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| **V**of**A**  **Parish Council** **VALE OF ALLEN PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES** | | |
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of the PARISH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING, held at Gussage All Saints village hall on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at 7pm

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| Present: Chairman - Cllr T Read  Cllr K Lannon, Cllr S Warnock, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr S Hanstead, Cllr M Porretta, Cllr D Burford-May, and I Hanstead, Parish Clerk. |

##### 23.156 Recording, Photography, Social Media

No applications.

##### 23.157 Apologies

Received from Cllrs S Bushell, T Collie.

###### 23.158 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda

None.

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

There were no Requests for Dispensations to report.

**23.160 Neighbourhood Planning**

Prior to the meeting, members were encouraged to read the Chesil Bank Neighbourhood Plan as a good example which was one plan incorporating numerous villages and areas that could be similar to the Vale of Allen’s diverse parish.

An update on the position of Dorset Council’s Local Plan was provided. Any Neighbourhood Plan would need to be in line/complement the National Policy and Planning Guidance and a Dorset Council Local Plan. Further, research had been undertaken and a summary given on the Labour Party’s position if a general election fell in their favour in 2024, although headlines were given, detail was missing.

Members took their time in detailed discussions and a range of suggestions, issues etc were widely aired. It also approved the suggestion that periodic reviews needed to take place to ensure the council was on the right path and to consider whether to continue or stop the process. Everyone accepted that getting a group of volunteers would be a challenge.

Members decided:

1. They were persuaded on the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan (6 for, 1 abstained),
2. That one geographical area was favoured – the whole of the Vale of Allen including Braford village to be added to the council in April 2024, less the small area Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan encroached on it (6 for, 1 abstained).
3. A letter to be drafted by the Chairman for all members to input to, to go to all residents covering – what is a Neighbourhood Plan, the advantages of having one, highlighting the diversity in the council area, advising further consultations/meeting would take place, whether they were in agreement or not, asking if anyone would help in some capacity. Drop boxes to be arranged.
4. The letter should be ready for distribution (on coloured paper? Photos?) towards the end of January/early February 2024.
5. The Chairman would contact the preferred consultant (JW) for advice.
6. A budget provision of £1,000 needs to be added to the draft 2024/25 budget.
7. Once feedback from the letter (and perhaps local meetings) had been received, the members would meet to determine whether or not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan, and to review the area(s).

**23.161 Date of Next Meeting** – members noted that the next meeting would be held on 7 November at Witchampton village hall.

**Meeting closed 20:52pm**

Signed Chairman Date 7 November 2023