

VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, held at 7.30.pm in Hinton Martell Village Hall on Tuesday 17th February 2015

PRESENT

Cllr Mr T. May – Chairman

Cllr Mr D. Gill – Vice Chairman

Cllr Mr D. Walker, Cllr Mrs J. Manson, Cllr Mrs M. Cook, Cllr Ms. D White

Cllr Mr R. Hill, Cllr Mrs R. Goulden

Also present were the Parish Clerk Mrs K. Bradbury District Councillor Mr S.G. Flower, and County Councillor Mr S. Butler.

14/151. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Cllr Mrs S. Gilchrist, Cllr Mr J. Campbell, Cllr Mrs P. Hill, and District Councillor Mr S.S. Tong.

14/152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

14/153. DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOTE ON AN AGENDA ITEM

There were no requests for dispensations.

14/154. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

14/155. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON – Tuesday 13th January 2015

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2015 (pages (1042 - 1047) having been approved, were adopted and signed as a true and correct record subject to the following amendment:

Title Heading: The meeting was held in the Witchampton Village Hall and not at Gussage All Saints as stated.

14/156. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

14/157. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**b. County Councillor' Mr S Butler:**

- i. **Ward Budget:** it was reported that a County Council ward budget of £5000 will be available for projects next year. Parish Councils should let Cllr Butler know of any projects that require funding.
- ii. **Dorset Waste Partnership:** The Dorset Waste Partnership has overspent on its budget and as County Council revenues will continue to be severely squeezed the Partnership is considering the options of either closing some household recycling centres or charging households for using them.
- iii. **Drovers Inn:** The group campaigning to save the Drovers Inn have been informed that their application to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value has been successful.
- iv. **Cllr Mrs M. Cook:** expressed her grave concern about the huge overspend in the first year of the Dorset Waste Partnership operation, much of which appears to be due to the hiring of vehicles and payments for agency workers. Cllr Butler stated that there were high levels of absenteeism amongst the staff and in order to maintain the level of service absentees have to be covered by agency staff. Cllr Butler agreed that neither the governance nor the management of the Dorset Waste Partnership has been up to the expected standard and an urgent review of both governance and management is being carried out. The situation has been exacerbated due to the slump in the value of recycled materials. Customer satisfaction with the service provided is reported to be 90% which is very high.

- c. **Cllr Mr S. Flower:** presented his written report. See attached page 152 of the minutes.

14/158. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

- a. **Parish Council Website:** At the meeting of the Finance Working Group, convened in October 2014, one of the recommendations to the Parish Council was the setting up of a Parish Council website. The Clerk has been approached by the person who set up the website for Lytchet Matravers Parish Council. Holt Parish Council uses a community website facility. The Clerk was requested to investigate further.
- b. **Flood Alleviation & Flood Warden Scheme:** It was reported that Cllr Mrs M. Cook had a meeting with Mr Martin Hill from the Highways Department. Mr Hill agreed that the job that had been registered as complete had not in fact been done. Mr Hill for a gang to jet out the traps and gullies to clear them. However the gangs did not return to monitor the result and after heavy rain some of the gullies were not draining which suggests that the drains may have collapsed. The mapping of the drains is an ongoing project and it is agreed that the worst affected ones will be cleared annually
- c. **Why Not Become a Local Parish Councillor:** To consider a Special Election Leaflet to attract new Councillors
- d. **DAPTC Training Seminars:** It was resolved to approve the £50 fee for Cllr Ms D. White to attend the DAPTC Annual Conference at Kingston Maurward. Cllr Mrs M. Cook said she would like to attend and was willing to pay the £50 fee herself.

14/159. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Application No:	Location	Proposal	Type
3/14/1092/ & 3/14/1090/	Abbey House, Witchampton	To remove internal walls and open up existing 1920's kitchen and utility area of the house as an open plan kitchen/diner area. New entrance through new timber door to go in south elevation to give direct access to adjacent terrace area	HOU 7 LBC
3/15/0065	1, Jessamine Cottages, Witchampton	Alteration to rear elevation window	LBC

Parish Council comments on Planning Applications

- a. Planning Application **3/14/1092/HOU & 3/14/1090/LBC, Abbey House, Witchampton.** Parish Council comment – NO OBJECTION.
- b. Planning Application **3/15/00651/LBC, Jessamine Cottages, Witchampton.** Parish Council comment – NO OBJECTION.

14/160. EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS

Application No:	Location	Proposal	Decision
3/14/1147/HOU	Mattiscombe, Hinton Martell	Enlargement of existing porch and roof overhang	Permit
3/14/1016/HOU	The White House, Newtown, Witchampton	Two storey Rear extension	Permit
3/14/0846/LBC	Crichel House, Moor Crichel,	Restore East Hall interior plasterwork. Repaint dining room. Restore Venetian window and scagiola columns to drawing room	Permit

14/161. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**a Consultation on Tree Works Applications:**

- a. Stables Barn, Abbey Farm, Lower Street, Witchampton – Leylandii Nos: 1- -4, Reduce Leylandii hedge by 4metres and remove one leaning stem Fill gaps with Hawthorn. The Parish Council had no objection.
- b. Vicarage Cottage, Gussage All Saints – T1 – Apple, reduce the crown and T2 – Poplar reduce to previous pollard points. The Parish Council had no objection.
- c. Church Mead & Manor Farmhouse, Gussage All Saints – T1 & T2 – Ash, Fell. The Parish Council had no objection.

b Decisions on Tree Works Applications:

Stables Barn, Abbey Farm, Lower Street. Witchampton Reduce canopies of Leylandii hedge by 4metres – the District Council had no objection.

