

PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

Councillors G. Fry (Chairman), J Marsh (Vice Chairman), P Bullen, B Pye, E Sinclaire

IN ATTENDANCE: S. Rose (Parish Clerk), 6 members of the public, Councillor M Roberts.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Buckland.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.4 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th of September 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

4.5 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd of October 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Sinclaire, **SECONDED** by Cllr Marsh, all in favour.

4.6 The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 24th of October 2023 were amended to add Cllr Buckland to the list of those in attendance, and subsequently agreed and signed as a correct record. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Marsh, **SECONDED** by Cllr Bullen, all in favour.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

6 UPDATE FROM DORSET COUNCIL

Cllr Roberts told the Parish Council that Dorset Council was now considering its budget. He reported that 3 or 4 directorates are overbudget six months into the financial year. Children's care is overbudget by roughly £3,000,000; adult care is overbudget by roughly £2,000,000. This represents a small percentage of expenditure. Play services is overbudget by £9,000,000, largely due to inflation. The Council is considering efficiency savings. The Councillor noted £96,000,000 in efficiency savings had been made since the unitary council was formed. It is likely that reserves will have to be used to fund some expenditure. The Councillor noted that the Council is in good financial health relative to some other councils.

Cllr Roberts told the Parish Council that the recent storm had not caused as much damage as expected as it had travelled a slightly different path than expected.

7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council voted 5 to 0 in favour of co-opting Catherine Marsh, who was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The Parish Council voted 5 to 0 in favour of co-opting Sally Bowsher, who was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The Parish Council voted 0 to 5 against co-opting Nathan Rawling.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk told the meeting that he wished to use a shared platform to coordinate Parish Council work, and that he had identified ClickUp as a free online service suitable for the task. To use this service was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Marsh; **SECONDED** by Cllr Bullen. The Parish Council voted unanimously in favour.

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Brian Bowsher spoke as Chairman on behalf of the newly appointed Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG). He told the Parish Council that the group had met on the 25th of October, and that they had conducted drop-in sessions in the three villages to seek feedback for the plan.

He told the Parish Council that most potential consultants they had identified are already fully committed.

He added that the Parish Council would receive more information on the group's funding request by the next Parish Council meeting.

10 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

1. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Police Report.

Nothing to report.

2. Allotments

Nothing to report.

3. Footpaths

The Chair told the meeting that the storm had affected some footpaths, such as blockages by trees that had been blown over.

Cllr F Marsh told the meeting that residents of West Bexington had expressed interest in maintaining the footpaths in West Bexington. It was noted that Dorset Council can be asked to clear footpaths.

The Chair told the meeting that a bridge had drifted from its intended location.

4. Playing Field

The Parish Council discussed concerns about people parking outside the playing fields, which presented a safety hazard as it blocked visibility of children exiting the playing fields. It was suggested that cars parked there should be given reminders to park

elsewhere, or to have yellow lines applied (this would require application to Dorset Council).

5. Transport

The Parish Council noted the bus schedule was now the winter schedule. The meeting was informed that the closure of Ring and Ride Axe Valley and West Dorset would not affect the village which is serviced by Dorset Community.

6. Village Hall.

Nothing to report.

7. Bridport Local Area Partnership.

The Parish Council was told that the Chair and Clerk had attended the most recent BLAP meeting, at which Jonny Hill of National Highways was in attendance. The Parish Council discussed areas of concern on the A35. It was noted that the meeting had been well attended.

8. DAPTC

Nothing to report.

9. Community Website.

The Parish Council was informed that stakeholders in a proposed community website had met on the 24th of October. The group intends to produce a document describing proposed changes.

10. Emergency Planning.

Nothing to report.

11 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.

The Parish Council was informed that the planning application for Marco Polo House had been approved; that consent had been given to remove trees in the Holland Camp; and that application for a cyprus tree covered by a tree protection order in West Bexington had not been granted due to aesthetic concerns.

12 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

It was noted that the recent storm had flooded roads, and that this had deposited material at various locations in the village. It was noted that Dorset Council had been very responsive in clearing drains when it was reported that they had been blocked.

13 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

PSPC were told of important correspondence.

14 FINANCE

1 It was RESOLVED that the items listed below be authorised for payment:

1 Payments for Approval: -

Mr S Rose (Clerk's salary October) £342.60

Mr S Rose (Travel: PSPC Meeting, 29 miles;

Website meeting September, 29 miles;

Website meeting October, 29 miles;	
Clerks Conference, 27 miles;	
Outlook subscription (£5.99)	£57.29
Mrs Dianne Sinclair (Website management October)	£30.00
Grass cutting	£204.00

Total Cheques £633.89

Proposed Cllr Bowsher, seconded Cllr Bullen, AIF.

**Includes Employer's PAYE tax submitted to HMRC where appropriate*

3 Bank Reconciliation.

15 INFORMATION ITEMS

The War Memorial restoration was discussed. The meeting was informed of the Remembrance Service that would take place on the following Sunday. The meeting was informed of the Parish Church's search for a new vicar, and difficulties arising from the merging of some parishes.

16 PUBLIC TIME

Please see item 1 above.

17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting at the village hall will be held on Tuesday 21st of November 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.47pm.

Signed:

Dated: