

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at Maiden Newton Village Hall.**Present:**

Trena Fox (TF) (Chair)

Jeremy Edwards (JE) (Vice Chair)

Alan Goff (AG)

Anne Clements (AC)

Bekkie Webb (BW)

Emma Moore (EM)

Lawrie Goff (LG)

In attendance: Clerk- Mrs M Harding and 9 members of the Public

The Clerk was nominated by the Monitoring Officer to convene the grouped parish council meeting and then to preside over the first item of business.

24/05-1. Election of Chair for 2024-25 and sign the acceptance of office. The new Chairperson will then take over the rest of the meeting.

TF was nominated by JE and seconded by LG, no other nominations received TF was duly elected Chair for the coming and signed acceptance of office. TF then took over the meeting.

24/05-2. Election of Vice-Chair 2024-25 and sign the acceptance of office.

JE was nominated by LG and seconded by EM no other nomination was received JE was duly elected Vice chair for the coming year and signed acceptance of office.

24/05-3. To receive and approve apologies for absence. Received from ward Cllr Neil Eysenck as he is attending the Dorset Council annual meeting.**24/05-4. To receive declarations of interest or grants of dispensation-**AG on a financial item, LG on a financial item.**24/05-5. To consider the parish council vacancies following the election-** Following DAPTC recommendations the PC will advertise the 2 vacancies to co-opt at a future meeting, as there is only 2 weeks until the June meeting and to give time for candidates to come forward, it would be agreed to co-opt at the July meeting. The Vacancies will be advertised on the website, social media, word of mouth and the noticeboard.**24/05-6. To approve the minutes of the final Maiden Newton Parish Council meeting held on the 4th April 2024 and sign.** These minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed JE Seconded LG All agreed.

24/05-7. To receive any matters arising from the minutes for information only- JE thanked everyone who attended the litter pick. The Clerk reported on the asset site meeting of the MN Cllrs on 12th April, a report of the assets was produced, a site meeting will be held with the new Council during the year.**24/05-8. Democratic Forum (15 minutes)** Residents raised concerns on the following items:

The issue of no zebra crossing on the dropped curb by the school was raised. It was noted that this was not an eligible road, this will be looked into further.

The speed limits in the village and at either end need to be considered.

A request for a 20mph speed limit on Bull Lane was made. Also, a further request for a SLOW sign for Bull Lane. A resident commented on a near miss, it was noted that all near misses and accidents need to be reported so the evidence can be collated. This information will be publicised. A resident asked if the Coronation trees had been planted, this was confirmed, the

tree on Harvey's Green will be relocated later this year as when it was planted the ground conditions were too wet, the plaques are awaiting delivery.

The treasurer of FV Parish meeting asked about the funds left on the FV parish account, it was explained that as part of the order all the assets and funds of both parishes become those of the group council, the funds will be transferred in due course. The bank account has been renamed.

24/05-9. To confirm the roles and responsibilities of Councillors for the coming year

Roles	Responsibilities	Councillors
Bank signatories	Authorisation of payments	JE, LG, BW will be added as a signatory
Website and social media	Maintain the website and social media posts	Je and the Clerk
Emergency and Flood Wardens	Flood warden duties as and when required	Ag and LG
Child and Adult Protection Officer	To act as and when necessary	EM
PPG Rep	To attend meetings as necessary	BW
Village Hall Rep	To act as liaison between the VH and PC	TF
Community Speed Watch	To act as coordinator of the CSW team	BW
Youth Rep	To represent the youth in the parish	AC & EM
Environment and Climate change	To represent the PC on environmental matters	BW
Events Rep	To act as rep for any events organised by the PC	EM
DAPTC	To represent the PC at the DAPTC	AC & JE
CLT	To attend CLT meetings	AC
RoWLO	To inspect and report issues on the Rights of way in both parishes	Chris Slade
Allotments	To liaise with Allotment holders and inspect the area on a regular basis	TF
Ancient monuments and street furniture	To inspect and report on assets	AG
Pump and fire house	To inspect and report on assets	AG
Harvey's Green	To inspect and report on asset	EM
Play area	To inspect and report on assets	EM
Playing field and MUGA including MUGA Hut	To inspect and report on assets	LG & BW
Rock Pit Car Park	To inspect and report on asset	LG
Village Hall Car Park	To inspect and report on asset	AG

It was agreed that a Transport rep is no longer required as much of the transport information is supplied and circulated.

24/05-10. To confirm the meeting dates for the coming year

6th June, 4th July, no meeting in August, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November (budget and precept), 5th December (festive refreshments), no meeting in January, 6th February 2025, 6th March 2025. 3rd April 2025 (annual parish assembly) and 8th May 2025 (annual PC meeting)

24/05-11. To consider that the Council is eligible to use the General Power of Competence (An eligible council is one which has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification)

The PC confirmed it is eligible, proposed Cllr JE, seconded by BW all agreed.

24/05-12. To reaffirm the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and other policies

The recommendation is to reaffirm the current policies in place so the Council can function but to update during the coming year, the new financial regulations are now out, it would be good practice to update these at the earliest opportunity by the PC. All policies were reaffirmed proposed LG Seconded EM all agreed.

