

Minutes of a Meeting of Iwerne Minster Parish Council held in the Abingdon Hall on the 6th November 2017.

Present: Cllr J Hooper – Chairman, Cllr M Jones – Vice Chairman, Cllr C Nadin, Cllr Evans, Cllr P Le Prevost, Cllr K O'Connor and Cllr B O'Lunaigh.

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips – Clerk and 13 members of the public.

Public Questions: Questions were raised regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and the following statement was read out from Mr Fermor: The problem with all questionnaires is that the person who has devised the questionnaire is the same person who selects what comments should be fed back to the public. Thus in the list of comments provided there were quite a number of trite and easily dismissable comments to which attention was drawn but a number of the important issues which I know many people commented on were not selected. For example - the issue in the case of The Old Bakery of why it is acceptable to allow development on a designated green space reducing the current designated area to about 65% of the original was not mentioned. Nor were the comments criticising the building of the Brookmans Farm Bungalow site on a currently designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty nor the proposal to move the settlement boundary so that this site can be developed within the settlement area. These comments on more controversial elements of the Neighbourhood Plan were not listed for public scrutiny. I believe the percentage of responses supporting the Neighbourhood Plan was 60%. This figure of 60% in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan is not a ringing endorsement of either the Neighbourhood Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan process and I regret that there has been little recognition of the division, anger and anxiety that this Neighbourhood Plan process has caused and very little empathy shown. Many of us feel that we have not been listened to during this long process and that the drive to get a plan in place has been relentlessly pursued regardless of the damage to the community spirit. The 40% against the plan represents a significant proportion of the village and there can be no doubt that the process has been deeply divisive. I have no doubt how much work has gone into the Neighbourhood Plan and I don't wish to denigrate or criticise the efforts of our officers but it is the outcomes that are important and I do believe we have been left with a very divided and broken community. After consideration, the Chairman recommended that the Council hold an extra ordinary meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and the general public in the New Year to enable concerns and questions to be raised. A member of the public has requested a copy of the Covenant on the Parish Field. The Clerk is looking though files to obtain a copy.

A request that the NDDC Councillors report should be put on the Parish Council's website before the Parish Council's meeting takes place, so that if any members of the public have any questions, they can be raised. The Clerk agreed to put the report on the website the day she receives it.

Concerns were expressed that people renting the Parish Field are not aware that they have to obtain their own public liability to cover the insurance of the event they are holding and expressed their concerns over the use of fireworks on the field. Cllr P Le Prevost confirmed that on some occasions, the events are covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Cllr P Le Prevost agreed to produce a notice for anyone that rents the field regarding public liability and the Clerk will obtain exactly what the Parish Council's insurance covers and report back.

17/78 To take any apologies. Cllr D Croney

17/79 Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensation.

There were none.

17/80 Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd October 2017.

The Minutes were amended under 17/71 where "but not" was added. The minutes were then proposed by Cllr P Le Prevost and seconded by Cllr J Hooper that they were a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

17/81 Matters arising from the minutes.

Matters arising will be dealt with under Parish Matters.

17/82 To consider development management matters listed on the schedule.

Cllr Nadin reported that the objection raised by the Parish Council for application 2/2017/1503 – The Vicarage Stables had been sent to NDDC Planning Department. The Conservation Officer contacted the Council and asked for more details regarding the concerns sent in. Cllr Nadin had circulated a response to the members, which was then sent to the Conservation Officer for their information.

ENF/2017/0229 - Alleged unauthorised tree removal -Long Acres, Dunns Lane, Iwerne Minster, Dorset, DT11 8NG. The enforcement officer is looking into the matter.

Cllr Nadin would like to remind all residents in the village, to always check with North Dorset Tree Officers before removing or cutting back any trees to prevent fines.

17/83 to receive NDDC Cllr report.

North Dorset District Council's Business Day is set to go ahead for its 3rd year on 17th of Nov 2017 at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton from 10am to 2pm. It is a fantastic event for business to business networking as well as visiting one of the workshops; Accessing alternative finance - Digital marketing.

