

# **DRAFT BISHOPS CAUNDLE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD ON TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 AT 7.30P.M.**

### **IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** A. Jones, R. Mead, E. Dicker, T. Loveless, A. Tuffin, clerk S. Harris, 1 member of the public.

**1. Election of Chairman for Annual Parish Meeting:**

A. Tuffin proposed A. Jones, seconded by T. Loveless.

**2. To receive apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from L. Lyon, L. Coombe and Cllr. Gould who were all attending other meetings. Sarah Martin and Aaron Harcom.

**3. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015.** Circulated previously, the minutes were approved and signed, proposed A.Tuffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Loveless.

**4. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Alan Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported a year mostly dealing with routine matters. Fly tipping was an increasing problem with financial implications due to the District Council having to clear it up. Anyone witnessing fly tipping should report it with a registration number if possible. The condition of roads, especially the by-lanes causes regular problems as well as surface drainage and culverts which are regularly reported.

The Parish Council has been involved in the Sherborne Area Plan and provided information on how it envisages the future of the village.

This year had the benefit of a Christmas tree on the village green, although bad weather resulted in the switching on ceremony being moved, but a well-attended, good evening was enjoyed in the White Hart and thanks are due to those who organised the event and contributed to its success.

Dog fouling has been a problem and the Chairman made a plea to dog owners to clear up behind their dogs so that everyone could enjoy the open spaces in the village.

The mobile speed indicators are to be withdrawn and the parish council can acquire its own or combine with other adjoining communities to buy and manage an indicator.

Numerous planning applications have been fully discussed and comments forwarded to West Dorset District Council for consideration. The major issue has been the proposed development of Manor Farm, which was supported by the council, and considered a necessity to maintain the present excellent facilities in the village i.e. the school, shop, pub and garage. Two open meetings were held for the community to inspect plans and make comments. Comments were then sent to the District Council and many of them were made conditions for the planning to be acceptable. However, the estate decided to withdraw the application. We should thank Charles Watson and Andrew Tuffin for their sterling work in both discussions with the estate and getting a group together following a public meeting to form a Community Land Trust.

We hope to be in a position to improve the play area, but there is little support for this despite trying to form a committee to drive it forward and improve facilities for children of all ages, not just those ages ten and under. Meanwhile we have arranged to give the area a 'spring clean'. The chairman encouraged residents to come forward so we can together try and provide the funds to improve and expand the facilities.

Finance: Although the precept has remained the same as previous years, we have seen an increase in the council tax due to gradual phasing out of the government grant. It is hoped to keep increases to a minimum with prudent management.

Michael Moore has been keeping the grass in the cemetery and at Church Green in pristine condition.

For the first time in many years, the Parish Council has a full complement of Councillors and the chairman hoped new councillors have found the work varied and of interest and thanked all the councillors and clerk for their support.

**6. Statement of Parish Council Accounts.**

The clerk presented the accounts for the year, proposed for adoption by A. Tuffin and seconded by R. Mead.

**7. Representatives from Village Organisations were invited to give a brief statement of the year's activities:**

- **Bowling Club.** This meets twice a week in the village hall. Membership has fallen slightly and there is now only one team in the Blackmore League.
- **Parochial Church Council.** Churchwarden Debra Curtis and Treasurer Barry Williams provided a report. Reverend Richard Curlew took up his appointment in April and changes have been introduced during the year, with four services a month including a monthly family service which is well attended and becoming more popular.

A grant has been applied for to help with the cost of work on the main roof and tower roof and the clock is also to be repaired, hopefully also including refurbishment of the clock face.

The organ has also been awarded a listing as a Grade 11 and a grant is to be applied for to bring it back to peak condition.

Land known as Laines Plantation is to be sold and proceeds can be used only for capital projects, interest can be used for revenue costs.

- **Village Hall.** Alan Jones reported that finances are quite good and the redecoration programme in the main hall has been completed with new curtains and poles, and a refurbished floor with new badminton markings. A generator, suggested by S.E.B for emergency use in power cuts, would require wiring, installation and the work needed did not justify the need. E. Dicker expressed appreciation for the hard work fund raising and for keeping the hall in good condition. R. Mead asked about painting the exterior of the building. Mr. Jones said the priority was to keep the interior in good condition to encourage lettings.
- **Village Community Shop.**

Liz Lyon sent a report: This year has seen many changes in the shop. Due to the hard work of the staff and committee, it has also turned out to be a successful year, marred only by various problems with the Post Office which caused breaks in the service offered to customers.

We are delighted to be able to announce at the AGM that, after a making a loss of £150 in the year 2014-15, we made a profit of £3162 in the year ending in March 2016. This is partly due to a reduction in the number of hours we are employing staff and partly due to careful buying and pricing policies. With the continuing, and well-deserved, rise in wage levels, we cannot afford to be complacent so will continue to look for ways to cut costs. The new manager started in September and has introduced several new lines including more local products and healthy options including fresh

meat from Else's of Stalbridge as well as a small range of nappies and baby foods. We were delighted that Sabin's Deli in Sherborne chose us to stock their range of locally sourced frozen ready meals. Customers can place orders for fresh fruit vegetables and meat and we are always happy to hear suggestions for new lines. The Post Office has always been run by the PO as a separate entity from the shop and negotiations with the Post Office began in August over the setting up of a 'Post Office Local Plus' in the shop when the current temporary arrangement finishes. The Committee was adamant that they would only take this on if they could ensure that it would not put the future of the shop in jeopardy due to the shop having to subsidise the PO staffing costs. The Post Office remained adamant that we were to offer a minimum of 31 hours of PO service and we refused to increase the 16.5 hours we were offering. After a 'local review' at the beginning of the year, the Post Office refused to change their decision that we should offer the 31 hours or the service would be reduced to 2 hours a week. The committee held an open meeting in March to explain the situation to the village and received a unanimous message of support. A second letter from Oliver Letwin to the PO, however, had the required effect and they 'reviewed the situation' and have given us permission to apply, giving us 28 days, ending on 7<sup>th</sup> June, in which to complete the application. There is no guarantee that our application will be accepted, and the application process is extremely onerous and intrusive.

As always, the shop is manned very largely by our volunteers. We are in need of more people to help us run the shop, particularly if our PO application is successful. Offers of help, either regular or occasional to help cover emergencies or illness are very welcome.

The staff and committee are looking forward to another successful year in the shop providing a service for members of the local community as well as passing trade. If we are successful in our PO application, the 'fortress' will be removed and the counter area reorganised. This will, we hope, give us space to install a small oven and hand-washing facilities so that we will be able to offer freshly baked bread, pies and pastries.

As always, there are far too many people deserving our thanks to list but we are particularly grateful to the Sherborne Castle Estate and the Plunkett Foundation for their support and, of course, to all our staff and volunteers.

8. Liz Lyon arrived at the meeting at 8.17, straight after the Community Shop AGM and R. Mead gave a vote of thanks to Liz and the team in the shop.

There was no need for an Open Public Forum and the meeting closed at 8.18p.m.