

Minutes of a meeting of Puddletown Area Parish Council (PAPC) held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12th October 2021, in Tolpuddle Village Hall.

Present:	Cllrs Peter Walton (Vice-Chairman), John Ridout (Vice-Chairman), Peter Redman, Lauren Tidbury, and Mike Brown.
Meeting Chair:	Cllr Alan Sheppard (Chairman)
Clerk:	Anna Bendall
Also in Attendance:	1 member of the public.
Minute Number	Comments
21/080	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Alan Sheppard, Nicky Ling and Julian Hubbuck. Apologies also received from Dorset Councillor Emma Parker and PCSO Alison Donnison.</p>
21/081	<p>Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests</p> <p>None.</p>
21/082	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>None.</p>
21/083	<p>Confirmation of minutes of the PAPC meeting held 14th of September 2021</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes for the PAPC meeting held on the 14th of September 2021 be approved.</p>
21/084	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes of the PAPC meetings and review of Action Log</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Crossings</u></p> <p>Further enquiries have been made into getting new pedestrian crossings considered by Dorset Council. The consultation required pre-application, does not need to be extensive and it is suitable to just consult those who will be most likely to object or be affected by the crossing.</p> <p>Two crossings have been requested by residents; one outside of the first school where the existing road narrowing is; and one outside of the middle school crossing over to Whitehill. In both cases, there are not thought to be any likely objectors and the schools will be most affected and have already been informed of the plans.</p> <p>The crossing outside of the first school is mentioned as a desire in the Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan, as well as another crossing over the High Street where the existing traffic lights are at the crossroads. There are not thought to be any likely objectors for this crossing either.</p>

	<p>Dorset Council will carry out a scoring process after any crossing requests, to determine if the locations are suitable. This includes a survey of both pedestrian and vehicle movements over a 12-hour period. The Parish Council is not informed of the date that the survey takes place.</p> <p>RESOLVED to request all three crossings from Dorset Council. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Certificate of Recognition</u></p> <p>The High Sheriff of Dorset has sent a certificate to the Parish Council in recognition of the efforts made by the Community Support Group which was quickly established in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This group is a joint effort between the Puddletown Charity and the Parish Council and supports residents across the four parishes. It was agreed that copies of the certificate will be displayed on the Parish Council website and noticeboards and the original will be displayed in the Church Room in Puddletown. Action: Clerk</p>
21/085	<p>Dorset Councillor's Report</p> <p>A report was received from Dorset Councillor 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.</p> <p>Some people have reported having difficulties in submitting responses to the Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation. It was agreed that this feedback would be passed back to Emma Parker. Action: Clerk</p>
21/086	<p>Community Governance Review</p> <p>The feedback from the consultation undertaken by the Parish Council was considered. The Parish Council's suggestion to merge Puddletown and Athelhampton together and Tolpuddle and Burleston together was generally supported. Although the feedback from Athelhampton was that some would prefer to retain the Parish as separate, the seats there have been vacant for well over two years with no-one currently willing to stand as a member for Athelhampton. Councillors felt that this was the only option that received enough support for the Parish Council to consider that it had the general support of the community, particularly as anyone not responding could be seen as having no objection. This suggestion will improve electoral equality and be effective and convenient.</p> <p>RESOLVED to respond to the Dorset Council consultation with the suggestion that Athelhampton merge with Puddletown to create a single parish with 9 seats on the group Council and that Burleston merge with Tolpuddle to create a single parish with 3 seats on the group Council.</p> <p>Any individual may still respond independently to the Dorset Council consultation and submit their own proposal. There will be a further consultation where all residents will have the opportunity to support or object to proposals, including this one and any other proposals submitted.</p> <p>A copy of the leaflet that was distributed as part of the consultation, a copy of the spreadsheet showing all responses, and a document summarising the process and</p>

