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| **V**of**A**  **Parish Council** **VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES** | | |
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of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, held at Gussage All Saints village hall on Tuesday 7 February 2023 at 7:30pm

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| Present: Chairman - Cllr T Read  Cllr S Hanstead, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr S Bushell, Cllr S Glover, Cllr M Porretta, Dorset Cllr R Cook and I Hanstead, Parish Clerk. |

##### 23.014 RECORDING, PHOTOGRAPHY, SOCIAL MEDIA

No applications.

##### 23.015 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs Warnock, Burford-May, Collie. Dorset Cllr P Brown was absent.

###### 23.016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

**23.017 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING**

There were no Requests for Dispensations to report.

**23.018 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

**23.019 MINUTES**

Members unanimously approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 10 January 2023 (pages 1 - 4).

**23.020 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members did not feel in a position to discuss due to shortage of members present, contact still awaited with consultants and the outcome of Dorset Council’s Governance Review.

This topic would be discussed further at future meetings.

**23.021 DORSET COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Cllr Cook reported:

* **Governance Review** – Dorset Council had reviewed responses to wider consultation for changes proposed by the Vale of Allen Parish Council. It was supportive of incorporating the hamlet of Bradford into Witchampton Ward, tweaking the boundary between Hinton and Witchampton Wards, but was not supportive for the Gaunts Common changes as several residents opposed the change. Full council would made a final decision later in the month.
* **Council Tax on Second Homes –** the Government was considering introducing a 100% premium on council tax to second homeowners. Dorset Council had started discussions as to whether it would introduce this if it became law. Discussions were ongoing.
* **Social Tariffs for Broadband and Phone Services –** EE, BT, Sky and Virgin were offering a social tariff to those on certain benefits.

**23.022 HIGHWAYS**

The C2 had a revised start date changing from 10 to 13 March.

20 mph – members were asked to present their case using Dorset Council’s criteria to their April meeting where members will decide on which villages should move forward. Those cases would be a Vale of Allen submission rather than individual applications.

**23.023 FLY TIPPING**

No cases reported.

**23.024 FINANCE**

**a)** **Bank Reconciliation** - members noted that the bank statements of 1 December and 2 January reconcile to the cashbook.

**b) Precept 2023/24 –** members noted the Clerk had submitted the precept request to Dorset Council on time and Dorset Council has acknowledged receipt.

**c) Burial Ground Fees 2023 –** members discussed the new fees to be charged, aligning with the Church of England 2023 fees plus an uplift of 20% to cover future project work on the site. The new fees approved by all members.

**d) Grant Application** – Citizens Advice in Dorset had sent in a request for a grant towards their work in the area. Members unanimously supported the payment of £400 (permissible under Local Government and Housing Act 1989 s38(2)).

**e) Payments** – members unanimously approved payment of:

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Salaries | Feb | 604.43 |
| Citizens Advice | Grant | 400.00 |
| Normtec | Crichel fingerpost White Lodge | 461.54 |
| Dorset Council | GAS village sign | 440.97 |

Over £100 payments since last meeting – members noted:

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Salaries | Jan | 604.03 |
| Expenses | Qtr 3 | 213.58 |

Direct Debit Payment– members noted

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Information Commissioners Office | Data Protection annual registration | 35.00 |

**23.025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members confirmed their consultation comments to Dorset Council.

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| **Address** | **Proposal** | **Comment** |
| P/HOU/2022/07392 - Sweet Apple Farm, Gussage All Saints \* | To erect 2 no. single storey extensions to the existing property and reposition the existing pedestrian/vehicular access as the drawings. | Support  Further to our original submission, continued support for this application |
| P/FUL/2022/07777 - Manor Farm, Manor Road, Gussage St Michael \* | Creation of 3 No. wildlife ponds with associated landscaping. | Support  The original application was for 1 pond, this one is for 3 smaller ponds on the same land. There has been a lot of thought gone into this application. It will enhance a corner of a field and will encourage a mix of wildlife and plant species. |
| P/HOU/2022/06765 - 1 Stanbridge Cottages, Witchampton \* | Detached Granny Annexe subservient to the existing dwelling. | Object  Question whether this is a granny annexe, or an additional dwelling. Looks like overdevelopment, (as size of annex - footprint appears to be similar in size to current house) and too prominent at the front of site. Site may be too restrictive to be located anywhere else but will look very out of place next to a very traditional pair of cottages. Would normally expect an annexe to be behind, or at least no further forward than the primary dwelling. Doesn’t ‘match’ the original house with the cladding instead of brickwork.  Proposed amendment to drive restricts parking. However, application form says there will be 6 car park spaces - reduction from its current amount. Don't see how this many spaces could be provided for, why so many?  Rooflights - issue for 'dark skies' requirement.  The proposed drawings and application form refer to removal of cherry trees. However, the photos on preliminary ecological assessment seem to show trees aren't there? Biodiversity Checklist asks if there are ‘mature trees, small areas of woodland or shrub’. ‘No’ box has been ticked. So, trees been removed without permission? |

* Decision via email, as per Standing Orders, as between council meetings

**23.026 POLICY REVIEW – SOCIAL MEDIA** – members approved the slight revision in the policy now all members have ‘.gov.uk’ email addresses.

**23.027 MATTERS OF INFORMATION**

Cllr Read – reminded all members that there is a legal requirement to hold a Ward Annual Meeting in May. He suggested members draft agendas and pass a copy to the Clerk for the website. Village halls should be booked.

Cllr Bushell – advised of live music and events in the Drovers pub in February.

Cllr Porretta – enquired about the protocol for dealing with press enquiries. Members were advised to be non-committal and offer to return call, after discussion with the chairman and Clerk.

Cllr Hanstead – Two Spud ‘n’ Spouts booked – 24 Feb - Big Yellow Bus project, 24 March - Sailing Experience around Indonesia.

**Meeting closed 20:54pm**

Signed T Read Chairman Date 7 March 2023