

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Winterborne St Martin on Monday 7th November 1994.

The meeting was opened at 7.45 pm.

Present:- Mr J.O'Brien (vice-chairman) in the chair, Mr J.Marsh P.Bentley, Mr P.Jeffery, Mr J.Godding, Mr H.Bowering, Mr A.King, Mr S.Slade (clerk), PC R.Jackson (community policeman) together with 15 members of the Parish.

1. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall, Winterborne St Martin on Monday 5th September 1994 having been circulated to all members were approved as a true and correct record and the minutes duly signed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.

a. TARGET AREA SCHEME....Support approved by the WDDC to schemes to repair the Sheep Wash, plant beech trees at Stevens Farm access road and to carry out landscaping works in front of the Village Hall. The Parish Council would have to meet half the cost of the work if contractors carried out the work. This was noted. Estimates were awaited for the work required to repair the Sheep Wash. Landscaping and tree planting would be carried out by the Parish Council amenity sub-committee.

b. GIRL GUIDES - PLANTING....Crocus bulbs had been planted on the grass area to the east of the Reading Room.

c. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY....The results of this survey had been mixed and not too conclusive. Nine replies had been received by the West Dorset Housing Association from single people, senior citizens and families. Several of these applicants were already in secure rented accommodation. The Housing Association would make a decision whether or not to proceed with an application to erect dwellings on land in the Parish which was outside of the approved development limits.

d. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION....The efforts of the Parish Council and others had resulted in the award in this competition of third prize in the large village group. The prize was a cheque for £55.00. Members agreed to purchase and plant more bulbs in the area to supplement those already planted. The balance to be held in the funds for future use.

e. VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE....Mr P.Ennals advised that the tables in the hall had been repaired and the cobwebs brushed down. The hall committee had approved the planting of shrubs on land to the east of the refurbished playing field.

f. PARISH VICAR....A representative of the church would be invited to a future meeting to explain the rules and regulations governing the appointment of a vicar for rural parishes.

3. GRASS CUTTING AND STREAM CLEANING.

The Chairman welcomed Mr R. Blackstock, Area Surveyor of the Dorset County Council, and invited him to outline the work involved in cleaning out the stream and cutting the verge grass areas in the village. It was difficult to understand how the work described in the verbal report could be completed to a satisfactory standard for the contract price. Members agreed therefore not to attempt to do the work themselves but to monitor the standard of the work carried out by the contractors who were already two years into a three year contract. Problems would be brought to the attention of the DCC who would provide the Parish Council with a copy of the schedule of dates and the standard to which the work should be carried out by the contractor. It was noted that the DCC would only clear the stream on alternate years starting with the present year. The riparian owners would have to carry out the task when the DCC contractors were not detailed so to do. Members asked if the cleaning could be by hand and not by machine which tended to reduce the stream bed level and also reduce the width of the banks and undermine the boundary walls of property which fronted the stream. Mr Blackstock stated that this would not be possible at this time as there were no rates for this work agreed by the DCC. He would try to ensure that the weed growth was removed as carefully as possible by "dragging" a JCB bucket across the stream bed and making up the banks.

The matter of the cleaning of road signs was carried out by contractors on the B and A class roads but not on the C class roads. If there was a serious problem of signs being obscured by vegetation then he would authorise contractors to clear same. With regard to the provision of footpaths and alterations to the speed restriction limits in the parish his advice was to keep writing to the County Surveyor in the matter and be very patient. Sadly it was the case that a serious accident had to occur before action was taken to rectify a highway problem which might in a perfect world be attended to in the normal course of events.

Mr Blackstock was thanked for attending.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

It was agreed after due consideration that the Parish Council precept for sixteen hundred pounds for the year 1994/95 to carry out the business of the Parish Council to include all running costs and some small donations. It was felt that there would still be a small credit balance at the end of 1995 in the parish account.

5. PLANNING MATTERS.

- a. Application to erect garage at Sunnypatch....approved by WDDC.
- b. Application to rebuild outbuilding at Balston Cottage....approved by WDDC.
- c. Parish Council would meet to view the site of a proposed extension at 9, The Terrace on Sunday 13th November 1994 at 10.00 am.

d. The observations on an application to use land at Bats Lane as a football field for the Brewers Arms football team were that the application should be approved for a period to permit two seasons games to be played thereon. The parking area indicated on the plan would be difficult to use as it was not hardened and the access from the road was very difficult. The possibility of footballs being kicked onto the public highway thereby causing a danger to motorists and others was also noted.

e. An application to use land at Ashton for a Sports Field for the Winterborne Valley had been approved by the WDDC. After due discussion in which members of the parish were permitted to take part it was agreed that the next step be taken to purchase the land as it appeared that funding could be obtained by way of grants. Further informal discussion to take place with Abbas and Steepleton Councillors at the next meeting of all the Councillors in the Winterborne Valley concerning the matter of the Sports Field.

f. Any applications submitted for development in the Parish would be looked at and observations made accordingly.

6. DIARY DATES.

- a. Trailer duty 18th and 19th November 1994.
- b. Litter pick-up and bulb planting 26th and 27th November 1994. Meet on the Village Green at 2.30 pm.
- c. Meeting with Abbas and Steepleton Parish Council at Winterbourne Valley School on Monday 28th November 1994 at 7.30 pm.
- d. Change of Annual Meeting date to be notified at the next meeting after discussion with the Martinstown W.I.

7. SHEEP IN THE CHURCHYARD.

Members were advised that sheep would be allowed to graze over the whole of the churchyard area as from next year. This did not meet with favour of all parishioners. It was agreed that if any member of the Parish Council had strong feelings in the matter they should write to the PCC stating these feelings.

8. THE RIO CONFERENCE.

The subject matter of this conference would be conveyed to the Clerk and would be considered at the next meeting as it appeared that in 1996 the Parish would become official stewards of their local environment.

9. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING.

The Parish Council agreed to take on the responsibility for street naming and numbering delegated to them by the WDDC.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING.

The meeting closed at 10.42 pm.

.....Chairman.

.....Date.