

# PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, following the Annual Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors G. Fry (Chairman), M. Buckland D. Heaver, B. Pye, E. Sinclair, D. Robbins, T. Taylor & J. Arak-Newman

**IN ATTENDANCE:** C. Buckland (Parish Clerk), County Councillor R. Coatsworth, D. Bird (Footpaths), A. Lovell (Transport)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor J. Russell, Councillor R. Williams & M. Brown (Website)

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

### 3. UPDATE ON SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Steve Green had been working with BT as the local Superfast Champion and gave an update on progress for the connection of the 3 villages. The new BT Box in Puncknowle (next to the telephone kiosk) would be done before Xmas –but this would only cover up to approx. 1200 meters from the Box. Swyre & West Bexington are not at present included in any BT plans. Estimated costs of £25,000 to upgrade the Box in Swyre may not be viable but BT are reluctant to disclose their future plans. Alternatives to Superfast Broadband –which are expensive include Satellite. Vouchers may be available of up to £3000 per small business to assist with the “set up”. He had written to Oliver Letwin MP to ask for his support.

### 4. PUBLIC TIME

- a) County Councillor Ron Coatsworth advised that District Councillor John Russell had been taken ill & may be off for several months – he would cover any District matters if needed.
- b) The Boundary Commission were looking at changing the Council boundaries & “Bridport South” would now cover south of the A35.
- c) Anna Lovell advised that the Beach Clean had only been supported by 20 people. The National Trust had held a similar event several weeks before with over 100 people attending.
- d) The hedge at Manor Cottages (opposite the Bus Shelter) was overgrown and obstructing visibility for cars turning out of Rectory Lane - the Chairman agreed to contact the new owners of the property to ask for it to be cut back.
- e) The Footpath/bridle way from Swyre to Berwick was getting impassable.

### 5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Council’s meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

### 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

### 7. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

The New Chairman had no report.

### 8. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

#### i. Allotments

Dave Bird reported that a ½ plot was coming vacant but there was no one on the waiting list at present. Agreed to put an advert on the Notice Boards/Web site & Bride Valley News. The Allotments inspection

was due soon. A replacement gatepost was needed at the Allotments – Councillor Buckland agreed to supply & put the post in & Councillor Robbins to assist.

- ii. **Footpaths**  
Dave Bird would look at the Footpath/Bridleway - Swyre to Berwick which was reported as overgrown in Public Time.
- iii. **Homewatch**  
Councillor Robbins had nothing to report.
- iv. **Playing Field Committee**  
Councillor Heaver reported that the “No Parking” Notices by the Playing Field gate had been updated. The Playhouse had suffered minor vandalism to some of the uprights. The laurel hedge – 1 plant was dead & 2 others were looking sick –this may be down to strimmer damage. The tidy-up/painting of the fences in the Playing Field would be done shortly. The Annual Inspection would be completed in May.
- v. **Transport**  
Anna Lovell reported the X53 & X31 Bus Schedules had changed at the Bank Holiday weekend but the new timetables were not yet available. The Wednesday service was in trouble as it was not used enough.
- vi. **Village Hall**  
Councillor Sinclair reported that work would be needed on the lean-to which leaked in windy weather.
- vii. **Bridport Local Area Partnership & DAPTC**  
The next meeting of the Western Area DAPTC will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7pm. The next BLAP meeting will also be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Mountfield, Bridport at 2.15pm.
- viii. **Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Web Site**  
No Report

## 9. PLANNING

### Applications on which the Parish Council is being consulted:

- 1. Application No WD/D/14/003310 – Long House, Labour In Vain Access Road, West Bexington – Demolition of 2 prefabricated concrete garages, extensions & modifications to the existing main dwelling, including the reinstatement of a previously demolished section, and the construction of an “Eco Energy Centre” timber stable/barn in the rear stable yard. Letters of objection were on the planning website from some West Bexington residents but all Councillors had visited the site & had No Objections.

### Decisions:

- A. Application No WD/D/14/002640 – Tamarisk Farm, Beach Road, West Bexington – Erection of a polytunnel to house sheep during the winter and grow vegetables in the summer – Consent Granted

## 10. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- a. Pot holes at Swyre –past the Church – Clerk to report
- b. Pot holes over Chicks Bridge - past 4 Meads Farm going towards Litton Cheney
- c. Dorset Highways had cleared the drain outside of the Old Rectory gates.

## 11. SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Following the presentation on Superfast Broadband by Steve Green at the beginning of this meeting it was agreed by all Councillors that the Parish Council support efforts to improve this service. All Agreed that a letter be sent to Oliver Letwin MP.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A schedule of correspondence received since 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the Council’s meeting.

## 13. FINANCE

**Payments for Approval: Resolved** that the three invoices listed below be authorised for payment: -

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Mrs Carolyn Buckland (Clerk’s salary April) | £277.04 |
| D. Heaver (Playing Field Expenses)          | £8.99   |
| Broker Network Ltd (Insurance premium)      | £265.00 |

Total Cheques            £551.03

**Other finance:**

- a) Accounts for End of Year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Paul Pritchard had completed the Internal Audit & would be thanked for his work as the Internal Auditor. The Accounts were presented to the Council: Resolved to adopt these Accounts. All agreed. A copy of these Accounts is attached.
- b) Completion of the Annual Audit Return for Year ending 31 March 2015 – The Annual Governance Statement was read out to the meeting and it was Resolved that the Chairman sign this form on behalf of the Parish Council. All agreed.
- c) The Napper Charity Trust Accounts for the End of Year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. The Accounts were presented to the Council: Resolved to adopt these Accounts. All agreed & a copy is attached.
- d) Insurance Renewal due 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 – the renewal quote from Broker Network Ltd (Came Insurance) of £265.00 for a 3 year long term agreement was still cheaper than the quote from Aviva – so agreed to insure through Came Insurance.
- e) Signatures to be changed on the TSB Mandate - Retiring Councillors Simon & Baker-Sims to be removed as signatories and agreed that Councillor G. Fry be added. Mandate to be ordered & then completed.
- f) Signatures to be changed on the Nationwide Building Society – Retiring Councillors Simon & Baker-Sims to be removed as signatories and agreed that Councillors Robbins & Taylor to be added. Mandate to be completed
- g) The Clerks Review would be done by the Chairman shortly. There was money set aside in the Budget for a new Parish Council computer – Councillor Sinclair agreed to look at prices of a new laptop and also a proper back up unit.

**14. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a) Both Puncknowle & Swyre had been entered in the Best Kept Village Competition and judging would start in May 2015.
- b) The Annual Parish Assembly had been postponed twice & there were no plans to hold it at present.
- c) The seat for the Bus stop at Swyre had been delivered & was still waiting for confirmation/permission from Dorset County Council before being installed. Councillor Heaver had contacted all the services (gas, electric, water, BT, etc.) to check that there were no cables or lines near the location of the proposed seat.
- d) The proposed litter bin at Puncknowle Bus Shelter – to check with County Councillor Ron Coatsworth re the ordering of this.

**15. PUBLIC TIME**

None

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that the Council's next meeting would take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 9.46 pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....