

Minutes of a meeting of the Puddletown Area Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Tuesday 9th October 2018 at Tolpuddle Village Hall

Present: Cllrs A. Sheppard (Vice Chairman), P. Churchill, J. Johnstone, S. Langdon, M. Cooke, P. Drake

Chairman: Cllr S. Baynard

Locum Clerk: Mr C. Hampton

In Attendance: 6 members of the public, DCC Cllr N. Ireland, PCSO A. Donnison

Public Participation Time

1. Peter Bishop raised 3 issues: -
 - a. Puddletown Forest access points – he suggested that access points to the forest should be numbered to enable easier identification of location, which would be particularly useful in an emergency.
 - b. Puddletown Forest information boards and route signs - Mr Bishop went on to suggest that more use would be made of the forest for recreational activities if information boards and route signs were erected. It was pointed out that the forest is leased to the commission and there may be restrictions on signage. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Ilington Estate to ask if they would allow signs and access point notices to be erected.

Action: Clerk
 - c. Vehicle storage at the Old Hairdressers, The Green – he felt the situation was getting worse and asked if the Parish Council could do something. It was pointed out that this subject was discussed at some length at the September meeting and WDDC Cllr P. Cooke and the Clerk were tasked with pursuing the matter with the planning authorities and Environmental Health. The Clerk reported that he had written to the EHO and been told that a case had been assigned and would be followed up. He has had no further report from them to date. An update would be sought from Cllr P. Cooke.

Action: Cllr P. Cooke
2. Tony Gould asked if posters could be put up advertising a memorial event at the Old Methodist Chapel in Tolpuddle. It was agreed that posters would be placed on the noticeboards and published to the Community Facebook page.

Action: Cllrs Churchill, Drake and Johnson
3. Phillipa Francis questioned why the Tolpuddle Memorial Plaque fund application for a grant from the council had been refused and why the application was considered flawed as reported in the September meeting Minutes. She went on to report that the full cost was expected to be met but she was very disappointed by the council's response. It was explained why the application was considered flawed and the Clerk pointed out that the council currently has no clear process or budget for this type of one-off grant, which is in the process of being addressed. The Chairman offered to personally make up any shortfall in fund-raising.

Action: Clerk

Minute Number Comments

18/159 Apologies for absence

Cllrs P. Walton, J. Ranger, A. Thorne

18/160 Confirmation of minutes of PAPC Meeting held 11th September 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes for the PAPC Meeting held 11th September 2018 be approved and signed in the presence of the meeting.

18/161 Matters arising from the minutes of the 11th September 2018 PAPC Meeting

18/145 – The Clerk reported that he had discussed the Dorchester Marathon letter with the Chairman and the matter is now considered closed.

18/145 – The Clerk reported that the overhanging trees at The Coombe have been assessed by the CHO and a quotation of £240 has been received to do the work. The council agreed to go ahead with this quote. Cllr Churchill reported that a petition to extend the 30mph zone at The Coombe was going well and had

already acquired 150 signatures. The petition will be submitted to Highways when it has been closed.
18/153 – The Clerk reported that Cllr Churchill's position paper and letter regarding transport services had been sent to all Piddle Valley parish councils and responses have been received.

18/162 **To receive Declarations of Interest** in accordance with S94 of the LGA1972 and consider any dispensations requested.

Cllr Churchill pointed out that he is the recipient of a cheque listed on the Payments Requested Schedule at agenda item 15.2 and consequently he would not vote on this item. This was noted by the Clerk.

18/163 **County Councillor's report**

Cllr Ireland reported on the following: -

The Green, Puddletown: - I contacted DCC after the last PAPC meeting to ask for an investigation of any highways issues. No response to date.

DCC issues:

- Budget – still overspent, mostly due to Child Services. Job losses in the Environment/Economy directorate will try to make this up.

LGR issues

- There are no outstanding Judicial Reviews, therefore the new Dorset Council will happen.
- The consultation on new Wardings finished at the end of August, result expected 23rd October, no major changes to proposals expected.
- Funding gap for Dorset Council 2019/20 budget is £15.4m assuming no additional negative RSG and also Council Tax harmonisation. The gap for 2020/21 estimated at £8m. Implication is that savings will have to be made. Some may arise almost immediately as a result of the coalescence of the 6 councils but nowhere near that figure.
- Matt Prosser has been recruited as the new CE for Dorset Council, salary set at £165k.
- Recruitment process for 4 of the 5 level 2 roles (one is shared with BCP – Public Health, salary range £120k to £140k) and one level 3 (Monitoring Officer, salary range £80k to £110k) commencing.
- Additional funding required (approx. £400k best guess, this is the second time more funds have been requested, last time it was £2m) to make the deadline for April 19. Unsurprisingly additional staff is needed as the current ones are already understaffed and overworked with 'normal' duties.
- Uncommitted reserves available £13.7m.
- Cost of transformation estimated at between £18m and £27m.
- No transformation at Day 1 of new council; same staff, same jobs, same managers, same office.
- Redundancies will initially only be surplus CEs (costed at £1m) and senior management, followed by mid-management and corporate. Can't initiate most of this until after 1st April 2019 due to TUPE rules. Plans are for 30 senior management, 137 mid-tier management and 65 posts in corporate to go.
- Effectively a recruitment freeze is in place, difficult to recruit anyway but stranded costs due to disaggregation mostly staffing related. Vacancies are mostly being held and not advertised externally if possible.

Cllr Ireland left the meeting after giving his report.

18/164 **District Councillor's Report**

No report received. Cllr Langdon said she thought it would be useful to hear about any committees Cllr P. Cooke sits on e.g. the Chairman's Centenary Fund

18/165 **Police and Community Issues**

PCSO Donnison reported on the following: -

- Possible Child Safety issue in Puddletown – white car (no registration details) thought to be following a child near the school.
 - Report of suspicious male activity (possibly sexual) in Puddletown Forest.
 - Theft of garden furniture and ornaments in the area.
 - Suspected drug taking in Orchard Meadow.
 - Poaching continues to be a problem around Puddletown Forest, more towards Moreton area.
 - The Chairman reported a spate of HSBC scam telephone calls.
 - Cllr Sheppard reported a spate of hit and run incidents of parked cars being damaged in Puddletown.
- PCSO Donnison told members that the planning authorities had contacted her regarding the vehicles at the Old Hairdressers at The Green. She also made a plea for all suspected incidents including anti-social

behaviour to be reported and for scam calls to be reported to Action Fraud with as much detail as possible.

PCSO Donnison left the meeting after giving her report.

18/166 **Planning Applications**

- WD/D/18/001737
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension
Location: 5 COOMBE ROAD, PUDDLETOWN, DORCHESTER, DT2 8RZ
- WD/D/18/002000
Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Location: 9 HIGH STREET, PUDDLETOWN, DORCHESTER, DT2 8R
- WD/D/18/002001
Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Location: 9 HIGH STREET, PUDDLETOWN, DORCHESTER, DT2 8R
- WD/D/18/002002
Proposal: Erection of agricultural barn
Location: COOMBE BARN FARM, WHITE HILL, PUDDLETOWN
- WD/D/18/002046
Proposal: Alterations and extensions to agricultural building and change of use to residential dwelling (part retrospective)
Location: MUSTON FARM, MUSTON MANOR FARM LANE, PIDDLIHINTON, DORCHESTER, DT2 7SY (**consulted as adjoining Parish**)

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comment to make on any of these planning applications.

18/167 **Puddletown Matters**

- Cllr Drake reported that the water leaks in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground had been identified and fixed. The only cost being for parts as they were fitted by a volunteer from the football club.
- Cllr Johnstone made it known that there were still no Puddletown volunteers to assist with positioning and maintaining the SID.
- Cllr Churchill reported on another successful opening of the Community Café in the Village Hall.
- Cllr Sheppard gave a brief update on the playpark and planning for the skate park. He also raised the prospect of re-using some of the playpark equipment for Butt Close.

18/168 **Tolpuddle Matters**

- Cllr M. Cooke expanded on the first of his two reports, which appears as Appendix A of the Minute Book. The report requested that members approve the appointment of Ken Hussey for an initial period of 12 months to undertake play equipment inspections and minor repairs on a quarterly basis, and to cancel future RoSPA inspections.

RESOLVED to appoint Ken Hussey to undertake inspections and minor repairs in Tolpuddle and Puddletown recreation grounds and cancel future RoSPA inspections as proposed.