If you know any business that would benefit from coming along they can get a free ticket at www.eventbrite.co.uk, by searching "North Dorset Business Day 2017". Cllr Sherry Jespersen, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regeneration, said: "The exhibition provides a valuable opportunity for people running businesses and professional services to meet, network and share experience. Visitors can learn about the range of businesses succeeding in North Dorset and attend the practical workshops run by the Dorset Growth Fund"

The Local Plan review consultation is to take place over the Christmas period, due to this, it will take 2 weeks longer than normal, a total of 8 weeks. There will also be a number of roadshow events taking place. We will pass on the details of these when we know more. I wanted to draw your attention to it so that you don't miss the opportunity to review and leave comments.

Empty Homes Loans : With 1600 empty homes in North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland and with around 4,000 households on the housing register across the tri-council partnership bringing an empty home back into use for families is a priority for North Dorset District Council. Therefore, loans for up to £15,000 can be offered through Wessex Home Improvement Loans Ltd with the blessing of North Dorset District Council. More information about loans and grants can be found via dorsetforyou.com or by contacting our Empty Homes Officer on 01305 252469.

Digital Inclusion and Digital Champion Programme

Although over 97% of Dorset area now has superfast broadband. 149,000 Dorset adults (16+) do not have the 5 basic digital skills that would equal a satisfactory level of digital capability. Of this number 69,000 are either not online or have not been online within the last 3-months. This is increasingly important and concerning as more and more activities are supported or undertaken on line. In particular health and education services are increasingly reliant on service users accessing services on line. This means that potentially, 20% of Dorset's population could be increasingly isolated or excluded from services and may miss out on social and financial opportunities. To help people access online services and to encourage confidence and use of digital services, Dorset County Council is developing its Digital Champion network. Digital Champions help and support people in their local community to use the Internet and gain basic online skills.

This might involve:

- Attending training sessions on how to make the most of being a Digital Champion
- Teaching people in your community basic online skills such as:
- How to create an email address
- Staying in touch with friends and family via email, social media or video calls
- Finding information online, for example hobbies, local events, news and more
- Accessing public services information online
- Other simple online tasks that people might request.

If you would like to know more about becoming a digital champion then you can find more information at <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/broadband/get-online-form>

The Full report can be obtained by the Clerk or is available on the Parish Council website.

17/84 Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that he has received an email from Russ Jones – head of maintenance at Clayesmore School. The email confirmed that the School supports the 20mph limit for the village and agreed to donate £3000.00 towards the cost involved. The matter of a crossing or traffic calming on the A350 was raised. After debate, it was agreed for Cllr B O'Luanaigh to ask Dorset County Council for a quote to supply a crossing by the school on the A350. Cllr M Jones attended the Division Meeting on behalf of the Chairman and reported the following: Simon Hoare MP was present at the meeting and expressed his disappointment that the unitary status of the Councils have still not been agreed. It was also noted that the large development in Gillingham has now been reduced in numbers, which will not help the issues that NDDC Planning Department have to reach their 5 year housing commitment.

17/85 Finance.

The payment schedule for October for the sum of £1753.19 had been tabled. It was proposed by Cllr P Le Prevost and seconded by Cllr C Nadin that the bills presented on the schedule should be paid.

The Clerk had tabled a proposed budget for 2018-19. After debate, it was proposed by Cllr Nadin and seconded by Cllr P Le Prevost, to increase the precept for 2018-19 from £17000 a year to £17500, a 2.65% increase. All members agreed with the proposal.

RESOLVED: for the Parish Council to set their precept for 2018-19 at £17500.00. (17/85 – Finance)

17/86 To consider other parish matters.

Environmental Protection: Cllr Nadin reported the following:

- Asked for the Clerk to request the road sweepers come through the village, including through Tower Hill.
- Requested that the area behind the Village Club is maintained by the Parish Council's ground maintenance team twice a year, to keep the area clear. This was agreed

Highways: Cllr B O'Lunaigh reported the following:

- All pot holes have been reported.
- The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) in the village no longer works, this has been reported to County Council and a request for a new one has been put forward.
- A request that the road signs down Tower Hill are kept clear from foliage. The Clerk will request this to County Council.

Recreation: Cllr P Le Prevost reported the following:

- Christmas lights outside the Abingdon Hall will be put up this year.
- There will be a May Fair held on the first bank holiday in May 2018. It will be in aid of.....?
- The disabled sign for outside the Abingdon Hall, will be put up very soon.
- The annual Play Area inspection has been completed and all matters will be looked at and dealt with. The matters raised are only advisory and the play area is in good working order.

