

VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

**of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, held at 7.15 pm in Hinton Martell Village
Hall on Tuesday 20th December 2016**

PRESENT

Cllr Mr D. Gill – Chairman

Cllr Mr J. Campbell – Vice Chairman

Cllr Mr S. Wathen, Cllr Ms D. White, Cllr Mrs M. Cook, Cllr Mrs P. Hill, Cllr Mr R. Hill

Also present was the Parish Clerk Mrs K. Bradbury and Mr A. Mitchell

16/136. MILLENNIUM TREE AVENUE

Mr A. Mitchell attended the meeting to discuss the maintenance of the Millennium Tree Avenue in the future. In 1999 the Vale of Allen Parish Council passed a resolution to take over the management of the Witchampton Millennium Tree Avenue in 2010. This autumn, Mr Mitchell raised £1275 towards some remedial work. The hedges on both sides of the road have been cut back, the verges cut down and the trees pruned back. There is still some work to be done on the trees planted behind the hedge on the west side of the lane. It was Mr Mitchell's opinion that the trees are in reasonable shape and will not require further pruning for the next couple of years but that the hedges and verges will need regular maintenance work. It is expected that there will be about £500 left in the fund for regular maintenance work by volunteers. It was agreed that in future Mr Mitchell would liaise with the Parish Clerk before starting any work on the tree avenue so that arrangements can be made for the hire of safety equipment and to ensure that the Parish Council's insurance will cover volunteers in case of mishap. The Parish Clerk was requested to find out the cost of extra insurance for volunteers and the cost of hiring safety equipment. Refer to the next Parish Council meeting

Cllr Mr J. Campbell arrived at the meeting at 7.30pm

16/137. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Cllr Mrs S. Gilchrist.

16/138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of Interest to report.

16/139. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING

There were no requests for dispensations to report.

16/140. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

16/141. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON – Tuesday 22nd November 2016

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 (pages (1156 - 1163) having been approved, were adopted and signed as a true and correct record subject to the following corrections:

- a. **Minute No16/124 Public Question Time:** The member of the public making a statement regarding the Planning Application 3/16/2250, for 6, Uppington Close, Hinton Martell was Mrs Gillian Morgan and not Mrs S. Cook as stated. Ms V. Spooner of Sunnylands Farm, Uppington, Hinton Martell also attended and stated her objections to Planning Application 3/16/2250.
- b. **Minute No 16/130, Parish Council Comments (a)(vi):** replace the word “Astroturf” in the penultimate line of the minute with the word “turf”.

16/142. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

16/143. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

There were no reports this month.

16/144. PARISH CLERK’S REPORT

- a. **Meeting with Simon Hoare M.P. for North Dorset:** The main subjects discussed at the meeting on 9th December 2016 were highways maintenance, the County Council re-organisation and planning matters. There were a large number of questions relating to problems specific to different parishes. A copy of the minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to Councillors as soon as it is available.
- b. **DAPTC Follow up meeting on DCC Re-organisation:** The meeting is scheduled for Friday 13th January. Cllr Mr D. Gill will contact District Councillor S. Tong to discuss a meeting with him before the vote on re-organisation that is due on 22nd January 2017.
- c. **Audit Arrangements:** In the spring of 2016, the Parish Council resolved to opt out of the current arrangements for using the Government appointed Auditors BDO. It became clear that opting out would involve the opted-out Parish Councils in a lengthy and complicated process to appoint their own external auditors and would cost more than staying within the current system. The NALC negotiated with SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments) to allow opted-out Parish Councils to change their minds. Unfortunately this coincided with the Parish Clerk’s sick leave and because of the delay, opting to remain with the current arrangements will incur an administration fee of £250. **It was unanimously resolved approve remaining with the current auditors BDO.** Proposed by Cllr Mr R. Hill and seconded by Cllr Mrs M. Cook.
- d. **Minster Memorials:** A request was received to erect a memorial stone, brown/grey Aurora. **It was resolved to approve the proposed headstone with the proviso that the polish must be to an eggshell finish.**

