

Minutes of a meeting of the Puddletown Area Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Tuesday 9th April 2019 at Puddletown Village Hall

Present: Cllrs A. Sheppard (Vice Chairman), Cllr P. Walton (Vice Chairman), J. Johnstone, P. Cooke, P. Drake, M. Cooke

Chairman: Cllr S. Baynard

Locum Clerk: Mr C. Hampton

In Attendance: 3 members of the public, DCC Cllr N. Ireland

Public Participation Time

Mrs Johnstone raised 2 items:

- The Tolpuddle Parish AGM will take place on the 21st May 2019.
- What is the possibility of obtaining a grant for a footpath from Athelhampton to Puddletown, as reported in the minutes of the March PAPC meeting? Cllr Drake replied that it is possible to apply for one but obtaining landowners permission would be difficult. Cllr P. Cooke suggested it should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan if that was resurrected, perhaps as a joint cycle/footpath.

Minute Number Comments

18/272 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Thorne and PCSO A. Donnison

18/273 Confirmation of minutes of PAPC Meeting held 12th March 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes for the PAPC Meeting held 12th March 2019 be approved and signed in the presence of the meeting.

18/274 Matters arising from the minutes of the 12th March 2019 PAPC Meeting

None not covered by the agenda.

18/275 To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with S94 of the LGA1972 and consider any dispensations requested.

None received.

18/276 County Councillor's report

Cllr Ireland reported on the following: -

- I have no March DCC budget numbers but at my last meeting with DCC's now departed interim Chief Exec he suggested the final budget deficit handed over to Dorset Council would be somewhere between £3m and £4m. This will be made up out of reserves.
- An extraordinary meeting of the Shadow Dorset Council was held on 14th March to consider a cross party motion regarding the lack of engagement with town and parish councils. We elicited a commitment to do better going forward.
- Unfortunately, I missed the Highways meeting regarding school parking. Hopefully something will come of it.
- DCC held their final Cabinet on the 27th March and the final full council the following day, bringing an end to 130 years of that institution. Nothing much was transacted at either meeting other than the DCC flag was lowered and a tree planted.
- Council tax bills have been sent out. Dorset Council will have the joint 2nd highest council tax in England.
- Dorset Council came into existence on the 1st April; all went smoothly.

- Nominations have closed for the 2nd May elections. I note you will have no election, no councillors from Athelhampton or Burleston and only seven in total. There seems a spreading disinterest in being a parish councillor, something the new Dorset Council will have to attempt to address.

18/277 **District Councillor's Report**

Cllr P. Cooke voiced his concern regarding the number of parishes in Dorset with no election nominations. He felt the new Dorset Council would need to question why there is this lack of interest in local government at the Parish Council level?

18/278 **Police and Community Issues**

PCSO Donnison was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a report which was read to the meeting by the Chairman. A copy of the report appears as Appendix A of the Minute Book.

18/279 **Planning Applications**

- WD/D/19/000475
Proposal: Change of use of existing barn, stable and out-building and alterations to form a residential dwelling.
Location: 15 THE MOOR, PUDDLETOWN, DORCHESTER, DT2 8TE.
- WD/D/19/000737
Proposal: Internal alterations to provide mezzanine bedroom.
Location: 4 THE OLD SCHOOL, 38 HIGH STREET, PUDDLETOWN, DORCHESTER, DT2 8RY.

RESOLVED that PAPC has no objections to either of these planning applications, however it was noted that yet another application increasing accommodation at the Old School site, may have an adverse effect on the allocated parking determined on the basis of the original specification.

18/280 **Puddletown Matters**

- Cllr Sheppard reported that planning approval for the skate park has been granted. More fund raising will now be needed.
- Cllr Sheppard also reported that some minor damage at the recreation ground is going unreported and repairs work is more significant than has previously been acknowledged. This will be addressed.
- Approval was sought for the purchase of two 'No Kite Flying' signs at the recreation ground.

RESOLVED to approve the purchase of two 'No Kite Flying' signs.

- Cllrs Sheppard, Drake and the Clerk reported on a meeting they attended with Highways and the First School regarding parking outside of the school. It was agreed that there is no easy solution to this ongoing problem but Highways made some positive suggestions which, if implemented, would go some way to alleviating the situation. Ongoing. **Action: Clerk**
- The issue of overgrown shrubbery on the grass verge at Greenacres and the danger associated with the footpath/bridleway joining the road at Greenacres/Three Ways Lane was also discussed with Highways. It was agreed that both these issues need to be dealt with by the relevant Dorset County department. Ongoing. **Action: Clerk**
- The Clerk reported that the DC Countryside team have been given the go-ahead to carry out a tree safety inspection at The Coombe, Recreation Ground and Orchard Meadow Park.
- The Chairman and Cllr Drake informed the meeting that they had spoken to a parishioner who had complained to the council about traffic speeding in the Puddletown 30mph zone on the Athelhampton Road. Highways were contacted by Cllr Drake, who proposed moving the SID mounting post to give earlier warning of vehicle speed entering the village. This needs to be agreed on H&S grounds. Ongoing. **Action: Cllrs Drake & Sheppard**
- The Chairman read an email to the meeting from a resident regarding the continuing problems at the Old Hairdresser's, The Green. Despite a planning enforcement order being served the situation is, if anything, getting worse with old vehicles left dangerously propped on stands and accumulated rubbish everywhere on the site. The Clerk is to write to the planning enforcement officer asking when the next steps in the procedure are going to be taken. **Action: Clerk**

18/281 **Tolpuddle Matters**

- Cllr M. Cooke announced that his application to the Lottery Fund for a grant to assist with renovating Orchard Meadow Park has been successful, with an award of £9500.
- It was also reported that all refurbishment works approved previously have been completed with the exception of preservative treatment of the tree house.
- Following discussions between Cllr M. Cooke and the Park's safety inspector, it was agreed to fence the pond in the Park. The work was done by volunteers, material costs only were incurred.
- Options are now being awaited for further improvements at the Park following receipt of the Lottery Fund grant.
- An Orchard Meadow Park booking for the 26th May 2019 from the organisers of the Street Fayre was considered and approved.
- Cllr Walton reported on a communication from a councillor at Tincton, where they are concerned about the damage being done to a bridleway by off-roaders. He has spoken to Cllr Drake and they both agree that the best recourse is to speak to the landowner, which Tincton Parish Council are going to do.
- There was a general discussion around the effects of the slurry lagoons in the area and the heavy traffic servicing them. It was agreed that there has been a significant increase in this type of vehicle movement on the roads in the area. Cllr Walton expressed concern that the council Highways team are not paying sufficient attention to the detrimental effects of increased heavy traffic in the area's rural lanes.

18/282 **Communications**

- The Clerk repeated his appeal for more material to publish on the website.

18/283 **Rights of Way, Drains, Hedges and Roads**

Nothing further to report.

18/284 **Annual Parish Meeting**

It was agreed that the meeting would be held at 7pm 14th May 2019 in Puddletown village hall, prior to the Annual Parish Council meeting which would follow straight after. It is hoped that someone senior from the Police Community Support team will be able to attend to answer questions on the lack of policing at Puddletown Forest. The Annual Parish meeting is to be more widely advertised than usual in a bid to attract more attendance from all the parishes in the PAPC group.

Action: Clerk

18/285 **Advertising for a new Clerk/RFO**

The Clerk advised members that it will be necessary to start advert for a replacement. A notice has been published on the PAPC website and on the Jobs page of the DAPTC website. He was asked to investigate the cost of advertising in the Dorset Echo and Blackmore Vale magazine and advise members by email.

Action: Clerk

18/286 **To consider any correspondence received since the agenda was set for discussion and possible inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting**

The Clerk drew members' attention to the following correspondence: -

- Dorset Community Action – offer to join their new Associate Membership scheme at £25 per annum.
- Crossways Youth & Community Centre – request for a donation.

It was agreed to consider the DCA membership at the May meeting.

18/287 **Accounts**

To authorise payment of accounts – the payments requested schedule for April was circulated to Members prior to the meeting and appears as Appendix B of the Minute Book.

RESOLVED to approve payments totalling £4205.37 in accordance with the schedule of payments requested.

18/288 **Items for Next Agenda**

To be sent to the Clerk, deadline for submissions midday Monday 6th May 2019.

18/289 **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14th May 2019, 7.00 pm at Puddletown Village Hall. This will begin with the Annual Parish meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

.....Chairman
Stephen Baynard

Date: 14th May 2019

DRAFT