

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 12th July 2023 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor
Parish Clerk, Joanna Ramsay

23.28 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr David Cuff and Cllr Trevor Rolls.

23.29 Declaration of pecuniary and other interests in relation to the agenda

None were declared.

23.30 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 17th May 2023 are a true and accurate record

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

23.31 Matters raised by members of the public (15 minutes)

None present.

23.32 Issues arising from the last meeting – Clerks Report

- DAPTC/Dorset Council have been advised of the Councillor roles agreed at the last meeting
- AGAR has been completed, sent off and agreed by the external auditor, BDO LLP
- Website has been updated accordingly
- Risk Assessment Review has been re-worked and will be covered under agenda item 23.41

23.33 To receive a report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg stated that he had been approached regarding extending the 30mph speed limit along Writh Road towards Haydon. Although this area is not in this parish, he was interested to hear if the Parish Council had an opinion. It was agreed generally it would be a good idea as this road is a rat run, and people do speed along the road. However there have been no reported incidents or accidents and it would be difficult to enforce. Currently the 30mph limit ends at the last houses in Alweston, where it reverts to 60 mph all through Haydon, the next 30mph limit is near the garage in Milborne Port. The road is straight and wide through Haydon which probably causes the speeding.

Cllr Legg advised that the next Dorset Council meeting is tomorrow night, 13th July, where debates have been scheduled about the refugee barge in Portland, car parking on the coast (Weymouth costs are 3 times higher per hour than Dorchester) and sewage dumping in the sea and whether local plans could address this.

Chair.....Date.....

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Scrivener asked Cllr Legg about the junction on Kitt Hill and why no traffic lights have been put there. It does not really work as a two way road and there is no line of sight when pulling out, it is an accident waiting to happen. Cllr Legg reported that Highways are doing a safety audit at the moment, and that he could provide a name at Dorset Council for residents to write to about this.

23.34 To receive reports from Councillors attending meetings on behalf of the Parish Council

None attended.

23.35 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:

28/05/2023	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28
01/06/2023	Business Services at CAS Ltd	Insurance for 23/24	£375.31
28/06/2023	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28

Payments to be sanctioned:

12/07/2023	Clerk	Clerk Expenses	£26.10
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Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Clerk stated that the budget is on track so far, but it is early in the financial year. The Parish Council will need to be mindful going forward that there is not as much budget as there was due to the expenditure on the upkeep of the playing field last year. Some money will need to be put aside in order to pay the necessary legal fees to transfer ownership of the playing field.

23.36 To determine a response to any planning applications received as listed below

- P/FUL/2023/03333 Folke House Folke Lane Folke DT9 5HP - Change of use and conversion of pool house to dwelling and formation of associated access.

Councillors discussed the application and raised no objections to the proposed plans. Comment was made that this would be another dwelling accessing a blind corner on Folke Lane, which could be an issue, although it does mention cutting the hedgerows back and increasing the sight line in the application.

Action: Clerk to inform Planning Officers of the decision

23. To receive an update on Playground Inspection and Maintenance

- Dogs on the Playing Field
Chair asked Cllr Legg if there were any Dorset Council procedures in relation to having dogs on leads. Cllr Legg stated that he was not aware of any, for example in Sherborne there is a dog walk around the play area which keeps the dogs out of the play area but it is not necessary to have them on a lead. Dogs should be on leads on highways. Cllr Scrivener stated that it is dog fouling that is more of an issue. Councillors noted that they have discussed having a dog waste bin before, however the cost to pay Dorset Council to

Chair.....Date.....

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

empty it prohibits having one. Other options were discussed and were also not felt to be viable as the usage by dog walkers is not high enough. Clerk checked that there is a sign in place for the playing field which states no dogs allowed.

- **Playing Field Fence**

Chair raised that the fence at the front of the playing field is broken. Cllr Cuff has fixed one of the posts with a support, but it appears that the rest of the posts will break soon as well, they are probably rotting under the ground. The fence has no purpose as such therefore Cllr Harris suggested that the cheapest way to resolve this would be to put metal stays in the ground around the posts. There are about 10 posts. This was agreed.

Action: Cllrs Crothers, Cuff and Harris to take forward

- **Lease on playing field**

Chair reported that the playing field ownership is moving slowly forward. Mr Carrington is not able to sign a deed of transfer alone, unless the second party should die. Therefore another probate action is required to become a sole signatory. Mr Carrington is engaging with our solicitors now so it is hoped that this will progress soon.

Chair stated that the old Post Office garden piece of land which was partly built over with the tennis courts and has the walnut tree in it now, has also been passed to our solicitors to see if we can progress ownership of this land as well. There is some evidence of the Playing Fields Committee being given this land but nothing legal.

23.38 To receive an update on Munden's Lane flooding (Cllrs Cuff/Lugg) (*report circulated in advance*)

Chair thanked Cllr Lugg for initially raising the problem and Cllr Cuff for investigating this further, speaking with the residents at Pump House Cottage and producing the report circulated with the agenda. It is felt that the drain can cope with the normal level of water when it rains, the water goes through the field and then returns to the drain. It does all gather in one area but it does drain. The wall is therefore not an issue. Concern was raised however that the rain does seem to be heavier when it comes down now, and there are more substantial downpours on and off. Cllr Lugg raised that the garage attached to Wayside Cottage does flood regularly and explained that how the drainage system had changed over the years does not help the flow of water. Chair noted that the drains have been cleared so that the water flow is quicker and better than it was and it does flow towards the field.

Councillors noted that there is a new issue, the smell from the muck heap opposite Wayside Cottage is getting worse, however it was noted that a planning application has been put in to address this.

23.39 To adopt the Standing Order for the Council

Chair stated that in discussion with the Clerk a way forward has been agreed to re-issue these ready for agreement at the next meeting.

23.40 To adopt the Financial Regulations for the Council

Chair stated that in discussion with the Clerk a way forward has been agreed to re-issue these ready for agreement at the next meeting.

Chair.....Date.....

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

23.41 To approve the Risk Assessment Review for the Council

This was agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR

23.42 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Cllr Legg raised that further to the discussion on flooding, a Dorset Council representative attended a Parish Council meeting in Holwell and it was mentioned there that residents should report any flooding via the Dorset Council website so the team can log incidents and monitor areas. The more who report it the higher chance it will get investigated.

Chair stated that he would not be at the next meeting and therefore would ask Cllr Cuff to chair the meeting. Cllr Lugg also offered apologies in advance.

23.43 Confidential matters (public and press to leave the meeting)

None raised

23.44 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 13th September 2023 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 19:35 hours

Chair.....Date.....