

VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the **EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, held at 7.30 pm in Hinton Martell Village Hall on Tuesday 18th October 2016

PRESENT

Cllr Mr D. Gill – Chairman

Cllr Mr J. Campbell – Vice Chairman

Cllr Mr S. Wathen, Cllr Mrs S. Gilchrist, Cllr Mrs P. Hill, Cllr Mr R. Hill

Also present was the Parish Clerk Mrs K. Bradbury

16/100. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Cllr Ms D. White and Cllr Mrs M. Cook

16/101. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

16/102. TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO OVERTURN THE DECISION MADE AT THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2016, NOT TO MAKE A RESPONSE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION “RESHAPING YOUR COUNCILS”

It was noted that although it was generally considered to be best practice, the current version of the Parish Council Standing orders did not specify that a resolution made by the Parish Council could not be overturned until a period of six months had passed. It was therefore possible to reconsider the question of a Parish Council response to the County Council’s consultation document.

It was unanimously resolved to overturn the decision made at the meeting on 27th September 2016 and to make a joint Parish Council response to the “Reshaping Your Councils” consultation; proposed by Cllr Mr S. Wathen and seconded by Cllr Mr R. Hill.

16/103. TO CONSIDER WHAT RESPONSES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL “RESHAPING YOUR COUNCILS” CONSULTATION

Item 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that Dorset’s councils should focus on cutting out duplication and reducing administration costs wherever possible.
Parish Council response – Strongly Agree

Item 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to replace NINE existing councils (option 1) with TWO new councils (options 2a – 2c) in order to protect services as far as possible.

Parish Council response – Strongly Agree

Item 3: Please rate how important you think each of these criteria are using a whole number between 0 and 10, where “10” means that the criteria is critically important and “0” means the criteria is of no importance.

Parish Council response – Accountability 10; Quality 10; Local Identity 10; Access 10; Value for money 10.

Item 4: If two new councils were created to what extent do you support or oppose each of the possible options being considered.

Parish Council response -

- i. **Option 2a, Large Conurbation, Small Dorset – Strongly oppose**
- ii. **Option 2b, Medium Conurbation, Medium Dorset – Strongly Support**
- iii. **Option 2c, Small Conurbation, Large Dorset – Tend to Oppose**

Item 5: If you have views on the options or any further comments, please tell us. If there are any alternative options that you think we should consider, please explain the alternative options and tell us why you think this would be better.

Parish Council response

The Parish Council accepts the necessity for re-organisation in order to reduce duplication of services and to reduce running and administration costs
 The options on offer appear to be sensible and logical alternatives in view of the fact that the Government has refused Option 1 (a single unitary authority) on the grounds of it being too large an administrative unit
 The Parish Council is very concerned about loss of local identity and difficulties in accessing centres of administration.

Item 6: If a decision was taken to create two unitary councils, are there any positive or negative impacts in relation to how your town or parish council would work with them that you believe should be taken into account? Are you able to suggest ways in which potential positive impacts could be increased or negative impacts reduced?

Parish Council response

Under the current system, communications with District and County Council are not always ideal. Within a much larger unit, communications must be improved
 Parish and Town Councils are already playing a larger role in their communities, taking on tasks that were formerly carried out by District and County Councils e.g. maintenance of fingerposts, cutting of grass verges. Further burdens should not be placed on Parish and Town Councils without a clear statement on the role to be played by these smaller councils and binding agreements on matters such as funding, insurance status etc
 Where services are amalgamated to run jointly, all District and Borough Councils must be represented on the relevant committees
 The Parish Council strongly opposes option 2a as it will result in the largely rural East Dorset District Council being swamped by its neighbouring urban boroughs

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman