

**Clerk to WFPC:** Andrew Harrison, PO Box 15, WEYMOUTH, DT4 8DS  
Tel 01305 815866 Fax 01305 791062  
Email [winterbornefarringdon@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:winterbornefarringdon@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)

*Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the Upwey and Broadway Memorial Hall at 7.00pm*

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**1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:**

**Present:** Chair – Ms Jenny Webster. Vice Chair – Mr Charles Norman. Councillors: Mr Raymond Williams, Mr Graham Brant, Mr Alec Walters  
Dorset Council: Mr Roland Tarr

**Clerk to the Parish Council:** Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr Roger Holehouse, Mr Andrew Murray

**Members of the public:** no members of the public were present

After the Chair had opened the meeting, Cllr Norman informed the council that Yvonne Doble had passed away.

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

2.1. There were no declarations.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019. 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 were covered by agenda items.

**5. DORSET COUNCIL UPDATE**

5.1. Mr Tarr stated that he believed all the items he intended to update the council on would be covered under existing agenda items.

**6. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS**

6.1. A352 at Whitcombe. Cllr Walters informed the council that since he had not had an opportunity to write to Oliver Letwin prior to the election. He felt it would be necessary to see the lie of the land once a new MP was in place before proceeding further.

6.2. Rights of way definitive map modification application - Upgrade BR39, Weymouth and BR14, Bincombe to byway. The clerk informed the council that this application was submitted some fifteen years ago by the group Friends of Dorset's Rights of Way, but was only now being considered by Dorset council. He explained that the onus was on the applicant to provide evidence that the right of way in question had been used by mechanically propelled vehicles for a certain qualifying period, or that the right of way had somehow been incorrectly recorded. The council was being asked if it could provide evidence either way.

The clerk continued that the council had no evidence in particular but was aware that Foots (landowners) were to submit a quantity of evidence to Dorset to disprove the application that FODROW were making. On the assumption that WFPC would prefer to leave the right of way as a bridleway (its current designation) he informed the council that it could write to the officer concerned stating that while the council did not have evidence itself, it was aware that evidence had been submitted to support the view of this council. There was some discussion. Mr Tarr and Cllr Norman recalled that they had both discussed the matter extensively with Charles Foot as long as thirty years ago and both felt that this would provide assisting evidence. The clerk undertook to respond to the email containing the application stating this, along with the council's support for maintaining the

status quo.

- 6.3. Environment agency – groundwater flooding. The clerk informed the council that he had received an email from the Environment agency stating “*with Groundwater levels currently higher than average for this time of year, if we continue to have heavy rainfall events across Dorset and Wiltshire we anticipate to be issuing Groundwater Flood Alerts across Dorset and Wiltshire before Christmas. Currently we are closely monitoring the Groundwater levels across West Dorset as the levels are rising steadily towards issuing a Flood Alert for the West of Dorset. This threshold is likely to be crossed in the next 7 days.*” He added that the EA was encouraging communities to prepare for a wet winter and the potential for flooding. There would also be a Dorset Prepared resilience day for flood wardens and community volunteers on 14th January at Durweston village hall. While WFPC did not have a dedicated flood warden anyone who was interested would be able to attend. Following discussion it was determined that only one house in Monkton was considered at risk of flooding so the impact to the WFPC area would be negligible.
- 6.4. Refilling of salt bins. The clerk had been informed by Dorset Highways that all salt bins would be refilled in advance of winter. The clerk noted that as the bin at Monkton was missed last year and not noticed until some snow fell in February, if anyone was aware of a bin that had not been filled by the start of December to let him know. He noted that parishes would also have as usual the ability to purchase dumpy bags of salt, and additional refills for salt bins.
- 6.5. National park. The Chair informed the council that the Glover landscapes review had been published. As had been thought by many, the report suggested to Natural England that Dorset and east Devon would be “strong candidates” to be considered by Natural England for national park status.

Mr Tarr noted that there was little that could constructively be said about the Glover review in the climate of a general election. There was some discussion on national parks, and Cllr Walters asked if there were restrictions on development in national parks. Mr Tarr stated that there were, but the difference between NP and AONB status was negligible. Cllr Norman asked whether farms had permitted development rights in national parks as in AONBs; Mr Tarr said he would check and confirm this.

- 6.6. Parking at McDonalds, Monkey’s Jump – Mr Tarr reported that he had had a meeting with McDonalds and Highways England regarding the parcel of land between their existing car park and the Monkey’s Jump roundabout. He reported that McDonalds were very keen to acquire the land, feeling that although the car park was big enough most of the time there were many occasions when it was not. Highways England stated that land compulsorily purchased for road building would have to be offered back to the original owners first; this being the Duchy of Cornwall. The Duchy themselves stated their intention to acquire the land back from Highways England, effectively blocking any extension of the car park.

He stated that it was now hoped that McDonalds would reach an agreement with Dorset council to part fund a scheme of work to address problems along the road and with the site access in particular, and that this would be in place for summer. He concluded that there was also the potential for Highways England to propose some changes to Monkey’s Jump roundabout itself in the coming months.

- 6.7. Cycle signage on Ridgeway hill (the old A354) – Mr Tarr informed the council that he had now been able to have a proper look at the site. He noted that there were lots of lines for cycles along with faded lines from the old road, and that in his view it would be better to remove them all. There was general agreement that this would be a good option. Mr Tarr undertook to visit the site again with a highways engineer to show them what would be required.
- 6.8. Road markings at Came Down. The clerk apologised that he had not yet had an opportunity to request additional signage at this location.

