

# PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

### **MEMBERS IN CONTACT VIA REMOTE MEETING:**

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

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

### **1. PUBLIC TIME**

The Council is asked to note that Public Time is not part of the formal meeting of the Council and minutes cannot be produced. (Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by the LGA Act 1972 s 100.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

PCSO Alex Bishop and D. Bird (Footpaths Officer) sent apologies.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

M Buckland disclosed a personal interest in Planning Application No WD/D/20/002558.

### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council's Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed G Fry, seconded J Marsh. AIF.

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

None.

### **6. UPDATE REGARDING CAR PARK AND PARKING AND OTHER ISSUES AT WEST BEXINGTON.**

Dorset Council reported back after their meeting on 6 November to say that the request for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was discussed in their meeting but did not score high enough to be placed on the 2021/22 program. It was re-iterated that, in the opinion of the parish council, the issue of vehicles parking in the road needs to be addressed before any changes to the rules of the car park and their enforcement were considered. It was agreed that the parish council survey which has not yet been issued should be altered to explain the current situation and ask the residents of West Bexington if they wish the TRO to be pursued. If the answer is affirmative the parish council will take the matter up with Dorset Council.

### **7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

1 The Chairman raised the issue of vehicles causing an obstruction in the road by parking outside the Playing Field in Puncknowle. This had been flagged in person to the Chairman, and by email to the clerk during the month. In the past it has also prevented the grass cutting contractor from gaining access to the field. It was noted that the "No Parking" signs which had been there previously had disintegrated over time. The clerk will purchase some durable plastic signs for this purpose, and a letter will be sent if necessary, requesting that neighbouring households do not park here.

- 2 BLAP has highlighted that there are currently efforts going on in the Bride Valley to establish whether there is enough demand for improved internet speeds to make a case for a community installation scheme. The clerk or Councillor Hunt can direct anyone who would like more information. As a separate issue, it is understood that certain residents in Puncknowle who are linked to the telephone exchange in Swyre are experiencing excessively slow internet speeds. It was agreed that enquiries will be made by Councillors J Hunt and G Fry in Puncknowle to see if they can ascertain whether anything can be done.
- 3 Councillor Fry placed an advertisement last month in the Bride Valley News where residents were asked for ideas to make use of the newly adopted phone boxes. The feedback so far for the Puncknowle phone box has been to use it as a free book exchange. This will require shelving and signage which can be addressed in the coming weeks.

## **8. CLERK'S REPORT**

1. The update and discussion regarding the notification from Dorset Council about a TRO in West Bexington was addressed in item 6.
2. The Draft Grant Award Policy for gifts and donations (circulated before this meeting) was accepted for adoption. Proposed G Fry, seconded J Hunt, AIF.
3. Councillors discussed using Social Media as a channel of communication. It was agreed that the clerk and Councillor S Oliver will look more closely at this and report back.
4. Enforcement and signage of the new Dorset Council Dog related PSPO and related issues: It was agreed that signage should be put up in West Bexington at the junction of Swyre Road and Beach Road saying all dogs must be kept on leads and owners should clean up after them. Residents are reminded that if they have any concerns about dog related incidents, no matter how minor, should always report them to the Dog Warden at Dorset Council. This can be done in confidence, either on-line or by telephone.
5. Update regarding the potential provision of a bus shelter in Swyre: T Taylor provided a historical map of Swyre, and Dorset Council are now consulting with their legal team about the land where the bus shelter might be built.
6. Councillors were asked to consider how the parish council might support the 2021 Census. This will take place in March 2021, and it is anticipated that there will be some households who will not use the internet to complete the census. It was agreed that this would be an opportunity where social media might help to engage residents.

## **7. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

- i. Homewatch and Community Police Report**  
PCSO Alex Bishop did not report any specific incidents.
- ii. Allotments**  
There are potentially two plots which will become vacant and one person waiting. The Napper Charity Trustees will meet next in February 2021
- iii. Footpaths**  
Nothing to report.
- iv. Playing Field Committee**  
The Playing Field remains open during the current lockdown. A request from the grass cutting contractor for two hours labour to clear leaves in order to make the last cut of the year was approved by the chairman during the month, due to the exceptional volume of leaves which had fallen.
- v. Transport**

Nothing to report and no meetings of WATAG to report on. The timetable has seen some minor changes towards improving connections with other services.

- vi. **Village Hall**  
The hall has remained closed due to the lockdown and tier two restrictions.
- vii. **Bridport Local Area Partnership**  
Meetings continue using a remote platform.
- viii. **DAPTC**  
The DAPTC are producing a weekly news email and now offer a new range of training webinars. Their AGM took place during the month.
- ix. **Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Web Site**  
Nothing to report
- x. **Emergency Planning**  
Nothing to report
- xi. **Finance**  
See section 13 below.

## 8. PLANNING

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

**Please note that in Planning Matters the Council acts as consultee of the Principal Authority, the Principal Authority being the deciding body.**

1. **Application No WD/D/20/002558:** Forgeside, Hoopers Lane, Puncknowle, Dorchester, DT2 9BE. Erect single storey rear extension.  
Councillor M Buckland had expressed an interest in this application and left the meeting room at 20.55 hours.  
A repeat was sought for planning permission which had been previously granted but has now expired. The Councillors agreed that they support this application.  
Proposed E Sinclair, seconded, J Marsh, AIF.  
Councillor M Buckland returned to the meeting room at 20.58 hours.
2. **Application No WD/D/20/002556:** Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Puncknowle, Dorchester, DT2 9BW. Replace 4no. windows, recover porch and rebuild 2no. chimneys (retrospective). (Listed Building Consent)  
See item 3.
3. **Application No WD/D/20/002557:** Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Puncknowle, Dorchester, DT2 9BW. Replace 4no. windows, recover porch and rebuild 2 chimneys and installation of WC at second floor level.  
Items 2 and 3 refer to the Listed Building permission and planning consent of the same scheme of work.  
The councillors agreed that they have no objection to this application. Proposed G Fry, seconded S Oliver, AIF.
4. **Application No WD/D/20/002543:** Land North of Labour in Vain Farm Access Road. Change of use of land for the siting of 2.no shepherd huts and associated parking. After much discussion, the parish council determined that it objects to the change in the use of the land from agricultural to amenity, in this AONB. The shepherds' huts would be visible and would alter the nature of the landscape, and the site is also outside of the village defined development boundary. G Fry proposed that the parish council object to this application, E Sinclair seconded the proposal, AIF.
5. **Application No WD/D/20/002494:** Parks Farm House, Litton Cheney, Dorchester, DT2 9AZ. Erect two storey extension.

It was noted that this property is not within the parish boundary. It was proposed by J Marsh that the parish council is neutral on this application, seconded M Buckland, AIF.

**Decisions:**

**Application No: WD/D/19/001992:** Absit Invidia, West Bexington, Dorchester, DT2 9DD.  
Demolish existing bungalow and erect new dwelling.  
Planning Permission Refused.

**Other Planning Issues:**

The council was pleased to hear that a resident in Swyre has asked Dorset Council to place a Tree Preservation Order on the old walnut tree at No 13 Swyre.

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting on 15 December at 7.30pm to discuss further planning applications which arrived after the agenda for this meeting was issued.

**9. HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Councillor Marsh requested that the clerk followed up on the potential resurfacing of the roads in West Bexington.

D Bird had advised that Dorset Council came out on 27 November to clear the gullies in Clay Lane and to jet them out.

Residents are reminded that they can report potholes in the road online.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

A list of Emails received during November was circulated prior to the meeting.

**11. FINANCE**

1. Councillors reviewed the income and expenditure against budget to date, and the bank account reconciliation.
2. Councillors noted that the 2021/2022 Precept for £9700 will be submitted to Dorset Council in the coming week.
3. Councillors discussed inviting qualifying groups to submit grant applications to the Council for their consideration regarding Section 137 payments and CIL funds available. It was agreed that the clerk will publish the new Grant Award Policy on the website and advertise for applicants to come forward with reference to these.
4. **It was RESOLVED that the items listed below be authorised for Payment: -**

Mrs S Bowsher (Clerk's gross salary Nov)*	£319.50
Mrs D Sinclair (Website management Sept)	£25.00
Clerk's expenses: Zoom subscription, printer ink	£40.87
David Landscapes Invoice No 0016 Final cuts and leaf clearance	£195.00

**Total Cheques      £580.37**

\*Includes Employer's PAYE tax submitted to HMRC

Proposed J Marsh, seconded S Oliver, AIF

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS**

It was noted that the second national lockdown due to Covid19 commenced on 5 November and the parish will be classified as tier two when the lockdown ends on 2 December.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that the Council's next meeting is an EGM on Tuesday 15th December 2020 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The next Ordinary General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 7.30pm. There will be a closed meeting of the Napper Charity Trustees after the meeting on 2 February 2021.

The meeting ended at 21.39 pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....