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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20th February 2019 at Upwey and Broadwey 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
Dorset County Council: n/a. West Dorset District Council:- n/a

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr Derek Read, Mr Robert Freeman, Mr Nick Ireland, Ms Suzanne McSevney

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

2.1. There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 21st November 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. The Chair informed the council that Mr Ireland had sent apologies for the meeting, but had sent an update. She noted that this would have been Mr Ireland's last meeting as he would be standing in a different ward in the forthcoming elections, and thanked him for his service and engagement with the parish council.

5.2. The clerk read a precis of Mr Ireland's update. The DCC financial position for 2018-19 was £7.2m overspent with childrens services £10.4m over budget and adult services £0.6m over. There was a spending and recruitment freeze in operation.

Matt Prosser had left his role as chief executive of the Dorset Councils Partnership and was working full time for the shadow council in preparation for 1st April. His salary had been set at £165k. Tier 2 officers had now all been recruited and approved by the shadow council with pay set at £135k each. The shadow executive approved a similar redundancy option as was applied to Debbie Ward [see 18-11 minutes] for the eleven tier 2 officers across the six current local authorities. All four tier 2 posts in the new local authority had been filled by external candidates and as such the eleven staff were surplus to the new structure and would be allowed to leave their posts early.

The first major tranche of redundancies associated with local government reorganisation had begun, with 220 postholders being notified of potential redundancy and 95 new posts being created. There was a small overlap but ultimately 117 posts would have to go. Voluntary redundancy would be made available but if not enough staff selected this option then a formal selection process might be required. It was envisaged there would be a further two rounds of redundancy.

6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

6.1. A352 at Whitcombe. Cllr Walters stated that at their earlier meeting, Daryl Turner had undertaken to contact Dorset police, but nothing had been heard. Cllr Walters himself had emailed the office of the police and crime commissioner and subsequently spoken to the commissioner's secretary, who had promised him a response but none had been forthcoming despite Cllr Walters having sent a follow-up

message. Cllr Walters was of the opinion that an attitude seemed to persist that parish councils could be ignored. He felt that decisions at the county level were political and not particularly to do with matters of budget or safety.

The clerk undertook to contact the office of the police and crime commissioner on behalf of the Chair to ask for a response to Cllr Walters's email, stating that the council was most concerned at the lack of response.

- 6.2. Whitcombe stables – design concept. The Chair informed the council that Cllr Brant had been given a copy of this document by Mr Freeman shortly before Christmas. The document set out a design concept for the conversion of the stables complex into holiday accommodation. It was generally agreed that the context of this document, and why the council had been made aware of its existence, was unclear. The clerk undertook to contact the head of planning to note Mr Freeman's declared interests in this matter and to ask her to ensure that the proper procedures were followed due to the council's concerns that abuses of the planning system might be made at this site.
- 6.3. National park. The Chair informed the council that following the last meeting Mr Ireland had flagged up the concerns of WFPC and a number of other parishes about the calls for the creation of a national park from a number of interested parties. A response had been received that was somewhat non-committal, stating that Dorset county council did not endorse any such proposal or regard it as a priority, but that the new Dorset local authority might have a different view. It concluded that ultimately a decision would rest with Natural England and central government.

Cllr Norman was concerned that in fact a local authority as planning authority trying to save money might welcome the creation of a park as the national parks authority would take over planning and development control and sub-contract it back to Dorset - this would mean that from Dorset's point of view a good number of planning staff would be off the payroll.

Cllr Holehouse added that another concern was the creation of a layer of unelected bureaucracy over and above that of the unitary authority, as well as a 'throw over' effect where areas outside the park boundaries might end up with a disproportionate amount of the housing allocation.

The clerk undertook to contact Matt Prosser (incoming chief executive for the new Dorset local authority) to set out the council's concerns.

- 6.4. Night works – A354. The Chair informed the council that the Weymouth relief road would be closed between 2100 and 0600 from Monkton to the Manor roundabout, Weymouth, on 7th-11th April. This was to facilitate overnight maintenance and repair work.
- 6.5. DCC – Deposit of Highways statement, Came Down golf course. The Chair informed the council that Came golf club had protected their land holdings from any claims to record new rights of way by submitting a 'landowner deposit' with DCC. This letter was for information only.
- 6.6. Cycle signage on Ridgeway hill (the old A354) – The Chair informed the council that Mr Ireland had written to Wayne Sayers in Transport Planning at DCC regarding the council's concerns over the cycle path. After using it, Mr Ireland had written "It either needs proper signs on posts at both ends, cycle icons on the tarmac and a solid white line etc. or it would be better removed completely to avoid this potentially dangerous confusion."

