

**Clerk to WFPC: Andrew Harrison, PO Box 15, WEYMOUTH, DT4 8DS
Tel 01305 815866 Fax 01305 791062
Email andrewharrison@ajharrison.org.uk**

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at Monkton Village Hall at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Ms J. Webster. Councillors; Mr R. Williams, Mrs Y Doble, Mr C. Foot, Mrs S. McSevney, Mr C. Norman, Mr A Walters, Mrs M. Miller.

Dorset County Council: Mr A. Canning. West Dorset District Council: Mr S. Slade.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr D. Read, Mr A. Miller.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

- 2.1. Cllr Foot declared an interest in item 7.3.
- 2.2. Cllr Walters declared an interest in item 6.3.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 20th August 2014 - the Minutes were accepted by the Council and signed as being correct by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1. All matters arising were dealt with in the agenda.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE

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

- 5.1.1. Cllr Canning informed the Council that he was involved in a plan to transfer the cutting of verges to the Ranger Service. It was hoped that this would improve the quality of the service and allow for more cuts next year, where the cuttings were taken away after each cut. This would allow planting and possibly spraying to inhibit growth. Funding had been obtained for this from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Cllr Williams asked what would happen if wild flowers were growing on a verge? Cllr Canning replied that this was why the rangers were involved, and that the long term aim was to reduce the number of cuts through the growth of wild flowers. Cllr Canning said that he would attempt to get someone from the ranger service to attend a future meeting.

- 5.1.2. Cllr Canning informed the Council of some changes to cycle routes that reduced the need for cyclists to dismount.

- 5.1.3. Cllr Canning continued that DCC were working with McDonalds at Monkeys Jump regarding the ongoing parking problems on the road outside. He added that parking controls may take the form of bollards, to be paid for by McDonalds. He concluded that McDonalds were also being reminded of their responsibilities regarding their rubbish.

- 5.2. Cllr Slade updated the Council on a number of issues:

- 5.2.1. Cllr Slade updated the Council on the news that North Dorset District Council would be joining the shared services partnership between Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and West Dorset District Council. It was hoped that further money could be saved, but not at the detriment of services. Cllr Norman asked if these savings were linked to job losses, and if they were was this restricted to senior management? Cllr Slade replied that this was the theory, however

numerous officers were leaving due to the uncertainty of the current situation.

5.2.2. Cllr Slade continued that the new waste collection regime was now in operation. Although problems had been reported in Weymouth there had been few difficulties in the WFPC area.

5.2.3. Cllr Slade informed the Council that he had been involved with meetings with DCC regarding an area of land at Littlemoor for use as a play area. This had been reserved for the Weymouth Relief Road but was no longer required. There was some discussion about the expertise of the Council in dealing with the provision of a play area, and the liabilities that might ensue. Cllr McSevney said that there was local support for a play area from families with young children living nearby.

6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

6.1. West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan. The Clerk outlined the current status of the local plan. The inspector's examination in public would commence on 25th November, lasting for three weeks. While WFPC's written submissions had been lodged, Cllr Norman was also due to speak on his own behalf.

Cllr Canning informed the Council that it was thought that a provider was interested in establishing a service station at the Stadium roundabout. A park and ride was not of so much interest as there was no money to build or operate it.

6.2. Littlemoor play area. It was generally agreed that this had been dealt with in item 5.2.3.

6.3. A352 at Whitcombe. The Chairman explained that the Clerk had been contacted by a Mr Coughlan, resident in Dorchester, who raised concerns about the speed of traffic on the A352 at Whitcombe, especially by the junction with the road to Whitcombe Stables. The Clerk explained to Mr Coughlan that the Council had tried to have the speed limit lowered here on several occasions in the past without success. Mr Coughlan subsequently arranged a site meeting with Oliver Letwin, attended by Cllr Walters.

Cllr Walters said that this had been an ongoing issue and outlined the situation to date. He explained that the system used for setting speed limits in Dorset was settlement driven and as such different from that used by many other local authorities. At the site meeting, Mr Letwin suggested that a letter to him from WFPC would enable him to investigate the issue.

Cllr Walters continued that he was now thinking about the two mile stretch from the West Stafford roundabout to Broadmayne. Along its length were thirteen painted "slow" signs, narrow verges and blind bends. In some places visibility was not more than 50m in either direction, parts of the road flooded in winter and the junction at Came Park was also potentially unsafe. At Whitcombe, Mr Letwin had pointed out that although there was only one entrance from the highway there were eight dwellings and a livery business. He said that the police were in agreement that the current DCC policy was not optimal.

Cllr Walters concluded that this restriction could be achieved fairly cheaply by changing some signs. He proposed a letter to Mr Letwin, setting out the Council's concerns. Seconded by Cllr Norman, carried unanimously.

6.4. DCC – Dorchester Road Improvement Scheme. The Chairman outlined the proposed works and there was some discussion. The proposed works would involve the creation of new build-outs and parking spaces north of Littlemoor Road, some lane realignment within the confines of the existing road and the removal of right turn filter lanes into Victoria Avenue and Shortlands Road. Cllr Foot believed the proposal to be fundamentally flawed. Cllr Norman said that the scheme appeared to be spending money for the sake of it. Cllr Foot proposed that the Council reply to the consultation to say that while the increased amount of on street parking could be supported, the rest of the scheme could not.