24/05-13. Finance:

- i. To confirm the Parish Council does not have conflict of interest with the external auditor BDO.** This was agreed, proposed AC, seconded BW all agreed.
- ii. To receive the Internal audit report 2023-24-** received and accepted.
- iii. To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023-24 (Section 1)**
This refers to how the PC manages its finances, risks and accountabilities.
Proposed AC, seconded JE All agreed.
- iv. To approve the Accounting Statements 2023-24 (Section 2)**
This is the section shows the actual accounts of monies received and spent.
Proposed JE, seconded AG All agreed.
- v. To consider all payments and receipts due or paid since the last meeting.**

Payee	Detail	Receipt	Payment
Allotment rent		31.50	
MN Fire Station	Annual rent	15.00	
Dorset Council	CIL payment	7607.00	
Dorset Council	Precept	18000.00	
Lloyds Bank	Interest	111.97	
L Goff	Flood warden honorarium		100.00
A Goff	Flood warden honorarium		100.00
DAPTC	Annual Membership		507.37
SSE	Electricity at the MUGA hut		9.94
Admin costs			1004.30
MN Village Hall	Hall hire March/April		36.00

Brewers decorator centre	Treatment for MUGA hut		83.98
J Carver	Grass contract		406.66

Proposed JE, seconded AC Bank balances as at 30th April £74623.03

- vi. **To arrange a meeting of the Finance group to discuss the budget for 2024-25 previously agreed.** It was agreed to hold a meeting of Cllrs to look at the budget previously agreed for the benefit of the new Cllrs. The meeting could be held at the fire station if required. A date is to be arranged.

24/05-14. Council property: To receive the monthly property risk assessment reports (ALL)

Reports will be supplied after this meeting when new reps had been appointed.

LG reported that there is a football tournament at the playing field with over 20 teams expected.

24/05-15. To consider user agreements with all groups associated with the Parish Council assets.

The PC had previously discussed user agreements with community groups that use PC assets. A draft document will be considered at the June meeting for these groups to ensure that all parties know who is responsible for the maintenance and management of the assets. i.e.

Allotment Association, Friends of the Play area, Old Fire House, School, Football Club etc, these will be agreed with the parties once approved. Proposed LG, seconded EM, All Agreed.

24/05-16. To consider all planning applications in circulation any other planning matters.

- P/LBC/2024/01678 Proposal: Retain internal and external alterations to install wood burner flue. Location: 76 Dorchester Road- *no objections*
- P/FUL/2024/02016 Proposal: Building use to be retained. Proposal to include the installation of external wall insulation and solar panels. Location:14-32 Webbers Piece- *no objections*
- P/LBC/2024/02218 Proposal: Removal of two windows and replace with bifold doors Location: Manor Farmhouse, 10 Church Road- *no objections*
- P/HOU/2024/02073 Proposal: Erection of a Porch to the front elevation Location:14 Hill View, Maiden Newton- *no objections*

24/05-17. To receive a report from the Eggardon Ward Councillor for Dorset Council- Not in attendance.

24/05-18. To receive any Highways reports- There are road markings noted at Pound Piece now so hope work will be carried out soon. BW commented on speed surveys for the village in order to consider a SID. The survey costs are £275 plus £300 for the pole should a SID be agreed. There is a possibility that the parish could borrow a SID from local parishes. The PC will consider sites for a suitable SID in conjunction with the SID team, BW to follow up. The PC discussed the issues in and around the village with speed and safety, it was agreed to consider a Transport plan going forward.

24/05-19. To receive any Rights of way reports- the path on Little watery way needs clearing also the issue of landownership, the PC will look into this.

24/05-20. To consider items of correspondence received or for noting- a list of correspondence was circulated. The whale springer is to be repaired by the installer; the issue is the mechanics are located under the surfacing. The information board is still ongoing at Rock Pit Car Park. The path up to the station belonging to Meedfleet was reported and is awaiting repair.

24/05-21. To confirm items for the next Parish Council meeting.

FV wish to discuss the area of land at the Black Bridge for a passing place as tractors churn up the grass and picnic area along the riverbank. As well as items brought up during the meeting.

24/05-22. Democratic forum 15 minutes- members of the public to raise any other items that may form future agenda items.

The area at the BT telephone exchange is being used as storage but concerns were raised if a grant for change of use has been applied.

Also, the wall owned by BT is still requiring repair and was raised as a safety concern.

It was noted that a wall at Maiden Newton House is in need of repair the resident will report this online.

The road into the village from Crewkerne end where there is a give way and shared path does not work and creates further problems during busy times.

The CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) was explained to residents also the detail of planning applications where monies have been received and the use of such funds explained. The PC was asked if there had been any news on the Quarr development, it was confirmed that there has been no progress.

JE thanked the Clerk for all the work carried out in the preparation of the group Council.

He also asked following the building of the new website new photos are required of the village. The new website was then displayed on the screen for all at the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.16pm