

PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE: S.Bowsher (Parish Clerk), District Councillor J Russell, County Councillor Mark Roberts, A. Lovell (Transport), N. Arak-Newman (Allotments).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence: Keith Day & PCSO A. Bishop

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC TIME

County Councillor Mark Roberts advised that the new budget is now being assembled.

Historically, fees have differed across the county, but it is anticipated that West Dorset will face an increase in Council Tax once they are amalgamated.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved that the Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 5 February 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed DH, seconded MB.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Councillor Geoffrey Fry thanked the outgoing clerk, Carolyn Buckland for over 14 years of service to the Parish Council, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a gift voucher on behalf of all of the councillors.

7. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

i. Allotments

Nigel Arak-Newman reported that he had challenged some people he thought were behaving suspiciously at the allotments. He advised everyone to be conscious of making their sheds and contents secure, and to be vigilant. There are currently three half sized plots available to rent. Some of the hedges are top heavy. The willows at the top of the allotment have been partly pollarded.

ii. Footpaths

Nothing to report on Footpaths.

iii. Homewatch And Community Police Report

PCSO Alex Bishop advised beforehand that there was nothing to report crime wise, although he asked people to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity with respect to recent reports of poaching activity around the Bridport and Beaminster areas. This involves people being seen late at night near fields around Beaminster with dogs and lamps. Other signs might include finding animal remains, vehicles being driven across fields at night and people carrying rifles, crossbows or catapults.

iv. Playing Field Committee

Extensive work involving the significant effort of volunteers has been completed in the playing field.

Large areas of external matting have been cleaned and paths have been cleared and cleaned. The recommendations from Ken Hussay's playing field report have been largely undertaken which involved the removal of some barriers, repairs to the playhouse and the relaying of rubber grass matting. There are two items outstanding from the report which are in hand. Going forwards consideration needs to be given to providing a new support for the slide, and painting the playhouse: Councillor Fry is to follow these up. A full report on the playing field by Councillor Heaver is held by the clerk.

v. Transport

Anna Lovell had attended a consultation meeting about Bridport Hospital and she is concerned about patients being expected in future to travel to Dorchester and Blandford. She will be voicing this concern at the next WATAG meeting.

vi. Village Hall

Councillor Sinclair reported that prior to redecorating the hall, a builder has been consulted about why the plaster is blistering. The conclusion is that external concrete is not allowing water to drain away, but instead it is being absorbed into the brickwork. The brick work is coated on the other side with non-porous cement, hence the damp is sealed in behind the plasterwork. The solution will be to strip out the plaster and replace it with a lime-based product, and improve the drainage. Redecorating can then proceed with a water-based paint.

The storage area floor had flooded due to a drainage leak which is now resolved, and damp on the wall which was coming from the roof. This is because the roof stops short of the fascia. There is a false timber wall hiding rot to the windows. This needs professional advice based upon a structural survey.

Condensation in the kitchen could be ameliorated by adding powerful extractor fans. The door to the kitchen store room has asbestos panels, and new doors might be recommended in future. Councillor Taylor recommended preparing an asbestos report. The hall committee are planning a fund-raising event on 6 April.

vii. Bridport Local Area Partnership

Councillor Fry advised there have been no meetings of BLAP to report on. He has become aware of the disparity of the housing stock between West Dorset which is better placed than many other parts of the county, and can anticipate pressure to increase housing stock once the county is amalgamated, although the role out will occur over a number of years.

viii. DAPTC

It is anticipated that a special meeting of the Shadow Cabinet will be taking place on March 14th.

ix. Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Web Site

It is anticipated that the new Clerk to the Parish Council will take on the management of the website at some point in the future.

8. PLANNING

Applications on which the Parish Council were consulted: -

Application No WD/D/19/000222 – The Club House, Beach Road, West Bexington – Erect Single Storey Extension & Greenhouse.

As the plans do not show where the foul water will be removed, the Council raised concern about the potential for an environmental health issue. Without this knowledge the Council were unable to support this application.

Decisions:

- a) Application No WD/D/18/0002662** – Manor Farm, Swyre – Erection of Steel Framed Livestock Building – Consent Grated.
- b) Application No WD/D/17/002317**- Parks Farm, Litton Cheney – Construction of Effluent Lagoon – Consent Granted.
- c) Application No WD/D/18/0002903** – 3 Clay Lane, Puncknowle – Removal of existing lean-to roof & erection of a First Floor Extension over the existing kitchen structure – Application Withdrawn.

9. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- a) Still no date for the repairs to the culvert and road surface near Swyre Church.
- b) County Councillor Mark Roberts offered to discuss this with Blair Turner at Dorset Highways Department.

10. ALL ASPECTS OF THE ALLOTMENT FIELD

Councillor Fry said that tree contractors will be unable to gain access to do hedge-work until the headland area of the allotments has been cleared of any rubbish left by the allotment holders. It was agreed that the allotment holders would act to remove this.
 Financial matters relating to the Allotments were discussed in a separate closed meeting relating at the end of the evening.

11. NOTICE BOARDS AT WEST BEXINGTON

The quote for a new Notice Boards at West Bexington is expected by next month.

12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A schedule of correspondence received since 1st February 2019 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 February)	£320.28
Mrs D. Sinclair (Website Management)	£25.00
Ken Hussey (Playing Field Inspection)	£37.50
Total Cheques	£382.78

14. INFORMATION ITEMS

- i. Council & Local Council Elections on Thursday 2nd May 2019 – Nomination Forms deadline to County Council– 3rd April 2019
- ii. The Chairman advised that there would be a defibrillator training day on 16th March at The Manor Hotel, West Bexington..
- iii. The Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Tuesday 30 April at Puncknowle Village Hall at 7.30pm

15. PUBLIC TIME

Concern was voiced about the Health and Safety aspect of Helicopter Flights operating out of West Bexington

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note that the Council’s next meeting would take place on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 9 pm.

Signed:

Dated: