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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 16th August 2017 at Monkton Village Hall at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Ms Jenny Webster. Vice Chair – Mr Derek Read. Councillors: Mr Raymond Williams, Mr Charles Norman (for part of the meeting), Mr Alec Walters, Mr Roger Holehouse, 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:** Mrs Suzanne McSevney

Also present: Alan Rose (Ironman) and Kevin Cheleda (Dorset County Council) for part of the meeting

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

2.1. There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 24th May 2017. The minutes were accepted by the Council and signed as being correct by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1. It was generally agreed that all matters arising would be covered in the agenda.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE

5.1. Mr Freeman gave a brief update on local government reorganisation. Flytipping was a headache, although the highways department were good at dealing with the waste it was still a difficult issue. The caravan at Came Down was still in situ.

Cllr Brant informed Mr Freeman that the caravan at Chalky Lane had moved to land alongside the West Stafford bypass. Mr Ireland noted that the landowner seemed happy with the situation. There was some discussion on the handling of travellers by the County Council and general agreement that DCC's traveller liaison function was very good at doing what was a difficult job.

5.2. Mr Ireland set out a brief budget forecast for the County Council, explaining that it was likely to end up with a £9m overspend in 2017-18. He then set out the contents of a letter received from the Duchy of Cornwall following an approach to them for assistance with the lack of car parking space at McDonald's, Monkey's Jump, summarising that they were unwilling to make any land available for an expansion of the car park. He concluded by informing the Council that DCC had provided a grant to First for the fitting of extra bus transponders to ensure that the real time information system provided around Weymouth, Portland and Dorchester continued to work as it should.

6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

6.1. Local plan update. The Chair informed the Council that there was little visible progress following the local plan review consultation in April. There was some discussion of the review process and general agreement that most of the identified sites likely to be taken forward lay between Dorchester and Crossways but that the process was very up in the air at the time of the meeting.

Cllr Walters asked Mr Freeman if he could check and confirm WDDC's policy position on equestrian development as Whitcombe Stables had recently been sold. Mr Freeman undertook to check this. There was some further discussion on the sustainability of a stables of that size in that location.

- 6.2. A352 at Whitcombe. Cllr Walters informed the Council that he and Cllr Holehouse had had two further meetings with Mr Potter but felt that they were not really getting anywhere. They were persuaded that enhanced signage could be part of a solution but a number of recent accidents at Whitcombe appeared to belie this, although the signage was apparently not complete.

Cllr Walters reported that Mr Potter did not support a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph as he believed there would be a consequent overtaking risk. Cllr Walters countered that this could be dealt with by way of a solid white line, which could allow a 40mph limit from the Whitcombe Stables turning, past Whitcombe, up the hill towards Came Park. He continued that he was also exploring the principle of an advisory speed limit as in use at Forston, but believed that Mr Potter was clearly against a change in the speed limit.

Mr Ireland agreed, stating that it appeared to be unofficial DCC policy that speed limits should not be changed. This appeared to differ with neighbouring counties like Somerset who would change limits to suit the circumstances, although there were budgetary constraints in Dorset.

Cllr Read enquired as to whether DCC could be persuaded to agree that the road itself was dangerous. Cllr Holehouse replied that it seemed unlikely that Mr Potter would agree as it was apparent that he had no budget to engineer a solution or to flag up a deficiency that DCC could not afford to fix.

Cllr Walters concluded that he and Cllr Holehouse would continue to plug away at a solution but that support was needed.

- 6.3. DCC Highways – Q1 performance. The Chair explained that more of the A road network would be in need of maintenance in future years, presenting a challenge. This trend would continue without further investment. Pay and display income from on street parking was up this year, helped by an uptake in people using the mobile phone app.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

