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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 Witchampton village hall on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7:30pm

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

##### 23.162 Recording, Photography, Social Media

No applications.

##### 23.163 Apologies

Received from Cllrs Porretta and Mitchell, Dorset Cllr Cook.

###### 23.164 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda

None.

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

There were no Requests for Dispensations to report.

**23.166 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**23.167 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting for 3 October 2023 (pages 39 – 40) were unanimously approved.

**23.168 Dorset Councillors’ Report**

Cllr Brown advised:

* Dorset Council had saved £1m since 2019 and reduced their carbon footprint by 20% by energy savings.
* Smart Socks had been introduced used as trackers for people (e.g. dementia) or unsteady on their feet, so carers can look after their users using artificial intelligence.
* 5G mobile phone signal test bed project will be continued, working with central Government and local companies, with Dorset Council retaining the project team, to overcome problems with phone connectivity especially in rural areas with the 3G cut off approaching.
* Government funding of £1m for Safer Streets – CCTV for hot-spots protecting women and girls, burglar packs etc.
* Defibrillators – grants available.

Cllr Cook provided a written report, with key points:

* Residents Survey - During October and November, doorstep interviewers are asking for views about Dorset council and the services provided.
* Home Upgrade Grant - recent launch of the Home Upgrade Grant in Dorset, a government-funded scheme helping homeowners and landlords improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
* Household Support Fund - Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) opened for applications 2 November for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

**23.169 Highways**

No further update on C2 or 20 mph zones.

Members raised issues to Cllr Brown concerning the recent roads being flooded, in particular B3078 at Stanbridge (close to Honeybrook Farm) where the road was closed for a time and caused problems as a main road for school children and shoppers. The road between Horton Inn and Three Legged Cross had two large deep watered areas across the road at Wigbeth and edge of Horton Heath (Slough Lane).

Cllr Brown advised that these ought to be reported when happening on the website. Dorset Council had doubled the jet cleaning gulley team for preventative work but had a lot still to do.

**23.170 Fly Tipping**

One instance, but cleared quickly by Dorset Council.

**23.171 Finance**

**a)** **Bank Reconciliation** - members noted that the bank statement of 1 October reconciles to the cashbook, at Cllr Mitchell has audited April to end August and found no issues.

**b) Finances Quarter 2 –** members noted the half year position, no major issues, but a couple of amendments to the 2024/25 budget (see below).

**c) Finance Working Group**

i) Minutes - members noted the minutes of the meeting.

ii) Risk Assessment 2024/25 – members approved the Risk Assessment including the changes from last year.

iii) Budget/Precept 2024/25 - members made a couple of changes to reflect election costs contribution, Hinton noticeboard, Neighbourhood Plan pump-priming allowance, then approved the draft for public viewing on the website. Final decision would take place at the January 2024 meeting.

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | Nov | 620.90 |
| Expenses | Qtr 2 | 161.94 |
| Communicorp | Magazine subscription | 88.00 |
| Chandler IT Services | New computer | 693.00 |
| GAS village hall | Hall hire ad-hoc | 21.00 |
| GAS village hall | Hall hire 2023 | 42.00 |
| Normtec | Fingerpost deposit | 1500.00 |
| DAPTC | Clerks conference | 45.00 |
| GSMCHA | Hall hire | 20.00 |
| Rev S Allen | Fountain electric | 42.82 |
| CT Mee | Club bus shelter | 76.70 |
| CT Mee | Bus shelters | 75.00 |
| CT Mee | R&BT seat grass | 14.00 |
| Hillmeadow Services | Burial ground | 120.00 |
| Normtec | GAS Fingerpost repair | 328.25 |

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | Oct | 620.90 |
| HMRC | PAYE | 465.60 |
| Hillmeadow Services | Burial ground (Aug) | 240.00 |

**iii) Debit card use –** members noted.

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Workplace Depot | Traffic mirror (Witchampton) | 93.88 |

**iv) Income received –** members noted.

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Dorset Council | Second half precept | 10,498.00 |
| Memorial Perfection | Memorial F5 | 214.00 |

**23.172 Planning Applications**

Members confirmed their consultation comments to Dorset Council and raised comments to be made on application still current.

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| **Address** | **Proposal** | **Comment** |
| P/HOU/2023/04442 Larks Rise, Cashmoor \* | Convert existing garage/workshop, erect 1st floor extension with dormer windows to create a self-contained annex. | Object  Lack of information and different messages.  Too larger and appears to be a semi-detached building. |
| P/HOU/2023/05217 Beeches Lawrence Lane Witchampton \* | Alterations and extensions to detached dwelling and annexe | Support  The elevation descriptions on the "existing" do not match the "proposed".  There is a large lantern shown on the on the garden room. This could affect the Dark skies so it should probably be removed.  There is a significant increase in glazing. Should blinds/curtains be stipulated? |
| P/HOU/2023/05444  Briarlea Hinton Martell \* | Erect a front and side extension with loft conversion with a rear Juliet balcony. | Support  These seem logical works to make the property more suitable for a family.  We support this application subject to the roof light having a blind and that the neighbours are not impacted as the properties look quite close together in the plans |
| P/LBC/2023/05759  Crichel House Longmans Road Moor Crichel | Insertion of steel members to support cracked primary beams to ceiling over Library. | Support  No issues to raise. |
| P/FUL/2023/05832  Higher Farm  Long Crichel | Alteration to access track - south west of road between Parsonage Hill and the A354 | Support  Only for use for agricultural vehicles/machines.  Note- coincidence it will serve new houses being built? Precursor for further homes development? |
| P/HOU/2023/03129  The Old Vicarage Witchampton | Erect extensions and carry out external alterations. | Support  For design.  Note – Dark skies NOT addressed. Refer to AoNB as high number of windows/glass.  Bats are a big issue in area so mitigation as in report needs to be followed. |
| P/HOU/2023/06112  Sunny Patch Witchampton | Extensions to existing garage to create link to main house with porch extension and convert garage to sitting room and store room with new chimney. | Support  Agree to garage change of use. |
| P/RES/2023/06080  Barns to the north west of Millum House Hinton Martell | Demolish existing barns and erect new dwelling (reserved matters application to determine landscaping following the grant of Outline planning permission number 3/20/0663/OUT). | Support  As per original application. |

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

**23.173 Policy – Predetermination Guide -** Members approved the guide.

**23.174 Polling Station Review -** Members noted no changes to their Wards, and agreed that no comments to Dorset Council were required.

**23.175 Local Elections 2024 -** Members had pre-read website details of next year’s elections. It was decided that for those members re-standing, a session before the main meeting nearer the time be devoted to completing the forms collectively.

**23.176** **Meetings Calendar 2024** – members, after changing the venues around, agreed to the 2024 meetings calendar. Hall bookings were to be made by the Clerk.

**23.177 Armed Forces Covenant** – Members asked for this item to be deferred to next meeting to study the wording of the covenant.

**23.178 Matters of Information**

Cllr Read – still to draft the Neighbourhood Plan letter for all to input.

- encouraged members to seek out prospective new councillors.

**23.179 Date of Next Meeting** – members noted that the next meeting would be held on 5 December at Hinton Martell village hall.

**Meeting closed 21:41pm**

Signed S Bushell Vice Chairman Date 5 December 2023