

PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

MEMBERS IN CONTACT VIA REMOTE MEETING:

Councillors G. Fry (Chairman), J. Marsh (Vice Chairman), T. Taylor, M. Buckland, E. Sinclair, B. Pye. Dorset Council Ward Councillor Mark Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE: S. Bowsher (Parish Clerk),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

D Bird.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor E Sinclair declared an interest in item 9.1 of the Agenda, Planning Application WD/D/20/000774

3. PUBLIC TIME

Dorset Councillor provided an update from the weekly Dorset Council Cabinet meetings and from Chris Loder, MP for West Dorset.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 7th April 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed J Marsh, seconded T Taylor.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Thanks were expressed by the chairman for the actions of Councillor Eonne Sinclair in securing the closure of the Car Park at West Bexington in April.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The installation of the new defibrillator in Swyre will proceed after lockdown. Meanwhile chairman has been in touch with the South West Ambulance Service (SWAS) about the defibrillator belonging to the Crown Pub at Puncknowle where the contract runs out at the end of June. The SWAS have asked the Parish Council to provide checks and maintenance and agreed to extend the length of the contract; this will be reviewed once The Crown has new tenants. Checks and maintenance have continued on the defibrillator at West Bexington, and it is anticipated that they will extend the contract if necessary, due to the present circumstances.

7. CLERK'S REPORT

West Bexington

Work on the new noticeboard has commenced but been curtailed by the lockdown.

Coronavirus Helpers Group

The helpers group continues to provide shopping, collect prescriptions and keep contact with people who are self-isolating and require assistance. The chairman wished to record thanks to the Clerk and the Helpers for the work in setting up and providing this service.

Remote Meetings

Under the **Coronavirus Act 2020 the Parish Council Resolved** that all meetings between now and 7 May 2021 can be held by remote platform if appropriate. **(AIF)**

The Standing Orders are to be amended to reflect the right to do this provided by this legislation, and a subscription to Zoom.US is to be arranged for the next meeting.

Annual General Meeting

It was resolved that under the **Coronavirus Act 2020, the Parish Council** Annual General Meeting will not be held this year, and all existing appointments will continue until the AGM in 2021. **(AIF)**

8. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

- i. **Homewatch and Community Police Report**
There has been a lot of useful information disseminated from this platform recently, including warnings about current scams circulating by email. The ability to contact people via the scheme continues to be of great benefit during the current health crisis.
- ii. **Allotments**
A site meeting of the Napper Charity cannot be arranged for the time being due to the current restrictions.
- iii. **Footpaths –**
D Bird reports no known problems with regards to parish footpaths. He is pleased to report that a lot more local people are using our many public rights of way. He has also seen that Council teams in the parish have repaired stiles and updated footpath signs by the roadsides.
- iv. **Playing Field Committee**
In accordance with Government guidelines, the playing fields are now closed to the public, and the insurers have been informed of this. Regular grass cutting will continue so that the grounds will be available as soon as this restriction is lifted.
- v. **Transport**
The PlusBus service is not being used by most of its regular customers at the moment, but Dorset Community Transport report that it is still available for users if they wish. It is believed that other scheduled bus services are not operating at the present time.
- vi. **Village Hall**
The hall remains closed and the Hall Committee are expected to meet next week.
- vii. **Bridport Local Area Partnership**
Meetings are currently suspended, but email bulletins are being sent out. Bridport Town Council has organised a huge and comprehensive response to the current situation with its Coronavirus Support Group.
- viii. **DAPTC**
The DAPTC are working remotely and continue to provide updates especially from NALC regarding emergency legislation with regard to continuing parish council business.
- ix. **Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Web Site**
D Sinclair has been working on transferring the website to a new platform which has in-built accessibility. A vote of thanks was recorded for all the work that Mrs Dianne Sinclair has undertaken in this regard.
The Bride Valley News was published on the website this month, although efforts are being undertaken by our BVN local editor to try to ensure that it is also printed and distributed where people cannot access this.
- x. **Emergency Planning**
The events of the last eight weeks have been met by the swift formation of the volunteers' group. It was agreed that this should be reviewed once the present situation has passed.
- xi. **Finance**
The deadline for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been extended. Mr Tony Edwards has kindly agreed to undertake The Internal Audit this year, in place of the previous Internal Auditor, Mr Paul Prichard. The Parish Council moved a vote of thanks for the years of time and service provided by Mr Pritchard.

9. PLANNING

Applications on which the Parish Council is being consulted: -

1. **Application Number: WD/D/20/000774 Merrow, Beach Road, West Bexington, Dorchester, DT2 9DG** First floor accommodation in roof through removal of existing roof, new attic truss installation, and internal alterations. E Sinclair left the virtual meeting room for the time that this item was discussed. The Parish Council have no objection providing the height of the ridge does not exceed 1.2 metres as shown on the plan. Proposed G Fry, Seconded J Marsh.AIF.

2. **Application Number: WD/D/20/000698 Parks Farm, Litton Cheney, Dorchester, DT2 9AZ**
Erection of cheese processing building and associated alteration to the car parking area including a minor modification to the southern boundary of the site.

The Parish Council wish to know what height of trees are planned for the planting associated with this application. In addition, they are not willing to give their approval until the conditions are fully met regarding the tree planting from the previous application (WD/D/17/002317, Construction of Effluent Lagoon).
Proposed E Sinclair, seconded M Buckland, AIF.

Decisions:

Application No: WD/D/20/000237 DT2 9BL 17 Church Street, Puncknowle, Dorchester. Erection of a Garden Room.
Planning permission granted.

Other Planning Issues:

Application WD/D/19/002093 DT2 9BD Old School House, Looke Lane, Puncknowle.
No further information is known following the deferred planning meeting.

10. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

M Roberts advised that Dorset Council will be attending to major pot holes. The susceptibility to flooding across the bottom of Rectory Lane was discussed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A schedule of correspondence received since in April had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the Council's meeting.

12. FINANCE

Payments for Approval:

Resolved that the two items listed below be authorised for payment: -

Mrs S. Bowsher (Clerk's salary)	£303.21
Mrs D. Sinclair (Website Management)	£25.00
Total Cheques	£328.21

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

The puncknowle Fete Committee will not be holding a fete this year in the current circumstances. It was also noted that the Swyre fete no longer has a home since the church yard has been extended into the adjacent field.

14. PUBLIC TIME

No items.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note that the Council's next meeting would take place on Tuesday 2nd June 2020 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.59pm

Signed:

Dated: