

# **DEWLISH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Dewlish Village Hall, commencing 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs A Barnett, M Fell, W Britton, A Fisher

**Chair:** Cllr C Uden

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 2 members of the public

### **Public Participation**

At the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Mr Mervyn Church passed a letter to the Chair regarding the legality of the meeting to be held. He pointed out that the agenda for the meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October had not been posted on the notice board or anywhere that was available for the public to view three days before the meeting. The meeting was duly closed and was rescheduled to Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> October.

The issue of flooding just passed the farm shop was raised. It was suggested that this could be resolved by allowing the water to drain into the field in places.

There are quite a few large branches that have broken off in the recent strong winds and are held up by other branches along the length of road by the Manor House. Cllr Uden will speak to the landowner regarding getting the overhanging branches removed.

Mr Church wanted to set out why he did what he did last week. He had spoken to two councillors regarding the meeting that covered his planning application and was told that it was only briefly discussed. He was subsequently told by his agent that an objection had been submitted. He read out the Parish Council's response and asked for clarification of the comment made. Cllr Uden responded saying that no formal objection was made, it was a comment regarding the colour which was felt to be valid. Mr Church informed the meeting that the garage door had been installed in July 2022 and no-one had made any comments or objections prior to this. Cllr Uden pointed out that the Parish Council would not have been able to make any comments until a planning application was received and this had only come out in September.

Mr Church further made comment regarding the Code of Conduct and posting of minutes. He noted that anything that is sent on behalf of the Parish Council should be copied into the Clerk. Cllr Uden apologised saying that he does this role to the best of his ability and agreed that, on occasion, he had neglected to keep the Clerk in the loop but was making every effort to amend this.

Mr Church further raised an issue regarding drainage on Whiteways and the gullies that are blocked. He felt that nothing has been done. Cllr Uden asked if had contacted Dorset Council and offered the use of some of the stock of sandbags held by the Parish Council.

Mr Church went on to point out that he felt the Parish Council were custodians of the Devil's Brook River, and the cows mess is being washed down into the river and the Parish Council should be doing something about this. Cllr Fell pointed out that if Mr Church feels that there is a

problem with mess on the road, he needs to make a personal complaint. The Parish Council can highlight the problem but would not have the first-hand experience to submit a full complaint.

**1. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

23.88 Apologies have been received from Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes and Cllr Josh Booth.

**2. To receive Declarations of Interest**

23.89 No interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

23.90 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Fisher proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes – for report only**

23.91 Parish Council website – Following the decision to remain with HugoFox, the Clerk had contacted the provider and set up the Bronze package, at a discounted cost of £122.28.

The wreath for Remembrance Sunday has been arranged.

**5. To receive the Dorset Councillor’s Report**

23.92 Cllr Haynes’ reports are issued to members each month and are available on the Parish Council website.

**6. Finance**

23.93 To agree the payments

The following payments had been requested:

HugoFox	Webhosting	BACS015	122.28
HMRC	October PAYE	BACS016	37.40
A Crocker	October 23 wages	BACS017	173.74

A total of £333.42 from the Precept.

Cllr Fisher proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Britton and agreed unanimously.

23.94 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

A copy of the reports had been issued prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made.

23.95 To note any items for inclusion in the 2024/25 budget

Bus shelter repairs/store.

**7. To receive reports on the following matters and to agree actions**

23.95 Planning

A new road and access has been made to the park. Cllr Uden confirmed that this is only temporary for the phase two building works. Once the works are completed, the track will be removed and the hedge made good.

23.96 Police, Traffic and Roads

A copy of the Police report had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting.

23.97 Parish Amenities and Rights of Way

Cllr Fell reported that all our footpaths and bridleways are registered with the exception of Pound Lane which is the subject of a Definitive Map Modification Order.

There are two gates that need attention and Cllr Barnett will speak to the landowner.

23.98 Parish Surgeries

Held on the third Saturday of the month. Nothing was raised at the October café.

**8. To receive an update on the Green**

23.99 Status of land

The Land Agent will attend the village one evening to take statements from villagers. These can then be used to support a claim with the Land Registry.

23.100 Play equipment

A local benefactor has donated £5,000 towards the play park. This gives a total of £12,390 available for play equipment. Cllr Uden has spoken to a firm called Play Dale who will let us self-assemble any equipment purchased. The company have offered to check and sign-off the equipment once it is installed.

Once the land ownership is sorted out, the children of the village will be asked to comment on the suggestions for the play equipment.

**9. To consider a response to Highways regarding the village-wide 30mph request**

23.101 Following the emails regarding the 30mph limits, Highways have agreed in principle that, if we accept their comments, they will back the village becoming a 30mph zone. There will then be a consultation period of 21 days, after which the court order will be submitted. This could take up to a year, if no more urgent projects arise that will take the budget.

The Clerk will contact Highways and confirm that the Parish Council is happy with their suggestions for the extent of the 30mph.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**10. Village volunteers' update and possible work needing to be undertaken**

23.102 The grit bins will be put in place. Cllrs Barnett and Fell will draw up a list of work.

The banks along the Bridges have all been cut.

Letter of thanks will be sent to David Hawkins and Davie for taking on the grass cutting around the village.

Agenda items – meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December for the community transport at Milton Abbas Meeting Rooms.

**12. Date of next meeting.**

23.103 To note the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.31hrs