

# PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

## **PRESENT:**

Councillors G. Fry (Chairman), J. Marsh (Vice Chairman), B. Pye, T. Taylor, E. Sinclair, D Bird (Footpaths), A Lovell (Transport), M. Roberts (Dorset Council Councillor).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S. Bowsher (Parish Clerk),

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

M. Buckland.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

G Fry wished to record that he had submitted a comment on his own behalf in respect of a planning application concerning trees within the parish, and advised he has no financial or personal interest in this.

## **3. PUBLIC TIME**

Dorset Councillor Mark Roberts advised that all landowners have now agreed to the tree work which is required for the new double decker bus service which will commence imminently, and this work is currently being undertaken. It has also been agreed that the bus route will be gritted when required.

The council were made aware that enquiries need to be undertaken regarding a listed building in the parish which is understood to have made internal and external alterations with no apparent approval.

Mr Simon Ludgate attended the meeting on behalf of a local business. He wished to convey that the proprietor is aware of the concerns held by the Parish Council over the operation of helicopters flights from his business premises at West Bexington. It is noted that a risk assessment for the business and protocols for take-off and landing had been provided to the Council just before the meeting. The Council were advised that the CAA are aware of the helicopter operations and it was agreed that details of the business insurance cover will be made available to the Parish Council. After some detailed discussion about the nature of these flights and their impact upon the public and residents, the Councillors expressed their continued concerns about the risks and the potential for injury, especially in the public car park which is highly populated during the period the helicopter is in operation. It was also felt that, as the businesses is perfectly accessible by road, there was no clear need for air travel. Mr Ludgate agreed to forward copies of correspondence to date to Councillor Mark Roberts and the insurance information to the Parish Council. The matter was left open for further discussion.

## **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed J Marsh, seconded E Sinclair, all in favour.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A meeting took place between G Fry, S Bowsher and Russell Goff from Dorset Council (DC) on 19 August grass cutting in Swyre. DC will confirm their authorisation for the Parish Council to permit volunteers to cut the grass in two areas, and will be happy to resume cutting the area opposite the war memorial in future if we want. A follow up is required as confirmation has not been received to date, and permission should also be sought for grass cutting by volunteers in West Bexington.

Councillors Marsh and Sinclair and S Bowsher met with Giles Nicholson (DC Countryside and Greenspace Manager) and Bran Acres (DC Coastal Ranger) on 9 August to discuss the enforcement of bye-laws in West Bexington. It was agreed that larger, simpler signage is needed to re-enforce no overnight camping in the car park, no fishing and no camping/tents on the beach. Giles

Nicholson will let us know about funding and installing the signs, and will investigate who we can ask to enforce them. The bye-laws have been added to the Puncknowle.net website.

The planning enforcement issue on Hazel Lane is currently under investigation by DC G Fry reported that the repairs to finger posts are still in hand. The new notice board for West Bexington is being made. B Pye to follow up on progress.

## 6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Whilst the Parish Council are no longer consulted on planning applications relating to tree work, the application mentioned in item 2 above will be included in planning discussions at this meeting.

## 7. CLERK'S REPORT

### Risk Assessment

A risk assessment for volunteers' activities was adopted by the Council. Proposed J Marsh, Seconded T Taylor. All in favour.

### Standing Orders

Councillors will be sent an electronic copy of these for review.

### Financial Regulations

Councillors will be sent an electronic copy of these for review.

### West Bexington.

See 1 and 5 above.

### Other Items.

None

## 8. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

### **i. Homewatch and Community Police Report**

Nothing to report locally.

### **ii. Allotments**

A closed meeting of the Napper Charity was scheduled after the meeting.

### **iii. Footpaths**

Dave Bird offered to clear the hill part of Clay Lane and Knackers Hole as he did not anticipate DC doing these. Agreed that the clerk will contact DC Coastal Ranger Bran Acres to clear the second half of the footpath at West Bexington. There has been no response to the clerk's email requesting the repairs to the stile in Clay Lane owned by the local estate.

### **iv. Playing Field Committee**

During the weekly inspection it has been noticed that the slide is in need of repair. G Fry will look into sourcing the materials to do this. Litter has been tidied from the area and the bins emptied regularly.

### **v. Transport**

Since the last meeting there has been a significant reduction in the availability of public transport. The X51 and X53 service now operates a reduced service which makes it no longer possible for people to travel to work. The Dorset Community bus has changed its weekly Wednesday service to alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays, in some cases making it difficult for users to maintain medical appointments. The Bride Valley Dial a Bus service has been discontinued due to budget constraints. The concept of the local precept being used to run a community bus service was discussed. Agreed A Lovell will enquire about the costs associated with such a scheme.

