# Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Martinstown village hall

#### **Councillors Present:**

A Daw (AD) (Chairman) N Hallett (NH) M Usherwood (MU) D Read (DR)

D Wiltshire (DW) (Vice Chair) Cllr R Tarr (Dorset Council)

M Harding (Clerk) 10 members of the public

# 22/02-1. Welcome and to receive any apologies for absence-

Apologies received from K Delafield (KD) and Deborah Follett (DF) who were unwell.

AD reported on the recent resignation of Cllr Patrick Jeffery, thanks were given to Patrick for over 30 years of service as a parish councillor. The PC wished him well.

# 22/02-2. To consider the resignation of the Clerk and the Council to appoint two additional members of the Staffing Committee following the resignation of Cllrs Usherwood and Wiltshire from the Committee in December 2021-

The PC agreed to defer the appointment of the Cllrs to the staffing committee until after the March meeting when new Cllrs were co-opted.

AD explained to the meeting that the Michele had resigned as Clerk, it is a great loss to the PC, Michele has been the Clerk/RFO for nearly 3 years and in that time has supported the PC with a new website, digitalizing the PC office and supporting Debbie and Andy in their role as Chair, a gift was presented to Michele.

DW formerly thanked Michele for her support making her role as Chair so much easier. Michele leaves at the end of Feb she is continuing as a clerk to other parishes in West Dorset and will be taking on a parish in a cluster where she already Clerk's 3 parishes.

The PC will advertise the role with the DAPTC on the website, Facebook and in the V & V. RT commented on Michele's achievements in supporting the Monkeys Jump project with letter writing to Highways England and Dorset Council getting the roundabout project up and running. RT thanked Michele and wished her well.

# 22/02-3. To consider the notice of co-option for the current vacancy and to note the new vacancy following the resignation of CIIr Jeffery

AD explained that following the resignation and then death of Tim Bareham the vacancy will be filled by co-option at the March meeting, the notice of vacancy will be advertised.

Dorset Council have been notified of the resignation of Patrick Jeffery the closing date to call an election is 24<sup>th</sup> February, if 10 electors have not come forward the vacancy will be filled by co-option at the March meeting as well.

Closing date for candidates to apply is he 21<sup>st</sup> March. There have been 2 candidates apply so far. MW commented that if there is an election this will be at a cost to the PC in the region of £1500.

# 22/02-4. To receive declarations of interest and grants of dispensation-none.

# 22/02-5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting Proposed DW Seconded MU All agreed

# 22/02-6. Matters arising from the minutes for info only-

The sign is yet to be installed at the milk machine to thank drivers for driving safely in the village.

Action DW

Chairman's signature Date 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

#### 22/02-7. Democratic forum 15 minutes-

A group of residents working with the vicar requested the use of the village green for a street party for the Queens Jubilee, this would be on the tarmacked area of the Green, the pub are supplying the Brew Box Bar, residents will be asked to bring their own food, the children will be asked to make a crown for a parade, there will also be bunting. It is hoped that the Martinstown singers will be available to sing music from the decades of the era. "The Jubilee Team" will lead this and MU joined the committee as the PC rep for the event, in order that the event can be covered within the Parish Council Insurance. A risk assessment will be supplied, it is also hoped to use the VH toilets. The event was agreed by the PC with MU on the committee as PC rep.

Proposed DW Seconded MU All agreed Action MU

A resident raised concern at the state of the bridleway through North Rew Lane being almost impassable, this is also used by the tractors instead of driving through the village. RT commented that DC have very little budget for this kind of work but will look into it. The Clerk will send the resident the online links to report the problems on rights of way directly to DC. It was suggested that the VIP project could be approached to use the chalk to repair some of the surfaces on the rights of way.

Action Clerk /RT

A resident complained about the lights from the Magna properties in Manor Grove opposite the end of Cowleaze. They are very bright and shine directly into the eyes of drivers of vehicles leaving Cowleaze. A Councillor mentioned that the lights on the back of the flats shine into bedroom windows of properties opposite the Magna complex and also create light pollution. The PC will write to Magna to request that they are capped or switched off at night.

**Action Clerk/DW** 

# 22/02-8. To consider any of the Parish Survey objectives for the coming year

This was deferred until we have a full complement of Councillors

# 22/02-9. Planning Consultations-

i. To consider any planning applications –

Planning applications considered since the last meeting and submitted within the consultation periods; full comments can be found on the Dorset Council planning portal.

