

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 7pm via Zoom**

**Councillors Present:**D Wiltshire (DW)(*Chairman*)

P Jeffery (PJ)

A Bennett (AB) (Vice chair)

K Delafield (KD)

M Usherwood (MU)

D Read (DR)

A Daw (AD)

M Harding (Clerk)

2 members of the public

**21/03-1 Welcome and to receive any apologies for absence-** the zoom rules were read out by the Chair and apologies received from Cllrs N Hallett and D Follett and Cllr Roland Tarr (Dorset Council Ward member).

**21/03-2 To receive declarations of interest and grants of dispensation-** none.

**21/03-3 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February '21**

Proposed PJ

Seconded AB

**21/03-4 Matters arising from the minutes for info only-** none

**21/03-5 Democratic forum 15 minutes –**

A resident thanked the PC for the old minutes and having them loaded to the new website. The PC were asked if there was anything more that can be done to retrieve the missing minutes and don't, you have a statutory duty to preserve historical minutes. It was explained that all possible attempts had been made to retrieve the old minutes books from the previous Clerk. If by any chance the minute books are found the PC will inform those interested and place these minutes with the history centre when open.

PJ explained he needed to leave the meeting due to another engagement, but made comments on the village gates, as he would like this to be taken very slowly given the costs to the parish- PJ then left the meeting

**21/03-6 To consider the Dorset Council request for Community Governance Review-**

DW explained the process of a CGR which considers boundaries, merging parishes, increase or decrease of Cllrs. Historically the PC had discussed reducing the number of Councillors as in the past there had been a difficulty in getting people to come forward. AB explained that the parish is increasing in the number of residents so we may not wish to reduce the number of Cllrs, but it is worth considering. DC would consider any requests within a CGR. KD commented that in the last 2 years the PC have not struggled to attract Cllrs, but it was explained that years ago filling the spaces has been difficult.

It was suggested that we could extend our boundary that covers up the area up to Monkeys Jump/ MacDonald's as this affects our village more than the parish it sits in. We could also merge with local parishes if they were happy to do so. Concerns were raised about making decisions on other parishes if we were joined as a group Council, the Clerk explained how this works in another grouped parish she clerks, each of the parish makes their own representation. The Clerk also explained how the budgets work with collecting the precept also there could be an option where each of the parishes in the grouped parishes had different precepts this would be a decision for the precepting authority.

The PC will put this on the June agenda and have tentative discussions with local parishes.

**21/03-7 To approve the updated Financial regulations, Grievance and Disciplinary policies to the current NALC versions**

Proposal to update the Grievance and Disciplinary policies in line with the NALC versions of 2019  
 Proposed MU Seconded KD  
 MU asked that the Personnel committee be changed to the Staffing committee as per NALC policies- TOR's to be updated- Clerk to Action  
 Proposed MU Seconded DW  
 Proposal to update the Financial regulations to the newer NALC version.  
 Proposed AB Seconded KD

**21/03-8 Finance**

**i. To consider the finance report of payments and receipts for Mar**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Mar</b>		
DAPTC	Training- planning	30.00
M Harding	Salary/Exp Additional hours for website set up	498.35
HMRC	PAYE	121.60
Receipts		
None		

All payments were made in line with internal controls. Bank balances as of 31<sup>st</sup> March '21  
 £12832.59

Proposed AB Seconded MU

**ii. To consider the planting of wildflowers on verges/green spaces**

DW reported on the correspondence received after the last meeting to plant perennial pollinating wildflower seeds on the DC verges at a cost to the PC of £300, a list of seeds had been provided, 2 strips were suggested on flat verges in front of Cowleaze, and the piece of land by the T junction.

It was noted that there is money in the budget already for this.

KD suggested consulting the residents in those areas affected. DR asked if the land ownership has been confirmed, DW explained that the countryside team are looking into this. MU explained that that the T junction has looked untidy, so Cllrs had kept it tidy. The village have previously asked for the planting of verges. It may be worth letting them know this project is being proposed. Given this project has a timeline the PC didn't want to leave this to a later meeting and voted to proceed with the project and inform those residents in the vicinity about the project.

