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*Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 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, Mrs Yvonne Doble, Mr Graham Brant.

Dorset County Council: Mr Nick Ireland. West Dorset District Council:- Mr Robert Freeman

**Clerk to the Parish Council:** Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** none, meeting fully attended

**Also present:** Mr Hall and Ms Bennet from Martinstown Parish Council

**2. ELECTIONS**

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

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.**

- 3.1. There were no declarations.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The minutes were accepted by the Council and signed as being correct by the Chair.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

- 5.1. Cllr Brant asked Mr Freeman if the governance structure of West Dorset District Council had changed from a cabinet system to a committee system. Mr Freeman answered that it had.

**6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE**

- 6.1. The Chair welcomed Mr Ireland to the meeting as the new county councillor for the Linden Lea ward. Mr Ireland responded that he had been newly elected only a few weeks previously. He briefly described the county council's budget for the coming year, set at £455m, a reduction of £18m from the 16-17 financial year. This included a highways budget of just under £10m and a social care budget of circa £200m. He informed the Council of a caravan on county council land that was set to be removed, and concluded that he would be meeting Mr Potter from the highways department shortly.
- 6.2. Mr Freeman added that there had also been a recent report of someone living in Came Wood which was being investigated. Local government reorganisation had stalled due to the calling of the general election and the periods of purdah before both the general and local elections. Assuming Sajid Javid was returned as secretary of state for communities and local government it should proceed, if however a new minister was put in post it would take longer.

Mr Freeman then raised the matter of parking outside McDonalds at Monkey's Jump. There was general agreement that this continued to be a contentious issue, both in Martinstown and for WFPC, and that despite having had a few more spaces added in a recent refurbishment the car park was simply not big enough and was constrained from acquiring more land by the Duchy of Cornwall.

Cllr Norman asked if Dorset County Council could compulsorily purchase the land in question. Cllr Read added that as this was the only rest area for some miles this would be a sensible resolution to the problems. Mr Hall and Ms Bennett, attending the meeting on behalf of Martinstown Parish Council added that the matter was raised regularly at their meetings. They also added that they would raise the issue of compulsory purchase at a future Martinstown meeting. There was general agreement that neither council was against the presence of McDonalds, but that the haphazard and careless parking was a problem that needed to be dealt with. The Clerk undertook to write to Dorset County Council setting out the concerns of WFPC.

## **7. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS**

7.1. Local plan update. The Chair informed the Council that following the last meeting the Clerk had prepared some draft responses for the three sites at Came View, Monkey's Jump and Upwey. These had been circulated to councillors via email and submitted electronically to West Dorset District Council prior to the end of the consultation period on 3rd April. She added that WDDC had advised that "responses received during this period will now be processed and used to influence the local plan review as it progresses to the next stage." The Clerk added that the dates for the next stage were not yet known, but referral back to the letter received in September 2016 suggested it would be later in the year.

7.2. A352 at Whitcombe. Cllr Holehouse informed the Council that he and Cllr Walters had held a further meeting with Mr Potter at Dorset County Council. While the 50mph limit was making a marginal improvement, speeders were still travelling at well over 60mph. It was however agreed that there was some merit in making the limit permanent. There was now a need to look at the signage but constraints existed around DCC's budget and Department for Transport guidelines. It was agreed that some of the signage could be removed to 'tidy up' the roadside.

Cllr Norman asked if a 40mph limit would be viable. Cllr Walters responded that this had been enquired about, but was turned down. Cllr Norman replied that it was hoped that motorists would take note of a 50mph limit being reduced to 40mph for a length. Cllr Walters said that Mr Potter's past experience was that they actually ended up being ignored.

Cllr Norman added that another problem might be that while some brands of sat nav would flag up a speed limit, a temporary limit was less likely to be displayed on screen. Cllr Walters added that gravel trucks were another problem as they would often pass through on cruise control at exactly 50mph where ideally their speed would be lower. Cllr Holehouse observed that they would also be trying to preserve momentum to climb the hill on each side of Whitcombe.

