

VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

**of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, held at 7.30 pm in Hinton Martell Village
Hall on Tuesday 12th January 2016**

PRESENT

Cllr Mr D. Gill - Chairman

Cllr Mr S. Wathen, Cllr Mrs S. Gilchrist, Cllr Ms D. White, Cllr Mrs M. Cook

Cllr Mrs P. Hill, Cllr Mr R. Hill

Also present were the Parish Clerk Mrs K. Bradbury and District Councillor Mr S.S. Tong.

15/143. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Cllr Mr J. Campbell and County Councillor Mr S. Butler

15/144. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest to report.

15/145. DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOTE ON AN AGENDA ITEM

There were no requests for dispensations.

15/146. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

15/147. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON – Tuesday 15th December 2015

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2015 (pages (1100 - 1108) having been approved, were adopted and signed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment:

Minute No 15/128 Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Ms D. White.

15/148. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. There were no matters arising to report.

15/149. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

15/150. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Cllr Mr S. S. Tong**

- a. **Annual Financial Settlement:** The annual rate support grant will be tapered off over a period of years, eventually diminishing to zero. All Local Government Taxes will have to be raised locally. 15 authorities including East Dorset District Council have been earmarked to lose their support grant in 2017/2018. The remainder will lose them in 2019/2020. The District Council has not budgeted for such a steep cut – off. The Community Charge (Council

Tax) has been capped for the last eight years and the Non Domestic Tariff (Business Rate) is paid to the National Government which then redistributes the tax to local authorities. County Councils and other Unitary Authorities will be allowed to add 2% to their budget to help with the provision of Adult Social Care, this amount will only cover about a third of the Adult Social Care budget.. Overall the Council Tax will go up by 4% (2% from the County Council and 1.9% from the District Council). Regarding the Business Rate, the Government has not decided how to reorganise the distribution and how much of it District Councils will be allowed to keep. The pressure is now bearing down on local authorities to consider how they might re-organise in order to reduce running costs.

- b. **Revised Governance Proposals:** The nine Dorset Authorities have been considering four proposals, A unitary Authority, a Combined Authority, A South East Dorset Unitary Authority and the Status – quo. Eight of the authorities have agreed to fund an in depth business study of each proposal so that the authorities have the necessary facts and projections to make a well considered decision. East Dorset District Council voted against funding the business study which leaves the District Council out of step with the rest of the County. Cllr Mr S. S. Tong is acting as temporary leader of the council until a new leader is elected next month.

15/151. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

a. Flood Alleviation:

- i. **Witchampton:** There have been no incidents of flooding but the promised annual monitoring does not seem to have been carried out. The flood warning signs and visibility jackets are ready in case of flooding.
 - ii. **Gussage All Saints:** The flood warning signs are ready should there be any flooding. The road past Amen Cottage has a steep camber and run-off crosses the road at this point and is diverted down the high street. There used to be a drain through the garden of Walnut Tree Cottage that diverted this run-off down to the river. This drain seems to be blocked and the run-off is reaching properties further down the High Street with a threat of possible flooding.
 - iii. **Hinton Martell:** The cleared drains seem to be working well and there have not been any problems. The drainage pipe outside St Christopher's is damaged and needs repair and cleaning. Mr Alan Butcher has a drain cover at the side of the road outside his property. He cleans the silt from the pipe as best he can as it takes the run-off through his property to the stream, but it now needs to be power blasted through to clear it. The drains on Uppington Hill, opposite the Dell are full of gravel and need clearing.
- b. **Witchampton Telephone Kiosk:** It was considered that the main problem could be alleviated by moving the dog waste bin to the other side of the bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department to ask their advice about how to best re-enforce the edge of the highway abutting the verge.
- c. **Hinton Martell Notice Board:** The notice board is complete and Cllr Ms D. White will contact Mr H. Giles to arrange for the installation outside the Village Hall. It was noted that the Gaunts Common notice board was in need of refurbishment. The Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Lisa Goodwin, Clerk to Holt Parish Council for permission to go ahead with the refurbishment.
- d. **Website:** Cllr Mrs P. Hill and Cllr Mr S. Wathen reported that they had written a short description of their area and included some photographs for posting on the web site.

- e. **Rest & be Thankful Seat:** It was reported that in February, the proceeds from the regular lunch meeting in the Witchampton Village Hall will be donated to the Fingerposts Fund. It was suggested that a similar fundraising could be used to support the Rest & be Thankful Seat later in the year. It was also suggested that a letter could be delivered to all local residents asking for financial support for the replacement of the seat..
- f. **Cllr Mr S. Butler:** Cllr Mr S. Butler had sent a short e-mail listing his help with the flood alleviation efforts and help with funding various projects in the Vale of Allen. The Council expressed its thanks for his help.

15/152. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Planning Applications to consider.

15/153. EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS

There were no Planning Decisions to report.

15/154. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

- a. **Application for Tree Works:** Old Manor Farmhouse, Hinton Martell.
Application to fell T2 Sycamore
- b. **Consents for Tree Work:**
- i. Vicarage Cottage, Gussage All Saints. T1 – Laburnum – Fell. T2 – Cherry – Fell
 - ii. Greenways, The Paddock, Gussage All Saints. T1 – Red Horse Chestnut – reduce by up to 6ft. T2 – Ash – Fell. G1 x 2 – Beech – crown reduce by up to 6ft.
 - iii. Old Timbers, Hinton Martell. T1 – Norway Maple - Fell

15/155. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a **Authorisation and payment of Cheques:** The cheques having been approved were signed by Cllr Mr J. Campbell and Cllr Mrs S. Gilchrist

	Details	Amount (£)	Cheque No:
1	K. Bradbury, Clerk's Salary December 2015 £271.78; Clerks Expenses April - June 2015 £130.09; Clerks Expenses July - Sept 2015 £233.10; Clerks Expenses Oct - Dec 2015 £140.10	775.07	789
2	Inland Revenue PAYE December 2015	56.91	790
3	Dell Portable Projector	454.92	791
	Cllr Mr D. Gill Travelling Expenses	76.50	792
	Witchampton Village Hall Hire 2015	50.00	793
	Total	1413.40	

- b **Direct Debits for Authorisation:** The Direct Debits having been scrutinised were unanimously approved, proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Cook and seconded by Cllr Mrs P. Hill.

	Details	Amount (£)
1	Data Protection Registration 2016	35.00
2	TSB Balance Overdrawn	35.00
	Total	70.00

15/156. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. **Business Jellies:** A new initiative for people working from home. On Wednesdays people with small businesses that they run from home will be able to bring their laptops and work at the Café in the Allendale Centre, Wimborne between 10.00am and 2.00pm.
- ii. **Mr Ben Bennetts:** Mr Bennetts contract with EDDC to digitize to Planning procedure has come to an end and his role will be taken on by the Administration Department
- iii. **Clerks and Councils Direct:** January 2016 issue

15/157. MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- a. **Cllr Mrs M. Cook:** The fingerpost fundraising lunch at the Witchampton Village Hall will be on Wednesday 17th February starting at 12.30
- b. **Cllr Mr S. Wathen:** concern has been raised about cars speeding through the village. "SLOW" signs on the village approach might help.
- c. **Cllr Mr R. Hill:** concern has been expressed about the speed of cars approaching the sharp bends at the Stanbridge pumping station. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman