

DROXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Droxford Parish Council held at
7.30 pm on Thursday 15th January 2015 at Droxford Village Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs Pietro Acciarri, Barbara Chandler – Chair, Roger Foster – Vice Chair, Janet Melson, Louise Withers
IN ATTENDANCE: Rosemary Hoile – Clerk
ALSO PRESENT: County Cllr Roger Huxstep, District Cllr Caroline Dibden,
Late arrivals following attendance at the PCC Open Meeting - Mr J. Findlay, Mrs J. Findlay, Mr M. Hill

1.15 Apologies for Absence: Jason Toman – working away.

2.15 Declarations of Interest regarding Agenda items:
Cllr Acciarri declared his interest with regards to the wedding venue licence application at Fir Hill.

3.15 Public participation:
Cllr Pietro Acciarri asserted his right to speak as a private person regarding SDNP/14/06382/FUL (see Minute reference 6.15.1) He requested that if the Council were minded to approve, all planning conditions set out in the applicant's letter be set out in the Consultee response to SDNP.
Councillors agreed in this instance he need not step out of the meeting, but should not speak further on the matter.

3.15.1 County Councillor's Report:
Cllr Huxstep elaborated on the role of Ofsted regulation of Hampshire education and children's services. He would email the Clerk a correction to the November Minutes regarding the new regime. The clerk will amend the November Minutes to enable them to be signed and published. He reported on -

- The motion at the HCC Cabinet November meeting to exhort Government to give more devolved powers to local councils and even parish councils.
- Broadband: A statement was issued on 31 December by Cllr Mel Kendal, Executive Member responsible for the roll-out programmed for Hampshire. The new contract for 95% coverage starts in 2016. It is not known if Droxford will be included. 'White Spectrum' has been identified as a bandwidth which could be used. An experimental arc drawn from Alresford to Titchfield, which also may or may not include Droxford, is due for special funding. Cllr Huxstep cited a case study of a community in North Hampshire which has purchased a system.

3.15.2 District Councillor's Report:
Cllr Dibden reported:

- Cabinet members presented plans for each of their portfolios on which to base their departmental budgets for the year 2015-2016
- No news on the Boundary Review.
- Council house rents have been increased based on CPI +1%.
- The corporate theme is 'The Great Waste' to encourage use of recycled waste.
- There will be a new Portfolio holder for Enforcement

Cllr Acciarri said that a PCN has been issued to the owner of Four Acres, who must reply within 28 days and a visit to Midlington Farm is due w/c 19 January by David Townsend.
Councillor Dibden continued:

- A pre-application for a solar array Watton Farm, Watton Lane, Droxford, which is in the parish of Corhampton & Meonstoke, but might have impact seen from some point within the parish of Droxford.

4.15 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 18th December 2014: APPROVED

5.15 Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting not elsewhere on the agenda:
Defibrillator: The defibrillator cabinet had been delivered with damaged hinges. WEL Medical had sent replacements which Cllr Foster fitted. The device is to be handed to the Village Hall Chairman who had agreed to arrange installation.

6.15 Planning :

Mr and Mrs Findlay, and Mr Hill arrived at this stage. The Chair re-opened public participation to enable them to speak regarding the planning application for change of use Ref: SDNP/14/06382/FUL .

Mr Hill said the scale, complexity and cost of conservation work refurbishing Fir Hill over 10 years was of such magnitude that now he has retired he is considering how the house can contribute to its upkeep costs. The proposal is to host weddings, family and corporate events for a maximum of 50 people, the number capped by the internal measurement of 50 square metres of the intended space of the building to be licensed. The target market is for small discreet events to suit the location. Prospective clients and their mandatory event/catering manager to sign a formidable contract stipulating no on-site catering/no marquees or portaloos/no spirits – wine and beer only served to over 18s/no amplified music/no high rise lighting/no fireworks/ daylight hours event only - all ancillary personnel off-site by dusk/ no parking except in the paddocks. Fir Hill Ltd to cancel contract at any time if an indication of non-compliance or breach of contract occurs. Neither would the client be able to recover the cost. He and his wife are keen to retain Fir Hill as their family home.

In response to councillors' questions and Mr Findlay's concerns, Mr Hill said licenses expire after 3 years and are non-transferable. The business plan allows for 6-12 events between June and September in 2015 and in 2016. A maximum of 16 events is possible between June-September when almost all events are planned. 80% of business had been identified as wedding related.

Mr Findlay spoke as an immediate neighbour. Whilst not wholeheartedly in favour of the proposal, he had confidence in the integrity of the applicants intended constraints. His concern was the precedence which might be set by the granting of planning permission for change of use to hold wedding ceremonies in the event the property passed into the ownership of a less scrupulous and benevolent owner.

Cllr Dibden pointed out a fundamental distinction between planning approval, which relates to the building and does not have an expiry date and is transferable, and licenses which expire after 3 years and are not transferable.

Public participation closed. Meeting re-opened.

6.15.1 **New Planning Applications:**

SDNP/14/06382/FUL Fir Hill, High Street, Droxford, SO32 3PA Change of use from single residential dwelling to single residential dwelling to be used as a wedding venue with both internal and external facilities. (WITHIN THE CURTILAGE OF A LISTED BUILDING)

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to support the application solely on the grounds of the conditions listed in Mr Hill's letter being adopted and enforced by the planning authority. ACTION –Cllr Withers

Ref: SDNP/15/00082/APNB Poppy Down Farm, Mayhill lane, Droxford SO32 3AH.

Cllr Foster informed the council of an Agricultural Prior Notification for a metal clad barn to provide secure storage for vineyard equipment. He noted the proposed location and dimensions were satisfactory – 12m x 6m footprint. Height to eaves 3m, 3.5m to the ridge.

NO ACTION

6.15.2 **Planning Decisions – Appendix B: NOTED**

6.15.3 **Planning Appeals** - Appeals in progress listed in Appendix B. See Cllr Dibden's report 3.15.2 **NOTED**

6.15.4 **Planning Enforcement** – Appendix B: See Cllr Dibden's report 3.15.2. Cllr Acciarri's update .New appointments at WCC were **NOTED**

7.15 Finance:

7.15.1 **Finance Statement** - Appendix A: Payments **APPROVED** subject to satisfactory installation of the defibrillator.

7.15.2 **Parish Council Budget 2015-2016:**

Cllr Matthissen presented the third draft of the budget which included priority key expenditure identified in the Parish Plan. The final Precept of £17500 represents an increase to allow £4000 for extra capital expenditure and increased running costs to include a laptop to replace the Clerk's personal computer and a sum for additional open space maintenance.

ACTION – Clerk to submit request for Precept.

ACTION – The Strategic Planning Working Group to plan and fully cost projects to present at the Annual Parish Meeting.

7.15.3 National Joint Council - Local Government Services 2014-2016 Salary Award:

The FAWG had notified the Clerk of their decision to award the recommended salary point enhancement in line with NJC recommendations from 1 April 2015. **NO ACTION**

7.15.4 To renew SSE contract effective 1 March 2015: **RESOLVED TO APPROVE. ACTION – The Clerk**
8.15 Play Area, Recreation Ground and Cemetery and Allotments

8.15.1 To receive Play Area report: Cllr Toman not present.

8.15.2 The Clerk informed the Council of interment to take place of the late Melanie Golding on 30th January. A request to add the name of Miriana Phillips to a memorial tablet had been received. **ACTION – The Clerk**

9.15 Roads, Transport and Highways:

9.15.1 Overnight/week-end lorry stop in the lay-by near Meringtons Garage: The Clerk reported Highways had emailed DFDS to request they resist from using this as a rest stop due to the visibility issue it causes. Although this is not a designated lay-by they believe it is used by people wanting to visit Meringtons garage/shop and to close it off would be detrimental to the trade here.

9.15.2 Traffic rat-runs: Cllr Melson reported on progress to date. She and Cllr Foster had walked the routes in question and spoken to residents. A suggestion for 'One Way' routes was ruled out. Drivers aware they were unlikely to meet oncoming traffic might increase speed. Proposals currently under consideration to take to Highways are:

- Village gateways
- Mirrors
- Chicanes with Priority - Give Way signage.

Cllrs Melson and Foster will continue to assess what might be feasible prior to meeting Neville Crisp WCC Highways

10.15 Footpaths

Stile – FP 17 and 18 junction: The upright post and rail had been reported to be in need of repair. The landowner has acknowledged the matter. **ACTION – CLERK** to liaise with landowner.

Clerk's note: There have been requests for kissing gates to replace stiles in fields to the west and east of the River Meon. Stiles on the east side are in the Parish of Soberton. The relevant landowners are responsible for stiles located on their land.

11.15 Parish Matters

11.15.1 Broad band: See County Cllr Huxstep's report 3.15.1:

11.15.2 To support for the Community Hub project: The Chair had circulated a draft statement for consideration by the Council. This will be amended to reflect the discussion. **RESOLVED - Full statement appended. ACTION – the Chair**

11.15.3 **RESOLVED TO APPROVE - dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings.** All meetings to continue to be held on the third Thursday of the month except in December when the meeting is to be held on the second Thursday of the month. No meetings to be held in August. The date and time of the Annual Parish Meeting at 8 pm preceded by the Parish Council Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm was set for Thursday 21 April 2015. All meetings to be held in the Village Hall. **ACTION – The Clerk** to put dates on the website.

11.15.4 **Topic for Annual Parish Meeting:** It was proposed to try to relate subject matter to receipt of an update on the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement from the Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Committee. **ACTION - The Clerk** to write to SDNP and WCC.

12.15. Rolling Action Plan – To be updated.

13.15 Correspondence:

Pot hole complaint resolved. **NO ACTION**

Invitation to Royal Garden Party – The deadline had just passed. Councillors could not put forward a nomination to match the Hambledon resident who had dedicated the majority of his time over a number of years to the benefit of the whole community. Therefore to put forward a nomination against such a candidate would not have been appropriate. **NO ACTION**

14.15 Items for the next agenda: None received

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Signed.....Date.....

