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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 St Michael village hall on Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 7:30pm

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| Present: Chairman - Cllr T Read  Cllr K Lannon, Cllr S Hanstead, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr S Bushell, Cllr T Collie, Cllr D Burford-May, Dorset Cllr Brown, Dorset Cllr Cook, and I Hanstead, Parish Clerk. |

##### 23.043 RECORDING, PHOTOGRAPHY, SOCIAL MEDIA

No applications.

##### 23.044 APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs Porretta, Warnock, Glover.

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

None.

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

There were no Requests for Dispensations to report.

**23.047 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

**23.048 MINUTES**

Members unanimously approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 7 March 2023 (pages 9 - 13).

**23.049 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members did not discuss this in detail as contact still awaited with consultants.

This topic would be discussed further at future meetings.

**23.050 DORSET COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Cllr Cook sent a report in advance of the meeting which was discussed:

* **Household Support Fund** – the next round of funding was open for low-income households.
* **Help with Childcare Costs -** HM Revenue and Customs was reminding families not to miss out on Government help to pay for childcare.
* **Council Tax on Second Homes –** the Government ran out of time to consider introducing a 100% premium on council tax to second homeowners. Not likely to be discussed in the Parliamentary timetable before 2024.
* **Landowners Asked to Submit Land –** for consideration for inclusion in the Dorset Local Plan.
* **Boundary Commission** – new proposed boundaries were being considered by Government before 1 July this year. In the Vale of Allen, Hinton Ward could transfer to Mid Dorset and North Pool constituency, from North Dorset.
* **Litter Picking** – as summary was given of the process undertaken by Dorset Council.
* **We Out Here** – the festival licence had been approved with slight amendments to the times alcohol was served.

Cllr Brown reported:

* **Litter, Fly Tipping and Illegal Parking** – the Government had been lobbied to vary the fines as they were too low.
* **Empty Properties** – Dorset Council had established a team to identify unused and run down properties for suitable investment with the owner to bring them back into use to help with the social housing shortage.

**23.051 HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Brown reported that the work on the C2 road was well underway.

He had met up with the Collision Reduction Team on site at the pumping station end discussing all the issues the committee had raised some while ago. That team would consider all the recorded accidents and incidents, as well as all the evidence given to come up with a range of options for costing and consideration.

Members wished to record its appreciation Cllr Brown on these road matters.

**23.052 20 mph in Villages -** members discussed and heard that:

* Gussage All Saints - were about to undertake a survey of residents and collect the survey data required (sheet previously provided).
* Gussage St Michael - were unlikely to apply for 20 mph because of the road tight bends and narrow road, but would consider applying for 30 mph in accordance with Dorset Council’s existing policy, as the current speed limit was 60 mph.
* Hinton Martell – unlikely to apply as the roads were twisty, narrow and have parked cars on the road, making speeding difficult.
* Newtown – a survey had been undertaken and the majority results were in favour of a lower speed limit than the 60 mph at present. Survey data collection was yet to be arranged.

**23.053 FLY TIPPING**

One case – mostly moved, awaiting freezer collection.

**23.054 FINANCE**

**a)** **Bank Reconciliation** - members noted that the bank statement of 1 March reconciles to the cashbook. Cllr Mitchell have view both for the last four months, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, and was satisfied with the accounts. The end of year accounts had been passed to the Internal Auditor.

**b) Contractor Insurance –** members noted CT Mee’s current insurance had been received.

**c) Asset Register** – members approved the Asset Register as at 31 March 2023.

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Salaries | April | 620.90 |
| Expenses | Qtr. 4 | 186.75 |
| Expenses | Member allowances | 474.98 |
| CT Mee | Bus shelters | 75.00 |
| Bournemouth Water | Hinton fountain | 114.19 |
| GSMCHA | Hall hire Apr | 10.00 |
| Vision ICT | Email hosted | 259.20 |
| Cheap Printing | Sign | 38.40 |
| CT Mee | Witchampton bus shelter | 40.00 |
| CT Mee | R&BT seat grass | 14.00 |
| CT Mee | Manswood seat and grass | 49.00 |
| CT Mee | Manswood play area sign | 12.00 |
| CT Mee | Fingerpost washing | 270.00 |

**Over £100 payments since last meeting** – members noted:

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Salaries | Mar | 604.23 |
| HMRC | PAYE Qtr 4 | 453.40 |

**e) Income** – members noted

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Williams Monuments | Memorial | 214.00 |

1. **Debit Card Use –** members noted.

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Dorset Council | GAS sign – BACS failed | 440.97 |
| Dorset Council | GAS Sign (no 2) | 300.59 |

**23.055 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members confirmed their consultation comments to Dorset Council.

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| **Address** | **Proposal** | **Comment** |
| P/FUL/2023/00676 - Holtwood House, Holt \* | Retain the change of use of land to form extended residential garden, associated retaining wall and steps. (Amended description) | Object  As per last comments |
| Planning Appeal - Walston Poultry Farm Ltd, Gaunts Common \* | Change of use from agricultural to 8 no. self-storage (B8 storage only) units. | No response made as no further comment since planning application |
| Pre-consultation - Gussage All Saints/Wimborne St Giles \* | Proposed telecommunications radio base station for the Shared Rural Network project on behalf of Vodafone, VMO2 and Three | At this stage members have not raised any negative comments.  It looks secluded and does not appear to interfere with houses.  They may, at a later stage when a formal application is made, make comments. |

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

**23.056 DARK SKIES** – members discussed the response from Dorset Council regarding light pollution and ‘dark skies’. This was not considered satisfactory, and the chairman undertook to research to see if any information leaflet/letter was available to deliver to residents. This item to be added to the next meeting agenda.

**23.057 WORK PLAN –** members deferred this item to the July meeting, allowing time to review and add items that might be raised at the Ward annual meetings.

**23.058 MEETINGS –** a member asked for consideration for meetings to be shorter, to start earlier and suggested video conferencing.

* Meeting Length – the Standing Orders mentions a maximum duration of three hours. Members noted that in the last year, most meetings were conducted within two hours. Members felt this was appropriate allowing all members to have their input to matters. It was acknowledged that over recent months, the neighbourhood plan, 20 mph speed limits, the C2 road, and planning were highly important, and they had dominated meetings.
* Earlier Start – members discussed this, but some worked up to 6 – 6.30pm, others had child responsibilities. 7pm was slightly too early. It was agreed to retain the 7.30 pm start.
* Video conferencing – the Clerk advised that this was not yet legal and still under consideration by the Government. Meetings had to be held in person.

**23.059 MATTERS OF INFORMATION**

Cllr Bushell – Plots and Planning.co.uk were door knocking for available land to develop.

* Could verges in the Gussages be swept after the C2 works due to vehicles carving up the verges.

Cllr Burford-May – Raised issues of cars parked badly causing an obstruction on ‘The Avenue’ to Moor Crichel for photographs. She would raise with local Police patrols.

Cllr Collie – a coronation street party, closing the road, first weekend in May.

* Fountain repairs – fountain had deteriorated further and the identified contractor had withdrawn interest.

Cllr Read – Coronation Big Meal to be held in the recreation ground, Newtown.

**23.060 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – members noted that the next meeting, the Annual meeting, would be held on 2 May at Gussage St Michael village hall.

**Meeting closed 21:44pm**

Signed T Read Chairman Date 2 May 2023