Proposed AD Seconded DR 5 FOR 1 AGAINST

KD explained that when we added funds in the budget for grass cutting, it was for supporting the PC to get better value for money in verge cutting. DW explained that the new cutting equipment is cut and collect, as DC are moving away from cut and leave and installing more wildflower verges all through the county

**iii. To consider the Hamper draw dates and community groups**

The National Grid Hamper draw has commenced in the village shop using a number square of up to 400 numbers at a cost of £2 each, later in the meeting it was agreed the draw will take place on Zoom during the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. The PC had previously suggested that it would go to village community groups, it was suggested that the Beavers/Cubs groups would benefit, Winterborne Valley fund and other groups were considered but some of these have not set

up again following Covid. KD noted that Winterborne Valley fund has stopped fund raising as they have not had the request for funds.

It was agreed that all the whole funds raised will be gifted to the Beavers and Cubs group in the village.

Proposed DW

Seconded MU

**21/03-9 Planning Consultations-**

**To consider any planning applications –**

None- it was noted that the planning portal is down, and the current site is very disappointing and not user friendly.

- i. To consider any other planning/enforcement or ongoing issues- none.**

**21/03-10 To consider all correspondence received for decision, consultation, and information -Items for noting:**

The Clerk had previously circulated the list of correspondence items.

Items further discussed:

- i.** National grid presentation circulated- AD, DW and the clerk attended the presentation evening virtually, following the circulation of the presentation comments raised on the Christmas Tree support in other villages, it was noted that the National Grid wanted to support those villages who already had a Christmas tree project in place, which we did not. Therefore, the Hamper was suggested. It was noted that there may be other funding options that could be explored within the Nation Grid communities. Comments were made on the flood prevention efforts, also comments on the archaeological findings and it is hoped that this will then be displayed in the Dorchester museum. It was a very interesting presentation, and it is hoped that this will be presented to the village and possibly at a future parish meeting.
- ii.** CIL- A payment schedule and breakdown will be prepared by DC and should be with us by the end of April.
- iii.** Laser Bird Scarers- a request for support on issues of bird-scarers in the village but was dealt with by the resident in the end. This was in regard to the crows in Cowleaze.
- iv.** Response to the Wessex water sewerage letter- A response was received and the Chair of Winterbourne Steepleton and Abbas had copied us into his response to this, He had sent a particularly good letter. We had had a very disappointing generic response from the customer service team. KD commented following her conversations with WW last year, the PR department didn't know about what was going on in the village. The PC will now write more specific questions and write to the Environment Agency and Environmental Health again also to include the point made about works to the pumps which they did not mention. Clerk to action

**21/03-11 Highways:**

**i. To receive the Mar SID results-**

Total number of speed readings taken = 75,786  
 >30mph = 24,738  
 >40mph = 1,869  
 >50mph = 90  
 Average Recorded Speed = 34mph

Top recorded speeds:  
 74 mph (28/02/2021 20:10)  
 69 mph (05/03/2021 21:39)  
 64 mph (27/02/2021 22:27)  
 63 mph (24/02/2021 21:18)  
 62 mph (27/02/2021 22:27)  
 60 mph (14/03/2021 12:47)

*Note:*

*Number of speed readings does not equal number of vehicles.*

*Slower moving vehicles record more speed measurements than faster moving vehicles.*

*A vehicle travelling at 30mph will record 3 or 4 measurements, vs a vehicle moving at 50mph would only record a single measurement.*

Cllrs commented on the top speed meeting a previous record, on this occasion there were 4 readings in 60 seconds so would mean that this would have been suggests 3 or 4 cars at that speed.

**ii. To consider the village gateways project and costs**

KD had circulated a report on the village gateways options and costs. KD explained looking back at the historical minutes that the PC have considered lots of options to reduce speed in the village and many have not been supported by highways as they have not met current criteria, so the PC now need to look at softer or one-off options. Each village gateway would cost in the region £2500 each. KD suggested that the one on the Weymouth road section was probably not worth doing, the one on the Steepleton road may have the best impact. The village entrance on the Dorchester Road should be brought further towards Mallards green and closer to the village environment. There could be an option to get our own gate and install but DC would have to inspect and would charge a fee for this. DR explained that you are already in a 40mph limit when you reach the village from the Dorchester side and there is already a SID in this location. AB commented that when we had the discussion with the housing developer village gates were mentioned so this may be covered by that development as and when it happens.

The recent speed checks at the West End have shown the perception of speeding is greater than the problem. Spending £7500 on gates is not justifiable.

AD explained that it is an issue that the village wants something done about it, but if we do nothing, we need to explain to residents why. AD also commented that if we had a pavement all the way through the village it would create pinch points. No one wants to park cars on the road to create traffic calming measures due to the damage caused to these cars.

