

Minutes of a meeting of the Puddletown Area Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th September 2018 at Puddletown Village Hall

Present: Cllrs P. Churchill, A. Thorne, J. Johnstone, S. Langdon, J. Ranger, P. Cooke

Chairman: Cllr A. Sheppard (Vice Chairman)

Locum Clerk: C. Hampton

Public: 13 members of the public. DCC Cllr N. Ireland.

Public Participation Time

The Chairman announced that although the Butt Close play area and the Green are agenda items for discussion later, members of the public who wished to speak on the subject could do so at this point in the meeting, either individually or as a group representation. However, if members of the public present wished to raise any other matter he would hear them first before inviting comments on Butt Close and the Green.

1. Julia Johnstone announced that the next Tolpuddle Village meeting will be held in the village hall 6th November 2018 at 7pm.

2. Numerous complaints were received regarding the stockpiling of vehicles and scrap materials on the frontage of the Old Hairdressers at The Green, Concerns included late night noise from wrecking work, danger to children due to unsecured premises, unsightly mess in a conservation area, pollution, traffic hazard, vermin, change of use of premises. The Chairman said this will be discussed further later in the meeting.

3. Butt Close play area. A number of residents whose properties surround the play area have written to the council and attended the meeting to raise concerns about possible plans the council may have for it. The Chairman assured them that no decisions have yet been taken regarding the play area's future, but safety issues identified in a recent ROSPA inspection need to be addressed. Residents stressed that they would like to see the area improved for small children to play in and for the existing ban on ball games to be maintained, fearing damage to their properties and disruption to their lives if ball games were to be allowed, as this had been a real problem in the past. Having heard their concerns the Chairman thanked the representatives for their input to the agenda item that will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. A Tolpuddle resident gave the meeting some background information on the request for a contribution from the council towards the cost of commissioning a memorial plaque to the dead of WW1. She pointed out that 7 men from the village had given their lives and there is currently no memorial to them all.

5. A White Hill resident expressed his reservations regarding the planning application at East Farm Cottage, which he believes will exacerbate existing parking problems in the area and is also not allowed for in the West Dorset Local Plan.

Minute Number Comments

18/143 **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs S. Baynard, P. Drake, P. Walton, M. Cooke

18/144 **Confirmation of minutes of PAPC Meeting held 14th August 2018**

Cllrs Churchill and Langdon were of the opinion that para. 3 of the Public Participation Time section did not accurately reflect the view of the council as a whole regarding the Dorchester Marathon. After some discussion it was proposed that the minutes be approved with the following amendment: -

'The Parish Council agrees to support the Marathon'

RESOLVED that the minutes for the PAPC Meeting held 14th August 2018 be approved as amended and signed in the presence of the meeting.

18/145 **Matters arising from the minutes of the 14th August 2018 PAPC Meeting**

There was criticism of the letter the Clerk was actioned at para.3 to send to the Dorchester Marathon organisers, which it was felt did not accurately reflect the opinions of the Parish Council as a whole in that it gave the impression the council did not support the Marathon. The Clerk responded that a draft of the letter had been approved by the Chairman before it was sent, which was queried by Cllr Langdon. It was agreed that the letter should be reviewed with Cllr Baynard on his return.

Action: Clerk

A query from Cllr Churchill regarding an action on the Clerk from the July meeting was discussed. The Clerk will follow up on his report to Highways about overhanging trees at The Coombe. A request to extend the 30mph zone at The Coombe will need a petition to be raised, requiring a minimum of 50 signatures.

Action: Clerk

18/146 **To receive Declarations of Interest** in accordance with S94 of the LGA1972 and consider any dispensations requested.

Cllr Thorne submitted a dispensation request to the Clerk relating to agenda item 14 – Payments Request Schedule, as he is one of the payees for grass cutting at Orchard Meadow. The Clerk approved Cllr Thorne to speak but not vote on this item, the dispensation to remain extant until May 2019.

WDDC Cllr P Cooke declared an interest in agenda item 8.1 as licensee of the adjoining Martyrs Inn.

18/147 **County Councillors report**

DCC issues:

- Budget – still overspent, mostly due to Child Services.
- Dorchester Marathon 2019 – no update from DCC. Anticipated that it will go ahead on the equivalent date next year.
- Ironman 2018 – DCC highways staff working on the day both at County Hall and with Ironman to help with any issues.

LGR issues

- Boundary review closed, outcome expected late October. Unlikely to be any major changes to the original proposals.
- New Chief Exec – all interviews over, appointment likely to be known by next week but needs to be ratified at the next Shadow Council EOM.
- No transformation before day 1 of the new Dorset Council. Transformation estimated at £27m or more and they don't have the funds. Upshot of this is that all staff will be doing the same job at the same location reporting to the same manager. No redundancies other than the 3 (or 4) surplus chief execs (which will cost about £1m) plus probably several senior director level types.
- No decision on council tax harmonisation from day 1; waiting on permission from MHCLG as two of the current council areas (North and West Dorset) will breach the 2.99% cap if it goes ahead. The increase for the current WDDC area (and hence Puddletown area residents) would be 4.49% under this proposal.

18/148 **District Councillors Report**

Nothing to report.

18/149 **Police and Community Issues**

PCSO Donnison was unable to attend due to an incident she had to respond to. She did send her apologies the next day and a report, a copy of which has been subsequently distributed to all councillors and appears as Appendix A of the Minute Book.

18/150 **Planning Applications**

8.1 WD/D/18/001530 - Proposal: erection of two detached dwellings with garaging and car parking. Location: East Farm Cottage, White Hill, Tolpiddle DT2 7EP

Cllr Johnstone put a number of objections to this application to members, which received unanimous support.

