

VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, held at 7.30 pm in Witchampton Village Hall on Tuesday 16 October 2018

Present:

Cllr J Campbell – Chairman
Cllr S Wathen, Cllr Ms D White, Cllr Mrs M Cook, Cllr Mrs J Manson, Cllr S Gilchrist, Cllr Mrs P Hill, Cllr R Hill, County Cllr S Butler, District Cllr S Tong
Also present were the Parish Clerk Ian Hanstead

18.096. APOLOGIES

Tim Read

18.097. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest to report.

18.098. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING

There were no requests for dispensations to report.

18.099. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no questions from members of the public.

18.100 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON – Tuesday 18 September 2018

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 September 2018 (pages 1287 - 1290) were approved and signed as a true record.

18.101. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

18.102. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Tong advised that EDDC was running through a 'closure' process in readiness for the unitary authority, with a completion target date of the end of March 2019. He was concerned that the relationship between Town and Parish Councils (T&PC) was unknown at present, but it was important that the Dorset Council recognised that relationship.

Cllr Tong said that he was on the shadow organisation's Governance Task and Finish group. This included how planning matters were to be dealt with at local level. Provisionally, three area planning panels would be created to review applications then pass to the full council for approval. Getting sufficient new councillors trained and volunteering would probably be a challenge. DAPTC organisation would need to arrange adequate training. Consultation with T&PCs would be needed, but the new structure would need to involve them.

Cllr Tong stated that he felt that there was a lack of urgency regarding the unitary and T&PCs and how to manage and support good local communication, but he was working on that.

Cllr Tong enquired as to the progress of Ward meetings concerning the Gussage St Michael request to join the Vale of Allen Parish Council. Cllr Campbell fed back that all the four meeting had been held and they were all unanimous in their support for this. Cllr Tong said that the news was helpful and extremely useful.

Questions arising:

- Cllr Campbell asked if the Planning Panels were Planning sub-committees? Cllr Tong said that the Task and Finish group were working on the new model, but panels would not have the delegated powers to approve, just to recommend approval/rejection to the full council as they alone were the 'Planning Authority'.
- Cllr Campbell stated that as there is no vision/strategy with T&PCs this was disappointing. Cllr Tong replied that the focus was making things work, and no serious discussion had taken place.
- Cllr Campbell suggested it would be useful for the Head of Planning to make local visits
- Cllr Wathen enquired if the new council was looking at the successful good models already working around the country. Cllr Tong replied that several had been looked at and the best bits had been cherry picked and would feature in recommendations to the shadow board.

18.103. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr S Butler was less pessimistic and stated that from day 1, everything would be the same. All the staff would be there, but streamlining would take place thereafter. There will be people to talk to and services continue. He was assured that all the infrastructure would work, and departments would still be in the same places as now.

The Local Plan had received over 1,000 responses, especially from Alderholt. Most comments concerned infrastructure arrangements. However, there was a group undertaking a 'transport and infrastructure' study which isn't due out until mid 2019, so the Local Plan cannot be finalised until then.

Cllr Butler advised that the council tax was to be applied evenly across all the district councils, with some winners and some losers, but to apply the same rates for the appropriate tax bands. EDDC was current near the top of the list for the highest payments, so under the new charges, the increase would be less than other areas.

Matt Prosser had been appointed the new unitary Chief Executive, and director posts being advertised next week.

Cllr Butler advised that the Boundary Review was due out later this month. Once published, VOAPC will have a clearer idea on where each Ward will fit in.

Questions arising:

- Cllr R Hill said that the 1,500 new homes in Wimborne was originally to be provided to reduce commuting distance to work. No publicity he was aware of promoted getting new businesses and industry to the area. Cllrs Butler and Tong each said that this had been done in the past, but a change of policy had taken place with the new chairman, as his thoughts were that there was too much industry!
- Cllr Gilchrist asked on how the development split of homes in Wimborne was allocated. Cllr Butler advised 600 VOA side of Wimborne, 400 other side of Wimborne
- Cllr White enquired about how much 'white' area there was. Was this nearly all Alderholt? It appears that planners are getting through 'brown fields' eating into 'white areas' and when will it be on 'green fields'? Cllr Butler did not have an answer at the time.
- Cllr Wathen said that he had looked at the new homes being built but they were of large sizes, not starter homes. Cllr Tong and Butler advised that developers had problems in making sites affordable due to the high property price areas identified. The economics didn't stack up with section 106 agreements, play areas and greens to be provided etc. Cheaper sites would be best suited for development. There appeared to be no coherent vision.