Seconded Cllr McSevney, carried unanimously.

- 6.5. Winterborne Came south bridge – road closure. The Chairman explained that the bridge would be closed from the 24th November to 19th December for strengthening works.
- 6.6. Request for litter bin – Icen Lane. The Chairman explained that the Dorset Waste Partnership had received a request for a bin from a member of the public, to be placed near the railway bridge in Icen Lane. There was general support for this, possibly located at the top of Nightingale Drive.
- 6.7. DCC – minerals and waste update. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 6.8. Community sandbag stores. 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. **WD/D/14/002634** – *Relocation of the Weymouth & Portland 'pineapples' from Weymouth park & ride to new positions adjoining the A354 (one to each side) nr Down Farm, close to the boundary between Weymouth & Portland Borough & West Dorset District (Full), LAND NR DOWN FARM ADJOINING A354 WEYMOUTH RELIEF ROAD, RIDGEWAY, BINCOMBE*. Application for discussion. An application to resite the pineapples to the top of the Ridgeway, at an approximation of their original location on the road's old alignment. No objection from WFPC.
- 7.2. **WD/D/14/002122** - *Refurbishment of restaurant and car park, including installation of new full height windows and automated entrance doors, with the construction of a new corral, dry store and patio area (Full), MCDONALDS RESTAURANTS LTD, BRIDPORT ROAD, MARTINSTOWN, DORCHESTER, DT2 9DL*. No objection from WFPC.
- 7.3. **WD/D/14/001962** – *Conversion and Extension of Barn and Former Dwelling into a Dwelling and Office for a Farm Manager and the Erection of a Farm Building (Full), BAYARD BARN, BAYARD FARM, BINCOMBE*. No objection from WFPC.
- 7.4. **WD/D/14/001963** – *Build two homes with garages next to the existing house (Outline), COOMBE FARM, CHAPEL LANE, UPWEY, BINCOMBE, WEYMOUTH, DT3 5NB*. WFPC objected on the basis of surface water runoff and the current road condition of Chapel Lane. Still under consideration.
- 7.5. **WD/D/14/002410** – *Modify Section 106 agreement dated 25th August 1999 (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligation), WHITCOMBE BARN FARM, WHITCOMBE, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NL*. Cllr Walters outlined the planning history of the site. The original house on the site had been sold by a previous owner, leaving the farm without accommodation. A large farmhouse was subsequently built, and a section 106 agreement and a planning obligation to ensure that this house could not be sold separately from the land was put in place. Following changes in due process it was no longer seen as advantageous to use both section 106 agreements and planning obligations in these cases. The application was to remove this clause from the section 106 agreement, on the basis that the planning obligation remained. However the section 106 agreement had a greater legal standing than the planning obligation.

Cllr Walters proposed that the Council object to this application, on the basis that Councillors needed to be reassured that something stronger than a planning obligation was in place. Seconded Cllr Miller, carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Boundary Commission – review of DCC ward boundaries. The Chairman explained that this was a similar exercise to that which had just finished in west Dorset. The Electoral Commission's initial proposal was to increase the number of county councillors by one, from 45 to 46. They were inviting views on where new division patterns should be drawn. It was generally decided to await the next proposal which would suggest alterations.
- 8.2. Greenhill Barton fingerpost update. The Clerk informed the Council that Mr Jones had provided a telephone update. There had been some delays, but once Mr Jones had a date for the completion he would like to invite a member of the Council to its unveiling.
- 8.3. Public Health Dorset - update. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 8.4. Dorset CCG – review of health services in Dorset. The Chairman outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.

9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. Cllr Miller informed the Council that despite the local rollout of superfast broadband she was unable to receive BT Infinity at Winterborne Came, and that BT had no plans to extend the service there. Nearby businesses had ended up purchasing satellite broadband to get round the problem. It was decided to approach the superfast office at DCC to make the case that there was demand in this area.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

- 10.1. Accounts 1st August – 31st October – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 10.2. Precept for financial year 2015-16. The Clerk explained that the proposed precept was similar to last years, but was able to deliver a saving of £60. Cllr Norman asked whether the Clerk's salary reflected the going rate, this being important as the Council was trying to find a new Clerk. The Clerk replied that the rates were set according to the national local government rate as set by the Local Government Association and had last been matched in 2011. Cllr Norman proposed that the precept be approved with the proviso that the Clerk's salary be matched against the current rate if later agreed by Councillors. Seconded Cllr McSevney, carried unanimously.
- 10.3. Bank account update and payments – The Clerk explained that the mandate for the signatory changes had been submitted and the bank had confirmed that the Council could issue cheques again. Another mandate alteration to change the address statements are sent to needed to be completed although this would be an online process.
 - 10.3.1. Clerk Wages for February, May, November - £1495.50 (chq 248)
 - 10.3.2. Rent/electricity for February, May November - £45.00 (chq 249)
 - 10.3.3. Clerk re-imbusement for insurance premium (approved May) - £312.77 (chq 250)
 - 10.3.4. DAPTC subscription (approved August) - £217.59 (chq 251)
 - 10.3.5. Internal audit (approved August) - £20.00 (chq 252)
 - 10.3.6. Fingerpost refurbishment (approved November 2013, total funding achieved August) - £50.00 (chq 253)

11. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** No members of the public were present.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18th February 2015**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. Cllrs Walters, Canning and Slade left at 8.20pm