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*Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Monkton Village Hall at 7.00pm*

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**1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:**

**Present:** Chair – Ms Jenny Webster. Vice Chair: Mr Derek Read. Councillors: Mr Raymond Williams, Mr Charles Norman, Mr Alec Walters, Mr Roger Holehouse, Mrs Suzanne McSevney.  
Dorset County Council: - Mr Andy Canning. West Dorset District Council:- Mr Robert Freeman  
**Clerk to the Parish Council:** Andrew Harrison. **Apoloiges:** Mrs Yvonne Doble, Mr Graham Brant.

**2. ELECTIONS**

- 2.1. Election of Chair. Cllr Webster indicated she was willing to stand for another year as Chair. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr McSevney, carried unanimously.
- 2.2. Election of Vice Chair. Cllr Read indicated he was willing to stand for another year as Vice-Chair. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Norman, carried unanimously.

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

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The minutes were accepted by the Council and signed as being correct by the Chair.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

- 5.1. It was generally agreed that there were no matters arising from the minutes that would not be dealt with under agenda items.

**6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE**

- 6.1. Mr Canning updated the Council on the work of the County Council, which was very much dominated by government cutbacks. While it had been thought that support grants would last until 2020, this had recently been brought forward to 2018 meaning that tough choices had to be made, and the prospect of a unitary authority was looking more appealing. Six or seven ideas were in discussion, with the possibility of Dorset being covered by two unitary authorities, one for Poole/Bournemouth and one for the rest of the county. This would go a long way to reducing management costs and duplication of services.

Mr Canning continued that the tri-council partnership (West Dorset, North Dorset and Weymouth & Portland) was in favour of this, and that given the high level of enthusiasm for change a unitary authority could potentially be implemented in as soon as 2-3 years. This might well change election dates in the future. As part of the new structure of local government there would be more call on towns and larger parishes to take on services, leading to the relationship between parishes and the primary authority being rather different that it had been in the past. It was thought that plans would be made public in September, followed by twelve weeks of consultation. This could well mean a decision by the end of the year.

Mr Canning concluded that the recent confirmation that a lower speed limit would be imposed on the A352 from Dorchester to Broadmayne was good news, and that this had been assisted by a change of officer who was willing to try and do a lot more despite severely restricted budgets.

## QUESTIONS FOR MR CANNING

Questioner	Question	Mr Canning response
Cllr Norman	Will Winterborne Farringdon have only one representative in a unitary authority?	Not necessarily. DCC currently comprised 40 councillors but a new unitary authority would probably require close to 100 members.
Cllr Holehouse	Would a community governance review be undertaken if WFPC were required to take on services?	The taking on of services is mainly aimed at towns (which will be all the towns outside of the conurbation, including Weymouth) and larger villages, as opposed to small parishes. There is no suggestion that parish boundaries would change in the future.
Cllr Norman	Is it being suggested that small parishes like WFPC would even be in a position to do this?	
Cllr Norman	What is the situation regarding school funding and academy status?	The plan from central government was for all schools to become academies, however primaries would probably remain separate. The main cost pressures were adult and child social care and the impact of the living wage on the carers' allowance. While the Queen's Speech suggested increased levels of service for children there was no money promised to pay for it.
Cllr Norman	Could a speed limit be considered for the A354 between the stadium roundabout and Winterborne Monkton? Elderly people continue to have difficulty in crossing the road.	The question will be asked.
Cllr Norman	Is it intended to retain both County Hall and South Walks House?	Many estate efficiencies had already been achieved, it is likely that both would be kept.

- 6.2. Mr Freeman informed the Council that following the referendum concerning the running of West Dorset District Council, the Cabinet will be removed and replaced with a Strategy Committee to take its place. Mr Freeman agreed that the consideration of a unitary authority was also a high priority within WDDC, and also agreed that parishes would have a lot more input in the future.

The Council thanked Mr Canning and Mr Freeman for their attendance.

## 7. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

- 7.1. Bincombe play area. The Chair read out a written update from Cllr Brant who had sent apologies. Mr Clark had assembled a small committee and was intending to look for small business support. Mr Freeman informed the Council that permission had been granted by Dorset County Council for use, notwithstanding any other permissions that had to be gained. He added that possibilities existed for Section 106 funding, and that Tesco operated a community grant scheme. Cllr Norman asked whether WFPC were responsible for such a play area; Mr Freeman replied that it would be up to the committee and not WFPC.
- 7.2. A352 at Whitcombe. The Chair explained that the temporary 50mph speed limit had been in place since 1<sup>st</sup> April. The Clerk also informed the Council of a conversation he had had with Mr Potter of DCC, and plotted the traffic survey points on a map.