14/162. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a **Authorisation and payment of Cheques:** The cheques having been approved were signed by Cllr Mrs R. Goulden and Cllr Mrs S. Gilchrist

	Details	Amount (£)	Cheque No:
1	K. Bradbury Clerk's Salary Jan 2015	273.60	734
2	Inland Revenue PAYE Jan 2015	55.09	735
3	Witchampton Village Hall Hire 2014	50.00	736
4	Chandler IT Services - Supply and installation of new laptop computer	549.00	737
	Total	927.69	

14/163. CORRESPONDENCE

- a **NALC:** Clerk's salary increase from 1st January 2015
 b **DAPTC:** Subscription charges for 2015/2016

14/164. MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- a. **Cllr Mr D. Walker:** reported that he has obtained a quotation from a local carpenter. The Village Hall Management Committee has agreed to cover half the cost of the new notice board.
- b. **Cllr Ms D. White:** reported that a car was being parked up against the post box next to the lodge at the bottom of Lawrence Lane. This prevents access by a local wheelchair user. The Clerk was requested to investigate.
- c. **Cllr Mrs M. Cook:** reported that the wood and metal bridge over the river Allen at the Paper Mill Witchampton gets very slippery in wet weather. The Clerk was requested to contact the Rights of Way Department.
- d. **Cllr Mrs M. Cook:** reported that the Witchampton traffic mirror is loose on its supporting pole and is no longer at the correct angle.
- e. **Cllr Mr Terry May:** reported that the bridge at the Stanbridge Pumping Station is only suitable for single line traffic and requires advance warning signs for drivers to give way. The Clerk was requested to contact Dorset County Council Highways Department.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Vale of Allen Parish Council – Tuesday 11 February 2014
District Councillor Spencer Flower

Medium Term Financial Strategy–The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) includes a forecast that further significant cut in Government funding was likely and this forecast has proven correct, with the reduction of a further 13% for 2014/15 Council Year which was within the range expected.

Grant Provisional funding for 2014/15 announced but DCLG indicate as much as a further 13% based on the revised funding reduction announced by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement. The predictions in the Autumn Statement confirmed that actions planned in fundamentally reviewing budgets must continue, along with the shared service programme and further organisational reviews, which will be critical in managing the financial standing of the District Council.

It is therefore being recommended to Full Council that a modest increase in Council Tax of 1.95% or 7p per week at Band D rather than to take the Freeze Grant equivalent to 1% Council Tax increase. Whilst the current Government has confirmed that the previous freeze grants have been included in the base settlement calculations, there is no certainty that this 'one off' money will be sustained in a future settlement. There is therefore an inherent risk in accepting the freeze grant rather than proposing a modest increase, which allows the Council to be in better control of its finances in future years.

Report Resources Committee tomorrow has highlighted the funding gaps the Council is facing based on the existing budget. The reports also set out the actions needed to be taken to address the funding gaps and to better plan for the Council's on-going financial viability. Significant work has occurred in fundamentally reviewing all Budget's with heads of service and critically challenging the current resource allocation.

The forecast reduction in Government settlements between 2010/11 and 2017/18 is likely to be in the region of 41% which equates to approximately £1.23m from the Revenue Budget.

At this time the only certainty is the uncertainty associated with ongoing Government financial support and the significant risks associated with the localisation of council tax benefit. The risk of growth in take up of the council tax support has rested wholly with the Council since April 2013, as the funding the Government giving only partially financial support. The risk of a reduction in the business rate collected will now also have a direct impact on the Council's funding streams. The current economic climate increases this exposure to risk.

Future of East Dorset Leisure Facilities – Members will be asked to support the findings of the review and agree to the ongoing arrangements for the management of the HUB, the Community Sports Hall at the Middle School and Potterne Park. Basically the District Council and Christchurch Borough are reviewing leisure facilities management and funding arrangements across the partnership and it was felt it would be a missed opportunity not to include the facilities in Verwood and other parts of East Dorset in this review. Since the opening of the new facilities in the Town last year the situation has been more positive in terms of public use, quality of provision and availability.

Continuing reductions in Central Government Grant Settlements means that all aspects of every service have had to come under close scrutiny. Some real economies of scale that have been identified which will ensure we get the best value for the public purse, while sustaining a valued local leisure provision.

Verwood Town Council hopefully, will continue to playing an important part with grant aid to Potterne Park [subject to Member agreement] and the District Council will offer financial support and management to the HUB, the Community Sports Hall at Emmanuel and Potterne Park.

Although the management arrangements will change, this will not impact on either the future leisure facilities or the financial security, actually quite the opposite. The Staff have been informed and as appropriate will be protected under TUPE arrangements when their employment is transferred to the District Council.

09.02.2014/SGF