## 6.9. Road signs in poor repair

6.9.1. Coombe Valley Road (top). Cllr Brant reported that this fingerpost was in poor repair. It was noted that repairs to fingerposts needed to be funded, and that repair work could be carried out by the “Man Shed” at Kingston Maurward college. Cllr Norman proposed a modest expenditure if necessary, this was seconded by Cllr Brant and carried unanimously.

6.9.2. Bincombe – the clerk noted that the “please drive carefully” sign at the northern entrance to Bincombe had fallen off its poles – he had reported this to Dorset Highways for repair.

## 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

<https://planning.dorset.gov.uk/online-applications/>

- 7.1. **WD/D/19/001772** - Change of use to holiday village to consist of use of existing buildings as holiday accommodation, restaurant and spa and use of land for parking. Outline application for the erection of extensions to existing buildings, new build holiday accommodation, cycle hire/store and indoor leisure facility (with details of access, layout and scale, all other matters are reserved), WHITCOMBE MONYMUSK RACING STABLES, WHITCOMBE DOWN ROAD, WHITCOMBE, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NY. WFPC objected following our last meeting, application undetermined. [[link](#)]
- 7.2. **WD/D/19/002039** - Change of use of part of agricultural building to B1 Business use, DEWFLOCK FARM, HERRINGSTON LANE, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. WFPC objected following approaches from residents, approved 24<sup>th</sup> October. [[link](#)]
- 7.3. **WD/D/19/002356** - Erect two storey rear extension, 1 PENWITHEN LODGE, MONKTON HILL, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 9PS. No objection from WFPC, application undetermined. [[link](#)]
- 7.4. **WD/D/19/001594** - Change of use of part of agricultural building to B2 light industrial unit, DEWFLOCK FARM, HERRINGSTON LANE, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. This application was withdrawn and replaced with application 002039 above. [[link](#)]
- 7.5. **WD/D/19/001700** – Erect 1 no dwelling, LAND WEST OF THE HAVEN, CHAPEL LANE, UPWEY, BINCOMBE. WFPC objected, application undetermined. [[link](#)]
- 7.6. **WD/D/18/002257** - Erect single storey extension (Full), DEWFLOCK FARM, HERRINGSTON LANE, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. This application had been withdrawn. [[link](#)]
- 7.7. **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. The planning committee delegated authority to officers to approve the application subject to certain conditions on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019. At the time of writing the application was still undetermined. [[link](#)].

The clerk informed the council that he had written on 13<sup>th</sup> September to the Chair of the planning committee Cllr Simon Christopher along with Dorset councillors Louie O’Leary, Nick Ireland and Roland Tarr regarding the onward delegation of this application to officers. He informed the council that no response had been received to date. Mr Tarr noted that even if the six months allotted by the planning committee to produce a S106 agreement passed without an agreement being achieved, officers may still try to get the application approved. There was some further discussion concerning the planting to the north of the site.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. Ironman. The Chair asked the council if it was felt that there were any comments that should be passed

back to the Ironman organisers – there were none.

- 8.2. Website accessibility. The clerk informed the council that the EU accessibility directive would mean that public organisations (including parishes) must ensure that websites meet accessibility requirements. He noted that the parish council's website must meet these requirements by 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

He continued that Dorset council had published some information, and DAPTC were working with parishes on this. He would need to discover if there was an obligation to apply the standard retrospectively to previously published content as this could produce some work. He undertook to keep the council informed.

## 9. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. Cllr Brant noted that the lifebelt next to the balancing pond near Littlemoor Road/Relief Road overbridge was missing. The clerk undertook to report this.
- 9.2. Cllr Norman asked about the process for electing a new councillor at Monkton. The clerk replied that a notice of casual vacancy would need to be published, and that he would contact the Dorset council elections office for advice.

## 10. TREASURERS REPORT

- 10.1. Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> August – 31<sup>st</sup> October – these were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 10.2. Precept 2020-21. The clerk explained that the precept for the next financial year was significantly lower than last year's as the council did not spend the newly budgeted amount for contested elections, so this would carry over. The precept calculation paper contained two options. The first option involved keeping the Clerk's salary unchanged at £2077, while the second would raise it to £2199 in line with the current pay figure. The Clerk's salary was worked out using the National Joint Council for Local Government Services **National Salary Award** pay scale. The clerk noted that for many years the WFPC clerk's role has been set at spinal column point 20 (the pay band had this year been restructured so this was now spinal column point **9**) of band LC1 - £20344 if it were a full time role. This produced an hourly rate of £10.57 (£20344 divided by 37, divided by 52). The Clerk's salary was based on a nominal four hours per week although this obviously varied throughout the year - £10.57 multiplied by four multiplied by 52 produced £2199.

Cllr Norman recalled that at the precept meeting last year it had been agreed to raise the budgeted amount for contested elections in steps, and that the figure for FY 2020-21 should in fact be £900. It was noted that this would still produce a lower precept figure than in the previous year. Cllr Norman proposed that option 2, raising the clerk's salary and raising the budgeted amount for contested elections to £900 be taken forward. This was seconded by Cllr Brant and carried unanimously.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020

*The meeting closed at 2040 (8.40pm).*

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