Cllr Walters said that residents had been telephoning him to say how pleased they were with the new speed limit, and that the new willingness of DCC to engage with this matter was much appreciated. However it appeared that 50mph was still too fast, although it was definitely a step forward. Mr Canning added that there was always the potential for further reduction once the data from the trial had been evaluated. Cllr Walters asked Mr Canning if Mr Potter could attend evening meetings to discuss the data with the Council – Mr Canning replied stating that this was possible, and if not Mr Potter could send a deputy.

Mr Freeman noted that future development at Crossways could well increase HGV traffic along the A352. Cllr Read asked if solar-powered flashing SLOW signs might be a possibility.

- 7.3. DCC – waste sites consultation – the Chair explained that the ‘park and ride’ site had been removed from the consultation plan. Mr Canning added that it had been thought cost effective to site the park and ride, trunk road service area and waste facility together, however as the first two were not going to happen this would not. There was some discussion concerning the park and ride facility and the existing Dorchester household recycling centre (HRC) in St Georges Road. Cllr Norman asked if the St Georges Road HRC would close. Mr Canning replied that in the long term it would but there was currently no money to enact any plans, and that this consultation was to identify a potential new site.
- 7.4. WDDC – Changes to the planning consultation process. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 WDDC would cease to send out paper copies of planning applications to parishes for consultation, all correspondence from that date being electronic. All parishes will adopt .gov.uk email addresses to enable this process, available free of charge from DAPTC. The Clerk informed the Council that he intended to move all the Council’s email correspondence to this address once it was set up.
- 7.5. DCC – temporary road closure, Winterborne Monkton. Herringston Lane would be closed to facilitate a railway bridge inspection by Network Rail on 21<sup>st</sup> June between 0930 and 1430. DCC would supply signs and a diversion route, and carry out a letter drop to nearby houses.
- 7.6. DCC – Highways Capital Plan 2016-17 – the Chair explained that this document set out the capital highways works taking place over the coming financial year.
- 7.7. DCC – Highways performance figures Q4. The Chair explained that this document detailed the highways department’s performance over the last quarter of the 2015-16 financial year, between January and March 2016.

## 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

- 8.1. 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. Approved on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1. WDDC – Referendum on change of governance. The Chair explained that on the last polling day a referendum, which was triggered under the law by a petition, asked voters ‘How would you like West Dorset District Council to be run? The turnout was 32 per cent. A total of 16,534 people voted for the option: ‘By one or more committees made-up of elected councillors. This would be a change from how the council is run now’. The other option, which attracted 8,811 votes was: ‘By a leader who is an elected councillor chosen by a vote of other elected councillors. This is how the council is run now.’ The Chair then outlined a press release explaining the changes that would be made to WDDC’s

committee structure and constitution from May 2017.

- 9.2. Dorset CCG – proposed changes to the organisation of acute hospitals in Dorset – The Chair explained the recently announced proposed changes that would involve the Royal Bournemouth Hospital becoming the major emergency hospital in east Dorset, with Poole becoming a centre for planned care but retaining an urgent care centre. Dorset County Hospital would remain a district general hospital under these plans and retain its full Accident and Emergency Department. There was some discussion on this matter.

- 9.3. Weymouth Ironman 2016. Cllr Holehouse explained that he had spoken with Mr Canning, as well as Kevin Cheleda at DCC about this event, the problems the previous Challenge Weymouth events had caused, and how they could be overcome or avoided in future years. He stated that the intention was not to oppose the event but to get it right, the organisation in previous years having been ambiguous.

Mr Canning replied that DCC Councillors would be briefed on this event soon, but that it was being organised by different people and would be more professionally run. Cllr Norman pointed out that agricultural access had been forgotten about in previous years but was essential. Cllr Holehouse noted that the previous organisers believed that Weymouth & Portland Borough Council was the only local authority they needed to speak to about the event. Cllr Canning said he would take these concerns forward.

- 9.4. Dorchester Dash triathlon. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.

## **10. INTEREST AND INFORMATION**

- 10.1. No additional matters were raised.

## **11. TREASURERS REPORT**

- 11.1. Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> April – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 11.2. Annual accounts 2015-16. The Clerk presented the annual accounts to the Council. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Holehouse, carried unanimously.
- 11.3. Annual return 2015-16. The Clerk presented the annual return to the Council. Proposed Cllr Holehouse, seconded Cllr Walters, carried unanimously.
- 11.4. Payment – Aon Insurance - £309.69. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Holehouse, carried unanimously.

## **12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** No members of the public were present.

## **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

*The meeting closed at 8.35pm.*