

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Present:

Trena Fox (TF) (Chair)

Sally Falkingham (SF)

Di Padfield (DP)

Paul Valinski (PV)

Lawrie Goff (LG)

In attendance: Clerk- Mrs M Harding, Dorset Council Ward member Cllr Anthony Alford and 14 members of the Public

**24/03-1 Welcome and chairman's report.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and addressed the ongoing issue of waterlogging at the allotments, which will be addressed by the Council in due course. She expressed gratitude to Lawie and Alan Goff for their dedicated work during the wet weather and flooding in the village.

TF mentioned that the dormouse hedge planting was completed over the weekend at the Allotments. There have been some issues at the Magna development off Cattistock Road above Webbers Piece, noise and damage to utilities whilst construction has been carried out.

It was noted that Pounds Piece Rd has been reported once again, as it has become dangerous for people accessing the surgery.

TF mentioned that there will only be one more meeting of the Maiden Newton Parish Council in April before the grouping of Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch. She extended gratitude to all councillors not standing in May, particularly Sally, who has been a councillor for 29 years. The council acknowledged Sally's significant achievements and contributions to the village during her tenure and this was celebrated at the recent DAPTC Councillor networking event.

TF announced plans to hold a celebration at the April meeting to honour the service of Cllrs Sally Falkingham, Paul Valinski, Diana Padfield and a tribute to Cherry Dyke, who passed away last year.

**24/03-2 Report from Dorset Council**

Anthony Alford reported on the following topics:

**1. Local Plan:** The Cabinet approved a revised approach to Dorset's Local Plan, anticipating a new plan-making system by the end of 2024. Transitioning to this system will streamline the process and introduce new assessments. Proposed changes include aligning with national policies, addressing nutrient neutrality, and clarifying planning frameworks. Scoping and engagement will begin in September 2024, with the plan scheduled for submission in November 2026 and adoption in May 2027.

**2. Roads:** Dorset Council will enhance road maintenance with additional funding, including £2.068 million annually for carriageway maintenance and an extra £6.03 million for proactive maintenance.

**3. Council Budget:** A balanced budget of £377 million for 2024-25 was approved, maintaining frontline services without cuts despite national pressures.

Residents asked what financial footing Dorset Council is on compared to other Council's in the recent news. AA reiterated the balanced budget and being in a sound position compared to other Council's but will not be complacent.

**24/03-3 To close the meeting for the first democratic forum (15 minutes)**

- i. **To receive a report on the future of the Herald.**

Unfortunately, due to the gathering of information on this item this is not likely to be completed until after the elections. It was noted that the Council are putting a report in the Chimes and the Transport report is also being printed and available on the village notice board.

**ii. Any other items from members of the public.**

Residents requested a SLOW sign is painted on road on Bull Lane as there is no pavement and vehicles do not slow down leading up the junction.

**24/03-4 To reopen the meeting to receive apologies for absence-** Jeremy Edwards (JE) (Vice Chair).

**24/03-5 To receive declarations of interest or grants of dispensation-** none

**24/03-6 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and sign.** The minutes of the meeting were proposed for approval by SF and seconded by LG. All attendees agreed.

**24/03-7 To receive any matters arising from the minutes for information only.**

- i. There is no further information on the Quarr development at this time.
- ii. The Friends of the Play area is meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March so no updates on the spending of funds.

**24/03-8 To consider all planning applications in circulation any other planning matters**

- i. P/HOU/2023/06717 Proposal: Retain re-build of existing wall which has partially collapsed. Location: 3 Canons Gardens, Church Road, Maiden Newton, DT2 0AA.
- ii. P/PABA2/2024/00924 Proposal: Erect agricultural building for mill, mixing and storage of feed Location: Crockway Farm, Long Ash Lane, Frampton DT2 9NW.  
*No objections were raised on the planning applications presented to the Council.*

**24/03-9 Council property:**

**i. To receive the monthly property risk assessment reports.**

Inspection of Council Property: TF reported that in April, a site meeting will convene with all available Councillors to inspect all Council property in preparation for the new Council. A comprehensive report outlining any necessary actions will be compiled. Councillors from FV will be encouraged to attend and may share their asset register. A date for this meeting will be coordinated by the Clerk and Councillors shortly.

