**Councillors present:**

Cllr A Booth, Cllr S Crabb, Cllr B Ross, Cllr B Hyams, Cllr F Ross, Cllr A Fisher, Cllr D Trebilcock and Cllr N Ireland

Also present

Mr W Lewin (Clerk

Alison Donnelly (PCSO)

### 1. Apologies for absence

All Parish Councillors were present.

### 2. Declaration of pecuniary and other interests

None were declared.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting dated 30th November 2017**

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising from previous minutes**

The Chairman apologised that he had not written to Mr Dycer to thank him for the kind donation of the new bench and he would in the near future.

**5. Democratic Half Hour**

No comments.

**6. Chairman’s report**

The Chairman wished to say farewell to Rev. Norman Beggs who passed away earlier in the year. He wished to thank him for all his hard work in the village and that he was a great asset and a very sad loss.

The Chairman also wished to thank Mr Chris Uden who was stepping down as Chairman of the Village Hall committee.

**7. Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Ireland spoke at length about the financial situation in DCC.

In short, there will be 5.99% rise in the DCC precept for the financial year 18/19 of which 3% was for additional funding to adult social care.

There had been no news on the Local Government Review.

To conclude, he spoke on the difficulties facing the funding of buses both from DCC and a commercial point of view. In summery there unlikely to be a bus in the village in the future.

**8. To receive a report on planning matters in the parish and to agree actions in response to the new applications**

There were no new applications to discuss.

**9. To receive a report on highways matters in the parish and to agree action in response to proposals and repairs**

Cllr Crabb had reported three potholes to DCC via the Dorset For You portal.

**10. To receive a report on the condition of the footpaths and other environmental matters in the parish and to agree action in response to proposals and repairs**

Cllr Crabb noted the stile leading from the church had gone and the gate needed fixing.

**Cllr Booth would look into this matter.**

It was also mention that the stile on Whiteways hill had gone.

**Cllr Booth mentioned he would speak to the landowner.**

**11. Finance**

The Clerk confirmed that expenditure was well within budget for the FY 17/18. This was mainly due to not using the allocation of funds to the maintenance of the telephone box which had not been used.

There were no cheques for payment.

**12. Grass cutting throughout the village update**

There had been no bidders for the work. Cllr B Ross knew of somebody who might be interested and would speak to them.

**13. Update on Japanese Sumac**

Cllr Hyams confirmed it had been cleared.

**14. Purchase of a new flag for the village green**

This had not progressed.

**Cllr B Ross was requested to establish what flag was required and how much this would cost.**

**15. New audit procedure**

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council fell below the threshold for an external audit.

Next year only an internal audit would be conducted and only balances sent to the external auditor.

**16. Village meeting**

The Clerk stated it was a statutory obligation to hold a village meeting.

**It was agreed to discuss this at the meeting once the legal legislation had been established. This would give Councillors time to think about the format of such a meeting.**

**17. Agenda items for the next meeting**

Grass cutting

Purchase of new flag

Village meeting

**18. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as 29th March 2018

There being no further business the meeting close at 2045 hours.