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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 February 2024 at 7:45pm

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

##### 24.015 Recording, Photography, Social Media

No applications.

##### 24.016 Apologies

Received from Dorset Cllr Brown.

###### 24.017 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda

None.

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

There were no Requests for Dispensations to report.

**24.019 Public Participation**

There were two members of the public present. The architect and property owner gave a presentation to members on a planning application (P/FUL/2023/02990).

Although the application was not on this agenda (received after the agenda compilation deadline and Dorset Council’s consultation deadline closes before the parish council’s next meeting), members listened and asked questions, to aid them in coming to decision. (Note – under Standing Orders, planning applications that fall outside agenda can be processed by email exchange).

It was noted there was no ‘application form’ on the Dorset Council website, which the Clerk will follow up.

**24.020 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meetings for 9 January (pages 1 - 3) were unanimously approved.

**24.021 Dorset Councillors’ Report**

Cllr Cook advised:

* Dorset Council budget 2024/25 - its initial proposals to deliver a balanced budget next financial year. The proposals would see an increase in council tax next year by just under 3% and to levy the adult social care precept of 2%. Full Council on 13 February for final approval.
* QE Leisure Centre – Dorset Council funding ceases 31 March.
* Dorset Council has topped the national polls for recycling.
* Former East Dorset District Council office site and buildings in Furzehill – being marketed again for sale.
* Reusable nappy offer -Dorset Council offers parents a free reusable nappy starter pack or £30 off reusable nappies (minimum spend £45).
* Household Support Fund -round 4 of the fund 6 February. The fund is to support low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

**24.022 Fly Tipping**

Nothing to report.

**24.023 Finance**

**a)** **Bank Reconciliation** - members noted that the bank statement of 1 January reconciled to the cashbook. Cllr Mitchell had checked the bank statements and cashbook in accordance with the Risk Register, and found no issues.

**b) Budget 2024/25** – members noted the Clerk had applied for the Precept to Dorset Council, and they had acknowledged receipt restating figures.

**c) Quarter 3 Finances 2023/24** – members noted that there was nothing exceptional and the couple of overspends were aware of, and contained within the budget.

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | Feb | 652.10 |
| Expenses | Quarter 3 | 535.80 |
| Dorset CAB | Grant | 200.00 |

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | Jan | 651.90 |
| HMRC | PAYE quarter 3 | 535.80 |
| Path Life Fencing\* | Bus shelter repairs | 3397.00 |

**24.024 Planning Applications**

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| **Address** | **Proposal** | **Comment** |
| P/LBC/2022/07229Lower Farm Cottages Long Crichel | Removal and replacement of existing roof coverings. | Support |
| P/HOU/2024/00152Dean Farm Witchampton | To erect 40 no. solar panels as the enclosed drawings indicate.  | SupportGood for the environment |

**24 025 Neighbourhood Plan** – the chairman had circulated a revised draft ‘invitation letter’ prior to the meeting. A final draft to be issued. Potential for April meetings.

Distribution for four of the Wards can be achieved using the church parish magazines. However, Hinton Ward would need assistance. Investigation to be carried out using the Post Office to deliver.

**24.026 Matters of Information –**

* Cllr Read advised he would be unable to attend the March meeting.
* Cllr Lannon had an enquiry for the overgrown areas of the St Mary’s church in Long Crichel. After investigation, the parochial church council was responsible.
* Cllr Warnock advised she would bring a paper to discuss the Hinton Martell Fountain, to the April Meeting as the Chair wished to be there, and he was on holiday for the March meeting. She will be accompanied by some of her Fountain Working Group.

**24.027 Date of Next Meeting** – members noted that the next meeting would be held on 12 March at Witchampton village hall. Members may wish to bring their completed councillor nomination forms along for sponsoring for the May elections.

**Meeting closed 21:48pm**

Signed T Read Chairman Date 12 March 2024