

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 16th November 2022 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

22.16 To receive and accept apologies for absence

None noted.

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

Cllr Crothers (Chair) declared an interest in agenda item 22.24, grant request for White Hart Vale Magazine.

22.18 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 28th September 2022 are a true and accurate record

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

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

None were present.

22.20 Issues arising from the last meeting – Clerks Report

- Roadsigns on the A3030 – Clerk reported that this has been followed up with Cllr Legg, and he has agreed to take this forward with no further update as yet.

22.21 To receive a report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg was not in attendance at this point in the meeting.

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

Chair stated that he had attended a North Dorset Planning Team meeting which was insightful. The Planning Officers came across as very professional and helpful, and if there are any problems we should contact them.

22.23 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:

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28/09/2022	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28
13/10/2022	HMRC	PAYE costs Qtr 2 (July to Sept)	£82.31
28/10/2022	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£11.28

Payments to be sanctioned:

14/11/2022	Clerk	Clerk Expenses	£47.70
14/11/2022	Alvian Ltd	Repairs to Play Area	£1,874.40

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

22.24 To consider Grant requests for:

- White Hart Vale Magazine – a request has been made for a grant for £75.00 towards the running costs of the local magazine. Cllr Scrivener queried whether the grant had already been paid earlier in the year, Clerk confirmed a grant was paid this year but it fell into the last financial year. Councillors considered the request and it was agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Cllr Cuff suggested giving a grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Sherborne, they do a lot of good work and have helped out a few people locally. Chair stated that the Parish Council used to give them a grant every year regularly but this has not happened for a few years. Clerk suggested sending them a Grant Application Form to provide some details into what they do, how much they would like, etc and then the proposal can be discussed at a future meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact Citizens Advice and send Grant Application Form

- North Wootton Churchyard – Councillors considered the grant request of £100.00 to the PCC to assist with the maintenance of the churchyard grounds, this was agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Chair decided to alter the agenda at this point in the meeting, deferring item 22.25 to nearer the end.

22.26 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 comments in relation to the proposal.

Action: Clerk to inform Planning Officers

22.27 To discuss Signposts in the parish area

Clerk reported that Ian Faulkner, who had repaired the Wenlock signpost has agreed to look at the other two signposts in our parish area, a map of the locations was sent across, but there has been no further feedback since.

Cllr Legg arrived at this point in the meeting, 7.25pm

22.28 To receive an update on Playground Inspection and Maintenance

- Lease on playing field
Chair reported that we are still waiting on the Land Registry .

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- Tree survey around the playing field

Cllr Harris stated that he postponed the tree works after speaking to the owner of the cattle. It had been planned to fell the trees when the cattle were crossing to prevent having to shut the road, but the owner was concerned the felling will spook his cows. The works therefore have been postponed to the start of next year, Cllr Harris said that the trees are quite large now and therefore he is trying to get traffic lights and traffic control for the road so the road can be closed.

A discussion was had about the quotes received for the tree works and that some other quotes had included traffic control. Concern was raised over the expense and that perhaps the walnut tree work could be left and done at another time, although it does over hang the bus shelter and tennis courts. The Leylandii are the main issue.

Action: Cllr Harris to take forward

- Update on Simon Williams fencing and bark pit work

Cllr Cuff stated that this would be done in December, the chainlink wire fencing will be replaced by a type of fencing normally used for horse enclosures which should be more durable. Cllr Cuff also suggested putting in an extra rail at the bottom of the fence.

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

Discussed as above.

- Storage of broken fence and rubbish in the hut

Cllr Harris stated that as the tree works have been postponed, he will collect and remove the rubbish in December separately.

Action: Cllr Harris to take forward

Due to the late arrival of Cllr Legg, Chair asked if there was anything he wished to report (agenda item 22.21)

22.21 To receive a report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg stated that he had looked at the road signs on the way to the meeting, and some road signs still do have vegetation in front of them. Councillors commented that the road signs going to Sherborne are worse than coming from Sherborne. Cllr Legg also noted that the SID is now up and running in North Wootton.

Action: Cllr Legg to pursue road sign clearing.

22.25 To receive the Budget Report and agree the Precept Proposal for 23/24

Chair asked the Parish Council to consider whether the precept should be raised for the next financial year. A brief discussion was had about the amount of money in the Reserves and what that would be used for. Chair explained where the money came from and that it would probably get taken up by legal fees for transferring the land ownership of the playing field. It was noted that there is a large sum in Reserves but it does not go far when purchasing playing field equipment for example. It was suggested that perhaps the Reserves could be invested to try and accrue some interest, and that the Reserves should be used rather than increasing the Precept.

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Councillors went through the budget review document, changes were noted and the document will be updated. **Action: Clerk**

Chair proposed that the Precept remain the same, at £5,600 for financial year 23/24, this was agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR.

22.29 To approve the following:

- Freedom of Information Scheme - agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR
- Retention of Documents/Management of Records Policy- agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR
- Complaints Procedure – agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR

Clerk requested in line with the Retention of Documents/Management of Records Policy, all cashbook records are to be kept indefinitely. Now that these are all electronic spreadsheets, Clerk asked if an external hard disk drive could be purchased to ensure the Parish laptop is backed up. This was agreed. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Action: Clerk to purchase

22.30 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Cllr Legg asked if there had been any flooding issues in the area. Nothing serious although there are some key areas – the drain at the top of Munden's Lane, the gully outside Alweston Village Hall, Down Lane. Cllr Cuff reported that Folke Lane needs to be cleared again, it will be constantly running as last time it was not cleared properly. Cllr Cuff stated he would take some photos to raise it with Dorset Council.

Councillors raised that the footways at Vincent's Close, Alweston had been coated with some form of slurry seal and that in some areas weeds are already breaking through the surface. It appears remedial work might be needed.

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

Action: Cllr Scrivener to review.

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

Clerk stated that nationally an agreement has been reached in relation to a salary increase for Local Government employees for 22/23 (this includes Parish Clerks). The salary increase is back dated to April and will be applied from November.

22.32 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 11th January 2023 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 20:05 hours

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