

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 17th February 2016 at Monkton Village Hall at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Ms Jenny Webster. Councillors: Mr Raymond Williams, Mr Charles Norman, Mrs Yvonne Doble, Mr Alec Walters, Mr Roger Holehouse, Mr Graham Brant, Mrs Suzanne McSevney. Dorset County Council: -. West Dorset District Council:- Mr Robert Freeman

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologetics:** Mr Derek Read, Mr Andy Canning

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 18th November 2015. The Clerk noted some amendments to the sets of minutes that had been sent to Councillors. The minutes were accepted by the Council and signed as being correct by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1. Cllr Holehouse informed the Council that the Challenge Weymouth event would in future be known as Ironman Weymouth with a new team in charge. Dorset County Council were of the opinion that the event would be more professional, but would organise consultation with Parishes. Cllr Holehouse said he believed DCC Highways now appreciated the nature of the problem, and suggested a meeting with a representative of Broadmayne Parish Council when the time came for the matter to be discussed.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE

- 5.1. Mr Freeman updated the Council on the work of the District Council.

6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

- 6.1. Bincombe play area. The Clerk informed the Council that he was obtaining guidance from Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils on whether the residents could form an association to run a play area without the involvement of WFPC, and from the Council's insurers as to liability and any additional clauses they might impose.

There was some discussion around the liability issues. Cllr McSevney reminded the Council that there was an ongoing need for a play area. Cllr Holehouse suggested the formation of a residents association to allow the interested parties to take a direct role in the provision of a play area. There was further discussion around the formation of a residents association. Cllr Norman asked the Council if it was agreed that if the residents were to form an association to manage a play area, and that the Council would not be liable, it would not object?

Cllr Brant said he would speak to Mr Clark to see if an association could be formed, but wondered how viable the play area would be with the land in dispute. Mr Freeman said he would try to ascertain who owns the disputed land. The Clerk undertook to contact Mike Read at DCC to update him on the present situation.

Cllr Holehouse proposed that as the Council had not objected to Cllr Norman's question it be tabled as a motion. This was seconded by Cllr Brant and carried unanimously.

- 6.2. Bincombe RPS Development. The Clerk informed the Council that there had been no further developments at the time of the meeting. There was some discussion on the matter. Cllr Norman pointed out that no planting had taken place to facilitate the necessary screening. Cllr Freeman said

that he hoped WDDC would ensure this was taken into account.

- 6.3. A352 at Whitcombe. The Chair explained that DCC were proposing a reduction in the speed limit between the West Stafford roundabout and the start of the 30mph limit in Broadmayne. They had been asked by Broadmayne PC about extending the 30mph limit instead but did not believe this would have an affect on traffic speeds, stating ‘generally speaking drivers travel at a speed dictated by the nature and layout of the road.’

Cllr Walters outlined the current situation, reminding the Council that DCC’s policy on speed limits was based on the number of settlements abutting the roadside, this being to the disadvantage of Whitcombe where all the houses share the same exit onto the road.

Cllr Holehouse said he hoped there would be consultation on the location of traffic monitors. Cllr Walters said he would like a representative from DCC to attend a meeting during the trial to look at the statistics. Cllr Norman said it would also be useful to see some intermediate statistics.

It was decided that the trial should be cautiously welcomed. Cllr Holehouse stated that he would be happy to meet with officers outside of Council meetings if required.

- 6.4. A354 – fatal accident – the Chair outlined this site investigation report that had been published following a fatal road traffic collision on the Weymouth Relief Road, south of Bincombe junction on 5th December 2016. Dorset County Council’s Audit and Scrutiny Committee requested that investigations of fatal collisions be shared with Parish Councils.
- 6.5. DCC – highways maintenance plan. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 6.6. DCC – waste sites plan consultation. The Chair explained that DCC were reviewing the comments made at the last consultation and would then produce a pre-submission draft version “taking into account the issues raised”.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

*Full details of planning applications and decisions can be viewed at:
<http://webapps.westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk>*

- 7.1. WD/D/15/002815 - Create new upstairs bathroom. Removal of stud walls & creation of new stud walls. Insert vent into west elevation (Listed Building Consent), 2 WHITCOMBE FARM COTTAGES, WHITCOMBE, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NY. No objection from Whitcombe, under consideration.
- 7.2. WD/D/15/002473 – Erection of modular classroom, Dorchester Learning Centre, MONKTON PARK, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER DT2 9PS. Approved on 21st December 2015.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. WDDC – Referendum on change of governance. The Chair outlined the nature of the poll, to ask electors whether they would like the District Council to be run by a cabinet as at present, or by committee. Cllr Freeman explained the background, and said that while he suspected a committee structure would be more open, the cabinet structure could enable decision making with less prevarication. He suspected that future years might well see larger divisions with fewer councillors.
- 8.2. HM Courts Service estate consultation outcome – The Chair explained that HM Courts and Tribunal Service had concluded their estate review, and confirmed both Dorchester Crown Court and Bournemouth Magistrates Court were to close.

8.3. Parish Councils – Working Together. The Chair explained that further to the paper issued by DAPTC last year, the Council had been contacted by Stinsford Parish Council who were contacting the other Parishes around Dorchester to try and gauge interest for some sort of collective lobbying arrangement on issues of common ground where the district and county councils are concerned. Charminster Parish Council has replied, stating “Although Charminster Parish Council can see a benefit to working with other local Parish Councils, they feel it would be more appropriate to be an informal discussion group to address common topics rather than a more formal federated lobbying body.”

Cllr Walters agreed that while a formal body would be more desirable, it would be worth trying to combine to achieve a greater voice.

8.4. Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments – future audit arrangements – the Clerk explained that with effect from financial year 2017-18 the limited assurance audit, commissioned by the Audit Commission and carried out by BDO LLP would cease. He had received a letter setting out the future audit regimes available to Councils based on income and expenditure. Councils could also opt out of the new audit regime and engage an auditor themselves if they wished.

He continued that in WFPC fell into the category of “Authorities with neither income nor expenditure exceeding GBP 25000”. This would mean that WFPC would not require a limited assurance audit from financial year 2017-18 onwards as long as certain conditions were met. The Council would, however, have to publish online an Annual Return in accordance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, although we had started to do this for financial year 2014-15 in any case.

He concluded that WFPC could however choose to opt out of this regime and appoint an audit panel and choose its own auditor. This would of course require a commercial arrangement with an auditor, and was presumably aimed at Councils in the upper end of this bracket. It was unanimously decided to remain in the audit regime.

8.5. Dorset CCG – Health Involvement Network. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.

8.6. Portland Port – nuclear submarine emergency exercise. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.

9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

9.1. No additional matters were raised.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

10.1. Accounts 1st November 2015 to 31st January 2016 – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

10.2. Precept 2016-17 – The Clerk informed the Council that the precept request had been submitted to WDDC, and would be paid in two payments at the end of April and September.

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

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18th May 2016

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.