Flood Warden Update: LG provided an update on the work of the Flood Wardens in maintaining the area of Skips Field. The Flood Wardens have been offered a mower from Dorset Council to assist with this task at a cost of £200. The Council supported this request, contingent upon the mower being serviced, maintained, and added to the asset register. All Councillors present expressed their support for this initiative. Motion: Proposed by PV, Seconded by DP

Following feedback, the grass contractor will be asked to cut the grass on Harvey's Close.

**24/03-10 Highways/Transport**

**Transport Report:** SF circulated the transport report, highlighting several changes that can be accessed on the GWR website. Additionally, it was noted that an incorrect notice was placed at the Station, and measures will be taken to rectify this error promptly.

**Community Speed Watch (CSW) Update:** DP provided an update on the CSW team's activities. A session was conducted last week; however, this week's session had to be postponed due to inclement weather conditions.

**24/03-11 Rights of Way report and confirm walking maps.**

Chris Slade reported issues on FP9.

The Clerk reported that we are no further on with the production of the maps.

**24/03-12 Finance:**

**i. To receive the bank reconciliation and finance reports**

Bank Balances as of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - £ 55,634.02

**ii. To consider all payments and receipts due or paid since the last meeting.**

Payee	Detail	Amount
SSE	MUGA Electricity	41.43
Admin	Salary/Office costs Feb/Mar	992.71
J Carver	Nov Grass cutting	406.66
BWP Creative Ltd	Website set up deposit	314.58
MNVH	Hall hire- village meeting	16.00
S C Marsh	Hedge cutting	324.00
K Hussey	Play inspections	75.00
Vision ICT	Website hosting	21.60
DAPTC	Training- Councillor event	158.00
Poundbury Gardens	Coronation Trees	172.50
<b>Receipts</b>		
Grazing		400.00
Lloyds	Interest	89.84

Motion to approve the payments and receipts: Proposed by PV, Seconded by SF all agreed.

- iii. Play Equipment Maintenance:** Following the quarterly play area inspections, it was reported that repairs are needed for the Ninja Bicycle Mill. Preliminary estimates suggest the repairs could range from £75 to £200, though a definitive cost cannot be confirmed until further investigation. Councillors unanimously approved this expenditure to prioritise the safety of the play equipment. Motion: Proposed by PV, seconded by DP all agreed

**24/03-13 To consider items of correspondence received and for noting.**

- i. Litter Pick 2024 Arrangements:** A date has been scheduled for the Litter Pick 2024 on April 28th. Kits will be requested from Dorset Council, and litter pickers from the coronation event will be made available. The collected rubbish will be left by the war memorial, with the clerk responsible for coordinating arrangements with Dorset Council. Additionally, notices will be posted on the website, Facebook, and noticeboards to inform the community.

- ii. **PPG Update-** DP provided a report on the latest Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting. The lead doctor addressed the group regarding the nationwide shortage of doctors, highlighting that many doctors trained in the country then relocate elsewhere. It was proposed that the lead doctor would deliver a presentation to the village concerning the challenges faced by rural practices, to which he agreed. The surgery is actively recruiting new staff and is continuing efforts to relocate the dispensary. DP noted her forthcoming resignation as the PPG representative for the Parish Council but assured continued support for community events in the future.
- iii. **Coronation Trees-** the trees have been purchased, it is hoped to plant them before the end of term, LG and TF will make contact with the school to arrange this. JE was asked to dig the hole for the tree on Harvey's Close.

**24/03-14 Items for the next Parish Council meeting 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024, to arrange the Annual Parish Assembly and confirm the Annual Parish Council meeting of the new grouped Council to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

**Annual Parish Assembly Arrangements:** The Annual Parish Assembly is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00 PM.

The agenda will include a celebration honouring Councillors no longer standing, reports from community groups, and remarks from the Parish Chair.

Refreshments will be served.

Following the assembly, a short Parish Council meeting will be held. This will be the final meeting before the grouping of Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch.

Confirmation of Annual Parish Council Meeting for the New Grouped Council - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024:

**The Annual Parish Council meeting for the new grouped council will take place on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00 PM.** The Clerk will chair the first item of business to elect the Chair.

Subsequently, the new Chair of the group Council will preside over the remainder of the meeting, as the monitoring officer is unable to attend the first meeting of the new Council.

**24/03-15 Democratic forum 15 minutes-none.**

There being no further business TF closed the meeting at 7.43pm