

Puncknowle and Swyre Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on 6 February 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Councillors G Fry (Chairman), J Marsh (Vice Chairman), S Bowsher, M Buckland, P Bullen, B Pye, C Marsh. Dorset Councillor M Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE S Rose (Parish Clerk) and twelve 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 1060 s 1 extended by the LGA Act 1972 s100](#)).

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted from E Sinclair.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were registered by the members.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th December will be presented at the next meeting.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

See above.

6 UPDATE FROM DORSET COUNCIL

Councillor Roberts provided an update on the Dorset Council budget which hopes to achieve a balanced budget next year with a very small deficit coming from reserves. Services will not be cut although some charges will be increased by inflation.

7 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

Mr S Rose has tendered his notice and will shortly finish working as Clerk.

The vacancy is being advertised locally and in the interim Councillor S Bowsher has offered to stand in as Clerk temporarily.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bowsher will stand in as Clerk temporarily until a replacement Clerk is appointed. Proposed J Marsh, seconded C Marsh, AIF.

Councillors were asked to prepare for a review of the Standing Orders, Financial Regs, Risk Assessment and other Policies at the March meeting.

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Brian Bowsher, provided an update.

Two meetings took place in January and, following discussion with the Parish Council, a consultant is being appointed.

It was **RESOLVED** that Dr A Burnett of Development on Transition be appointed as consultant for the Neighbourhood Plan. Proposed J Marsh, seconded M Buckland, four in favour, three members who are also on the Steering Group abstained.

The Steering Group received confirmation of an offer of grant funding from Groundwork UK on behalf of Locality and in consultation with the Parish Council this has been accepted on their behalf. The Steering Group has considered how it will ensure that the grant spending is managed properly and Councillor J Marsh has offered to provide independent oversight.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council accept the grant of £1032 from Groundwork UK to meet the Neighbourhood Plan budget between the 25 January and 31 March 2024. Proposed M Buckland, seconded J Marsh, four in favour, three members who are also on the Steering Group abstained.

The last 6 months have seen good progress with regular updates to the community via email, the BVN and Facebook. The next area of focus will be engagement with business and building the Evidence Base, where it is hoped that this will provide more opportunity for the community to engage and participate with preparation of the plan.

Current efforts to refresh the Parish Council website are a vital part of this process.

10 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- i. **Neighbourhood Watch and Community Police Report**
There have been two reported incidents in the area since the last meeting, the theft of two goats and separately the theft of a caravan.
- ii. **Allotments**
One more plot has a new tenant.
- iii. **Footpaths**
Fallen trees across Knackers Hole have been removed by Mr D Bird.
- iv. **Playing Field Committee**
The chair of the Playing Field Committee reported that regular safety checks continue with no issues. There will be a Spring Tidy Up on 13 April. This will be advertised on the gate, on posters around the village and by email/Facebook.
Tenders for the grass cutting contract were requested by 4 February. S Rose said he has had one verbal offer, and he will check to see if any others have been sent by email.
The matter of parking on the verge outside the gate remains with Dorset Council who are still considering what to do since they removed the stones which caused concerns about the safety of children leaving the playing field when parked cars could obscure their vision.
- v. **Transport**
The question of whether a bus stop can be installed outside Vurlands Farm is still under investigation.
- vi. **Village Hall-** See Grant Applications
- vi. **Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP)**
The latest meeting focussed upon the drive to encourage people to stand in the upcoming elections in May this year.
- vii. **DAPTC**
Nothing to report

- ix. **Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington Web Site** - The Working Group has started to make improvements to the website although these are not yet visible. The first focus will be the Neighbourhood Plan section, after which it will address Parish Council and community content.
- x. **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.

11.1 Applications

P/FUL/2023/07511

Vurlands Farm Coast Road Swyre DT2 9DB

Conversion of existing barn to form 3 no new dwellings and the removal of 3 no mobile homes with associated works including parking and landscaping.

