

# **PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 9am in the Garden Pavilion of The Clubhouse, West Bexington.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING:**

Councillors J. Marsh (Vice Chairman), T. Taylor, B. Pye, J Hunt, M Buckland, E Sinclair and Dorset Councillor Mark Roberts.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S. Bowsher (Parish Clerk), and 16 members of the public.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor and Chairman P G Fry and Councillor S Oliver. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman, John Marsh.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **3. DISCUSSION ABOUT CAMPING ON THE BEACH AT WEST BEXINGTON**

The clerk spoke about a meeting she had attended, hosted by Dorset Council Licensing and Community Safety, chaired by Dorset Police, and attended by other parties who are affected by this issue along the neighbouring coastline. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the issue of wild or unauthorised camping on the beaches at Abbotsbury and West Bexington and to develop a response plan should the issue become a problem in the summer of 2021. Currently the Police are unable to stop people from camping on the beach, even where this contravenes bye laws. They can however respond to incidents involving Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). The question as to whether a Public Space Protection Order could be considered was discussed. The need would have to be evidence based, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that Dorset Council are made aware by the residents of any relevant occurrences of ASB. Many examples of ASB were reported by the residents as significant factors that affect their quality of life. This has been increasing over many years and has been a regular feature of discussions at Parish Council Meetings, particularly over the last 15 months. Residents emphasised that, in their opinion, the problem of wild camping was not primarily due to Covid and restricted travel arrangements; residents are very concerned that campers will continue to use West Bexington once restrictions are lifted, because their aim is to secure a free holiday as they have done in the past. Councillor Roberts cautioned that even with the granting of a PSPO, current resourcing levels are extremely stretched and would not afford huge scope for enforcement.

Residents were advised about how to report ASB to the Police, and in addition to make certain to report them to Dorset Council to provide evidence to support the case for a PSPO. A handout with contact details for reporting ASB was distributed and will be put on the parish website (Puncknowle.net) as well as circulated by email. The clerk offered to submit reports on behalf of residents and forward these should people wish. The parish council also asked that residents make them aware of reports when they submit to Dorset Council. (Councillor Roberts left the meeting at 9.30 to attend another appointment.)

A summary of the wide-ranging issues mentioned by residents will be fed back to Dorset Council and the Police, including praise for the work of the Dorset Waste Partnership. Councillor E Sinclair said that the council should work with parties to see if resources could be pooled to help deal with this issue.

### **4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting at the village hall will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30 pm.

This meeting will follow Covid safety procedures.  
The meeting ended at 10 am.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....