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Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.00pm – at Upwey and Broadway Memorial Hall

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES:

Present: Chair – Mr Charles Norman. Councillors: Mr Raymond Williams, Mr Graham Brant, Mr Roger Holehouse, Mr Alec Walters, Mrs Morag Titley.

Dorset Council: none

Clerk to the Parish Council: Andrew Harrison. **Apologies:** Mr Roland Tarr, Mr Oliver Wilson, Mr George Titley **Members of the public:** No members of the public

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

2.1. Cllr Holehouse declared an interest in item 8.2.

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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 20th November 2024. The minutes were accepted by the council and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1. Cllr Walters informed the council that the blocked storm drains alongside the A352 at Whitcombe had now been cleared.

6. DORSET COUNCIL UPDATE

6.1. Cllr Holehouse noted that Mr Tarr had sent apologies but also a brief update that he had hoped could be read out. The summary of the update was that Dorset Council would continue to find their financial situation extremely challenging in the coming financial year. Mr Tarr hoped to bring Nick Ireland (leader of Dorset Council) and Edward Morello (Member of Parliament for West Dorset) to a future meeting.

7. PLANNING, ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

7.1. Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan. There was some discussion of Weymouth Town Council's draft neighbourhood plan. No proposals were brought forward regarding the submissions of any comments and it was generally agreed to receive the draft plan for information and note it.

7.2. A352 at Whitcombe. The clerk presented to the council a draft of a letter to Mr Ireland, requesting the 'new' unitary council's attention in this long running matter following the recent change of control. The Chair thanked the clerk for preparing the letter and requested that it be sent.

7.3. South Winterborne stream – discharge of sewage. The clerk undertook to send the data presented at the meeting to councillors as an enclosure to the minutes.

- 7.4. DAPTC - Future Planning event. The clerk informed the council that this DAPTC organised event would take place on Tuesday 4th March and would be an opportunity for members to meet with the Dorset Council planning team to discuss forthcoming changes to the NPPF and the transformation going on within the planning team. Cllr Holehouse undertook to attend (this was not confirmed until after the meeting).

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

- 8.1. P/FUL/2024/07512 - Erect single storey modular building, install perimeter fencing, MONKTON PARK, DT2 9PS. [[link](#)] New application for discussion, there was no objection.
- 8.2. P/LBC/2025/00675 - Repair and patch a portion of the East North East portion of the roof using water reed instead of straw (change of materials), SHEPHERDS COTTAGE, WHITCOMBE DT2 8NY. [[link](#)] New application for discussion, there was no objection.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1. MHCLG - consultation on standards and conduct in local authorities. The clerk informed the council that the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government were running a consultation until 26th February, to determine through a number of questions whether there was an appetite among councils and councillors to look at changes to the standards and conduct regime for local councils.

There was some discussion. The general feeling was that this council was not well placed to give feedback on this consultation as it had never had to escalate any matter to any standards or conduct regime, past or present.

- 9.2. Bank signatories and banking arrangements - the clerk presented to the council a short paper, following the decision at the last meeting to look at the council's banking arrangements in the light of Lloyds Bank introducing a service charge in January 2025. The recommendation of the paper was that the council retain its business with Lloyds and absorb the service charge. The Chair proposed that the Clerk's recommendation be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Brant and carried unanimously.
- 9.3. Future email arrangements. The clerk informed the council that he had been notified by DAPTC that they would not be able to offer the existing parish council email service that the council currently paid a small fee for after the end of this calendar year. This meant that the council would be required to make its own arrangements for email, and that for proper and secure interaction with Dorset Council and other bodies this must be by way of a .gov.uk domain name.

The clerk informed the council that he had entered into preliminary conversations with suppliers and believed an indicative cost would be approximately £140 in the first year and £90 in subsequent years. He undertook to engage with more suppliers and report back to a future meeting.

10. INTEREST AND INFORMATION

10.1. No matters were raised.

11. TREASURERS REPORT

- 11.1. Accounts 1st November - 31st January - circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, there had been no transactions.
- 11.2. Precept for financial year 2025-26. The clerk informed the council that the agreed precept figure of £3360 had been accepted by Dorset Council.
- 11.3. Payment - clerk salary - £2172.80. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Holehouse, carried unanimously
- 11.4. Payment - clerk PAYE - £543.20. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Brant, carried unanimously.
- 11.5. Payment - clerk reimbursement - £16.00. Proposed Cllr Norman, seconded Cllr Holehouse, carried unanimously.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 21st May

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

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st May at the Elworthy Church Hall, Winterborne Monkton DT2 9PT, commencing 19:00 (7pm)