

Minutes of a meeting of Puddletown Area Parish Council (PAPC) held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 13th April 2021, remotely via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs Alan Sheppard (Vice-Chair), Peter Walton (Vice-Chair), Peter Redman, Mike Brown, Katie Weiss, John Ridout and Dan Weiss (7:15pm).

Meeting Chair: Cllr P Churchill

Clerk: Anna Bendall

Also in Attendance: Three members of the public and one representative from the Dorset National Park Team.

Minute Number **Comments**

20/200 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Nicky Ling, Julian Hubbuck and Lauren Tidbury as well as Dorset Councillor Emma Parker. Cllr Dan Weiss sent apologies that he would be arriving late to the meeting.

20/201 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests**

Cllr John Ridout declared an interest in the grant application submitted by the Puddletown Village Hall Committee.

Cllrs Katie and Dan Weiss declared an interest in the item relating to the extension of the recreation ground.

It was agreed that as all interests were non-pecuniary, Councillors could remain in the meeting for discussions but would not participate.

20/202 **Public Participation**

A member of the public raised a concern about some leylandii that have been planted near to the right of way connecting Blandford Road with Styles Lane. As the plants are on private land, there is nothing to prevent this planting. The Parish Council will take appropriate action if any plant grows to a point where it encroaches onto a public right of way.

20/203 **Dorset National Park**

Cllr Dan Weiss joined the meeting. This item was brought forward at the discretion of the Chairman.

MP Chris Loder has asked for the Parish Council opinion on the proposal for a Dorset National Park. The map showing the proposed area now includes the parishes up to the boundary of the A35 bypass although accompanying text emphasises that the intention would be to include as much or rural Dorset as possible.

Councillors agreed that it would not be acceptable to divide parishes by the boundary and that it was desirable for all four parishes to be included in their entirety. The National Park Policy on wind and solar farms was also questioned.

A representative from the National Park team discussed concerns and agreed to write to PAPC to confirm that the proposal would be for all four parishes to be included. (Post meeting note: The map has now been updated again to include all of Dorset.)

RESOLVED to reply to Chris Loder to state that :

- P APC supports the proposal in principle.
- The full extent of the four parishes should be included and P APC objects to any proposal which would exclude any part of the four parishes from the National Park.
- The National Park, if created, should be sympathetic to renewable energy schemes as long as they are of a scale appropriate to the local area.

20/204 **Confirmation of minutes of the P APC meeting held 9th March 2021**

RESOLVED that the minutes for the P APC meeting held on the 9th of March 2021 be approved. As the meeting was held virtually, these will be signed at a later date.

20/205 **Matters arising from previous minutes of the P APC meetings and review of Action Log**

The decision on the appeal following enforcement action at Camelot, The Green, is yet to be made.

A Community Projects Group meeting needs to be arranged soon. Cllr Ridout is awaiting responses from organisations which have been invited to be involved.

The Environment and Climate group also were asked to schedule a meeting soon.

The new High Sheriff of Dorset has asked for suggestions for local community “heroes” who have stepped up to offer support throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The Parish Council agreed to suggest the Community Support Group who have assisted the shop in organising a queueing system throughout the first lockdown, collected prescriptions from Puddletown Surgery and distributed them to those shielding, delivered shopping from the local shop to anyone unable to shop for themselves or get a supermarket delivery, and even in one case, provided daily hot meals for a resident who was unable to cook for herself. The group was organised by Parish Councillor Julian Hubbuck and Reverend Sarah Hillman.

Action: Clerk

Following an enquiry from a member of the public concerning the Puddletown Forest access points, the Clerk chased up Forestry England about access point signs. They still intend to install these but the pandemic caused a delay in having the design team produce them as signs regarding social distancing were prioritised. Forestry England are not able to confirm when the signs will be installed.

20/206 **Recreation Areas**

The idea to extend the recreation ground to the west has proved not possible as it would not leave enough space surrounding the football pitch. Councillors were again asked to consider extending north but it was pointed out that PRIDE had already been informed by the cricket club that they were dropping plans to extend at all. Due to uncertainty around this, it was agreed to discuss the matter in June and invite the cricket club to submit a clear proposal.

A report of visual inspections at recreation areas was received.

Following tree surgery and general thinning, the hedgerow to the north of the recreation area needs some work as it now has several gaps. It was agreed to wait until the proposal for the expansion has been considered before this is addressed as the hedgerow could be moved anyway if the expansion is approved.

20/207

Parish matters

Assets of Community Value

Ideas for assets which could be nominated were discussed however it was agreed that a more thorough discussion would be held at the June meeting once Councillors have had more opportunity to consider possible nominations. Currently the Martyrs Inn, Tolpuddle is the only nominated Asset of Community Value and this designation is due to expire in June.

RESOLVED to re-nominate the Martyrs Inn, Tolpuddle as an Asset of Community Value.

Action: Clerk

Southover Farm Slurry Lagoon Liaison Group

Condition 6 of planning approval reference WD/D/18/001035 requires that a community liaison group be established. The landowner has contacted both Puddletown Area Parish Council and Affpuddle and Turnerspiddle Parish Council to ask that each Council agree representatives for the group.

A letter addressed to the landowner at Southover Farm, has been drafted by Sue Jones (Chairman of Affpuddle and Turnerspiddle Parish Council) in consultation with Cllr Peter Churchill and the Clerk. The letter suggests that each Council nominate a Councillor, and another member of the public to join the group and represent the community. It also suggests that bi-annual meetings are held alternatively in Tolpuddle Village Hall and Briantspiddle Village Hall, that the Clerk from the appropriate Parish provides administrative support to the meeting, that the meetings are chaired by Dorset Councillor Peter Wharf who has offered his support, and that the cost of the hall hire and administrative support is shared equally between both parish councils and the landowner. Both Councils are asked to approve the letter before it is sent.

RESOLVED to approve the draft letter and terms described above.

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Peter Walton as the PAPC Councillor to the group. Cllr Walton will approach Southover residents who have made enquiries about the group, to see if one of them would be willing to join the group to represent the community interests.

Action: Cllr Walton

Martyrs Festival

It is understood that the festival will once again be held virtually, however there will be some live aspects this year with minimal participation. These activities will also be streamed online.

Tolpuddle K6

The Tolpuddle kiosk has been completely renovated with a fresh coat of paint thanks to a local volunteer. Volunteers who have been working on the project to turn this into a miniature information centre, have asked that the Parish Council fund the cost of glass panes engraved with "information" to replace those which currently read "telephone" a quote for £50 has been obtained. They also ask that the Parish Council gets quotes to have an electrician carry out electrical work as required.

RESOLVED to spend £50 on glass engraving and to obtain quotes from electricians.

Three Lanes Way Road Names

Wyatt Homes have asked the Parish Council for suggestions for road names for the new development at the end of Three Lanes Way. Councillors are to send suggestions to the Clerk who will forward them on.

20/208 **Dorset Councillor's report**

A report was received from Cllr Parker and distributed to members before the meeting. This is available as **Appendix A** of the Minute Book and is available online under additional documents.

20/209 **Police and community issues**

A report was received from PCSO Donnison and distributed to members before the meeting. This is available as **Appendix B** of the Minute Book and is available online under additional documents.

There has been an increase in thefts from vehicles in Puddletown Forest. The PCSO also reports that there have been several reports of catalytic converters being removed and stolen from vehicles locally. The PCSO has shared a website which provides advice on protecting vehicles from such thefts. This will be made available through the Parish Council website and promoted on social media.

20/210 **Planning Applications**

WD/D/20/003297 (planning app.) & WD/D/20/003298 (listed building consent)

Proposal: Conversion of loft into additional accommodation with installation of rooflights. Carry out internal and external alterations & repairs.

Location: 2 Chine Hill Waterston Lane, Druce, Dorchester, DT2 7ST

RESOLVED to make no comment.

WD/D/21/000091 (planning app.)

Proposal: Internal and external alterations and repairs. Single storey extension to east elevation and conversion of existing double garage to single garage and hobby room.

Location: Applegate Slyers Lane Waterston Dorset DT2 7SL

RESOLVED to support the application.

20/211 **Rights of Way, drains, hedges, and roads**

A resident has requested that benches in Puddletown be inspected and repaired where necessary with non-slip surfaces installed in front and under them.

RESOLVED to make and keep a record of all benches in all Parishes, to request that owners of public benches inspect them for defects regularly, to adopt any benches which are not claimed and to have these inspected by a suitably qualified individual before deciding what work to undertake.

Action: Clerk

Dorset Council should now have had a quote for work to the surface of Doctors Lane. The Clerk was asked to request an update.

Action: Clerk

20/212 **Virtual Meetings**

MP Chris Loder has asked for the Parish Council opinion on whether primary legislation should be laid to make virtual meetings a more permanent provision. Councillors

expressed their disappointment that the Government had taken the decision not to extend emergency legislation put in place in 2020 which allowed this.

RESOLVED to reply to Chris Loder to state that PAPC is supportive of permanent legislation which would enable local councils the flexibility to make their own decisions about whether to hold remote meetings or allow remote attendance for members.

Action: Clerk

20/213 **Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24**

Resolved to respond that the plan appears to be a cost cutting strategy and that there must be no degradation to the service provided.

Action: Clerk

20/214 **Internal Control Procedure**

RESOLVED to approve the Internal Control Procedure prepared by the Clerk.

20/215 **Finance and accounts**

Three quotes for installation of Noticeboards and work required at Orchard Meadow were considered.

RESOLVED to accept a quote from Dave Knight of £2045 for the required work at Orchard Meadow and noticeboard installation.

Action: Clerk

RESOLVED to accept a quote from Ken Hussey of £383.95 to reset the totem pole and extend the southern fence at Orchard Meadow to close off the jetty near the river as the timber there is no longer stable.

Action: Clerk

RESOLVED to purchase two 120-litre litter bins at £126 each, one for the recreation ground to replace a damaged bin and one to go into the layby near to the recreation ground.

Action: Clerk

The highways authority will be asked if this bin can be placed near the fence between the layby and road so that it is more visible. If the bin is not effective in this location, it could be relocated and used elsewhere.

RESOLVED to approved an estimate from Rosie Darkin-Miller of £333.41 for the internal audit. The Council agreed to a three-year deal in order to reduce the cost.

RESOLVED to approve a grant request from Puddletown Village Hall Committee for £5500 toward the cost of a new kitchen.

RESOLVED to approve payments totalling £1965.70, in addition to the above grant approved, and note receipts and other payments in accordance with the April 2021 schedule. A copy of the schedule appears as **Appendix B** of the Minute Book and is available online under additional documents.

20/216 **Date of next meeting and items for the agenda**

Tuesday 4th May 2021, 7.00 pm. This meeting will be held remotely using Zoom. Details of how to access the meeting will be available at the bottom of the agenda. This is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the first orders of business will be elections of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

20/217 **Exclusion of members of the press and public**

RESOLVED to exclude members of the press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972).

20/218 **Clerk's salary progression**

RESOLVED to approve salary progression in accordance with the Clerk's Contract of Employment and based on the recommendation of the Chairman following an annual performance management review. This consists of a single point increase for successful performance review and another point for successfully completing a recognised qualification – The Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Meeting closed at 9:10pm

Signed

.....Chair

Date:

Peter Churchill

DRAFT