	<p>feedback, are all available as Appendix B of the Minute Book and available online under additional documents.</p>
21/087	<p>Recreation Areas</p> <p><u>Maintenance Required</u></p> <p>Two fence posts at the toddler area at Orchard Meadow are rotten and one is very damaged. Volunteers have secured the fence temporarily, but posts need replacing. The Clerk has obtained a quote to replace these posts. RESOLVED to accept the quote from Barry Knight of £150 for replacement posts. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Recreation Ground Toilets</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that a single public toilet will remain open at weekends over the winter period as a unisex facility. The door will no longer be propped open as it is much colder over the winter period and toilet cleaning will take place weekly. RESOLVED that Dan Weiss be provided with a key for the toilet so that he and his clients can access the toilet when it is not open whilst they are using the upstairs gym in the pavilion. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Tree Donation</u></p> <p>A Burleston resident would like to donate a tree to be planted in Orchard Meadow. It is thought that there may not be enough space in Orchard Meadow for another tree but it was agreed to accept the offer as the tree could be planted at Puddletown Recreation Ground instead. The Clerk will discuss species and location with Councillor Harry Doe. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Orchard Meadow Fence</u></p> <p>The Clerk has reviewed copies of the lease agreement with the landowners to the west of Orchard Meadow and spoken to the freeholder of Orchard Meadow. It has been concluded that the boundary fence to the west which was erected prior to the commencement of the lease, is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. The landowners to the west believe that the fence is their responsibility and would like to maintain the fence. They have asked for a letter from the Parish Council confirming that they own that boundary and are responsible for the fence. It was agreed that whilst the Parish Council cannot confirm this as it has no evidence to suggest who owns the boundary, it is happy to provide a letter confirming that the Parish Council is not responsible for the maintenance of the fence. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Orchard Meadow Maintenance</u></p> <p>The Clerk has met with Rob Brunt and Martin Cooke who have previously organised work parties at Orchard Meadow. Martin has now stepped back from this. At the recent Tolpuddle Village Meeting, there were no volunteers to take on this role and so Rob Brunt has agreed to take over all administrative aspects of organising the working parties which will resume as usual.</p> <p>The hedge maintenance and clearing of the pond has become a much bigger job as plants have all grown over the years and volunteers no longer have the equipment and ability to keep up with these jobs. It was agreed that the annual clearing of the pond</p>

	<p>and the annual cutting back of the hedge to the west will both be added to the maintenance contract along with the grass cutting and annual cutting of the northern hedgerow, which are already included.</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve spending of up to £10 for each working party at Orchard Meadow, to cover the cost of refreshments for volunteers.</p> <p><u>Cricket Wicket</u></p> <p>Sport England have agreed to proceed and to award the full cost of the new wicket up to the maximum amount that was offered (£35k). So, in terms of funding, the project can proceed.</p> <p>The Parish Council has received legal advice from its insurer that the Council, as landowner, has some responsibility for safety at the recreation ground whilst the cricket club is using the space, despite the Club having its own public liability insurance.</p> <p>The Parish Council is aware that TGMS recommended that a ball strike assessment be completed. The Parish Council is aware that an assessment has now been carried out and has concluded that mitigation is required for safety reasons. The Parish Council is not currently aware that the Cricket Club has plans in place to introduce any such mitigation. The Parish Council's insurer has advised that if the new wicket is installed and the Parish Council allows the Cricket Club to continue to play without mitigation, the Parish Council could be seen as having acted negligently should an incident occur which results in damage to property or injury.</p> <p>The Parish Council has therefore concluded that it shall not proceed to instruct work on the new wicket until the cricket club has presented a plan for introducing mitigation measures which the Parish Council has approved as being suitable (initially, it is thought that a removable structure would be most appropriate so that it can be stored out of season). The Parish Council will also expect the cricket club to include plans for funding such mitigation. Members of the cricket club will be invited to present such a plan to the Parish Council by sending a written plan to the Clerk and attending a Parish Council meeting to answer any questions that that Councillors might have.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk</p>
21/088	<p>Parish matters</p> <p><u>Community Speed Watch</u></p> <p>There are now enough volunteers to establish the Community Speed Watch Group and volunteer forms have been send to Dorset Police. A meeting will be needed for the police to meet with volunteers. Residents in Tolpuddle have expressed interest in joining the group but ideally, more volunteers in Tolpuddle are needed to add it as a location. The Clerk will send volunteer forms and information to those who have expressed an interest and make a plea on social media for more Tolpuddle volunteers.</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve spending for hall hire for a meeting with Dorset Police.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk</p> <p>Cases of Japanese knotweed identified in Tolpuddle have been reported to Dorset Council.</p>

