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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 21st November 2018 at Upwey and Broadway Memorial Hall at 7.00pm

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Ms Jenny Webster. Vice Chair – Mr Charles Norman. Councillors: Mr Raymond Williams, Mrs Yvonne Doble, Mr Graham Brant, Mr Alec Walters, Mr Roger Holehouse, Ms Suzanne McSevney

Dorset County Council: Mr Nick Ireland. West Dorset District Council:- n/a

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr Derek Read, Mr Robert Freeman

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

2.1. There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 29th August 2018. 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 any matters arising were dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT UPDATE

5.1. Local government reorganisation (LGR) – Mr Ireland informed the meeting that the Dorset County Council staffing committee had met at the beginning of the month and had agreed to allow Debbie Ward, chief executive of the council to leave her role early prior to being made redundant on 1st April 2019. This would allow her to continue her career without having to wait until April and potentially having to wind down her role while still being on full pay. A saving would be generated as she would not now be paid from November-March. Her pension was one-and-a-half times the statutory rate, as written into her contract. Mike Harries would take up the role of chief executive until April when the new local authority would come into being with Matt Prosser as its substantive chief executive.

5.2. Recruitment was going on for five service directors: public health (to be shared with the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole local authority), finance, environment, adult services and children's services. The shadow local authority would meet on 13th December to ratify these positions. There was some discussion regarding the recruitment process.

5.3. Mr Ireland informed the council that DCC were forecast to be £2.7m overspent by the end of the financial year. Four senior staff had departed the council in a reorganisation. All the borough and district councils were overspent apart from West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council which were in surplus due to parking income. It was likely that the new local authority would need to implement redundancies, and that there would be little money available for transformation after LGR. Cllr Norman asked Mr Ireland whether the new authority would be in a position to make any savings. Mr Ireland replied that there would be some corporate savings due to a reduced number of senior posts.

5.4. It was now confirmed that council tax harmonisation would take place on day one. It was likely that council tax in West Dorset would rise by 4.49 per cent. Harmonisation in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole would be achieved over seven years.

5.5. It was now confirmed that the new Dorset local authority would form a single strategic planning

authority. At a local level there would be three planning boards – west, mid and east.

- 5.6. Cllr Walters asked if the new local authority would operate under a committee system or a cabinet system. Mr Ireland replied that this had not yet been decided but felt that a cabinet system was the most likely choice.
- 5.7. Election re-charging – Mr Ireland had challenged the decision of the shadow local authority but did not believe there was a real chance of changing the decision.
- 5.8. There was some discussion regarding: the effect of LGR on Weymouth & Portland, the completion of the ward boundary review, and the potential effect of national park status on the area should this occur.

6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

- 6.1. A352 at Whitcombe. Mr Ireland noted that the meeting with Mr Turner and Mr Potter had been fairly underwhelming. Cllr Walters reported that the meeting had been something of a waste of time. Mr Ireland had suggested that DCC be asked what the minimum speed should be – this was done but a straight answer was not forthcoming. The outcome of the meeting was that DCC would ask Dorset Police to make an assessment but it was apparently not possible for the parish council to speak with the police directly.

Cllr Walters stated that the main argument given by Mr Turner and Mr Potter against a further reduction in the speed limit was that it would be dangerous as drivers may overtake or tailgate. Cllr Walters felt that the reverse was more probably true, as a higher speed limit would create the temptation to go faster. He continued that the motivation of Mr Turner and Mr Potter was unclear. It did not appear to be financial as they were willing to spend money on warning signs and other safety features, and also did not appear to be one of road safety, but there seemed to be an unwillingness to be seen to upset motorists.

Cllr Walters stated that he was minded to write to Oliver Letwin along these lines, and would also consider contacting the police. Mr Ireland suggested contacted the police and crime commissioner in the first instance.

Cllr Walters concluded by stating that Mr Potter has been asked by the coroner to provide collision information, but would not supply this information to the parish council. It was apparent that two collisions had not been recorded and so the number of recent accidents at that site as recorded by the court would have been two, and not four as it should have been. The Clerk undertook to write to the coroner to note this, and to ask if the coroner would share with us the letter from Mr Potter. The letter would also note that DCC was not satisfactorily engaging with the parish council in relation to the council's concerns.

- 6.2. Local plan review and the impact of LGR on local plans. The Chair informed the council that the consultation period on the local plan review had now closed and that the responses were being considered.

At a recent meeting of the Dorset Council shadow executive, the executive body agreed to carry all adopted local plan arrangements forward into the new authority, however a new local plan covering the whole area of the new authority must be in place by March 2024. The new local authority would need to decide whether to continue the current local plan reviews (Purbeck, East Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland are all at similar stages) or whether to discard these and start afresh.

- 6.3. Consultation of neighbouring parishes in planning applications. The Chair informed the council that a Martinstown planning application adjacent to the border with Monkton had been submitted and approved without the parish council being consulted as would normally happen. It was likely the council would have objected to the application. The clerk wrote to Mr Freeman asking if he could

investigate why this had happened. Mr Freeman had received a response from the planning officer stating that this council should have been consulted but was not, and that no objection had been received from Martinstown. No apology was forthcoming.

Cllr Norman stated that he had spoken to the Martinstown clerk (Stephen Slade, ex district councillor) who said there had been an assumption that there was no objection from Monkton. It was generally agreed that the consultation of neighbouring parishes by the planning authority when the site of a planning application was close to a parish boundary was important.

