

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday, 20th September 2023 at 7.00pm in
Alweston Village Hall**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor
Parish Clerk, Joanna Ramsay

23.45 To receive and accept apologies for absence

None noted.

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

None were declared.

23.47 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 12th July 2023 are a true and accurate record

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

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

None present. Chair advised that the resident who had raised the issue about cutting down the Coronation Tree was invited to attend this meeting. Cllr Legg stated that he had visited this resident personally with regard to the harsh tree cut that Magna Housing had done. Cllr Legg confirmed that the resident had removed the bench that was on the site for safe keeping. As a result, Cllr Legg has written to the Director of Magna Housing and questioned why the tree was cut, but has had no reply as yet. It is thought that the tree was cut because there is utility pole right next to it. Cllr Legg has also written to the Tree Officers Team to inform of them of the action undertaken and has asked that the remaining tree has TPO put on it to protect it.

23.49 Issues arising from the last meeting – Clerks Report

- Standing Orders/Financial Regulations have been updated – on agenda item 23.55 and 23.56 for agreement
- Clerk sought clarity from Dorset Council on Dog Waste Bin Services – on agenda item 23.54

23.50 To receive a report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg stated that in addition to the tree, he has also visited the path at the far end of Roselyn Crescent, the elevated part, which is badly cracked. Magna Housing have resurfaced it, however it appears it was not done very well and the weeds are breaking through and cracks are showing. It appears it was not re-tarmacked just re-surfaced. Cllr Legg has been in touch with Magna Housing on this issue as well.

Chair asked whether Dorset Council debates net zero and the use of electric vehicles. There was a brief discussion about the infrastructure required to support the initiative, and Cllr

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

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Legg stated that some vehicles simply cannot be replaced yet by electric vehicles as they cannot do the required job, such as refuse collection vehicles, tipper trucks, etc.

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

Chair stated that he attended (virtually) the DAPTC Central Committee Area Meeting however felt it was not appropriate to this Council.

23.52 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:

14/07/2023	HMRC	PAYE for Qtr 1 (April to June 2023)	£86.40
28/07/2023	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28
05/09/2023	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.36

Payments to be sanctioned:

20/09/2023	Clerk	Clerk Expenses	£26.10
20/09/2023	Mrs E A Maskew	Kings Coronation Event	£87.46
20/09/2023	Sue Hamblin	Kings Coronation Event	£50.00
20/09/2023	Julia Clifford	Kings Coronation Event	£33.00

Since the agenda was prepared, an invoice has also been received from Porter Dodson with regards to the costs for trying to acquire the playing field. The total amount is £1675.80, of which £279.30 is VAT which we can reclaim. Chair has reviewed the invoice and seems an accurate representation of the work undertaken.

Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. ALL IN FAVOUR.

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

- P/LBC/2023/04801 – Listed Building Consent Request - Demolish existing single storey extension, erect replacement single storey extension, alterations to first floor - 513 Bere Lane, Caundle Marsh, DT9 5JX *Reply sent 14/09/2023*
- P/FUL/2023/04581 - Change of use for a self-contained private short-term rental unit to a garden structure, to be used as an office - Munden House, Mundens Lane, Alweston, Dorset, DT9 5HU *Reply sent 12/09/2023*

23.54 To discuss the Coronation Tree

This was covered under agenda item 23.48

23.55 To receive an update on Playground Inspection and Maintenance

- **Waste Bin on the Playing Field**
In a response to a resident's query, Clerk contacted Dorset Council about having a Dog Waste Bin specifically on the site. Dorset Council replied confirming that they do not supply Dog Waste Bins and they do not offer a service to empty them even if we purchase the bin ourselves. Dorset Council can offer a litter bin (with a proportion being dog waste) and offer a service to empty that bin. This is the arrangement we have in

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

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

place currently, with the bin being emptied every other Friday along with all the other industrial waste in the local area. The Village Hall pay for this service with a contribution from the Parish Council. It was determined that the cost of having a specific Dog Waste Bin would not be proportionate because the Parish Council would have to empty it and so the waste would still end up in the Village bin.

- Lease on playing field
Chair reported that the playing field ownership has stalled, unfortunately the Parish Council cannot take it any further at this time.

23.56 To agree a website package with Hugo Fox

Chair advised that we have received notification that Hugo Fox are going to start charging for their website services at £9.99 per month plus VAT starting October 2023. This is an opportunity to stay or move away from Hugo Fox as a provider. Clerk stated that Vision ICT (who support the DAPTC website) charge about £165.00 (including VAT) per year. Clerk also reviewed a few other small Parish Council websites and found a provider called ICL website design and they would charge about £110.00 per year to run the site. The down side to changing provider would mean having to spend about £300.00 creating a new website, although we would get a proper domain name eg. www.folkeparishcouncil.gov.uk. A brief discussion was about changing providers and what would work best for the Parish Council now. It was agreed that provided the contract was on a monthly basis (rather than 12 monthly) it would make sense to remain with Hugo Fox at this time. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Action: Clerk to take forward

23.57 To adopt the Standing Orders for the Council (*circulated prior to the meeting*)

Chair advised that these have been re-worked for agreement. ALL IN FAVOUR.

23.58 To adopt the Financial Regulations for the Council (*circulated prior to the meeting*)

Chair advised that these have been re-worked for agreement. ALL IN FAVOUR.

23.59 To approve the following policies:

- Equal Opportunities Policy - agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR
- Disciplinary Policy – agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Cllr Scrivener advised that rather than have all the HR policies it could suffice to have a statement on the website referring to ACAS instead.

23.60 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Clerk requested that the meeting on the 8th November be put back a week to allow for Dorset Council to set out their proposed Council Tax rates which helps us to determine the budget and precept. This was agreed.

Cllr Legg left at this point in the meeting, 19.30pm

Chair asked what progress had been made on fixing the fence posts at the front of the playing field, across the top of the car park. Cllr Harris stated that he had not done it yet, but will do shortly.

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

Chair circulated a copy of the Clerk's appraisal for Councillors to review, Cllr Cuff proposed a one salary scale point increase. This was agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR.

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

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

23.62 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 15th November 2023 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 19:37 hours

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