MU had also sent out a paper on this topic, he noted that if a development was put in, then the 30mph limit would have to be extended anyway. Also, he would rather see yellow backed signs not the bland white signs. He also raised concerns about the closed shop on gathering quotes by making it difficult, if pavements were installed then streetlights would also have to be considered.

KD also commented that DC would not approve any kind of narrowing or installation of pavements. DW commented that the SID has served a purpose and natural traffic calming measures of parked cars is achievable.

Concerns were also raised about the ongoing costs and future maintenance of the gates. MU suggested the PC could buy a couple of old cars, taxed and MOT'd and left on the side of the road. AB suggested that the PC could upgrade the current village signs to raise the profile of the village. It was noted that the PC are now responsible for village signs, this is not a statutory duty of DC highways. DC are responsible for the signs re health and safety. It was suggested there could be grant from the National Grid project, but only a community groups can apply for any funding. It was suggested that road painting as visual road narrowing's could be explored.

The PC did not approve the purchase of gates at this time. It was agreed to put this on hold at present until we have information about any CIL funds and any potential planning applications in the village that may affect the road layout also to wait to hold and consult with the community on the expenditure.

KD will produce a report for the next meeting on the comments raised by Cllrs, she was thanked for all the work carried out on this subject.

**21/03-12 RoW and Footpaths: to receive a report**

AB reported the footpaths are much dryer, DR had found 20 plus bags of dog poo in the hedge at the rear of his property on the boundary of a footpath. These have now been cleared up. More dog poo signs have been placed around the village. KD commented that she had collected 37 poo bags on the bridleway last year most were left by the finger post.

An issue had been reported when a walker was using the bridleway at the same time as a tractor an argument then arose over legal access, the pedestrian could not pass. A discussion on the use of the bridleway continued, the use of the bridleway by tractors is legal as the farmer owns the land and has permission to use it. AB reported that there is not a lot the Countryside ranger can do about this. DR will refer the resident to the Countryside ranger to deal with the issue.

**21/03-13 Parish Council Property/responsibility reports: none**

Sign for the parking space rented by the PC to be ordered in the new financial year

**21/03-14 To receive reports from:**

- i. **Village Hall** – none.
- ii. **Winterbourne Community Fund (was the Blanchard Trust)**- none.
- iii. **Waste watch representatives**- No requests and the shed now needs to be emptied.
- iv. **Flood Rep report**- None
- v. **PCSO**- None but she has been seen in the village.
- vi. **Green Martinstown**- AD had been asked to request information about Neighbourhood Plans and should the PC consider one given the 25% CIL money that can be achieved from members of the green group. DW explained that this has been talked about in the past. MU commented on this as he has been part of a NP group, also the Clerk has been through 2 NP's, he explained they cost a lot of money, but grants are available, you need a lot of people to be on the committee with some knowledge of planning or expertise, it takes about 3 years to complete, it is then inspected and then there is a referendum. Many committees start off very keen but after time the volunteers do give up because there is a lot involved. At present the PC are not looking at producing a NP. AD would feed this information back on this.
- vii. AD has been in contact with the volunteers about the telephone box and the group are waiting for Covid rules to be relaxed. It was noted that AB and DW had removed some posters from the BT phone box.

**21/03-15 Items for the Annual Parish Council meeting on Weds 28<sup>th</sup> April '21**

As the current legislation to hold meetings virtually has not been extended after 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Annual meeting which would normally be in May cannot now happen virtually, also we do not currently have a venue at present to hold a face-to-face meeting. It was suggested that the PC bring forward the Annual PC meeting and a suggested date is 28<sup>th</sup> April that would be the last Weds of the month which is our normal meeting time of the month. It seems unlikely that this will not be extended but the PC need a backup plan. The Annual parish meeting would be put off until later in the year when village groups can come and make a report. This is a time to consult the village on projects.

Proposed AD

Seconded AB

Items for consideration at the Annual PC meeting- election of the Chair and Vice, policies, Annual return, and confirmation of next year's meetings and hold the Hamper raffle.

**21/03-16 Democratic forum 15 minutes –**

A resident commented on the sewerage problems that there is guidance on destroying crops where disinfection has taken place, he is not aware of any disinfecting at all and who is meant to do this.

When the stream was cleared the stream at the end of the village, the vegetation can be taken from the side of the bank, a conversation will be held with the contractor.

Meeting closed 9.10pm