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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2015 at Monkton Village Hall at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Ms J. Webster. Councillors; Mr R. Williams, Mrs Y Doble, Mr G. Brant, Mr R. Holehouse, Mr C. Norman

Dorset County Council: -. West Dorset District Council:-.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr D. Read, Mrs S. McSevney, Mr A. Walters, Mr A. Canning, Mr R. Freeman.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS. There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation made with regard to agenda items.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 20th May 2015. 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. Neither Mr Canning nor Mr Freeman were able to attend the meeting.

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 local plan had been formally adopted by the two local authorities, on 15th October in Weymouth & Portland and 22nd October in West Dorset.

Nothing further had been heard from RPS Group regarding the proposed development to the north of Littlemoor Road.

Cllr Brant informed the Council that he had discussed the plan and the development with Cllr Freeman who was going to find out if any further information or documentation was available. There was some discussion around the naming of the proposed development, being mostly located in Bincombe parish. The Clerk explained that references to the site as 'Littlemoor' came from the nomenclature of the local plan but there was no requirement to refer to it in this manner.

- 6.2. Littlemoor play area. The Chair informed the Council that the questionnaire letter as approved at the last meeting had been sent using the Docmail service to 202 households. Cllr Holehouse set out the figures (see page 4).

He explained that two shortcomings of allowing people a choice between a postal and an online vote was that (i) while a postal vote captures the view of one household an online vote could be per individual, and (ii) while in the postal vote one could vote for both 'yes' options, an online vote only allowed a single choice. After making allowances for both these factors he calculated a level of interest in Bincombe of about 9%.

There was some discussion regarding insurance, costs and responsibilities. Cllr Norman noted that any financial contribution, even a higher insurance premium, would have to be raised through the precept and therefore paid for by the whole of the WFPC area. Cllr Brant noted that something would have to be done as currently children were having to play in the road along Nightingale Drive. Cllr Williams

said that while WFPC should of course be supportive, the play area should be led by the local community.

After further discussion, the Clerk undertook to (i) make enquiries with DAPTC about whether the residents could set up a residents' association to run a play area, with WFPC brokering the land 'deal' without creating a burden on itself; (ii) make enquiries with Aon (the Council's insurer) regarding policy conditions for play areas and (iii) fully investigate the ownership of the land parcels proposed for use as a play area.

- 6.3. A352 at Whitcombe. The Clerk informed the Council that he had emailed Cllr Canning to enquire as to any progress. There was no further update at this stage.
- 6.4. DCC – mineral and waste sites plan consultation – the Chair reminded Councillors that the proposed 'park and ride' site had been included in the new draft waste plan for Dorset as a possible location (along with others around Dorchester) for waste management facilities. She explained that WFPC objected to this, as did the Highways Agency, Historic England and Dorchester Civic Society amongst others. The vast majority of comments submitted regarding locations in Dorchester favoured the other sites. She continued that a technical report prepared by DCC in July stated that "the Highways Agency has significant concerns about the potential impact of this site and all other options should be explored first."

