

DROXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Droxford Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 17 July 2014 at Droxford Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Pietro Acciarri, Barbara Chandler - Chair, Roger Foster, Jason Toman

IN ATTENDANCE: Rosemary Hoile – Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: District Cllr Caroline Dibden, County Cllr Roger Huxstep

107.14 Apologies for Absence: Louise Withers, Colin Matthissen, Janet Melson

108.14 Declarations of Interest regarding Agenda items: None

109.14 County and District Councillors' Reports:

109.14.1 Cllr Dibden reported on a planning debate for retail and commercial development in the Silver Hill area in the centre of Winchester. She has advised on various planning matters within the Parish. The Councillor gave a list of types of affordable houses currently being considered for Uplands: 2No. x 1 bed maisonettes, 2No. x 2 bedroom houses and 2No. x 3 bedroom houses. The Chair enquired if provision had been considered for the elderly, citing ground floor one bedroom properties designed for 'lifetime living', whereby a bedroom could be divided into two to allow for a live-in carer. It was acknowledged that the actual level of local demand is unknown. Cllr Dibden said because the site is outside the settlement boundary the issue is complicated in policy terms and suggested the Clerk contact Debbie Rhodes at the Housing Association at WCC. **ACTION – The Clerk.**

109.14.2 Cllr Huxstep reported on operational changes being made within Hampshire Constabulary. The Police are trying to get smarter with fewer resources. The UKIP motion to abolish District Councils and the County Council to create one unitary authority was defeated. There were a number of routine annual reports. The Government has awarded £1m towards research to provide Super Fast Broad Band to areas excluded under terms of the BT Broadband Delivery for the UK (BDUK) contract. He said there needs to be a definitive statement of locations and start dates to enable the excluded to consider ways and means to fund an alternative method of delivery. A response is awaited from the Police & Crime Commissioner over the issue as to whether a cluster of motorbikes constitutes noise infringement under the law. The Police are reluctant to enforce at Loomies Cafe because their brief is to encourage safety on an advisory basis. There has only been one accident to date this year therefore insufficient to escalate action.

ACTION – The Clerk to email Cllr Mike Evans WDALC cc Nicky Oliver and Cllr Huxstep.

Cllr Huxstep has received a complaint regarding a tree down, across the River Meon, which he has passed to HCC.

Cllr Toman raised the question of a pedestrian crossing at the Bakers' Arms - the owner of the Bakers Arms will permit kerbed paving. Cllr Huxstep said unless a survey exists whereby all criteria are met to reach the threshold to prioritise action within the Highways budget, no action will be taken. A 20mph speed limit was approved in the centre of Winchester in May on the basis of extra funding.

ACTION – Cllr Foster to add to list issues to take to Hampshire Highways.

110.14 Public Forum: No members of the Public were present.

111.14 Chair's Announcements: None

112.14 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9th June 2014: APPROVED

113.14 Matters Arising:

- (a) Zip Wire: Refer to agenda item below
- (b) Knotweed: The Clerk has written to the owners of Down Vale requesting action taken to remove knotweed growing along Park Lane ('School Lane') pavement.
- (c) Public Access Defibrillator: Cllr Foster has confirmed the specification and to send details to Clerk.
- (d) The WCC Small Grants application for a replacement notice board was turned down.

114.14 Planning Applications:

114.14.1 Ref: SDNP/14/03295/HOUS: 10 Chestnut Rise Droxford SO32 3NY
Single Storey Rear Extension

THE COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT

114.14.2 Ref: SDNP/14/03018/TCA: South Hill Cottage South Hill Droxford SO32 3PB
1 no. Conifer to reduce over driveway and remove major deadwood, 1 no. Lime to reduce house side 1 upper limb and lower crown; remove upper part of second lowest branch on left hand side

THE COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT

114.14.3 SDNP/14/02665/HOU: St. Clairs Cottage, Cott Street Droxford SO32 3AL
Erection of porch to front elevation

THE COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT

114.14.4 SDNP/14/00884/FUL: Townsend. The application has been called in by SDNP to be discussed on either 14th August or 11th September. (Post meeting note- 11th September has been confirmed) No-one from the PC will be available.

