

VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Cllr Mr D. Gill – Vice Chairman

Cllr Mr D. Walker, Cllr Mrs S. Gilchrist, Cllr Mrs J. Manson, Cllr Mrs M. Cook

Cllr Ms. D White, Cllr Mr J. Campbell, Cllr Mrs P. Hill, Cllr Mrs R. Goulden

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

14/165. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Cllr Mr T. May and Cllr Mr R. Hill.

14/166. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

14/167. DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOTE ON AN AGENDA ITEM

There were no requests for dispensations.

14/168. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

14/169. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON – Tuesday 17th February 2015

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th February 2015 (pages (1048 - 1053) having been approved, were adopted and signed as a true and correct record

14/170. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

14/171. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

a. County Councillor' Mr S Butler:

- i. Dorset Waste Partnership:- The amount of overspend on the first year of operation has risen to £2.948 million. Measures were put in place last week to improve both the governance and the management systems. A Multiple Recycling Facility is being built at Bournemouth and this may affect collection methods in the future. In the meantime DWP have been undertaking other work such as litter picking.
- ii. Flood Alleviation:- After heroic efforts by Cllr Mrs M. Cook the worst affected of drains and ditches have been cleared and repaired.

14/172. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- a. **Cllr Mr S. Flower:** Reported that this would be the last meeting of the Vale of Allen Parish Council that he would attend. The changes to the ward boundaries mean that the Holt Ward will cease to exist and he will no longer represent Gaunts Common and Hinton Martell. The Chairman, Cllr Mr T. May thanked Cllr Spencer for his help and support during all the years as a District Councillor. Cllr Flower then presented his written report. See attached page 158 of the minutes.
- b. **Cllr Mr S.S. Tong:**
- i. District Council Budget Cuts:- Local Councils will continue to be a target for Government cuts in their budgets. District and County Councils will have to communicate better with their local Parish and Town Councils who know their area and can advise on what changes or improvements are required.
 - ii. A lead member will be appointed with responsibility for communities with a brief to spread good practice around Parish and Town Councils and local communities
 - iii. Housing Development:- the planning application for 600 houses on the site to the north of Wimborne will be considered at the April meeting of the planning committee. This is a substantial development and the District Council is keen to include affordable housing into the mix. However the developers are doing all they can to avoid this. The District Council want at least 40% of the development to be affordable housing and is trying to find ways of enforcing this.

14/173. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

- a. **Flood Alleviation & Flood Warden Scheme:** It was reported that at last the worst affected of the ditches have been cleared. The drains have been jetted and where necessary the drainage pipes have been repaired. The ditches and gullies around Holly Grove Cottage have been dealt with.
- b. **Local Election Nomination Packs:** Nomination packs, including the ward electoral registers were distributed to the Councillors present. Nomination packs are available either from the Parish Clerk or from East Dorset District Council
- c. **Why Not Become a Local Parish Councillor:** It was considered that a Special Election Leaflet to attract new Councillors was unlikely to attract any
- d. **Drovers Inn:** The campaign committee has bought an off the shelf company and set up a limited company in order to put in a bid for the pub. The committee will be meeting on Thursday to discuss progress.
- e. **Witchampton First School:** The Clerk has received complaints from a resident about problem parking outside Rose Cottages, Witchampton. The Clerk was asked to contact the Head Teacher and the police to try and alleviate the problem
- f. **County & District Council Ward Budgets:** The County Council will have £5000 and the District Council will have £2000 to distribute to community projects. Councillors are requested to bring forward schemes that will enhance their communities. **Refer to the next meeting.**
- g. **Gussage All Saints Road Closure:** The annual fundraising Grand Tri Run 16th May 2015, starting at Wimborne St Giles via Bowerswain to the main road and back past Amen Corner, Gussage All Saints. It is proposed to close the road for the morning of the 16th May.
- h. **East Dorset District Council:** notification and consultation on Local Plan Part 2.

i. DAPTC Training Seminars:

Date	Time	Course	Cost	Venue
Tuesday 24 th March	10am – 3.30pm	Neighbourhood Planning	£10	Leigh Village Hall, Nr Sherborne
Friday 17 th April	9.30 – 12.30	New Clerks	£30	DYA HQ, Dorchester

14/174. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Application No:	Location	Proposal	Type
3/15/0131	Welcome Thatch, Witchampton	To restore the chimney flue to a condition to meet current HETAS requirements for thatched roofs	LBC
3/15/0178	West Wood, Gaunts Common	Two storey extension to NNE elevation. Form hipped roofs over existing flat roof dormers. Form Juliet balcony to WNW elevation	HOU
3/15/1234	The Old House, Gussage All Saints	To install wood burning stove in existing inglenook fireplace and to install a stainless steel twin wall flue system	HOU

Parish Council comments on Planning Applications

- a. **Planning Application 3/15/0131, Welcome Thatch, Witchampton:** Parish Council comment – NO OBJECTION.
- b. **Planning Application, 3/15/0178, West Wood, Gaunts Common:** Parish Council comment – NO OBJECTION.
- c. **Planning Application 3/15/1234, The Old House, Gussage All Saints:** Parish Council comment – NO OBJECTION.

14/175. EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS

3/14/1090/LBC	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, as amended by e-mail dated 9 th February agreeing to deletion of additional doorway from proposals	Permit
3/15/0065/LBC	Jessamine Cottages, Witchampton	Alteration to rear elevation window	Permit

14/176. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

- a. **Appeal Decision:** Specklesfield, Newtown, Witchampton – The appeal is ALLOWED.
- b. **Applications for Tree Works**
 - i. **Church Mead & Manor Farmhouse, Gussage All Saints:** Fell T1&T2 (Ash), Crown Reduce T3 – T5 (Ash & Sycamore)
 - ii. **Vicarage Cottage, Gussage All Saints:** Reduce canopy T1 (Apple), Pollard T2 (Poplar)
 - iii. **Peel House, Gussage All Saints:** notice of application but no details included

14/177. 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 Feb 2015	273.60	738
2	Inland Revenue PAYE Feb 2015	55.09	739
3	DAPTC Annual Conference x 2	100.00	740
4	Mr G. Mills, Witchampton Club bus Shelter July - Dec 2014	50.00	741
5	C.T. Mee, Bus Shelters x 4 Feb 2015	60.00	742
	Total	538.69	

Grant Applications:

- a. Dial –a-Ride application for £100 contribution – **It was resolved to make a grant of £50 to Dial-a-Ride.**
- b. Drovers Inn – contribution towards costs of campaign to save the pub – **It was resolved to make a grant of £75 to the Drovers Inn Committee.**
- c. Witchampton Play Area – contribution towards cost of public liability insurance – **It was resolved to make a grant of £75 to the Witchampton Play Area Committee.**

14/178. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **DAPTC Chief Executive's Circular 03/15**
- b. **Mobile Library Service:** timetable of visits for the mobile library
- c. **Cranborne Chase AONB newsletter:** newsletter and management plan for 2014 – 2019
- d. **East Dorset News:** Spring 2015 issue
- e. **Clerks & Councils Direct:** March 2015 issue

14/178. MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- a. **Cllr Mrs D. White:** It was reported that cars continue to block the access to the post box near the lodge at the bottom of Lawrence Lane. A resident at the property opposite the post box has indicated that she is willing to put a notice on the windscreen of any car blocking the access.
- b. **Cllr Mrs J. Manson:** indicated that she will not be standing for election in May. The Chairman thanked Cllr Manson for all the hard work she has put in for the Council over the years.
- c. **Cllr Mrs R. Goulden:** indicated that she will not be standing for election in May. The Chairman thanked Cllr Goulden for all the hard work she has put in for the Council over the years.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Vale of Allen Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 17 March 2015

District Councillor Report – Cllr. Spencer Flower

District Council set small increase in Council Tax – Members [cross Party] agreed a small increase of 1.95 per cent on their element of the Council Tax for 2015/16. The increase equates to around 7p per week for a Band D property and comes in the face of a reduction in government funding for the coming year of £418,000 for East Dorset. The increase will also protect our Council Tax payers from the probability of a larger reduction in the near future when we could be approaching what our auditors Grant Thornton call the ‘tipping point’. This is expected by a majority of councils to arrive in 2017/18 and it is when many council’s predict they will be unable to set a balanced budget.”

The East Dorset strategy has been for Council Tax small affordable increases of below £4 per annum. Whilst any increase in tax is never welcome, this measure is about more than the coming year. It has been established policy that we simply cannot run the financial affairs of the council on a short term basis and by not implementing this modest increase we run this risk of storing up problems for the future, at least those we know about.

With small increases in the elements of the Council Tax from Dorset County Council (1.99 per cent) and Dorset Fire Authority (1.89 per cent) and a freezing of the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner’s element, the total Band D Council Tax will be £1672.23 (with an additional average of £47.72 for the town or parish element of the Council Tax, which of course varying according to location.

Dorset Waste Partnership -Members of seven Dorset councils will meet on Wednesday 11 March to discuss an urgent improvement plan for the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP). The Joint Committee, which oversees the partnership, will consider a report outlining the findings of three separate reviews into the DWP’s budget management, decision-making and use of hire vehicles. They will be asked to approve an action plan to implement all their recommendations.

Councillors will also receive a report by the Monitoring Officer of Dorset County Council, the partnership’s host authority, highlighting that the DWP hired vehicles to the value of £1.5m without a proper tendering process and that a number of DWP vehicles were operated without notification to Insurance Companies.

On behalf of the partners, the county council has launched a formal, independently led investigation into the issues raised. This followed the reported overspend of £2.8m, including more than £1m for hire vehicles, associated with the roll-out of improved recycling services announced towards the end of last year.

The Director of the DWP has been suspended temporarily while the county council carries out its formal procedures in such circumstances. This is done without prejudging the outcome of these procedures, with temporary leadership being provided by Mike Harries, the county council’s Director for Environment and Economy and Chair of the DWP Management Board, and Steve Mackenzie, Chief Executive of Purbeck District Council. They will be supported by WYG, who authored one of the reviews, to oversee delivery of the improvement plan and restore confidence, while ensuring vital services continue to be provided on the front-line.

Since the Partnership was formed the service delivery has been first class, meeting or exceeding most of its key aims. These include recycling to more than 60% (currently above 62% in districts using the new service and 59% countywide, reducing landfill waste (this has halved from 40% to 20% since 2011); achieving customer satisfaction of 80% (89% of 5,000 residents surveyed in February 2014 said they were happy with the new service) and saving at least £1.3m a year (this was achieved in the first three years but not this year. Financial projections show that the councils are still better off in the partnership than if they had continued to deliver waste services on their own. However, late last year saw problems with the roll-out of the service for a number of households in Weymouth and Portland, the reported overspend and an increase in next year’s budget by £2.9m to £32.5m.

SGF/March 2015