

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 27th May 2020 via Zoom

Councillors Present:

Mrs D Wiltshire (DW)(Chairman)

Mr P Jeffery (PJ)

Mr D Read (DR)

Mrs A Bennett (AB) (Vice chair)

Mrs K Delafield (KD)

Mr M Usherwood (MU)

Roland Tarr -Dorset Councillor

Mrs M Harding (Clerk)

4 members of public

2020/05-1 Welcome and to receive any apologies for absence- Mr N Hallett (NH). The Chairman welcomed all to the first Zoom meeting and read out the rules.

2020/05-2 To receive declarations of interest and grants of dispensation- none

2020/05-3 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th February 2020

Proposed DR

Seconded AB

Resolved

2020/05-4 Matters arising from the minutes for info only- none

2020/05-5 Democratic forum 15 minutes –

A resident asked for an update on the McD's bund and works to the roundabout, it was explained that this will be reported under highways. The resident also raised concerns at the suggested bonfire to celebrate the end of lockdown, it was explained that this is now not happening and the large bonfire will be made into much smaller bonfires for health and safety reasons.

A resident commented on the issue of the playground needing support and funds, if the PC were to take this on then what agreements will be put in place, as this was not the case for the churchyard grass cutting. It was explained that the work the PC had (wrongly) done in the past relating to grass cutting in the Churchyard, the PC do not have the power to support a churchyard unless it is closed and adopted, the PC do however have the power to support play areas.

Planning for music studio- the applicant- spoke on the music studio and its need as they are musicians, the area will be fully sound proofed and the neighbours support the application.

Planning for the boiler and flue- the applicant spoke on this application and the need for the new boiler and flue.

A resident asked about the old minutes and when they would be available as he had offered to scan them, it was explained that due to lockdown and social distancing the job of sorting the papers collected was on hold and will resume as soon as the restrictions allow.

2020/05-6 To consider the update of the WSM Standing Orders in order to hold virtual meetings

The Clerk had circulated the SO with the addition of no.5a in order to hold virtual meetings, this insert was provided by DAPTC, the PC agreed to adopt this revised version.

Proposed PJ

Seconded MU

Resolved

2020/05-7 Finance

i. To consider the Annual Insurance 20-21- The Clerk had gathered 3 quotes from Parish Council insurance companies, the quotes ranged from £343.23, £473.76 and £494.88, The lower quote did not include flood cover for the garage so it was agreed to go with the quote from Zurich at £473.76 for a 3 year LTA.

Proposed DW

Seconded MU

Resolved

2020/05-9 To consider all correspondence received for decision, consultation and information (see list)-Items for noting:

- a. Item 5- Allotments there has been 4 expressions of interest some have pulled out due the lack of water on site, the site is due to be cleared and levelled ready for marking out. It is hoped to source barrels to collect water from the barn roof.
- b. Item 8- Annual Parish meeting was cancelled as was the March PC meeting due to Covid-19.
- c. Item 9- Road closure at Blagdon hill 27th April to 19th June.
- d. Item- 10- Update from NALC on virtual meetings and financial year.
- e. Item- 12- Grass cutting contract awarded and works carried out on Blagdon Close.
- f. Item- 13- Laurels planted in PC hedge at Blagdon Close, now removed.
- g. Item- 16- Resignation of a Councillor position was advertised no election required the PC can co-opt if required.
- h. Item-21 Community Sid Programme survey dates – the Council had previously agreed to carry out further surveys in the village but this was stopped due Covid-19 lockdown, it was agreed not to carry out these surveys until the traffic returns to some sort of normality.
- i. Item-23- Anonymous complaint to the Forestry commission regarding alleged tree felling at Blagdon Close- no trees were felled so no action taken against the PC.
- j. Item- 26- Temporary 30mph speed limit on Blagdon Hill from 5th June for 18 months
- k. Item- 28- It was noted that following the delivery of 100 sand bags in March many had been removed recently, it was noted that the sand bag store is public and anyone in Dorset can help themselves, it is hoped to move those left behind the Parish Office.