- a. P/HOU/2021/05153 Proposal: Erect two-storey extension to front and first floor extension to rear Location: Sunny Patch –no objections
- b. P/OUT/2021/05373 Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 1.no dwelling and garage (All matters reserved) Location: Land at 2 Alington Place- objections submitted
- c. P/HOU/2022/00342 Proposal: Conversion of existing loft, formation of dormer and erection of carport with first floor accommodation Location: 4 Hardy Close- no objections
- ii. To consider any other planning/enforcement or ongoing issues-an enforcement was raised with a property on South Rew Lane, some information is confidential, but the landowners have been invited to put in a full planning application by DC.

# iii. To consider preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Winterborne St Martin

AD had circulated a report to Cllrs (see below), there has been some interest in the village to create a NP.

- A. What is a Neighbourhood Plan?
  - i. A neighbourhood plan is a document that sets out planning policies for a local area e.g. housing, employment, green spaces.
  - ii. It's used to decide whether to approve planning applications, including new buildings or changes to existing buildings. It's written by the local community to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place.

- iii. The Neighbourhood Plan is an additional layer of policy below national and county priorities.
- B. What is involved in creating a Neighbourhood Plan?
  - i. Neighbourhood planning is supported by central government through the Localism Act. Grant funding and technical support was available (ends March 2022) and will hopefully be available from April 2022.
- ii. A Neighbourhood Plan is an official planning policy and has to be approved as a legal document. C. What is involved?
  - i. Creating a Neighbourhood Plan is time consuming will require a dedicated core group. Typically preparing a Neighbourhood Plan can take 2 4 years.
  - ii. It involves parish meetings, surveys, questionnaires, research, liaison with others.

# D. Who is involved?

- i. Parish Councils lead the application.
- ii. Working group to do the work of working with the consultant, organising and running meetings, creating partnerships, preparing and making the application.
- iii. Requires Dorset Council scrutiny and approval, local support through an official vote.

#### E. Why have a plan for Winterborne St Martin Parish

- i. Create a strategic plan for development in the parish with a plan created by parishioners.
- ii. Create a coherence and strategic direction to the changes in Martinstown.

#### Proposal

WSTMPC will seek neighbourhood designation if and when grant funding becomes available. The Parish Council will set up a working group of 2 councillors and parishioners reporting to the PC to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllrs discussed preparing a NP, the plan is a huge undertaking due to the time and effort needed to complete the plan and endless source of volunteers and a good planning consultant is needed. The plan can take between 2 and 5 years to come to a referendum.

The benefits to the Parish once a NP is made is the 25% of CIL funds instead of 15% for the neighbourhood element.

Councillors supported the preparation of a NP, and to designate the area being the parish Boundary, the Cllr reps will be decided when there is full complement of Cllrs once again. Proposal to support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and designate the NP area of Winterborne St Martin Parish.

Proposed AD

**Seconded DW** 

All agreed

#### 22/02-10. Finance

#### i. To consider the finance report of payments and receipts for Dec to Feb

Payee	Detail	Amount
Payments- Dec		
V & V Magazine	donation	162.00
Freethought	Website	30.00
Martinstown VH	Hall Hire	58.50
Staff costs	Salary/Exp	287.80
HMRC	PAYE	56.20
Payments-Jan		
Scribe	Finance package	172.80
DAPTC	Training (KD)	39.00
HMRC	PAYE	56.20
Staff Costs	Salary/Exp	284.80
Payments - Feb		
DAPTC	Training (KD)	78.00
Staff Costs	Final salary/exp	493.18
HMRC	PAYE	111.20

Chairman's signature Date 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Receipts	none

All payments were made in line with internal controls. Bank balances as of 31st January 22 £27,963.46

Proposed DW Seconded DR All agreed

# 22/02-11. Highways:

# i. To receive / report any other highways issues

RT commented on the works at Monkeys Jump roundabout, there are still works to be done but works at Max gate will be competed by the end of Feb then works will continue including the completion of the works around the McDonalds site by the Countryside team.

RT commented that the cycleway from the village to Dorchester can only be used in certain weather, but it is hoped that this project will be completed in the Spring.

MU reported on the agreed works to the B3159, the PC had requested. The dragon's teeth and surfacing will be completed when the salting of the roads has finished. The 30 roundels have been painted on the road.

The gates the PC had previously considered can only be placed in one of the entrances to the village and at £3000 this is not good value for money so not recommended.

MU also noted that when the 5 houses are built there will be a footpath from Bats Lane to the village.

