

# FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall**

### **Present:**

Cllr D.Crothers, Cllr A.Harris, Cllr M.Lugg, Cllr T.Rolls, Cllr P.Scrivener, Cllr S.Adams

### **In attendance:**

Parish Clerk, Joanna Ramsay  
Two members of the public

### **22.48 To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr David Cuff.

### **22.49 Declaration of pecuniary and other interests in relation to the agenda**

None were declared.

### **22.50 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 are a true and accurate record**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **22.51 Matters raised by members of the public (15 minutes)**

None were present at this time during the meeting.

### **22.52 Issues arising from the last meeting – Clerks Report**

- Fingerposts have been repaired – Clerk written to Sydenhams Ltd/Clayesmore School
- Grants Statement updated and put on the website
- Advised Chris Loder MP of the date of our Annual Parish Meeting, no reply as yet

Actions from the last meeting:

- Toomer Tree Services have undertaken the tree work around the playing field
- Simon Williams has completed the fence and bark pit work in the playing field
- Cllr Harris reported that he had removed some of the rubbish from the hut, but another trip is required. Cllr Harris asked if the car boot sales would be continuing this year, and it was confirmed that they would be.
- Chair stated that the new swing seat for the play equipment has arrived and has been installed
- The hedges around the paying field have also been cut

### **22.53 To receive a report from Dorset Council**

Cllr Legg was not in attendance at this meeting.

### **22.54 To receive reports from Councillors attending meetings on behalf of the Parish Council**

Chair stated that he had attended the DAPTC Councillors Networking Event last week. There was a Speaker from Cornwall Council who gave a report on how they have combined

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smaller councils into one group. They explained how the councils were joined and how they worked together on issues such as planning applications. Both the Leader of Dorset Council and DAPTC were impressed by how it worked, and how joining had created an improved system for dealing with planning. It is felt that the way it works in Dorset is not right and what Parish Councils say is often ignored. Planning should be done more by committee rather than individual Officers. It is hoped Dorset may follow Cornwall's lead and implement a different system.

### **22.55 To receive a finance report and to agree action in response to proposals and payment approvals**

Councillors noted the below payments made under delegated powers by bank transfer out of Council:

16/01/2023	HMRC	PAYE costs Qtr 3 (Oct-Dec)	£99.20
16/01/2023	Messrs M.P. Bennett & Son	Hedge Cutting	£216.00
28/01/2023	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28
01/02/2023	Toomer Tree Services	Tree Felling at Alweston Playing Field	£3,156.00
28/02/2028	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28

Payments to be sanctioned:

08/03/2023	Clerk	Clerk Expenses	£55.85
08/03/2023	Simon Williams	Fence and Railing work around the Playing Field	£1,910.00
08/03/2023	R J Cutler Construction	Wood Chip for Play Equipment	£150.00

Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. ALL IN FAVOUR.

### **22.56 To approve SLA for Grass Cutting of Alweston Playing Field**

Dorset Council have provided the SLA quote for 23/24 at a cost of £1,231.99. Chair requested this be approved to continue next year. ALL IN FAVOUR

### **22.57 To determine a response to any planning applications received as listed below**

None received

### **22.58 To receive an update on Playground Inspection and Maintenance**

- Lease on playing field  
See below.
- Update on Simon Williams fencing and bark pit work  
The fencing work has been completed, a wire fence has been put around the perimeter which looks excellent. Chair stated that in the future it would be prudent to have the fence along the front of the playing field done as well.
- Update on tree work by Toomer Tree Services  
Covered under item 22.52.

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- Seat replacement on playground equipment  
Chair confirmed that the seat had been replaced, however the chains had been switched end for end to even the wear on the end links.
- Tennis court maintenance  
Chair stated that he had enquired about contractors who could do tennis court maintenance but found nothing. It was noted that it appeared the tennis club had sprayed the moss and brushed up the debris recently. Cllr Scrivener raised that there is a crack in the tennis court in the far corner under the walnut tree, probably caused by the roots – this will need looking at.

A discussion was had about the tennis courts and who should be maintaining them. Currently the Parish Council do not own the land, a transfer of deeds has been set in motion but it has taken over 3 years so far and no further progress has been made. Question was raised that because the Parish Council are maintaining the playing field are the Parish Council now liable for it despite not owning it?

**Action: Clerk to seek legal advice, check with the insurance company and try and find out what is happening with the deed transfer.**

## **22.59 To approve the following:**

- Grievance Policy - agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR
- Sickness Absence Policy - agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR

## **22.60 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval**

Kings Coronation – Two members of the public attended to ask for a grant from the Parish Council to assist with holding a Cream Tea Party on Coronation Day. It will be in the Village Hall from 4.00pm to 6.00pm after the event. Councillors agreed a budget up to £300 which would be paid on receipt of the bills.

Cllr Lugg raised that a wall was built between two properties a while ago and now it is not known who owns the land the wall is on. It is thought that the wall is potentially contributing to flooding in Munden's Lane. The wall should have been taken down over 2 years ago but this has not happened, it is unsure why the wall is there.

**Action: Cllr Lugg to contact Dorset Council to find out the current situation and what can be done**

Cllr Adams raised that the flooding that occurs at the bottom of Wenlock occasionally is not draining away as it usually does, the levels have not dropped. Chair suggested that maybe the culvert under the round is blocked underneath. Clerk suggested Cllr Adams report it to Dorset Council on their website.

## **22.61 Confidential matters (public and press to leave the meeting)**

None raised

## **22.62 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 19:45 hours

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