

Clerk to WFPC: Andrew Harrison, PO Box 15, WEYMOUTH, DT4 8DS
Tel 01305 534661
Email winterbornefarringdon@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 16th August at 7.00pm – at Elworthy Church Hall, Winterborne Monkton

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Ms Jenny Webster. Councillors: Mr Graham Brant, Mr Raymond Williams, Mr Roger Holehouse, Mr Alec Walters, Mrs Suzanne Mcsevney, Mr John Trent

Dorset Council: not present

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr Charles Norman

Members of the public: No members of the public

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

2.1. No declarations were made.

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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 17th May 2023. The minutes were accepted by the council and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

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

6. DORSET COUNCIL UPDATE

6.1. Mr Tarr was not present at the meeting to provide an update.

7. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

7.1. Community governance review and future structure of the council. The chair summarised the past events concerning the community governance review, the amendment of the final recommendations by Cllr O’Leary and this council’s appeal to Cllr Flower for a review of this decision, which was refused by Cllr Flower on the basis that it had been a democratic decision by the full council, and that there was no outcome that would satisfy all parties. Cllr Brant noted that once again parish councils had been treated poorly, with only three minutes to state their case and no ability to contribute to the wider debate.

The clerk then set out options for the future structure of the council, taking into consideration the increased per-household precept amount due to the smaller tax base following the boundary change, estimated to be 96 as opposed to the current 267. The clerk estimated that the band D precept would rise from £9.72 to around £24 if the council made targeted reductions to its budget, or around £27 with more or less the same budget. Another option would be to dissolve the group and for the parishes to revert to simpler parish meetings which would not be a formally constituted group and would not submit a precept

There was some discussion. Cllr Holehouse noted that Came already returned no councillors, this having been the case for some years. He noted additionally that parish meetings could still comment on planning applications. Cllr Williams stated that it would be a shame for there not to be a parish council, and wondered if it might be possible to amalgamate into a larger group. Cllr Brant observed that the band D parish precept for households in Nightingale Drive would increase to over £100 following the boundary change, making the increase this council was considering seem rather small.

The Chair concluded the discussion stating that even with fewer residents in the parish, all deserved adequate representation.

It was generally agreed that the council would continue as it was and submit a precept for the next financial year.

- 7.2. Major planning application - land north of Littlemoor Road. Cllr Mcsevney noted that the development had been named “Bincombe Park”.
- 7.3. Major planning application - Whitcombe stables. Cllr Brant informed the council that the two variation of condition planning applications were ultimately approved by the planning committee, despite representations from him on behalf of this council, the AONB partnership and the Hardy society. The committee was tied at the vote, and the chair used their casting vote in favour of the applications. Cllr Brant felt that the parties opposed to the applications tried hard but unfortunately did not get the desired result.

Cllr Walters noted that the applications seemed to ignore the fact that racing stables through their very purpose need more space, people and resources, each one being a very particular type of development for a very particular purpose that would be clearly known before purchase, and it was surely incongruous that one should seek to buy the location, run it down and then seek to change the rules.

Cllr Brant observed that the former West Dorset District Council had gone to great lengths to safeguard the AONB in their exceptional approval of the original planning application in 1987, and that it was a shame to see this being devalued. The Chair gave her thanks to both Cllr Brant and Cllr Holehouse for their work on these applications.

- 7.4. A352 at Whitcombe. Further to the last meeting, where Cllr Norman had 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, Cllr Walters stated that it would be incredibly dangerous for the trees atop the Whitcombe cutting to be left to this fate and to fall down. Given that Dorset council’s arborist had already confirmed that the trees were dead, it was important that the trees be safely dealt with. The clerk undertook to communicate the council’s alarm at the lack of a plan to deal with these trees to Mr Tarr.
- 7.5. South Winterborne stream – discharge of sewage. At the last meeting Mr Tarr had indicated he would attempt to arrange a meeting with Wessex Water to discuss this matter. Mr Tarr was not present to provide an update.
- 7.6. Dorset council - housing strategy consultation [[link](#)]. The clerk explained the contents of this document, which were noted.
- 7.7. Defra - consultation on protecting hedgerows [[link](#)]. The clerk explained the contents of this document, which were noted.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Full details of planning applications and decisions can be viewed at:
<https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>

- 8.1. **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. No objection from WFPC, granted 22nd June. [[link](#)]
- 8.2. **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. [\[link\]](#)

- 8.3. **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. [\[link\]](#)

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1. **Ironman 2023** - the clerk informed the council that Ironman would return on 17th September; once again the cycle course would make its way through the eastern side of Dorchester and to Whitcombe where it would turn right past the racing stables to return to Weymouth.
- 9.2. **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.

10. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

- 10.1. Cllr Mcsevney noted that the turn sign was missing and the road markings worn at the junction with Chalky Lane and the road to Winterborne Herrington; this gave little warning of the sharp turn in the road meaning a car had recently missed the junction and crashed onto the golf course. The clerk would contact the highways department.

11. TREASURERS REPORT

- 11.1. Accounts 1st May - 31st July – circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 11.2. Annual return update - the clerk confirmed that the annual return had been uploaded to the website and the certificate of exemption submitted to the external auditors.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 15th November.

The meeting closed at 20:10 (8.10pm).

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| <p><u>The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th November at Upwey and Broadwey Memorial Hall, commencing 19:00 (7pm)</u></p> |
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