#### ii. To receive the SID results-

# Total number of speed readings taken

Nov/Dec = 132,891

>30mph = 44,126	Top recorded speeds:
>40mph = 2,768	64- 23/11/2021 00.55
>50mph = 88	63-03/12/2021 19.15
Average Recorded Speed = 34mph	62- 21/12/2021 19.32
	61- 23/11/2021 16.36
	60- 26/11/2021 19.14
	60- 13/12/2021 11.41

Total number of speed readings taken	Top recorded speeds:
Dec/Jan = 132,891	69- 31/12/2021 22.57
>30mph = 44,126	67- 26/01/2022 22.55
>40mph = 2,768	65- 01/01/2022 12.56
>50mph = 88	64- 27/01/2022 15.08
Average Recorded Speed = 34mp	63- 16/01/2022 05.36
	62- 23/01/2022 20.31

#### n.b.

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.

It was noted that the camera van has been to the village on numerous occasions. The PC requests data from the camera van on an annual basis the PC will request this for the May meeting. RT commented that he and a few other Councillors are campaigning for the reduction of speed limits in village to 20mph, when this comes to the full council for discussion the parishes will be asked to comment and support this proposal.

The Clerk asked RT if there are any moves to reduce the speed of vehicles on the rural roads where the national speed limit applies. RT will look into this.

Chairman's signature

**iii. RoW and Footpaths: to receive a report-** DR reported no major issues but a few gates have been difficult to open.

# 22/02-12. Parish Council Property/responsibility reports:

i. To consider the Parish Council leasing the play area from the VH committee

AD explained that members of the PC and VH committee had met initially to gather information on the play area costs and works required in order to consider the PC taking the play area on by way of a lease. The PC and VH committee had read the reports circulated.

The Chair of the VH reported that the VH had been successful with a grant of £10,000 for some new play equipment, the VH will have to raise additional funds to cover the vat. These funds have to be spent by May 2022, so the VH have placed this order.

The play area inspection report had been received showing areas that need to be updated and by what dates. The fencing on the play area needs to be renewed in the next 6 months, so the PC if it agreed would take this on knowing that this expenditure would be required. Both parties would require a solicitor after taking initial advice. A simple 7-year lease was suggested. The costs would be in the region of £650 plus vat for non-profit organisations. The inspection fee per annum would in the region of £150 this is carried out quarterly. Quotes for the insurance are still being gathered. The fencing costs from initial quotes are in the region of £2500 to £7000 depending on the type of fencing required.

The Council discussed the proposal to lease the play area and equipment from the VH, for the benefit of the community, using CIL monies already received to cover the capital expenditure.

Proposed DW

Seconded NH

All agreed

A working group of Cllrs MU & AD plus VH members will be set up to take this forward.

The Chair of the VH thanked the PC for their support.

# 22/02-13. To consider all correspondence received for decision, consultation, and information -

i. To consider the Queens Jubilee celebrations 2022 Previously considered earlier in the meeting.

ii. To consider the Armoury & Embarkment event June 19th 2022

An email had been received from the pub regarding the potential event and using the Green for their lunch stop. The PC agreed to the event taking place on the green taking care not to damage the grassed area. The usual risk assessments and Insurance cover requirements from the organisers would apply.

Proposed DW

Seconded DR

All agreed

iii. To receive a complaint against the Parish Council- further discussions may be held in closed session. This will be discussed in closed session- all agreed

# 22/02-14. To receive any reports from community groups and reps:

i. To acknowledge receipt of the report from the volunteer flood group by email and adopt the updated Flood Plan 2022.

Proposed AD Seconded NH- this was not supported by the Council at this time, this will be considered at the next meeting.

ii. The PC need to put forward a new VH rep

MU offered to take on this role

Proposed DW Seconded AD

all agreed

# **22/02-15. To consider the date for the next PC meeting-** The next meeting will be Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at the village hall at 7.45pm

### 22/02-16. Democratic forum 15 minutes

The issues of the parking at the McDonalds entrance was brought up. RT reiterated the plans for the entrance.

A resident complained about Bats Lane being is such poor condition. Also, the hedges into the village are not being maintained. The resident was advised that this could be reported online.

NH commented on the issues of drilling for oil in Puddletown. Public meeting closed at 9.10pm

# 22/02-17. To consider moving to closed session to discuss confidential matters regarding staffing and complaints to the Council.

The Cllrs agreed to move to closed session. The advert for the position of Clerk was discussed and agreed. This will be sent to DAPTC and placed on the website, Facebook and in the V&V.

DAPTC will be asked if there is a network of support for Parishes if the position is not filled a temporary Clerk will be sought to assist at the next meeting.

Cllr RT will be asked to assist with the co-option of new Cllrs as he is independent of the Council

The PC discussed the nature of the complaint against the Council. Advice will be sought from DAPTC and they will be asked to assist with the process given the Clerk is working out her notice.

Meeting closed 9.35pm

Chairman's signature Date 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022