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

116.14 Finance:

116.14.1 Finance Statement - Appendix A: **APPROVED**

116.14.2 To review Insurance provision: **DEFERRED**

116.14.3 To approve Droxford Standing Orders – **DEFERRED**

116.14.4 To approve Health & Safety Policy - **APPROVED**

116.14.5 To approve Equality and Diversity Policy – **APPROVED**

116.14.6 To review Fees and Rents:

(1) The Clerk presented a comparison of current rents with rents charged by Winchester City Council for allotments. The Council considered the lower end of the range charged by WCC to be fair.

RESOLVED TO APPROVE: To increase the rent inclusive of water, for a full plot to £20 per annum, half plot to £12.00 per annum, a quarter plot to £6.00 per annum. **Action – the Clerk**, notify allotment holders prior to sending invoices for 1 August.

(2) **RESOLVED TO APPROVE:** To increase the charge for pitch hire in the Square for Sam’s Fish and Chip by £1.00 per month. **Action – The Clerk**

(3) **RESOLVED TO APPROVE:** To increase payment for cleaning the bus shelter to £32 per quarter
ACTION - the Clerk to pay increase from September.

(4) Burial and Interment fees: Cllr Foster proposed that non-residents should pay the same burial fees as residents. The vote was tied 2 in favour, 2 against.
The Chair cast her vote **AGAINST** the proposal, which was therefore **DEFEATED**. The matter to be discussed when more councillors are present next year.

(5) **RESOLVED:** To request a quotation for Ground maintenance from Droxford Cricket Club prior to agreeing the annual fee for the hire of the Pavilion and pitch. **ACTION – The Clerk**

116.14.7 **RESOLVED TO APPROVE:** HALC Training course for Cllr Chandler **ACTION – Cllr Chandler /Clerk**

116.14.8 **RESOLVED TO APPROVE:** Purchase of new Parish Council notice board. **ACTION – The Chair**

116.14.9 **RESOLVED TO APPROVE:** External Auditor’s report for year ending 31 March 2014. The external auditors, BDO LLD, were satisfied that no matters required attention.

- 117.14 Play Area, Recreation Ground and Cemetery and Allotments**
- 117.14.1 Zip Wire - Report: The footings have been dug and spoil removed from site. The clerk reported on variations to date. Work by volunteers to commence on Saturday 19th July. The Clerk will continue to keep the Council informed of progress.
- 117.14.2 Play Area: To receive the Annual Play Area Inspection Report: Cllr Toman handed over his weekly reports. There are a number of issues requiring urgent attention. The Chair and Clerk had met with the Playdale representative earlier in the week. The Chair said she will look into the matter.
ACTION -The Chair
- 117.14.3 Allotments: The Council considered complaints made by allotment holders regarding Droxford Junior Schools failure to work the plot adequately again this year. Prior to the meeting the School made a proposal to fill the staffing gap with volunteers from the Sustainability Centre, thereby removing conflict between the teacher being on the allotment or remaining in the classroom with students. There is not enough room on the allotment for the whole class to be engaged at any one time.
RESOLVED TO APPROVE: Use of a quarter allotment should not be withdrawn from Droxford Junior School. The school is on a year's notice to quit 31 July 2015 if the plot is not satisfactorily maintained.
- 118.14 Roads, Transport and Highways:**
Speedwatch: The Clerk reported that volunteers said bureaucracy is discouraging them from registering online, which is the only form of registration. The Council agreed to review in September.
ACTION - the Clerk to update the Council with list of applicants at the next meeting.
- 119.14 Footpaths**
ROW cutting list and footpath maintenance: The Council was informed that FP16 (from Mill Lane, east of the river past Lark Rise) is not on this years' cutting list. Complaints have been received regarding the FP11 (between the Bakers Arms and the Antique Shop to the Mill). It has become apparent that additional footpath maintenance is required over and above the cutting list agree with Countryside Access at the start of the year. The cost of an occasional Parish Lengthsman to cover such duties on demand was discussed. The Clerk will make enquiries locally. **ACTION – The Clerk**
- 120.14 Parish Matters:**
Super Fast Broadband: Defer to September meeting – Invite Michael Peagram **ACTION -The Clerk**
- 121.14 Correspondence**
- 121.14.1 Training: Standards Framework and Code of conduct 21/10. Cllr Acciarri to attend
- 121.14.2 Lights Out Commemoration 4th August. No-one available to attend.
- 122.14 AOB:** None
- 123.14 Items for the next agenda:** Revised Standing Orders / Broadband /Parish Insurance

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

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