

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 11th January 2023 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor
Parish Clerk, Joanna Ramsay
No members of the public

22.33 To receive and accept apologies for absence

None noted.

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

None were declared.

22.35 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 16th November 2022 are a true and accurate record

Chair questioned a statement under item 22.30 from the last minutes:

Footpath 24 Change – Cllr Scrivener noted that this has now been confirmed and sealed.

Action: Cllr Scrivener to review.

Cllr Scrivener stated that he has visited the footpath, sleepers have been placed across the ditch with some anti-slip strips placed vertically down the sleepers. There is no handrail and a wide gap on one side but it is passable. Confirmed and sealed refers to the documentation received from Dorset Council accepting the change to the right of way.

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

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

None were present.

22.37 Issues arising from the last meeting – Clerks Report

- Old minutes/account books have been deposited with Dorset History Centre
- External HDD purchased and being used for back ups
- 23/24 Budget Proposal has been updated and published on the website
- Dorset Council have been informed of the Precept request
- No further update on the signposts – **Action: Clerk to chase up**
- Vehicle parked in Village Hall car park – Councillors confirmed the vehicle had been moved. Cllr Lugg reported that another vehicle had been left in the car park recently, however this was only temporary.

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22.38 To receive a report from Dorset Council

- Email regarding Postal Collections in the parish area – Cllr Legg raised that the Post Office have changed the collection times on rural postal boxes in the parish area. Collections are now set at 9.00am weekdays, and 7.00am Saturdays, this effectively means the post can be collected anytime after 9am that day, therefore collections times are no longer guaranteed.

Cllr Legg also reported that Dorset Council is expected to raise its Council Tax for 23/24 by 4.4%.

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

Chair stated that he had attended the DAPTC AGM meeting held on Zoom, from which there was nothing specific to report to this Council, but it was interesting to see other Councillors and how their Councils work.

22.40 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:

16/11/2022	WHV Magazine	Grant	£75.00
16/11/2022	North Wootton Churchyard	Grant	£100.00
28/11/2022	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28
06/12/2022	Dorset Council	Grounds Maintenance Contract	£1,408.00
28/12/2022	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28

Payments to be sanctioned:

11/01/2023	Clerk	Clerk Expenses	£79.09
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Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. ALL IN FAVOUR.

22.41 To consider Grant Application Form, Policy and Request for:

- Citizens Advice, Sherborne – Since the last meeting, the Citizens Advice Service have published their Annual Report, and in it, it mentions that they have a significant amount of money in Reserves which are unallocated. Chair proposed therefore sending a small monetary amount to them as a grant would not make a significant difference to their funding, therefore it would be better to use the amount to fix the recent damage to the playground swing. This was unanimously agreed.

Chair advised that having read the proposed Grant Application Form and Policy, it is excessive for the size of this Council. Chair proposed a simple statement be adopted along with S137 grant payment details. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to update

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

- **P/CLP/2022/06661 – Erect single storey side extension – 4 Old School Close, Alweston, Dorset DT9 5HT**

Councillors discussed the above application and there were no objections.

Action: Clerk to inform Planning Officers

22.43 To receive an update on Playground Inspection and Maintenance

- Lease on playing field

Chair stated that there has been no progress, despite chasing it up before Christmas. We really need to chase up the Land Registry direct, however as all public enquiries are central it is very difficult to do this. Chair suggested writing to the local MP, Cllr Legg agreed.

- Tree survey around the playing field

Cllr Harris stated that he had received the quote from Toomer Tree Services since the last meeting, which has now been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Harris asked for the quote to be reviewed and agreed. Councillors discussed the quote provided and it was unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to instruct Toomer Tree Services

Query was raised about using Elliott Cuff as they are more local, Cllr Harris explained that he had spoken to Elliott Cuff and it has been agreed it was too large a job for them. Cllr Scrivener also raised concern about getting three quotes, Clerk confirmed this had been done over time.

Action: Cllr Harris to get a date from Toomer Tree Services

- Update on Simon Williams fencing and bark pit work

Cllr Cuff stated that the work has not been done yet, but it is expected within the next two weeks.

- Walnut tree management and wood chip within play area by Cllr Harris

As agreed at the last meeting the walnut tree will be left for now. Cllr Harris did raise that there are some branches overhanging the tennis courts which is a concern. On discussion it was agreed they were low enough to be cut without the need for a contractor.

- Storage of broken fence and rubbish in the hut

Cllr Harris stated that he had been to the shed to remove the rubbish, however there were some items that could still possibly be of use, therefore it has not been removed yet. Cllr Lugg offered to attend with Cllr Harris to ensure all the correct items are removed.

Action: Cllr Harris/Cllr Lugg to take forward

22.44 To approve the following:

- Data Protection Policy - agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR
- Social Media Policy - agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR
- General Privacy Notice – agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR

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22.45 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Chair raised that since the last meeting one of the swings in the playground has been broken. Chair has inspected the seat and obtained a quote from HAGS to replace the seat at a cost of £100.00 (plus VAT). Chair stated that he had tried other suppliers but the internal fixings would be different so need to go with the original supplier. This was unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to advise HAGS

Cllr Harris raised concern about the state of the tennis courts and who cleans them. They are very mossy/slippery and should someone fall over would the Parish Council be liable. Cllr Rolls advised that the tennis club members do clean the courts themselves before use after the winter season. Chair stated that there are companies who provide a jet wash service for tennis courts to remove debris. Action: Chair to look into finding a supplier who could do this.

Chris Loder MP has written to the Parish Council asking if we would like him to attend our Annual Parish Meeting in May. Councillors agreed this would be good. Action: Clerk to write to Chris Loder MP to advise of date.

Clerk requested that the May Parish Council meeting be put back a week to the third Wednesday in the month to enable more time for the auditor. This was unanimously agreed.

Kings Coronation – a brief discussion was had and it was agreed to provide some financial assistance if required if events within the parish are organised.

Cllr Legg provided an update on Dancing Hill and the proposed measures to be taken to try and reduce the risk of accidents, there will be a public consultation on it. Action: Clerk to circulate information from Cllr Legg

Munden's Lane will be closed as of tomorrow for 4 days for Wessex Water to repair the drains.

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

None raised

22.47 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 8th March 2023 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 19:53 hours

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