Mr Sayers had responded: "*This lining was put in as part of the delivery of the Weymouth Relief Road and is not a cycle facility (although it tends to be used as such by cyclists travelling westbound up the hill). I have ridden this section many times and have never really come across an issue – using the dashed area on my way up the hill and riding on the correct side of the road when coming back the other way.*"

“When the road was severed by the relief road it was thought that it’s width would encourage unnecessary vehicle speed. The idea of the lining was to visually narrow the road and to allow the slow encroachment of the adjacent verge over the carriageway which would eventually narrow the available road width and slow traffic. It also doubled up as an area for pedestrians looking to access the bridleway that runs to the rear of Bincombe Barn. In reality I think that the verge is being maintained to some degree and not being allowed to encroach as intended.

“From what you have said it seems that cyclists are largely doing the correct thing and riding on the left side in both directions. I am not sure why there should be any real confusion with this and with the level of traffic on the road I can’t see a safety issue. If, on the other hand, there is evidence of cyclists using the dashed area when travelling eastbound then I think there may be an issue of conflict at the accesses on the south side of the road and we may need to clarify things a bit. I have certainly not seen this when I’ve been up there before.”

The clerk undertook to take the matter forward.

- 6.7. Parking at Monkey’s Jump – the Chair informed the council that Mr Ireland had contacted Stephen Mephram, team leader, Highways, to inform him of the council’s ongoing concerns at the parking situation at McDonalds, along with those passed on from Martinstown parish council. Mr Ireland’s email to Mr Mephram asked if DCC was able to assist with the situation, the response was as follows: *“Short answer – no! The only real solution is for the premises to be expanded to provide sufficient parking to support the business requirement, however as you say the Duchy are never going to allow this. Whilst we have done some work in the immediate vicinity of the entrance, any form of physical parking restriction (bollards etc) will only move the cars a little further away from the site (towards a busy roundabout in one direction and a blind bend in the other direction still causing damage to the verge etc).*

Any form of regulatory parking restriction (lines) will only be effective if regularly enforced (and we know that this is unlikely to happen).”

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

- 7.1. **WD/D/19/000056** - Extend garage ground floor; raise and replace roof to provide additional living accommodation with balcony; install roof to passageway between garage and main dwelling, THE SUMMER HOUSE, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. New application, no objection.
- 7.2. **WD/D/19/000214** - Change of use of land & site 2.no shepherd huts, THE WILLOWS, ICEN LANE, BINCOMBE, WEYMOUTH, DT3 5PY. New application. It was generally agreed that a corporate view would be arrived at by consensus once the Bincombe councillors had had an opportunity to discuss it.
- 7.3. **WD/D/18/002257** - Erect single storey extension (Full), DEWFLOCK FARM, HERRINGSTON LANE, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. This application was still under consideration.
- 7.4. **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.
- 7.5. **WD/D/18/001942** - Construction of slurry lagoon (Full), WHITCOMBE BARN FARM, WHITCOMBE DOWN ROAD, WHITCOMBE, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NL. This application was approved on 29th

November.

- 7.6. **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 elections would be held this year on 2nd May. The next two electoral terms (2019-2024 and 2024-2029) would be for five years, after which the term of office would revert to four years. He went on to set out dates for the publication of the notice of election and other relevant dates.
- 8.2. Local government reorganisation. It was generally agreed that this matter had been discussed as part of Mr Irelan's update.
- 8.3. Nalc loneliness project. 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. Accounts 1st November – 31st January – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 10.2. Precept 2019-20. The clerk confirmed that this had been set at £3260 and confirmed by WDDC. It would be paid in two instalments on 30th April and 30th September.
- 10.3. Clerk pay. The clerk informed the council that he was intending that he be paid in a single payment at the end of the financial year to minimise complications under PAYE. The cheques would be issued once he had been through the HMRC online PAYE process and he knew what the tax liability would be. There was no financial implication to the council as the amount of tax was apportioned from the gross salary figure.

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

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 15th May 2019**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING:</u> WINTERBORNE MONKTON VILLAGE HALL, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER DT2 9PT</p>