- 6.4. Proposed diversion of footpath 2 (Dorchester) and footpath 6 (Monkton) – The Chair set out the route and read from the covering letter: “This diversion is being made in the interest of both the public and the landowner as the diversion would improve public safety and land management. The current route runs across the A35 and through a large field. The proposed new route crosses the A35 via an underpass improving public safety and runs along existing tracks and a double fenced path improving land management.”

Mr Ireland noted that although the underpass was not currently a public right of way it soon would be. There was no objection.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- 7.1. **WD/D/18/002257** - Erect single storey extension (Full), DEWFLOCK FARM, HERRINGSTON LANE, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. New application for consideration, no objection.
- 7.2. **WD/D/18/001728** - Change of use of agricultural building to residential dwelling and erect slate covered roof to adjacent store for use as a garage (Full), ICEN FARM, ICEN LANE, BINCOMBE, WEYMOUTH, DT3 5PY. Objection submitted on 30th September, this application was still under consideration.
- 7.3. **WD/D/18/001942** - Construction of slurry lagoon (Full), WHITCOMBE BARN FARM, WHITCOMBE DOWN ROAD, WHITCOMBE, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NL. A special meeting to discuss this application as a major planning application was held on 17th October and a comment subsequently submitted. This application was still under consideration.
- 7.4. **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.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Local election recharging. The clerk explained that Cllr Holehouse had raised this as any other business at the council’s special meeting (see item 7.3 above) last month. Charges for contested elections (generally very unlikely for WFPC) would be passed to parishes from April 2019. It was already known that this would happen, and West Dorset’s plan to recharge in the following financial year after an election had meant that parishes would only need to precept for the charges for a contested election once it had taken place, and the exact cost would be known.

The clerk continued that the new local authority’s approach would be to recharge in the same financial year, thereby causing all parishes to need to budget for an unknown and possibly unlikely

expense. Mr Ireland had argued against this and taken it to the shadow executive but to no avail, and had advised all the parishes falling within his division to precept for this expense.

The clerk explained that the shadow authority had provided a calculator to help estimate these costs. Using it, he projected costs of £889 for a contested election in Bincombe, the most populous parish, with Whitcombe, Came, Herringston and Monkton all being between £517 and £552.

On the basis of the albeit unlikely potential for one contested election he had budgeted £900 for this. There was also a £300 contingency each year so the figure available would be more like £1200.

The clerk concluded that councillors would need to decide whether to budget the full £900, a reduced figure of £600 (this would mean that the unlikely event of a contested election would definitely make use of the contingency if it were to happen in Bincombe), or to not budget for it at all on the basis that it was most unlikely. He did not recommend the latter course of action. The additional budgeted amount, if not used in 2019-20 would simply form part of the surplus which would be subtracted from the precept requirement so it would be a one-off increase.

- 8.2. Monkton Park. The Chair informed the council that Mr Ireland had advised that the Old Rectory and Lodge 1 buildings at Monkton Park were to be sold. Cllr Norman stated that they had been in separate ownership, along with Lodge 2, for many years so this news was not too disturbing.

DCC were also working with Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust to see if there was potential to move the Dorchester area Camhs (child and adolescent mental health service) department from Marvin House, another outlying building on the property, to other premises.

- 8.3. Number 5 bus service. The Chair reminded the council that this service would run until at least January.
- 8.4. Local Government reorganisation - The boundary commission had presented its final recommendations, which as outlined at the previous meeting would involve a new ward known as Winterborne and Broadmayne, covering the south side of Dorchester, from Winterborne Abbas, to Bincombe, to Woodsford in the east. All the individual WFPC parishes would be included in the new ward.
- 8.5. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – the Clerk informed the council that he had circulated draft policies relating to data protection, data breaches and subject access requests for approval. It was generally agreed that these policies be approved.

9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. Cllr Doble informed the council that a car had been set on fire in east Monkton. The burnt out car was not removed for several days and Cllr Doble noted that the police did not seem interested in investigating how the car came to be there.
- 9.2. The Chair noted that the signage for cyclists on the route of the old A354 on Ridgeway hill was not clear. There was some discussion regarding the original intentions around a segregated cycle path. Mr Ireland undertook to raise the matter with the appropriate officer at DCC.
- 9.3. There was some discussion regarding ongoing parking issues at McDonalds adjacent to Monkey's Jump roundabout.
- 9.4. Cllr Holehouse informed the council of an issue he had raised with Mr Freeman regarding the dwellings numbered 1-4 at Whitcombe Stables, which were not registered in the Royal Mail's postcode and address file (PAF). This meant that nearby properties at 1-4 Whitcombe Farm Cottages were receiving misaddressed post, internet shopping deliveries and so on. He informed the council that

he had emailed Mr Freeman to ask if anything might be done.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

10.1. Accounts 1st August – 31st October – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

10.2. Precept 2019-20. The clerk set out the precept and the various options within. These had been generally discussed earlier under item 8.1. Cllr Norman proposed the adoption of precept option 2, seconded by Cllr Brant, carried unanimously.

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

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 20th February 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING: UPWEY AND BROADWAY MEMORIAL HALL, VICTORIA AVENUE, WEYMOUTH DT3 5NG