Mr Ireland stated his view that the speed limit should be lower. Cllr Holehouse responded that the speed limit for the entire route really needed to be looked at. Mr Ireland also informed the Council of a potential new route to Crossways across the Silverlake development from the West Stafford bypass. Network Rail would potentially fund £2.5m as it would allow the level crossing between Crossways and West Stafford to be closed.

7.3. DCC – management of highway verges. The Chair informed the Council that the Clerk had received this document from Dorset County Council, providing information on their new verge management regime. The County Council needed to reduce substantially the cost of managing its verges while at the same time maintaining high standards to allow safe passage along the highway, and to look after the wildlife and landscape. This would involve reducing the amount of grass to cut, either by removal of nutrients (two examples given were collection of cut grass post-cut, and planting of yellow rattle) or by planting of wildflower seed. Cllr Norman observed that yellow rattle would not suppress the growth of cow parsley and wondered how this was intended to be managed.

7.4. DCC Highways – Q4 performance. The Chair explained that there was a significant decrease in emergency callouts compared to the same period last year due to the milder weather. There was also a

29 per cent drop in highways-related phone calls to Dorset Direct compared to the same period last year, due in large part to the increasing use of the Dorset For You web site as a service channel.

## 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

- 8.1. **WD/D/17/001122** – Backup power generator, RADIO TRANSMITTER 1898, TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST, BINCOMBE HILL, BINCOMBE. The Clerk explained that this was a prior notification development by EE to provide a generator for the emergency services network – this runs over the existing EE network which would now require extra resilience to be retrofitted. Prior notification application, no objections.
- 8.2. **WD/D/17/001121** - Formation of site access off carriageway (Full), COPPICE SOUTH OF CAME DOWN, BINCOMBE. New application for discussion. Cllr Norman noted that a new pull-in might encourage fly tipping. To be raised as an observation, but no objection.
- 8.3. **WD/D/16/002767** - Alterations and extension of existing dwelling and convert/incorporate adjoining barn into residential curtilage (Full), BAYARD BARN, BAYARD FARM, BINCOMBE. This application was approved on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- 8.4. **WD/D/16/000739** - Outline application for a mixed use development comprising: up to 500 dwellings, including affordable housing; up to 8 ha of employment land (to include a new hotel, residential care home, car show rooms and other employment land); land for a new primary school; a new local centre; public open spaces, new accesses and roads, and associated infrastructure (Outline), LAND TO THE NORTH OF LITTLEMOOR ROAD, WEYMOUTH. This application was still under consideration. Cllr Norman reminded the Council that tree and hedge screening had been mandated in the local plan. The Clerk undertook to enquire as to the applicant's intentions, and controls regarding this issue.
- 8.5. **WD/D/16/001396** - Change of use of land last used for equestrian purposes to campsite (Full), THE WILLOWS, ICEN LANE, BINCOMBE, WEYMOUTH DT3 5PY. This application was still under consideration.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1. Local government reorganisation. The Chair informed the Council that the submission by the six local authorities was being determined by the secretary of state for communities and local government, however the election had brought this process to a temporary standstill. The Future Dorset team anticipated a response from the Government later this year.
- 9.2. Dorset Local Access Forum – rights of way definitive map changes. The Chair explained that the cut off date for the addition of 'missed routes' to the rights of way definitive map had been extended by the Deregulation Act (2015) from 2016 to 2026. Cllr Norman noted that this was potentially bad for landowners, as the cut off date provided in the CRoW Act was originally a big win.
- 9.3. Dorchester Marathon – Sunday 28th May. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 9.4. Ironman 2017 – the Chair explained that this year's event would take place on Sunday 17th September and the cycle event would once again pass through Whitcombe. The race director Alan Rose had offered to meet with parish councils. It was generally agreed to ask him to attend the August meeting.
- 9.5. Dorset Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 - The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.

## 10. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

10.1. No 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 2016-17. The Clerk presented the annual accounts to the Council. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Brant, carried unanimously.
- 11.3. Annual return 2016-17. The Clerk presented the annual return to the Council. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Holehouse, carried unanimously.
- 11.4. Payment – Aon Insurance - £316.76. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Walters, carried unanimously.

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

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

*The meeting closed at 8.10pm.*