- Cllr M. Cooke expanded on his second report, which appears as Appendix B of the Minute Book.
 - To produce design drawings and engineer advice for the replacement kick wall to enable tendering with funding of c.£1200 from the Orchard Meadow reserve.
 - Consult with Tolpuddle community and particularly families with children – promotion and display costs c.£100 from the Orchard Meadow reserve.
 - To produce costings for the repair and replacement of other equipment following inspections/maintenance report – see separate report to the Parish Council, combined with community consultation.
 - To produce funding applications and particularly a National Lottery Awards for All bid (up to £10,000) for the repairs and replacements with a portion of match funding of 106 developer contributions - £2,000 from the Orchard Meadow reserve and £2,000 from the annual Parish Council budget. Total target income c. £12-14,000.

RESOLVED to spend from the Orchard Meadow fund in accordance with the report.

- Cllr M. Cooke also requested approval for an electrical inspection to be carried out at Orchard Meadow at a cost of £50 - £60.

RESOLVED that an electrical inspection is carried out as requested.

The prospect of amalgamating funds to benefit all the recreational spaces was raised. It was suggested that Cllr Cooke's OM report could be a template for producing a long-term plan for all the PAPC recreational spaces, including Butt Close. A question was raised regarding financial forward planning and it was agreed that the Finance Committee would be considering a 3/5-year plan at its meeting in November, for discussion at the December PAPC meeting.

The Chairman took the opportunity to request that all project leaders consider their long-term financial needs and submit them to the Clerk before the Finance Committee's November meeting.

- Cllr Johnstone made the council aware that there is considerable discontent in Tolpuddle as a result of the decision not to support the Memorial Plaque fund raiser. He asked for a breakdown of recent spending between Puddletown and Tolpuddle. Cllr Langdon explained that the difference in the size of population between villages meant that such comparisons were not valid. She went on to emphasise that her comments regarding the grant application were in no way intended to be divisive, instead she was applying due process in ensuring public money was being properly allocated by the council. The Clerk reiterated that a process for one-off grants for applicants to follow will be produced and a grant allocation will be considered for next year's budget.

18/169 **Financial Regulations**

The NALC Financial Regulations 2016 template, amended by the Finance Committee, was presented for approval and adoption.

RESOLVED to approve and adopt NALC Financial Regulations 2016, as amended by the Finance Committee.

18/170 **Government Shale Gas Exploration & Production Planning Consultations**

A short discussion took place on the government's proposals to make the planning process for shale gas exploration and production simpler and easier, by making it a Permitted Development Right (usually used for minor home extensions) and removing planning applications from local county control to government. It was unanimously agreed that these were retrograde steps and the Clerk was tasked with responding to the consultations.

Action: Clerk

18/171 **Rights of Way, Drains, Hedges and Roads**

Cllr Drake reported the following: -

- Pothole repairs are being completed.
- Budgets have been cut for Highways.
- Apprentices and volunteers are being used to maintain RoWs as reports are received on the need for work to be carried out. There is no maintenance schedule for RoWs.

18/172 **To consider any correspondence received since the agenda was set for discussion and possible inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting**

The Clerk brought member's attention to the DAPTC AGM and asked if anyone would be attending. Cllr Ranger, as the DAPTC representative, has been previously together with Cllr Langdon. The Clerk will check with Cllr Ranger but Cllr Langdon is unable to attend. Cllr Churchill offered to go if required. *(Post meeting note, Cllr Ranger is unable to attend due to another engagement. Cllr Churchill will attend, if any member has views on the motions to be voted on at the AGM please forward them to him).*

18/173 **Accounts**

- The Clerk presented a Financial Statement for the 2nd qtr of Financial Year 2018-19. He was unable to answer a query at the meeting regarding the size of the Playpark budget overspend, therefore he withdrew the statement which will be checked and presented to the November meeting.
- To authorise payment of accounts – the payments requested schedule for October was circulated to members prior to the meeting and appear as Appendix C of the Minute Book.

RESOLVED to approve payments totalling £6694.10 in accordance with the schedule of payments requested.

18/174 **Items for Next Agenda**

To be sent to the Clerk, deadline for submissions Tuesday 6th November 2018

18/175 **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13th November 2018, 7.00 pm at Puddletown Village Hall

Meeting finished at 9.05 pm

.....Chairman

Date:

Stephen Baynard