(Cllrs Butler and Tong left the meeting)

18.104 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

- a. **VOAPC area amendment** - no further comments as discussed earlier.
- b. **Co-option application** - although T Read was unable to attend, all the necessary papers had been sent by email in readiness for the next meeting. Cllr Campbell asked for this items to be positioned early on in the next agenda.
- c. **Community Service Award scheme** – now on website
- d. **Website (future dates)** – Cllr P Hill advised of several dates in Gussage All Saints, but requested to email the Parish Clerk with details and artwork if already available to allow easy loading onto web pages
- e. **Back up facility** – it was agreed by members to go ahead with the purchase of a memory device to protect the parish laptop
- f. **Windows upgrade** – whilst this was a good move forward, it was suggested to first research how old the existing laptop was and to obtain prices for a renewal that had the software already included within the price. The parish Clerk was to report back
- g. **Anti-virus upgrade** – members agreed that this was beneficial and to proceed
- h. **DAPTC training** – details already circulated
- i. **2019 meetings calendar** – after discussion, it was agreed:
 - i. To continue for the time being with monthly meetings, but review later in 2019
 - ii. Instead of two meetings in April, condense into one around mid point of the month, acknowledging that the May meeting was fixed to to legal reasons following the elections
 - iii. Instead of two meetings in October, condense into one meeting, again around the mid month period
 - iv. To deleted the December meeting which would fall on 24 December and have an early January meeting

- v. If any planning applications required a committee decision before a schedule meeting (due to the deferral/timing of some meetings as listed above), applications, as now, to be emailed to members and comments back to the chairman to collate. The chairman will advise the clerk of the decision so he can respond back to the council in good time. Details of which will be reported on the following agenda for transparency
- vi. The clerk to ask DAPTC if it would be legal to discuss planning applications via email
- vii. If any invoices received were critical due to payment terms, or putting future services at risk, a similar process to (vi) above, with cheques/bank transfer being initiated and report on the following agenda

.18-105 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Application No:	Location	Proposal	Decision
3/18/2597	Manor Farm House, Gussage All Saints	Variation to conditions 2 and 3 to original planning permission (3/17/2886) – altering the original design	No Objection

18.106. EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS NOTED

Application No:	Location	Proposal	Decisions by EDDC
3/18/1363	Uppington Ridge, Hinton Martel	Single storey rear extension with external stairs to roof, garage conversion with pitched roof and canopy. Replace existing porch	Granted
3/18/2048	Adj Penny's Cottage, Hinton Martell	Erect barn style dwelling	Granted

18.107 Other Planning Matters

Application No:	Location	Proposal	Decision
3/18/2513/TCA	Post House, Gussage All Saints	Application for Tree Work – T1 – Juniper – fell to ground level	No Objection
3/18/2617/TCA	Virginia Cottage, Gussage All Saints	Application for Tree Work – T1 – Cherry – prune away from neighbouring property to 1 metre T2 – Yew – reduce height and sides by 1 metre	No Objection

18.108. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The following items were approved for payment – cheques signed by Cllrs J Campbell and R Hill

	Details	Amount (£)	V.A.T	Cheque Total	Cheque No:
1	C.T. Mee B. Grounds, R&BT Seat, bus shelters, burial ground September 2018	101.00	0.00	101.00	956
2	DAPTC Clerks annual seminar	70.00	0.00	70.00	957
3	Local Councils Update - annual subscription	100.00	0.00	100.00	958
4	Rev S Allen - Hinton fountain electric	79.38	0.00	79.38	959
5	CT Mee Burial Gnd, R&BT seat	50.00	0.00	50.00	960
	Total	400.38	0.00	400.38	

b) Cheques received noted

	Details	Amount (£)
1	Burial fee	291.00

c) Bank signatory – following the last meeting it was suggested that in order to have signatories across Wards, rather than Cllr Mrs J Manson, to have Cllr S Wathen. This was agreed by members. Following the meeting, Cllr Wathen completed the necessary paperwork for the TSB.

d) Financial Regulations amendments – the draft revision (circulated before the meeting) of the regulations was discussed. It was agreed by members:

- i) amend the wording on sections 5.5 and 5.6 to reflect bank transfer
- ii) minor word changes at the top and bottom of the regulations
- iii) change in para 3.5 - 'shall not' to 'may' to reflect 'earmarked' funds in the budget
- iv) that VAT reclaim should be changed from annually to quarterly

18.109. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Local Councils Update:** October 2018 issue
- b. Burial plots/headstone requests

18.110 MATTERS OF INFORMATION

a) Cllr M Cook – advised that the fingerpost sign had been completed at the bottom of Pound Hill. Discussion between members took place sharing information on companies used. All agreed that replacing/repairing signs would be to the original design and materials

b) Cllr P Hill – reported that SSE were due to change an electric meter in the village hall for the new smart meter. However, due to poor signal in the area this never took place. This raised a doubt as to the suitability for villages getting smart meters.

c) Cllrs Campbell and Gilchrist – raised the item concerning the replacement hedge outside the Witchampton village hall after the laurels had been removed – should it be with laurels or yew? There were issues with the unstable bank and which bush would be best suited. Further, yew would take around 15 years to be fully established.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....

Date.....*November 2018*

Chairman