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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 6 June 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 D Burford-May, Cllr S Glover, Cllr S Warnock, Cllr T Collie, Dorset Cllr R Cook, and I Hanstead, Parish Clerk. |

##### 23.078 Recording, Photography, Social Media

No applications.

##### 23.079 Apologies

Received from Cllr Porretta, Dorset Cllr Brown.

###### 23.080 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda

Cllr Read declared an interest in item 10d regarding an invoice.

**23.081 Requests for Dispensations to Participate in a Meeting**

There were no Requests for Dispensations to report.

**23.082 Public Participation**

There were no issues from a member of the public present.

**23.083 Minutes**

Members unanimously approved the minutes of the Parish Council Annual meeting held 2 May 2023 (pages 19 - 22).

**23.084 Neighbourhood Plan**

Members agreed that they would like to hear from another consultant and then have a discussion on the way forward. The September meeting would be considered for this.

**23.085 Dorset Councillor’s Report**

**a)** Cllr Cook reported:

* **Household Support Fund** – the next round of funding was open for low-income households.
* **Highways maintenance** - Several roads in Dorset are being given an ‘early life intervention’ to keep them in good condition. This is a preventative treatment which stops water ingress and surface deterioration. Dorset Council was given a £2.9m slice of the £200m budget set aside by the Government.
* [**Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) scheme**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-upgrade-grant-phase-2) - Dorset Council, BCP Council and Public Health Dorset have been awarded £4,343,000 by Government to upgrade homes and off-grid households with energy efficiency measures as part of the [Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-upgrade-grant-phase-2). [The scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-upgrade-grant-phase-2) will provide energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating via local authority funding, to households that are low income, off the gas grid or have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between D and G.
* **New funding round launched** - Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects that bring communities across Dorset together.
* **Parking Fines** -The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Leader of Dorset Council recently wrote to the transport minister asking them to consider increasing parking fines particularly in rural and seaside areas. Currently they are low in comparison to London and other big cities - such that holidaymakers sometimes abandon their cars and view the £25 fine as worth it. In areas locally such as Pamphill, and Lulworth, has caused severe disruption and has prevented emergency vehicles from getting through.
* **Recycling Barbecues** - Litter Free Dorset is working with Southern Co-op and W&S Recycling to dismantle and recycle 8,000 disposable barbecues as a reminder of how destructive they can be to the environment.
* **Portland Barge** - Dorset Council and Dorset Police have set out their shared position on the Home Office’s plans to house asylum seekers on a barge in Portland Port later this year. Questions asked remain outstanding.
* **Car Parking Machines upgrade** - All [car park](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/parking) and on-street pay, and display machines are to be replaced. Replacement of the machines is expected to complete by mid-July, with the new machines offering improved reliability and a consistent user experience.

**b)** **Planning Applications** – the parish council wanted to raise that Dorset Council needed to take a harder line with retrospective planning applications and those applications where ‘development creep’ can be seen.

There was also an issue about ‘dark skies’ enforcement within the area. Whilst it has only come to members attention that Velux windows are permitted development, there is no recognition that these windows still require blinds to be used at night/when an internal light is used.

**c) Dorset Council Consultation – Planning for Climate Change Guidance Documents –** deadline for comments to the Clerk was Wednesday 7 June, noon.

**23.086 Highways**

Nothing to report this month.

**23.087 Fly Tipping**

One report of Thickthorn junction on A354/C2 but was removed quickly.

**23.088 Finance**

**a)** **Bank Reconciliation** - members noted that the bank statement of 1 May reconciles to the cashbook.

**b) Bus Shelter Repairs –** members approved a variation to Financial Regulations in appointing a contractor to undertake repairs.

**c) Noticeboard Replacement** – members approved a variation to Financial Regulations for the replacement of a noticeboard shared with Holt Parish Council.

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | June | 620.90 |
| Hillmeadow Services | Burial ground (Apr) | 240.00 |
| CT Mee | Burial Ground seat refurb | 65.00 |
| CT Mee | R&BT area (Apr) | 14.00 |
| Gallagher | Insurance premium | 1137.94 |
| T Read | Expenses | 39.00 |
| Gussage Accounting Services | Internal Audit | 250.00 |
| Envisage | Annual payroll services | 86.25 |
| HMRC | PAYE qtr 1 | 465.60 |
| GAS Village Hall | GAS Ward meeting May | 21.00 |
| CT Mee | R&BT seat (May) | 14.00 |
| CT Mee | Manswood seat area | 14.00 |
| CT Mee | Bus shelters | 95.00 |
| CT Mee | GSM Roman Road sign | 12.00 |
| PCC Gussage All Saints | Clock Maintenance | 200.00 |
| Hillmeadow Services | Burial Ground (May) | 240.00 |
| Mark Gracey GDPR | Website hosting + works (Apr 2022- Apr 2024) | 768.00 |

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | May | 620.90 |
| DAPTC | Annual subs | 534.41 |
| S Wathen | Fountain maintenance | 100.00 |
| S Wathen | Fountain chemicals | 120.74 |
| Normtec | Lawrence Lane fingerpost | 786.34 |
| Normtec | Cock Road fingerpost | 396.97 |

**e) Income Received –** members noted.

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Dorset Council | Precept first half | 10,498.00 |
| CPRE | Fingerpost grants | 550.00 |
| Haven Memorials | Memorial stone (part payment) | 158.00 |
| HMRC | VAT reclaim 2022/23 | 592.35 |

**23.089 Planning Applications**

Members confirmed their consultation comments to Dorset Council.

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| **Address** | **Proposal** | **Comment** |
| P/HOU/2023/02080 - Sweet Apple Farm, Gussage All Saints \* | Erect single storey side & rear extension. | Support  Preserves the integrity of the house. |

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

**23.090 Dark Skies** – members discussed, and a member would draft up something for the next meeting, suitable for inclusion in each of the parish magazines.

**23.091 Policy Review** – members reviewed and approved the Training and Development policy.

**23.092 Member Attendance Record 2022/23** – members noted the report.

**23.093 Matters of Information**

Cllr Warnock – fountain – in need of greater works than original thought. Public fundraising to commence as fund raising solely through Precept will take too long.

* The Big Lunch was a success with over 140 people attending.

Cllr Bushell – verges were overgrown on side roads which was extremely dangerous. Raised with Dorset Council.

Clerk – Minutes of Ward AGMs required to be sent to him to add to the website.

**23.094 Date of Next Meeting** – members noted that the next meeting would be held on 4 July at Witchampton village hall.

**Meeting closed 21:18pm**

Signed S Bushell Vice Chairman Date 4 July 2023