2020/05-10 Highways, Countryside & ROW:**i. To receive any highways issues and receive the SID report
Report from Cllr Tarr**

A meeting has been held with Highways England, and we have also received, as always, a clear reply relating to the McDonald's entrance safety issues.

The meeting related to all of the parishes in our Ward, who are all affected by the by pass issues, including flooding on the Dorset bypass, flooding on the on the A352 itself, at the junction at Max Gate, flooding at Monkeys Jump and speed mitigation in Winterbourne Abbas as well as road safety at the McDonald's entrance .

McDonald's Entrance: - From the road safety and engineering point of view Dorset Council are happy for us to proceed with the plan to the west of the McDonald's entrance, that is build the bund on the verge. All we need to do for this is to find a small sum of money required to carry out the work and agreed the detail of plan with the Duchy of Cornwall, Bath office. I do not foresee any major problems with this since the tenant farmer is happy, but do need to clear it in writing at area level. It was confirmed that Cllr Tarr will aim to source this money from DC funds.

To the west of the entrance however things become more complicated. Not only is the roundabout to be redesigned as a condition of the Poundbury planning permission, and a fairly major scheme to prevent future flooding, but the developer now has to comply with the requirement to comply with the Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Assessment which is a condition of such developments on all major road routes. The WCHAR process applies to all highway schemes where there is a potential impact on any pedestrians, cyclists or equestrians on the motorway or trunk-road network. It may also be applied to the road network in general by local authorities. It is also referred to as HD 42/17. Highways England agreed at our meeting that they intend to carry out their flood prevention work at the same time as the roundabout is reconfigured, which is something we have been asking for and makes much better sense than having two lots of major works going on during the next eighteen months to two years or so on separate dates with separate closures and repeating disturbances.

It would appear that the Duchy have to engage a specialist firm to carry out the study and prepare an effective plan for this. They, and Highways England, are the landowners for all the land which might be involved.

This means that any work in the area to the East of the McDonald's entrance cannot proceed until the design for the roundabout is completed and it would not of course make sense to proceed with any permanent works in that area.

Highways England are however quite happy for us as the Dorset Council to experiment with Traffic Safety measures possibly using temporary barriers to see how these solutions might work in the future and might improve safety as soon as they are installed. This could be done at quite short notice.

The Council thanked Cllr Tarr for his report and supported the works that have been suggested and asked Cllr Tarr to take this forward and gather funds to commence the project as soon as practically possible.

Proposed MU

Seconded KD

Resolved

**ii. To consider any other highways issues-
Speed Indicator Device report-Apr 2020**

Total number of speed readings taken =	69 mph (28/4/2020 11:08 PM)
54,767	60 mph (25/4/2020 10:29 PM)
>30mph = 19,445	58 mph (26/4/2020 11:10 AM)
>40mph = 1,889	57 mph (28/4/2020 7:04 PM)
>50mph = 79	56 mph (10/4/2020 11:48 AM)
Average Recorded Speed = 35mph	56 mph (21/4/2020 1:47 PM)

Top recorded speeds:

n.b Number of speed readings does not equal number of vehicles.

Slower moving vehicles record more speed measurements than slower moving vehicles.

A vehicle travelling at 30mph will record 3 or 4 measurements, vs a vehicle moving at 50mph would only record a single measurement.

It was noted that the SID is not working, DW reported that the battery probably needed changing, this was carried out during the meeting.

2020/05-11 RoW and Footpaths: to receive a report

AB reported that she continues to walk the local footpaths and bridleways and have a couple of issues of note to mention.

The saga of the tractors using the bridleway that leads from the Brewers Arms to the A35 continues. The pub end is very overgrown and has been reported to the ranger and will be strimmed soon.

The senior ranger has approached the landowner but the bridleway continues to be used either as a short cut to or from the A35. The Ranger is in discussions with the legal team at Dorset Council.

Following this information, the tractors returned to using the village road for both legs of their journey to and from the farm. The increase in traffic was noticeable. AB explained that the PC need to decide what we want to happen the concern is that if a horse rider comes off on the bridleway, we need to have done our best.

The stile at the back of the church is unstable and the footpath overgrown with nettles and cow parsley. The stile and footpath are the responsibility of the adjacent homeowner and an approach to the estate agent will be made to try and get some work done, it will also be reported online.

There is an increase in dog fouling on all footpaths and bridleways and even the village green as a result of people walking their dogs more locally. It was suggested that a request is made to put this reminder on the village website and on the Facebook page.

2020/05-12 Parish Council Property:

i. To consider the specification to maintain the benches in the parish (KD)

KD had supplied a report for the future maintenance of the 6 benches in the parish. One of these being a recycled bench so does not require any maintenance. The Council considered this report and the recommendations to replace the rotten slat on the concrete and heavy timber bench, strip the deteriorated surface of the oak benches and return the benches to a natural state that will allow a silver-grey surface to develop which require no maintenance. DW reminded Councillors that the cost of this will not be in the budget and will need to be taken from contingency as the PC voted to reduce the £650 to £250 for bench maintenance.

The Council approved these recommendations and asked the Clerk to contact the contractor who carries out these works in other parishes for a quote.

Proposed KD

Seconded MW

Resolved

ii. To consider the future planned maintenance of the hedge at Blagdon Close

The Council reported on the communications received regarding the maintenance of the hedge at Blagdon Close. A resident who had raised concerns over the hedge commented that they had been in discussions with the Council previously but to no avail on the management of the area.

DW in discussions with the Clerk had produced a report for the Council to consider regarding the future maintenance of the hedge.

The Council maintains the hedge in a tidy manner to ensure visibility is not impaired for vehicles exiting Blagdon Close and also to ensure an ongoing tidy appearance of the hedge area and the grass verge in front of the hedge. Additional spring bulbs may be planted in the grass verge in front of the hedge at the appropriate time of the year if the conditions at that time are suitable.

That the Council ensures the growth from the hedge does not impair the waterway at any time.

The trees will be maintained to ensure safety of the trees and prevent damage to surrounding properties and pedestrians and will be shortened or removed if necessary and with any required permissions from the Dorset Planning Authority and advice of the Tree officer at Dorset Council.

Trees will only be removed if necessary, for safety purposes or if the condition of the trees requires this.

The primary focus of the Council will be to maintain the tidiness of the hedge and safety of the trees. Although the focus will not be to maintain a boundary screen for neighbouring properties it will also not be the intent of the Council to remove any more of hedgerow or trees than is considered necessary for this purpose of maintaining it in a tidy and safe condition. The Council agreed to this approach.

Proposed PJ

Seconded MU

Resolved

2020/05-13 To receive reports from:

i. Village Hall representatives to consider the play area- The PC had received a letter from the VH committee regarding the costs of the play area who have asked for support. The VH committee had provided the latest play area report and some costings. PJ spoke as a rep of the VH and explained that the VH currently have no income so reserves are needed to maintain the play area. DW explained that in most parishes the costs of a play area come under the Parish Council and the PC should consider supporting the VH. The PC agreed in principle to support the VH and arrange a meeting with the committee to discuss this further. MU, PJ and DW will arrange a meeting.

Proposed PJ

Seconded DR

Resolved

ii. Waste watch representatives- DR reported that the group will be losing the garage for storage as development is due to start. Unless a new storage site can be found the scheme will end, it has been a great scheme and supported many in the community.

iii. **Winterbourne Community Fund (was the Blanchard Trust)-** none at this time

2020/05-14 Items for the Parish Council meeting on Weds 24th June 2020

Benches, VH update, Allotment update.

2020/05-15 Democratic forum 15 minutes –

A resident spoke on the perceived issue of speeding through the village, with lockdown vehicles which are travelling faster with less traffic.

DW explained that the PC had agreed to pay for a further survey in the village, to look for another SID site. DW also explained that the biggest traffic calming measure is parked cars left in the road.

Residents were asked to report speed issues on the Dorset Police Roads safe website.

DR commented on the drains that have still not been cleared, also there is sand and grit still on the road from the flooding.

Meeting closed 8.32pm