It was proposed that the Parish Council support this application because it is a sustainable development that will supply homes in support of an established local business, and that we would like the proposal to proceed with the condition that the houses are tied to the business.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council support this application on these grounds. Proposed S Bowsher, seconded J Marsh, six in favour, one abstention.

P/FUL/2024/00248.

Hazel Lane Dairy Puncknowle Dorset DT2 9BU

The erection of one slurry tank, with associated track and landscaping.

Comments had been made during Public Time by the owners of two neighbouring properties situated below the planned installation. The Chairman read out a letter from the applicants about interactions with Councillor Buckland, who owns a neighbouring farm situated below the site. There was some concern about land drainage coming onto Litton Lane, and whether the installation would exacerbate this. The members agreed that this installation is a regulatory requirement for the applicant, who cannot continue to operate the farm without it. However, the proposed location was a source of concern as water run-off is already flooding Litton Lane during spells of intense rainfall. After much discussion, it was proposed that the application should be supported but to request that there should be further measures to mitigate the risk of flooding below the site.

Proposed S Bowsher, seconded G Fry, five objected.

It was then proposed that the Parish Council object to this application due to the insufficient detail concerning any proposed plan to mitigate the risk of flooding and how access and egress to the site may be achieved.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Parish Council object to this application.

Proposed J Marsh, seconded C Marsh, four in favour, two against and one abstention.

11.2 Decisions.

None

11.3 Other Planning Issues

It was noted that the following planning application was dealt with under the scheme of delegation since the last meeting:

Application Number: **P/HOU/2023/05874**

Mistover Hoopers Lane Puncknowle DT2 9BE

Proposed single storey flat roof extension and first floor pitched roofed addition, located on the rear (West) facing elevation of the dwelling.

The Parish Council supported this application.

12 GRANTS

12.1 It was RESOLVED that the following grants should be paid:

Under LGA 1972 S137:

The Samaritans £40

Dorset Air Ambulance £100

Marie Curie Cancer Care £40

Bride Valley News £40

Under LGA 1972 S142 P2:

The Citizens' Advice Bureau £40

Proposed J Marsh, seconded M Buckland, AIF.

12.2 To consider any other Grant Requests received in response to advert last month.

The Village Hall Committee had applied for a grant of £300 to support improvements to the kitchen and hall which have been experiencing problems with damp.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a S137 grant payment of £300 to the Village Hall Committee. Proposed M Buckland, seconded J Marsh, AIF.

13 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

-Wessex Water have been doing work to the water main in Looke Lane.

-Councillor Buckland will suggest to Dorset Council via their website that they clear some ditches on Litton Lane and put the spoil on his land.

-Wessex Water will be closing Swyre Road in West Bexington from 26 Feb –8 March and Beach Road from 11 March– 15 March. Residents will still be able to access their homes.

14 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A resident had commented upon the amount of dog fouling around Puncknowle.

Councillor C Marsh offered to provide some notices which can be put on telegraph poles and the noticeboard.

15 FINANCE

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

Mr S Rose (Clerk's salary February)	£342.60
Mr S Rose (Travel: PSPC Meeting February 29 miles; Outlook subscription £5.99)	£19.04
Mrs Dianne Sinclair (Website management January)	£30.00
Chesil Beach Garden Services (Invoice 3576)	£102.00
Puncknowle Village Hall – N Plan meetings 4/12/23 -24/01/24	£54.00
Total Cheques	£547.64

Proposed J Marsh, seconded P Bullen, six in favour and one abstention.

- 2** The bank Reconciliation and spending to date were not available to circulate.
- 3** Dorset Council has confirmed receipt of the Precept request.

16 INFORMATION ITEMS

A resident in Puncknowle has kindly produced a Logo for the Neighbourhood Plan and has also offered to professionally design a Logo for the Parish Council. This is being offered free of charge.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will ask for a draft logo to consider.

Proposed C Marsh, seconded J Marsh, AIF.

17 PUBLIC TIME

The tidying the public noticeboards was discussed.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the Council's next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th of March 2024 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting Ended at 21.30pm

Signed _____ Dated _____