21/089	<p>PCSO's report</p> <p>A report was received from PCSO Donnison and distributed to members before the meeting. This is available as Appendix C of the Minute Book and is available online under additional documents.</p>
21/090	<p>Rights of Way, drains, hedges, and roads</p> <p><u>Reports to Dorset Council</u></p> <p>The Parish Council has found that Dorset Council officers are held to account for how quickly they deal with online reports. Emails do not have the same effect therefore it is important that reports are made to Dorset Council online. If action is not taken in a timely manner, then the Parish Council can be asked to escalate the matter.</p> <p><u>Lower Waterston Speed Limit</u></p> <p>RESOLVED to write to MP Chris Loder to request his support in lowering the speed limit along the B3142 in Lower Waterston. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Railings on Village Gateway in Tolpuddle</u></p> <p>A Tolpuddle resident has requested that the iron railings on the village gateway to the east of the village be repainted as they are rusty and the paint has chipped away. It was agreed that the Clerk will check permissions for this with the highways authority before seeking quotes. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Speed Indication Devices</u></p> <p>Highways Officers have recommended that the SID in Tolpuddle be moved a few meters so that it is in a position where it will not be obscured by the hedgerow. It was agreed that the Clerk will approach the Martyrs Museum to discuss the suggestion.</p> <p>RESOLVED to purchase an additional SID at a cost of £1225 plus an additional post for Puddletown at the beginning of the 30mph zone at a cost of £300-500 so that Puddletown and Tolpuddle each have their own SID.</p> <p>RESOLVED to convert each post so that the SIDs can run on solar power at a one-off cost per post of £175. Action: Clerk</p> <p><u>Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation</u></p> <p>RESOLVED to submit a response suggesting a new right of way linking Athelhampton with Puddletown. Action: Clerk</p>
21/091	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>P/HOU/2021/02748 (householder application) Proposal: Single storey extension Location: 2 White Hill, Puddletown, DT2 8SB RESOLVED to make no comment</p>

	<p>P/HOU/2021/01684 (householder application) Proposal: Erect a single-storey extension to the side and rear elevation. Increase height of Garage roof. Location: 1 Bellbury Close, Puddletown, Dorset, DT2 8SG RESOLVED to make no comment</p> <p>P/HOU/2021/02174 (householder application) Proposal: Remove existing roof, raise eaves & form new roof & conversion to form living accommodation. Remove flat roof over existing garage & form new pitched roof. Remove existing conservatory & form new rear pitched roof single storey extension & form porch. Location: 8 White Hill, Puddletown, Dorset, DT2 8SB RESOLVED to make no comment</p> <p>P/HOU/2021/03148 (householder application) Proposal: Erect two storey rear extension and balcony Location: 81A The Hayloft, Main Road, Tolpuddle, Dorset, DT2 7EZ RESOLVED to make no comment</p>
21/092	<p>Finance</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept a quote from Hustings Electrical of £218.14 (ex. VAT) for electrical work to the Tolpuddle K6 kiosk</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve payments totalling £2260.97 in accordance with the October 2021 schedule. A copy of the schedule appears as Appendix D of the Minute Book and is available online under additional documents.</p>
21/093	<p>Date of next meeting and items for the agenda</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th November 2021, 7.00 pm in Puddletown Village Hall.</p>

Meeting closed at 8:35 pm

Signed

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Date: