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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May at 7.00pm – at Elworthy Church Hall, Winterborne Monkton

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Ms Jenny Webster. Councillors: Mr Charles Norman, Mr Graham Brant, Mr Raymond Williams, , Mr Roger Holehouse, Mr Alec Walters, Mrs Suzanne Mcsevney
Dorset Council: Mr Roland Tarr

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr John Trent

Members of the public: No members of the public

2. ELECTIONS

- 2.1. Election of chair. Cllr Webster informed the council that she was willing to be nominated to stand again as chair. There were no other nominations. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Norman, carried unanimously.
- 2.2. Election of vice-chair. Cllr Norman informed the council that he was willing to be nominated to stand again as vice-chair. There were no other nominations. Proposed Cllr Walters, seconded Cllr Brant, carried unanimously.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

- 3.1. No declarations were made.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – no members of the public were present.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 15th February 2023. The minutes were accepted by the council and signed by the Chair.

6. MATTERS ARISING

- 6.1. It was generally agreed that any matters arising were covered under the agenda.

7. DORSET COUNCIL UPDATE

- 7.1. Mr Tarr informed the council that Dorset council was working with the major estates to try to resolve problems of damp or otherwise poor quality housing, using grants or potentially the development of new housing to permit refurbishment of old stock. Cllr Norman asked if this would take new housing out of estate ownership, Mr Tarr replied that it may do.

Cllr Walters asked whether Dorset council had intentions to address the harm caused to the local housing market by second homes. Mr Tarr replied that Dorset may have the opportunity to raise council tax against second homes, as this had been a recent proposal from the government that Dorset had been in favour of. Unfortunately it appeared there was little willing in government to progress it further at this time.

8. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

- 8.1. Community governance review. The chair set out the draft recommendations of Dorset council, noting that the end effect would be the movement of the area around Nightingale Drive out of Bincombe and into Weymouth. Within the remainder of the area of the council, this would mean a reduction in the

electorate numbers as previously observed, along with a change in the number of councillors to two per ward from the current mixture of two or three per ward.

Cllr Brant shared with the meeting a letter he had sent to the editor of the Dorset Echo, alongside the report of the full Dorset council meeting on 11th May which he had attended. While he had initially felt this council's contribution to the meeting was met positively, this was effectively scuppered by a later amendment that was not what this council wanted, and unfortunately meant that this council was ultimately not listened to. There was some further discussion of the amendment. Cllr Brant concluded by noting that the community governance review was supposed to resolve anomalies between communities but on this occasion had done anything but.

There was some discussion about the future of this council and the merits of parish councils versus those of parish meetings.

Cllr Brant informed the council that he had written to Chris Loder MP on the subject, he also proposed a letter to Matt Prosser, chief executive of Dorset council, copied to the relevant senior councillors and officers, setting out the argument that the changes to Bincombe did not help achieve coherent governance, and indeed created further anomalies across boundaries. This proposal met with unanimous approval.

- 8.2. Major planning application - land north of Littlemoor Road. The clerk asked the council if it was desirable to retain this as a standing item on the agenda. Cllr Brant observed that as construction works had now begun on the site it would be helpful for it to remain as a standing item.
- 8.3. Major planning application - Whitcombe stables. The chair informed the council that the clerk had submitted letters of objection to the recent applications to vary the conditions of previously approved applications relating to the housing on site. Mr Tarr informed the council that he believed the applications would be determined at a meeting of the planning committee on 15th June, which he would encourage the AONB partnership to attend. It was generally agreed that this council would make a representation to the committee as well, and Cllr Brant volunteered to deliver this.
- 8.4. A352 at Whitcombe. Mr Tarr informed the council that he had put lots of pressure on people to address the road safety issue here but to no avail. Cllr Walters informed the council that following the last meeting, where he had noted the presence of ash dieback in the trees towards the Came end of the cutting, which Dorset council had confirmed as being their responsibility to deal with, there had been no further response from Dorset and the trees were still in situ. Cllr Norman said that some tree surgeons believed that some trees suffering from ash dieback were too dangerous to cut down and should be left to fall by themselves.
- 8.5. South Winterborne stream – discharge of sewage. There was some discussion of this matter. Mr Tarr said he would try to secure a visit from Wessex Water to permit a proper discussion. He continued that Wessex Water insist the problems are due to private sewers breaking into the network with excess water. Mr Tarr hoped that Wessex Water would now consider the installation of a tank or a reed bed at Martinstown to help alleviate the problem.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

<https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>

- 9.1. **P/HOU/2023/02482** - Form post and rail timber fence behind existing hawthorn hedge, new electric timber gates with brick piers, plant new laurel hedge behind new fence, DOWNWOOD LODGE, HIGHER CAME, DORCHESTER DT2 8NR. New householder planning application for discussion, no objection. [[link](#)]

- 9.2. **P/FUL/2022/00864** – Erect semi-permanent siting of marquee, service tent and w/c trailer for events, CAME HOUSE, CAME PARK ROAD, DORCHESTER DT2 8NU. No objection from WFPC, approved 17th March.. [[link](#)]
- 9.3. **WD/D/20/000864** - Modification of Section 106 Agreement dated 23 May 2018 on planning approval WD/D/17/001808, DEWFLOCK FARM, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. No objection from WFPC providing previous conditions had been met, application undetermined. [[link](#)]
- 9.4. **WD/D/19/003081** - Convert existing redundant agricultural traditional barn to form 3 no. dwellings - Variation of condition 1 of planning approval WD/D/17/001808, DEWFLOCK FARM, WINTERBORNE MONKTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 8NP. No objection from WFPC providing previous conditions had been met, application undetermined. [[link](#)]

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1. **Allotments** - the clerk informed the council that he was contacted by a resident in the area of Nightingale Drive who was looking for an allotment. He had made enquiries of neighbouring councils but none were able to assist, but had directed the requester to private allotments who may have more capacity.
- 10.2. **Fingerpost at Sutton Poyntz** - the clerk informed the council that he had been contacted by Weymouth town council, who had helped in the funding of the refurbishment of the fingerpost at the junction of Coombe Valley Road and Plaisters Lane, not realising that it was in fact in Bincombe. They were happy to have funded it on the basis of the benefit to both communities.
- 10.3. **Online banking** – The Chair informed the council that he had unfortunately not been able to progress this matter in the last few months but hoped to do so soon.

11. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 11.1. No matters were raised.

12. TREASURERS REPORT

- 12.1. Accounts 1st February – 30th April – circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 12.2. Annual accounts 2022-23 – the clerk presented the accounts for the previous financial year. Proposed Cllr Brant, seconded Cllr Walters, carried unanimously.
- 12.3. Annual return 2022-23 annual governance statement - The clerk presented the governance statement for the previous financial year. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Holehouse, carried unanimously.
- 12.4. Annual return 2022-23 accounting statements - The clerk presented the accounting statement for the previous financial year. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Mcsevney, carried unanimously.
- 12.5. Annual return 2022-23 certificate of exemption – The clerk presented the certificate of exemption from full audit for the previous financial year. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Mcsevney, carried unanimously.
- 12.6. Payment – BHIB Insurance - £320.14 – the clerk informed the council that this had been the first increase for some years (it was previously £275 for several years)
- 12.7. Payment - DAPTC annual subscription - £234.77 – an increase of £10
- 12.8. Payment - DAPTC networking event - £75.00 – the payments were proposed en bloc by Cllr Norman

and seconded by Cllr Mcsevney

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 16th August.

The meeting closed at 20:50 (8.50pm).

<p><u>The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th August at Elworthy Church Hall, Winterborne Monkton, commencing 19:00 (7pm)</u></p>