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

- 7.1. WD/D/15/002473 – *Erection of modular classroom, Dorchester Learning Centre, MONKTON PARK, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER DT2 9PS*. New application. There was some discussion regarding this application. No objection, providing the classroom building would not be visible.
- 7.2. WD/D/15/001426 - *Re-Building and Extension of Former Outbuilding to Provide a Garden Store and Studio/Workroom for The Coach House and a Garage for Home Farm Cottage (Full), HOME FARM COTTAGE/THE COACH HOUSE, CAME PARK ROAD JUNCTION WBRNE HRRNGSTNE, WINTERBORNE HERRINGSTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 9PU*. This application had been approved.
- 7.3. WD/D/15/000423 – *Outline application to erect 2 No. detached dwellings with garages (Outline), COOMBE FARM, CHAPEL LANE, UPWEY, WEYMOUTH DT3 5NB*. This application was refused, the applicant had appealed.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Boundary Commission – review of DCC ward boundaries. The Chair explained that the Boundary Commission had completed their review. There have been no further changes made to the boundaries of the Linden Lea division in which the WFPC area sits. The new ward arrangements now need to be approved by Parliament, to come into force for the 2017 local elections.
- 8.2. Workplace pensions – The Clerk explained that all employers will be required by the Government to either offer or enrol staff in a workplace pension. NALC (the National Association of Local Councils) have issued guidance on this based on the requirements of the Pensions Regulator. The arrangements for employers vary depending on earnings. The Clerk continued that he was paid £2013 per annum, placing the position in the most basic band "£5824 or below". The guidance for this band states that an employee "has a right to join a pension scheme (if an employee asks, an employer must provide a pension scheme for that employee, but the employer is not obliged to make employer contributions into the scheme). The Clerk stated that he had no wish to join a pension scheme for his parish council earnings so WFPC was not required to provide him with one. He concluded that there was of course

the possibility that a future clerk may wish to avail themselves of such a facility but that it did not need to be progressed any further at this time.

- 8.3. DCC and DAPTC – Working Together report. This had been sent out prior to the meeting. The Chair explained that this report was the outcome of a pilot project between the County Council, the DAPTC and four Dorset Town Clerks. It contained recommendations on changing the way Dorset County Council and Parish & Town Councils work together. All Parish Councils were being asked to consider the report by DAPTC. The Chair continued that while it was obviously aimed at larger parish and town councils, a desire to work more closely with towns and parishes could only be a good thing. There was some discussion of the paper, and it was decided to respond welcoming the principle of working closer together, but making the point that small councils are less able to take over ‘devolved’ services or provide them on behalf of the county council.
- 8.4. Challenge Weymouth 2015. Cllr Holehouse informed the Council that the event organisers did not organise sufficient signs or communications with residents as they had promised to do so, liaising only with Weymouth & Portland Borough Council to the exclusion of the surrounding areas. This meant that members of the public were using roads, causing a hazard to themselves and the racing cyclists who mistakenly believed the roads to be clear. He concluded that the wording of the closure notices was ambiguous; either the roads are formally closed or not, and that if the roads were not closed the cyclists should not be told that they are.

Cllr Norman stated that he had not been informed of a closure in advance and that the event organisers were not available on the telephone over the weekend. He was put in the position of driving through the road closures in order to feed cattle. He added that there was a potential impact of poorly thought through closures on agricultural business which might be harvesting or silageing at the time, and operated high vehicles that could not use diversions.

- 8.5. Dorset Waste Partnership – Guide for councillors. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 8.6. Filling of salt bins. The Chair explained that an email had been received from DCC stating that all parish salt bins would be filled by DCC. Any further fills would need to be requested by parishes.

9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. No additional matters were raised.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

- 10.1. Accounts 1st August to 31st October – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 10.2. Precept 2016-17 – The Clerk explained that the requirement was unchanged from the previous year, however a slightly smaller surplus to last year along with the expense of the Bincombe bulk mailing (paid from the annual reserve) would mean a rise in the precept of £140 – less than £1 extra per household. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Holehouse.

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

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17th February 2016

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Revised analysis of responses by household

- 1) Each household counted singly (inherent in postal vote but some multiples in online vote).
- 2) Votes for 'formal' and 'informal' together counted separately (only possible with postal vote).

	Households	%	
<i>Volunteers</i>	5	1.5%	<i>Mostly in favour of 'formal'</i>
Formal	10	3.0%	
Both	10	3.0%	
Informal	11	3.3%	
Incomplete	3	0.9%	
No response	161	48.9%	
Against	7	2.1%	
Not asked	<u>127</u>	<u>38.6%</u>	
	329	100.0%	

So bottom line is that of the 61% of the population asked, about 15% (9.3% of the population) showed some level of interest.