grant to parishes for another year, however the exact amount of WFPC's funding that would come from that grant had yet to be decided.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- 11.1. No members of the public were present.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 19th February 2014

The meeting closed at 2020 (8:20pm)