- 7.1. WD/D/17/001860 - Proposed telecommunications installation upgrade and associated works, TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST, BINCOMBE HILL, BINCOMBE, WEYMOUTH DT3 5PU. The Clerk explained that this was an application to upgrade the existing 4G service on the EE network to improve 'backhaul' from the cell station to the main EE network. It would involve siting of a satellite dish within the compound of the telecommunications mast. No objections.
- 7.2. WD/D/17/001146 - 1. The construction of a first floor extension, comprising a bedroom and bathroom, above the existing single storey kitchen. The work to include: alteration of the current roof-line: raising the present ridge level: increasing the height of an existing chimney. 2. The covering of the current poorly maintained and damaged cement render/paint finish of the entire house with a composite weatherboarding of a type and colour to be agreed. 3. Replacement of the current mixture of poorly matched and failing re-cycled roofing slates with artificial slates of a type to match the next-door property, DOWN FARM COTTAGE, BINCOMBE DOWN, BINCOMBE, WEYMOUTH DT3 5PR. No objections from Bincombe, approved on 27th June.
- 7.3. WD/D/17/001122 – Backup power generator, RADIO TRANSMITTER 1898, TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST, BINCOMBE HILL, BINCOMBE. Approved on 19th June.
- 7.4. WD/D/17/001121 - Formation of site access off carriageway (Full), COPPICE SOUTH OF CAME DOWN, BINCOMBE. Still under consideration.

- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. 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.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Future use of Monkton Park. The Chair informed the Council that DCC had decided in June to declare the site surplus to requirements unless a suitable alternative use could be found. A business case had been brought forward to establish the site as a Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) special school. Currently there were no SEMH places in Dorset and at the end of March, 72 SEMH children were being educated via out of county placements at a significant cost of around £56,000 per placement compared to an average cost of £19,800 within the county. It was expected in the first year of operations (2020) that at least fifteen children would be educated at the SEMH special school, realising a potential saving of £543,000 to the county council in the first financial year.

Over a 25 year period it was calculated that a saving of roughly £8m would be realised. By comparison, disposal of the site would raise roughly £2m. An SEMH school would make use of all the space and buildings currently on site, would provide the Dorchester Learning Centre with a new location without having to move off the site, and would allow the Dorset HealthCare childrens services in Marvin House to remain.

Cllr Norman noted that this sounded very much like the former Penwithen School that had previously operated on the site. Cllr Ireland stated that alternative uses had not been considered at Monkton Park but that this had now changed. He could not guarantee that this proposal would be taken forward but that it did seem likely. Given the business case it certainly did not seem unfeasible. The Council took a generally favourable view on the establishment of a SEMH school on the site.

- 8.2. Ironman 2017. The Chair introduced Mr Alan Rose (Race Director, Ironman) and Mr Kevin Cheleda (Traffic Team Manager, DCC) to the Council.

Mr Rose stated that he was aware of the issues that had arisen last year and was working to resolve these to ensure that they did not happen again. This year there would be a shorter course with only a single bicycle lap, thereby reducing the time roads were closed by approximately five hours. Key areas of the course would be manned by 44 members of DCC staff to provide essential local knowledge, and a new stewarding company and traffic management company had been appointed. He was confident that last year's difficulties could be overcome with this new team in place.

Mr Cheleda added that following an unprecedented level of complaint following last year's event the highways department had been called to account by county councillors to ensure that checks and balances would be put in place for future events. He added that following a second follow-up report he was a lot more confident in the traffic and stewarding organisation than he was at the same time last year.

Cllr Holehouse noted that the recent Dorchester marathon had been well organised with two-way road closures which, although more disruptive, were safer for all concerned. He noted that the Council's plea all along had been better communication from the race team. He asked if it would be possible to hold an on site meeting at Whitcombe to discuss the location of temporary signs, as in previous years the poor location of signage meant that it was possible to access the cycle course from a side road without any warning.

Mr Cheleda responded that the signage schedule was a lot more detailed this year than previously to stop this sort of thing from happening. Mr Rose noted that he had been to see the vets and stables at Whitcombe and was familiar with the road layout. He added that while his job was not about blocking people in their homes he did need to ensure the safety of everyone on the course. There would be a hotline in place for urgent access but that this would be managed on the day on a best efforts basis.

The Chair asked if Mr Rose had spoken to the care sector. Mr Rose replied that they were working with DCC to identify care providers to get in touch with them and understand their needs on the day. There would be over 200 stewarding points and each steward would have a daily information sheet setting out planned access (including those for care visits) through that stewarding point.