16/145. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Planning Applications to consider

16/146. EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS

Application No:	Location	Proposal	Decision
3/16/2264 /HOU	Honeysuckle Cottage, Moor Crichel	Demolish rear extension and side porch. Erect two storey extension to rear of property	Permit
3/16/1424/ FUL	Specklesfield, Witchampton Mill	Replacement of existing agricultural storage building	Permit
3/16/1181/ LBC	The Old House, Pound Hill, Witchampton	Create a small shower and toilet room inside the front bedroom(retrospective application)	Permit
3/16/1350/ FUL	Manor Farm, Gussage All Saints	Conversion of buildings to residential use to form live/work unit	Permit
3/16/2172/ HOU	Highcroft, Woodcutts Lane, Holt	Re-submission following application 3/16/0592. Erect a two storey side extension to provide further accommodation. Roof to gable end. Single storey rear extension.	Permit

16/147. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

Application 3/16/2674/TCA, Allenview Cottage, Witchampton Lane. T1 – T9 Poplar. Crown reduce by 4metres and remove deadwood. The Parish Council had no objection.

16/148. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a Authorisation and payment of Cheques: The cheques having been approved were signed by Cllr Mr J. Campbell and Cllr Mr R. Hill

	Details	Amount (£)	Cheque No:
1	K. Bradbury, Clerk's Salary Nov 2016	284.92	841
2	Inland Revenue PAYE Nov 2016	68.72	842
3	BDO Auditor's Fee 2016	132.00	843
4	Terrafirma Maintenance 2016	477.50	844
5	R&BT Seat Replacement Fund	1000.00	845
	Total	1963.14	

b To receive the External Auditor's Report for 2015/2016: The Parish Council received and approved the external auditor's report for the year ended 31st March 2016. The points raised by the auditor were noted. The delay in producing the accounts was due to the absence of the clerk on sick leave. The point raised regarding the keeping of minutes arose because the Clerk had sent her unsigned working copy of the minutes in reply to a question raised by the auditor. The Council agreed that in future the clerk should send copies of the official, signed minutes when corresponding with the auditor. Finally the point that was raised regarding the addition of the Hinton Martell notice board to the asset register, it was noted that although the deposit was paid in the 2015/2016 financial year, the notice board and the invoice for the final payment was not received until the 2016/2017 financial year.

c It was unanimously resolved to receive and approve the Council Tax Base and the Ward Precept Allocation for 2017/2018. Proposed by Cllr Mrs M. Cook and seconded by Cllr Mrs P. Hill. See attached pages 1168 - 1169 of the minutes

16/149. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Clerks & Councils Direct:** November 2016 issue
- b. **DAPTC:** Annual Report 2015 – 2016
- c. **East Dorset News:** Autumn 2016 edition

16/150. MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- a. **Cllr Mr S. Wathen:** It was reported that a large bough is dangerously overhanging the road at Uppington Hill. Highways have been informed.
- b. **Cllr Mrs M. Cook:**
 - i. It was reported that Savills would appreciate a meeting to discuss possible developments around the village of Witchampton. It was suggested that the meeting could be held at Nicky House. The Clerk was asked to contact Savills Housing Development Officer.
 - ii. Metal, die-cast letters are being salvaged from old fingerposts in order to cut down on the cost of purchasing new ones.
- c. **Cllr Mrs P. Hill:** It was reported that Fly-tipping is becoming a serious problem around Gussage All Saints. There are three lots on Whiteways Hill some of which has been there since September.
- d. **Cllr Mr R. Hill:** reported that he had received a quote of £166.13p for replacement of the doors on the Parish Council notice board at Gussage All Saints. Cllr Hill was advised to go ahead with replacing the doors.

Meeting closed at 9.01 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman