

Minutes of the Puddletown Annual Parish Meeting, held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at Puddletown Village Hall, commencing at 7pm

Chair: Cllr A. Sheppard

Clerk: Locum Clerk Mr C Hampton

Also present: 12 members of the public, DC Cllr Emma Parker, 7 Parish Councillors, Linda Laker (Forestry England) and PC Moore (from 7.25pm)

1/2019 Apologies for absence

Stephen Baynard

2/2019 Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 15th May 2018

A copy of the minutes had been issued to all councillors after the previous year's meeting and were signed in the presence of the meeting by the Chair.

3/2019 Matters arising from the minutes

The Chair highlighted issues raised: -

- Dogs in the churchyard
- Lack of dog exercise areas
- 30mph extension at The Coombe

The Chair reported that following a petition the County agreed to extend the 30mph zone to the top of the hill. However, he warned that the process of producing and installing a new sign will be lengthy.

4/2019 Puddletown Forest

Linda Laker introduced herself and gave some background to Forestry England's involvement with Puddletown Forest, which is leased to them, and her responsibilities. She went on to explain the difficulties in tackling the issues of improper and indecent activities within the Forest. To many people's surprise acts of gross indecency are only criminal if they cause offence to the observer. Her message was to report incidents, either to 101, or if sufficiently concerned 999. Unfortunately, many people do not report these incidents which makes it difficult to direct scarce resources to the problem.

When he arrived, PC Moore was able to underline the message from Linda and again emphasised the need for incidents to be reported. He also gave a broad breakdown of criminal offences recorded in the Puddletown area over the last year, reporting that crime was mainly burglary from properties and cars.

The Chair thanked both Linda Laker and PC Moore for their time in attending the meeting.

5/2019 Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2018/2019

The Chair, read the report from Stephen Baynard, who unfortunately was unable to attend.

The report will be available on the Council's website.

6/2019 Report from Puddletown Charity

Cllr Phil Drake explained the purpose of the charity and gave examples of its work, for the benefit of those unaware of its existence.

7/2019 Open Forum - Electors of Puddletown Area Parish may raise topics and issues which may be forwarded for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

- Mr. Phil Whiffing raised his concerns regarding the preparatory work being done on the site of the Three Ways Lane development, which appears to encroach into the landscape buffer adjacent to Greenacres (established by a section 106 agreement in 2001). This occurred even though the overlap between the landscape buffer and the proposed development was pointed out during consultation on the development. The developer appears to have removed trees and shrubs from the landscape buffer beyond the point for which planning permission has been granted. He has written to Dorset Council but as yet received no reply, so is seeking Parish Council support for residents. Cllr Churchill agreed with the concerns raised and has asked for it to be included on the Parish Council’s June agenda.

8/2019 Any Other Business

There was no other business to conduct and the meeting was closed at 7.45 p.m.

.....Chairman