

# **DRAFT PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Councillors G. Fry (Chairman), J Marsh (Vice Chairman), M Buckland, P Bullen, R Forrester, B Pye, Dorset Councillor M Roberts and Footpaths Officer D Bird.

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

### **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 for absence were noted from Councillor E Sinclair and PCSO Alex Bishop.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Forrester disclosed a non-registerable interest in planning Application Number P/FUL/2023/01975.

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

It was **RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed J Marsh, seconded M Buckland. All those who had been present at the meeting in favour.

### **5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The ditch on the edge of the playing field has now been cleared by Councillor Fry.

### **6 UPDATE FROM DORSET COUNCIL**

Councillor Mark Roberts gave a brief update covering issues such as the age profile of the population, and achievements towards goals in climate and ecology. Dorset Childrens Services Department has been recognised for its work.

The Home Office and the privately owned Portland Port have made an arrangement whereby a Barge to accommodate asylum seekers will shortly be moored at Portland. This is expected to have a knock-on effect on services.

*Item 9 was moved forward to this place on the agenda.*

### **7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### **Councillor Vacancy**

The council had received two applications for two vacancies on the council.

It was **RESOLVED** that Angharad Thomas is Co-Opted to the Council.

Proposed B Forrester and seconded M Buckland, All in Favour.

The Council voted two in favour and four against the second candidate.

Councillor Thomas signed her Acceptance of Office form.

### **Appointment of a new Clerk**

Mr Steven Rose will be taking over the role of clerk and was in attendance at the meeting.

## **8 CLERK'S REPORT**

- 8.1 Investigations into a new bus stop at Vurlands Farm: WAYTAG have been asked for advice about how to progress this request.
- 8.2 War Memorial: Awaits volunteer group to start cleaning.
- 8.3 West Bexington PSPO.  
The Clerk has been spoken to Steve Yeoman (Community Safety Team Leader for Place Services). The team of full-time enforcement officers as of 15 June has increased from four to six. They cover twenty areas in the county, some of which have serious issues. The approach is to engage and educate rather than fast track to issuing fines. Residents are urged to continue notifying Dorset Council using the email [Patrol@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Patrol@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) and to ensure that they report all breaches, in order to facilitate a response. Where anti-social behaviour occurs, the police should always be informed, using 999 where appropriate.
- 8.5 The Volunteers' Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect the cleaning of the War Memorial. It was **RESOLVED** that the updated version is accepted, P Bullen, seconded B Pye, AIF.

## **9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

*This item was held before item 7.*

Mr Brian Bowsher spoke as Chairman on behalf of the newly appointed Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG). The SG was formed on 14 June and has ten members who provide good representation across all three villages in the parish. To ensure the success of their work, the SG will seek to engage strongly with the community by various means to reflect their views. At some point there is likely to be a questionnaire for residents to canvas their opinions. To ensure that the plan reflects the views of the entire community, a couple of ad hoc groups will be established so that younger people and major business groups are represented. The SG will link closely with other existing community groups such as the local churches, the Village Hall Committee, the Allotment Society etc.

The plan will aim to set out useful principles to guide future planning decisions, and it is a great opportunity to engage with residents. Thanks were expressed to Councillors Paul Bullen and John Marsh and to Fran Marsh, Jackie Hunt and others who have contributed to the progress so far.

The SG will meet typically on the third Wednesday of the month, alternating between The Manor in West Bexington and the Village Hall in Puncknowle, and will provide regular updates to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council was asked for their support, and it was agreed that the Council would meet the cost of hiring the Village Hall.

## 10 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- i. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Police Report.**

Fran Marsh said she was surprised that a couple of local incidents had not come through on the Dorset Alert reports, and she will query this with our PCSO. She wished to urge residents to report all incidents of crime to the police and was concerned that this important aspect was not being overlooked in favour of reporting on social media.
- ii. Allotments**

SSE have been given permission to reduce the height of trees and hedges which are too close to the overhead power cables. There will be a meeting of the Napper Charity this evening.
- iii. Footpaths**

Footpaths Officer D Bird has suggested a new position for the millennium bench. It was agreed that this was acceptable to the members and the clerk will contact the Estate to see try and progress the matter.  
D Bird has continued clearing the footpaths across Puncknowle. Thanks were expressed for all the voluntary work he carries out.
- iv. Playing Field**

The Tree surgeon has advised there is no concern about Ash die-back following his visit on 9 June. A new sign has been placed on the gate in accordance with the quarterly safety report. Councillor Buckland will arrange a date for the next playing field committee meeting.
- v. Transport**

Nothing to report. WATAG have been informed that Councillor Forrester will now represent the Parish Council.
- vi. Village Hall.**

Nothing to report.
- vii. Bridport Local Area Partnership.**

The next meeting is in 10 days' time. Discussions are expected over problems which occur when the A35 is blocked.
- viii. DAPTC**

Continue to provide good support.
- ix. Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Web Site.**

Further discussion is needed about the website and whether the clerk will take this over.
- x. Emergency Planning.**

The Draft Plan was circulated to members for feedback. It still has some gaps and needs further consideration by the members before it can be adopted. Councillor Bullen to get feedback from members and pursue the required information.

## 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.**

## 1. APPLICATIONS:

- 1 **Application No P/FUL/2023/01975.** Land and Buildings west of Hazel Lane (Flowerdew Farm). Retain temporary rural workers dwelling. Conversion of stables to toilets/showers/office/meeting room and erection of agricultural building.

Residents and the Applicant had commented during Public Time at the start of the meeting. Some Councillors had attended a site meeting the previous evening. There was much discussion and the Applicant was invited to speak, after which it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council Object with the following comments:

“The Parish Council is not confident that the Alpaca enterprise is valid on such a small site. Whilst the PC does not doubt the applicant’s energy, commitment and investment to date, the evidence before the PC does not serve to demonstrate the need for an essential rural worker’s dwelling. The need for the barn is also not proven as there are buildings on site that could be used.”

Proposed P Bullen, seconded M Buckland, 4 objections, and two abstentions. Councillor Forrester excluded herself from the vote.

- 2 **Application No P/VOC/2023/02931** Futtocks End. The Old Coastguards Burton Road Abbotsbury DT3 4LB. Erection of single storey front extension, second storey addition and conversion of basement area (with variation of Condition 2 of Planning permission P/HOU/2021/05769 to include new drawings of replacement entry gate to driveway entrance.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish council support this application, Proposed J Marsh, seconded P Bullen, five in favour, two abstentions.

- 2 **DECISIONS:** None

- 3 **OTHER PLANNING ISSUES:**

Residents wish to make the Parish Council aware of their concerns about a piece of land at West Bexington. Dorset Council are aware and are in touch with the residents.

## 12 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Highways have provided notice of several road works in the coming weeks.

The Speed Watch team have carried out two sessions, where between 5% and 6% of motorists exceeded the speed limit.

## 13 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The schedule of correspondence received in June was reviewed.

## 14 FINANCE

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

Mrs S Bowsher (Clerk’s salary June) *	£368.40
Mrs Dianne Sinclair (Website management)	£30.00
Chesil Beach Garden Services	£102.00
<b>Total Cheques</b>	<b>£500.40</b>

Proposed J Marsh, seconded P Bullen, AIF.

*\*Includes Employer’s PAYE tax submitted to HMRC where appropriate*

**3 Bank Reconciliation.** A copy of the bank reconciliation at the end of June was circulated and verified by two of the members. Spending to date against budget was circulated.

**4 Interim Audit**

An interim audit will be arranged before the handover to the new Clerk.

**15 INFORMATION ITEMS**

A Defibrillator Awareness Course led by a representative from the Southwest Ambulance Service will be held on Sunday 10 September at 10am at The Manor in West Bexington. This is open to all residents who wish to attend.

**16 PUBLIC TIME**

Please see item 1 above.

**17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

There will be no meeting in August. The next ordinary meeting at the village hall will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.02pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....