RESOLVED that the council objects to the application on the following grounds: -

1. It does not conform to the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan 2015 as it applies to Tolpuddle.
2. The proposed development is not in keeping with the Conservation Area.
3. Given the current state and future prospects of public bus services through the village, the stated benefit at para.4.03 of the Planning, Design, Access and Heritage statement is not supported by the council.

18/151 **Puddletown Matters**

9.1 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Churchill presented the meeting with a PNP Status and Plans report, a copy of which appears as Appendix B of the Minute Book.

9.2 The Old Hairdressers frontage being used as a scrapyard – Cllr Sheppard has submitted photographic evidence of the problem, a copy of which appears as Appendix C of the Minute Book. He summarised the points already made at the start of the evening, with other members making similar contributions in support. Cllr P. Cooke undertook to write to the Planning Enforcement Officer and the Clerk has been tasked with writing to the Environmental Health Officer.

Action: Cllr P Cooke/Clerk

9.3 Butt Close Play Area – for the benefit of members, Cllr Churchill collated all the emails and letters received on the subject into a single document, a copy of which appears as Appendix D of the Minute Book. He delivered a summary of what he felt were the main concerns of residents, also expressed by representatives at the beginning of the meeting, and how he saw the way ahead for the play area. The focus should be on a facility for small children and families, possibly fenced, with picnic benches, trees and no ball games, the issues highlighted in the safety report should be addressed. There was widespread support amongst members for this. Cllr Ranger suggested that all anti-social behaviour experienced by residents in the area should be reported immediately to the police. One of the residents offered to act as gatekeeper and police the area if it was fenced. Cllr Sheppard announced that he has had it in mind for some time to transfer equipment no longer required in the Puddletown play park to Butt Close. He is also in discussion with Cllr M. Cooke about possibly amalgamating the 3 play areas in the combined parish.

Action Cllrs Sheppard/M. Cooke

In summary there is a commitment from the Parish Council to support the play area. A request for waste bins to be installed will be investigated by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

18/152 **Tolpuddle Matters**

10.1 Contribution towards the cost of a memorial plaque commemorating village's war dead – Cllr Walton had submitted a proposal in his absence, a copy of which can be found at Appendix E of the Minute Book. Cllr Sheppard cautioned against being unduly influenced by emails from absent members supporting this idea. Cllr Langdon questioned why the council should be making a donation, suggesting that the application is flawed as it does not follow due process. It was questioned whether any donation made would be deducted from the grant already agreed in the budget for the church and village hall. Julia Johnstone pointed out that these organisations were raising the request on behalf of the general public, not for themselves. Cllr P. Cooke also clarified the situation. A representative from the RBL questioned the extent of public fund raising?

The Chairman proposed that a decision on the request should be taken in two stages: -

1. Whether or not to make a contribution to the plaque?
2. How much to contribute?

RESOLVED on the first proposal by 5 votes to 1 abstention to support making a contribution. On the second proposal it was agreed not to make a decision until more facts on the amount needed are obtained.

It was agreed that the process for submitting one-off grant requests should be discussed at the October meeting.

Cllr Johnstone reported on the SID, commenting that Highways were recommending the more expensive unit. He added that there had been no response to his plea for volunteers to help him move the SID from location to location, Cllr Thorne agreed to assist.

Cllr Johnstone also reported that drug addicts were apparently using Orchard Meadow for their nefarious activities. The PCSO has been informed.

Cllr Churchill took this opportunity to request inputs for the September/October Newsletter, to be sent to him by the 21st September.

18/153 **Piddle Valley transport services**

Cllr Churchill presented a paper and draft letter he had produced in an attempt to encourage other councils in the Piddle Valley area to combine as an action group in order to exert influence on the new authority when they are considering public bus services. It is hoped that this will add to the efforts of a similar Blandford based transport action group. It was agreed that the Clerk would redraft the letter and send it together with the position paper on behalf of the council to other Piddle Valley councils. Copies appear as Appendix F of the Minute Book.

Action: Clerk

18/154 **Rights of Way, Drains, Hedges and Roads**

Cllr Johnstone drew attention to the fact that overhanging tree branches were partially obscuring the traffic lights at the corner of the junction from Puddletown to the Troytown roundabout. The Clerk to write to Highways to have the branches removed.

Action: Clerk

18/155 **To consider any correspondence received since the agenda was set for discussion and possible inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting**

The Clerk suggested that based on recent correspondence he had been involved with, there might be another approach from the dog-walking group with suggestions for the council to consider.

Cllr Langdon informed members that she has been sorting through the old records that the council has accumulated, some of which can be disposed of, some sent to the Dorset Historical Centre and some that will need to be kept. She asked for suggestions as to where the retained records should be stored?

The Chairman asked if members had been able to consider the late planning application, received 10th September. It was clear they had not so the Clerk was instructed to request an extension to the deadline in order for the application to be considered at the October meeting. (*Post meeting note – an extension has been agreed*)

18/156 **Accounts**

To authorise payment of accounts – the payments requested schedule for September was circulated to members prior to the meeting and appear as Appendix G of the Minute Book.

RESOLVED to approve payments totalling £3676.85 in accordance with the list of payments requested.

18/157 **Items for Next Agenda**

To be sent to the Clerk, deadline for submissions Saturday 29th September 2018

18/158 **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 9th October 2018, 7.00 pm at Tolpuddle Village Hall

Meeting finished at 9.10 pm

.....Chairman

Date:

DRAFT