Cllr Holehouse asked if the stewarding points were linked by a radio net. Mr Rose replied that 140 of them were, along with traffic managers, race managers, police motorbikes and ten Ironman motorbikes, all co-ordinated with race control which would be located at Weymouth Pavilion. He added that radio coverage was being tested in advance of the event.

Cllr Norman said that he had called the traffic management company to set out his access requirements for the maize harvest and had been happy with the response. Mr Rose added that the Ironman road access team was proactively making contact with local companies as well.

Cllr Holehouse stated that the omens seemed better this year for a successful event. Mr Rose responded that over 2500 tickets had been sold, making it now the biggest Ironman event in Britain.

The Chair thanked Mr Rose and Mr Cheleda for their attendance and the information they had provided. *Mr Rose and Mr Cheleda left the meeting at 7.55pm*

- 8.3. Local government reorganisation. The Chair informed the Council that Dorset's council leaders had reaffirmed their commitment to local government reorganisation and hoped to continue the discussions with Secretary of State Sajid Javid that had been started earlier in the year.

Cllr Holehouse asked if East Dorset, Purbeck and Christchurch were now on board and favourable to LGR. Mr Freeman replied that they were more on board than they had been. Christchurch could well end up becoming part of the Poole/Bournemouth authority.

- 8.4. Arrangements for future meetings. The Chair asked Cllr Brant to set out his proposal: *"I would like to propose that we change the venue for our meetings to the Upwey & Broadwey Memorial Hall. It is clean, spacious, accessible and has parking space. It is also not pitch dark in the winter. The charges are £3 per hour and Wednesdays are available. Heating is included with the hire charge."*

There was some discussion about the practicalities of parking, the stacking of chairs and clay dust. Cllr Holehouse noted that the Memorial Hall was close to but outside of WFPC's area, but conceded that there were few alternatives. There was discussion about retaining the two summer meetings at Monkton but making alternative arrangements in the winter.

It was generally agreed that the November meeting would be held at the Upwey and Broadwey Memorial Hall and discussed again there, and that a map would be produced for those who were not familiar with its location. The Clerk also undertook to enquire as to the availability of room hire at Came Down Golf Club.

- 8.5. School and public transport update. The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted. There was some discussion of the new number 5 bus service, commercially operated by First, between Weymouth and Dorchester via Crossways, West Knighton and Broadmayne. Mr Freeman noted that the new service had been well received. Cllr Holehouse added that it was certainly useful, but at Whitcombe it was difficult to safely hail the bus as it appeared around the blind bend.

- 8.6. Dorset CCG – response report to clinical services review – The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 8.7. Dorset Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 - The Chair outlined the contents of this document, which were noted.

9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. No matters were raised.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

- 10.1. Assessment of financial risks – the Clerk explained that the Council's financial procedures had not changed since the last time the risk assessment was reviewed, the ultimate safeguard still being that the Clerk could not make any payment without the express permission of the Council and signature of two of the account signatories. It was generally agreed that the assessment remained commensurate with the risk.
- 10.2. Accounts 1st May – 31st July – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 10.3. Annual return 2016-17. The Clerk informed the Council that the external auditors had signed off the Council's accounts for another year.
- 10.4. Letter from Aon Insurance. The Clerk informed the Council that Aon had decided to leave the local councils market and were therefore unable to offer renewal terms at our next renewal date. They had made arrangements for the Council to receive a renewal invitation from another broker called BHIB. The Clerk added that as the time approached he would also source a quote from Zurich who were the only other broker to operate in this market.
- 10.5. Payment – Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils - £233.86. Proposed Cllr Holehouse, seconded Cllr Brant, carried unanimously.
- 10.6. Payment – Mrs Butcher - £20.00. Proposed Cllr Walters, seconded Cllr Read, carried unanimously.
11. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** No members of the public were present.
12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 15th November 2017**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

IMPORTANT – LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING:
THE MENZIES ROOM, UPWEY AND BROADWEY MEMORIAL HALL, VICTORIA AVENUE,
WEYMOUTH DT3 5NG

Please note: the Menzies Room has its own separate access at the opposite end of the building from the main entrance