Footpaths and Rights of Way: Cllr J Hooper reported the following.

- The sign which had been removed from the A350- showing the direction to the village, has been repaired and will be put back up by County Council.
- It was reported that the gate post on the footpath to Sutton Waldron is rotten away. The Chairman will have a look at it and contact the Dorset Rangers.

Village and District Liaison: Cllr Jones reported the following:

- Confirmed that the beds at Shaftesbury Hospital have been saved, but the battle for a new hospital was about to start.
- NDDC have a Consultation tracker (all Dorset consultations). The Dorset Consultation Tracker lets you view and search for consultations that are planned, current or completed. Here is the website link for your information. <https://consultationtracker.dorsetforyou.com/dorset-consultations/>

Neighbourhood Development Plan: Cllr Evans reported the following:

- The public consultation days have been completed and all questioners have been collected, these will be looked at and actioned as necessary.
- Due to a new submission for land for development, a new questionnaire will be produced for the public to have their say on the proposal.
- While these actions are taking place, there will not be much to report on the Plan for the next few months.

Community Resilience & Emergency Planning: Cllr K O'Connor gave the following report:

- The Dog Warden at NDDC has retired and will not be replaced. NDDC are in the process of producing a new order for dog control, which will be more on the lines of a public spaces protection order.
- The snow patrol has some new members and the School have volunteered to help if necessary. The Clerk will check with the insurance company if the Parish Council's insurance has an age restriction.

Homewatch/Speedwatch: Cllr B O'Lunaigh gave the following report:

- The Speed Watch team has a new member, who is able to help with just Tower Hill.
- A request for the old speed indicator, which was used by the Speed Watch Team, to be sold on eBay. This was agreed by all members.
- Dorset has 60 active Speed Watch teams. The police have sent 5541 first letters, 158 second letters and 13 third letters out to the offenders.
- Concerns were expressed over the cars parking along Tower Hill and in other parts of the village. It was requested that this matter is looked at, at another meeting.

20mph There are 4 objectors so the decision will go to Reg. Committee.

17/87 To consider DAPTC matters. Cllr M Jones reported the following:

There are leaflets in the village shop giving information about the proposed areas in the Cranborne Chase AONB as a Dark Sky Area – no light pollution. Website for further information : www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk

DAPTC AGM 2017 : As is the case with all AGMs a lot of time is taken up with procedural matters. No changes were made to the officers. It is worth pointing out that the President of DAPTC is David Jenkins who was, before he retired, the Chief Exe. of DCC. John Parker is our Chairman, he used to be, again before he retired, the Chief Exe. of DAPTC. Details were given of the DAPTC's finances which are quite healthy. However, we were "warned" that although the Grants and Income from groups such as the Dorset CCG, is safe for now, they are not to be taken for granted. Staff cut backs have been made and these cuts will enable

DAPTC to be okay in the immediate future. There was a presentation from the Dorset CCG and a presentation give from Rebecca Knox, the Leader of DCC. The following was reported: Much of the presentation from the CCG was trying to justify their proposals and then offering "glib solutions". They were confronted with the following questions: when they were asked if it was acceptable to designate a hospital as a Maternity Hub when there were no facilities and Expectant Mums would have to be treated alongside other patients. The answer that was given was that it was intended to build a new Maternity Unit. Presumably the money would come from the sale of land elsewhere. When they were asked about travel times to hospital and the "magic hour" to get patients seen, it was suggested that more use might be made of the Air Ambulance. A presentation was given from Debbbie Ward the Chief Exe. of DCC, some points follow: A decision on Unitary was expected this month but is delayed. Thinking of ways of trying to save money that had been used before, more thought was going into savings that could be made by "pooling budgets" that are, at the moment, given out to individual organisations. One of the questions was about Dorset for you.com, it was branded as unfit for purpose.

17/88 To consider any other matters and recent correspondence.

At this point the Chairman asked everyone to stand for a minute silence in remembrance of the late Janet Hayllar and Adi Jenkins.

Agenda items for next meeting - Parking along Tower Hill and in other parts of the village.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be **Monday the 4th December 2017 at 7pm.**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.20 pm

Date Chairman,

Iwerne Minster Parish Council