### **vi. Village Hall**

The Village Hall AGM will take place this Thursday at 7.30pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

### **vii. Bridport Local Area Partnership**

G Fry assisted on the BLAP stand at the Melplash Show in August.

The issue of Dorset Council planning consultations being requested during August will be raised at the next BLAP meeting. The matter of parish councils no longer being consulted on tree planning will also be raised.

### **viii. DAPTC**

Nothing to report

### **ix. Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Web Site**

Nothing to report.

- x. **Emergency Planning**  
G Fry had checked road salt. Stocks are still good and usable. Need to see any areas need replenishing before the cold weather.
- xi. **Finance**  
See 12 below

## 9. PLANNING

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

#### **Application Number: WD/D/19/001129**

1. **Application No WD/D/19/001191** – Junipers, Rectory Lane, Puncknowle – Erection of a bike hut.

Following a site visit in August by some members of the council it is considered that, amongst other things:

- i) It will block the natural light to the adjacent property, Bride Valley Cottage
- ii) The proposed building combined with its raised platform makes it too large for the site
- iii) It would constitute an over development that would be out of scale and out of keeping with the village.

All agreed to object to this application on the above grounds.

2. **Application No WD/D/19/001704** – Highviews, Beach Road West Bexington – Alterations and extension to existing dwelling.

The council objects to this application on the following grounds:

- i) The height of the building is out of keeping with the neighbouring properties and with the street scene
- ii) New dormer windows would overlook the garden of the adjacent property resulting in a loss of privacy
- iii) The material proposed for the roof is out of keeping with other properties in the road.

All agreed to object to this application on the above grounds.

### **Decisions:**

**Application number WD/D/19/000937** Meadfoot, Swyre Road, West Bexington, DT2 9DD  
Confirmation that compliance with planning conditions 5, 6 7, 8 and 9 of planning approval WD/D/17/000762 are partially completed.

**Application number WD/D/19/001271** Paddock Lodge, Puncknowle Rd, Swyre.

Confirmation that compliance with planning conditions 3,4,5,6,7,8 and 10 of Planning Approval. **WD/D/18/001210** are partially completed.

### **Other Planning Issues**

**Application Number WD/D/19/002162** Permission to fell 13 trees and reduce 3 others at The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Puncknowle.

Whilst the council was not consulted on this application, it was brought to their attention by a member of the Council, who had been noted that the existing tree preservation order was not mentioned in the application and had rectified this. The trees are all mature and important to wildlife including, potentially, a colony of bats. It is not understood why it should be necessary to remove these trees, one of which is at least 200 years old, and none of which are believed to be diseased or causing damage to property.

All agreed that the council would object to this application.

## 10. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

It is felt that the 30MPH road signage into Swyre on the B3157 could do more to deter traffic from speeding through the village, in particular, the approach from the east where the speed reduces towards the bottom of the straight, downhill, prolonged 50 MPH stretch. The current signage is faded and obscured by overgrowth, and the introduction of a countdown would make drivers more aware. Agreed that DC will be approached about the possibility of making improvements.

#### 11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A schedule of correspondence received since 2<sup>nd</sup> July had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the Council's meeting.

#### 12. FINANCE

##### Payments for Approval:

**Resolved** that the five invoices listed below be authorised for payment: -

Mrs Sally Bowsher (Clerk's salary, July)	£303.21
Mrs D. Sinclair (Website Management July)	£25.00
Mrs Sally Bowsher (Clerk's salary, August)	£303.21
Mrs D. Sinclair (Website Management August)	£25.00
David Landscapes, Grass Cutting at playing fields Invoice 1027	£225.00

Total Cheques            £881.42

A summary of income and expenditure for the year to date and a bank reconciliation was made available to the Councillors.

**Resolved** that the following amendments would be made to the bank mandate:

Remove D Heaver and add B Pye.

Remove C Buckland and add S Bowsher as non-signatories.

All in favour.

#### 13. INFORMATION ITEMS

Village Hall AGM 5 Sept 7.30pm.

#### 14. PUBLIC TIME

Concerns were again expressed by the public in attendance about the use of helicopters at West Bexington.

A tree planted by Dorset Council in 1972 is dying and it is requested that an application is sent to Dorset Council to cut it down, subject to inspection first by E Sinclair.

#### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**RESOLVED** to note that the Council's next meeting would take place on Tuesday 1st October 2019 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 9.33pm

Signed: .....

Dated: .....