

# FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall**

### **Present:**

Cllr D.Crothers, Cllr D.Cuff, Cllr P.Scrivener

### **In attendance:**

Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor  
Parish Clerk, Joanna Ramsay

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mike Lugg, Cllr Andy Harris and Cllr Trevor Rolls. Cllr Stuart Adams was noted as absent. Clerk reminded Councillors about the 6 months attendance rule in relation to Parish Council meetings and that if two consecutive meetings are missed, the third one must be attended to avoid disqualification as a Councillor.

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

None were declared.

### **23.81 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are a true and accurate record**

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

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

None present.

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

- Elections update – Clerk advised that the nomination forms have been issued and a toolkit to assist with the Elections has been circulated by DAPTC. Although it did raise a few questions and Clerk will circulate the paperwork once those questions have been answered. This will be covered further under agenda item 23.91.
- Update on blocked gullies along Folke Lane – The incident was reported under reference 1237814 with Dorset Council. Clerk advised that it appears that no action has been taken yet according to the Council's website. Cllr Legg stated that it would be A and B roads that would get priority for clearing, with the majority of them having been done. Question was raised as to who should be clearing the ditches, do landowners have some responsibility - this is correct under Riparian Landowner rules. It was noted that hedge trimming has caused some of the blockages as the debris is not removed when it falls into the ditches after cutting. Cllr Scrivener raised that the Folke A3030 highways sign, which has fallen down and needs repairing, has also been logged with Dorset Council under reference 1239291. **Action: Cllr Legg to flag up to Highways as the sign is on an A road**

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

Cllr Legg reported that he has raised a few things with regards to the area, but has heard

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nothing further since. Cllr Legg has raised the issue about the footway at the end of Roselyn Crescent being broken up due to weeds with Magna Housing but there has been no reply. Cllr Legg also stated that he has heard nothing from the Tree Officers Team about the remaining tree on the green triangle in Alweston. Concern was raised that if nothing is done to protect the remaining tree, then it will also be cut down in due course as the 1953 Coronation Tree was.

Cllr Legg advised that the signage to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on Dancing Hill is going to be put in place shortly. It was noted that this was meant to have happened already but scheduled works have been pushed back as Dorset Council have had to deal with keeping the roads open during all the flooding. There has also been two major accidents on the A30, so consideration has been given to reducing the speed limit to 60mph. Again, awaiting the signage.

Cllr Legg raised that the Yeatman Hospital has been identified as a site that could potentially be used for housing (about 50). Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust (DHUFT) is proposing to shut some community hospitals for redevelopment. There will be no redevelopment without reprovion. Cllr Legg as asked for a meeting with DHUFT and to see copies of the proposed plans. Concern was raised about access to these services in the future, especially as there are also indications that Yeovil Hospital are moving some of their services to Taunton. There needs to be some form of services locally, especially if extra housing is being built. Cllr Legg also spoke about the Grove Medical Centre and its online booking system which is only open during office hours so those who work are unable to use it.

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

Chair stated that he did not attend any meetings as such but there was a request in one of the DAPTC emails from Yetminster Parish Council about grit distribution and how it works in parishes where it is not affordable to pay for a distribution service. Chair therefore contacted them and explained how it works in Folke.

### **23.86 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:

28/11/2023	Hugo Fox	Website Provision - Monthly Fee	£11.99
07/10/2023	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.36
28/12/2023	Hugo Fox	Website Provision - Monthly Fee	£11.99
05/01/2024	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.36

Payments to be sanctioned:

10/01/2024	Joanna Ramsay	Clerk Expenses	£26.10
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Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Clerk stated that spend has been low since the last meeting, only IT expenses. The budget looks healthy at this time, and with the precept request increase and about £300 of VAT to

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claim back in March there should be the required funds available to pay any election costs and legal fees for taking over the playing field. Cllr Legg questioned whether the Parish Council would have to pay election costs, Clerk stated that they would have to as all costs are proportioned out by the electorate numbers. No matter how small a Parish Council is they would still need to contribute.

### **23.87 To give a grant to Folke PCC towards the upkeep of North Wootton churchyard**

Although this was discussed at the last meeting and it was determined that no grant has to be given from the Parish Council to Folke PCC for churchyard maintenance, it was proposed that since the Parish Council has given a grant previously for a number of years it seems unreasonable to stop. Chair proposed giving a grant of £100.00 to the PCC, the same as last year. A vote was taken. ALL IN FAVOUR.

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

None received

### **23.89 To receive an update on the footpath to the Elms (Cllr Scrivener)**

Cllr Scrivener has raised the footpath issue with Dorset Council, under reference 1231295. Dorset Council stated that they would email or telephone back, however Cllr Scrivener has heard nothing yet. Cllr Legg asked what the issue was in relation to putting in a footpath to the Elms, the Councillors present explained that this was looked into before and there were good reasons why a footpath was not put in at the time, but we are revisiting it at a parishioners' request. **Action: Cllr Scrivener to chase up.**

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

- Legal Position Update – Chair confirmed that one of the current Trustees to the playing field has died, therefore the executors can now act legally on their behalf to move to register the land with the Parish Council. Contact has been made with the solicitors.

### **23.91 Town & Parish Councillor Elections 2024/25 Update**

Clerk raised that although a date of mid February was given for the Councillor nomination forms to be published, they are in fact available now. Forms cannot be handed in to Dorset Council until after 12<sup>th</sup> March therefore there is no need to rush and get the forms done yet. Clerk offered to assist with any form filling at the next meeting and collect forms to be handed in all at once on an allotted date in Wimborne, as the nearest one to this area is Dorchester.

Clerk advised that the next step is to promote the Councillor elections locally, perhaps on the website and on the noticeboard. A discussion was had about the White Hart Vale magazine, but the deadline has passed for the relevant edition.

**Action: Clerk to create some web content and a poster for the noticeboard**

**Action: Clerk to circulate the form and elections toolkit for Councillors**

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

None noted

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

None raised.

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## **23.94 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm

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

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