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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 12 March 2024 at 7:30pm

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

##### 24.028 Recording, Photography, Social Media

No applications.

##### 24.029 Apologies

Received from Cllr S Warnock.

###### 24.030 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda

None.

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

There were no Requests for Dispensations to report.

**24.032 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**24.033 Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meetings for 6 February (pages 4 -6) were amended and then unanimously approved.

**24.034 Dorset Councillors’ Report**

Cllr Cook advised:

* Dorset Council budget 2024/25 - approved proposals to deliver a balanced budget next financial year. The increase in council tax next year by just under 3% and to levy the adult social care precept of 2%.
* Council tax premium - Dorset Councillors have approved proposals for a council tax premium on second homes and for an existing Long-Term Empty Homes premium. For those properties classified as Long-Term Empty and Unoccupied a 100% premium will, from 1 April 2024, be applied after one year rather than the existing two years.
* May elections - Voters encouraged to vote and get their ID ready ahead of this year’s local elections
* Update on flooding on B3078 at Stanbridge -Highways are aware of the issue on the B3078 outside Spring Hill Cottage. An investigation was carried out sometime in 2022. The site agent for the East Highways Area and the Community Highway Officer (CHO) visited the site and found that the existing ditches were struggling with the volume of surface water coming from the carriageway and adjoining land and the road was flooded – at that time the property was empty and belonged to the Gaunt`s Estate. They managed to clear the ditches and get it working again. Sometime later in 2022– Gaunt`s Estate sold the land and property and the new owners began carrying out improvements. They infilled the ditch, but did not install a piped culvert, and we now no longer have access to this or the other sections of land to carry out any clearances. The site agent and CHO need to look again at this site to see if any other improvements can be made on Dorset Council’s side that will help to either clear blockages from the roadside (by installing a manhole chamber and cover) or whether this would need to go to the Flood Risk Management team for enforcement of all the nearby ditches and discussion with the owner of the property about the culvert that was installed in place of the ditch.
* A new development query was raised around the shortage of infrastructure for all new developments, especially in Wimborne, such as doctor’s surgery. Cllr Cook commented than Dorset Council was aware but the health Service advises that existing doctor surgeries had agreed to take on additional patients.
* 30mph in villages – Members expressed concern that they have had no response to the omission of 30mph in Gussage St Michael/Cashmoor and Newtown. Agreed that the Clerk would raise with Road Safety Team.

**24.035 Fly Tipping**

Nothing to report.

**24.036 Finance**

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

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | Mar | 652.10 |
| HMRC | Quarter 4 PAYE | 489.20 |
| CT Mee | Bus shelters | 75.00 |
| S Wathen | Fountain maintenance | 82.20 |
| Rev S Allen | Fountain electricity | 31.83 |

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

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| Salaries | Jan | 652.10 |
| Expenses | quarter 3 | 210.60 |
| Dorset CAB | Grant | 200.00 |

**iii)** Payments received – members note.

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| **Details** | **Description** | **Total (£)** |
| CPRE | Fingerpost grants | 350.00 |

**24.037 Planning Applications**

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| **Address** | **Proposal** | **Comment** |
| P/HOU/2024/00380  Holly Grove Cottage  Long Crichel \* | Retain removal of existing window and form flat roofed bay window | Support  This is a similar application to recent, which we supported. |
| P/FUL/2023/02990  Uppington Farm Horton \* | Demolish existing dwelling and barns and erect a replacement dwelling together with agricultural barns | Support  The new house will be an improvement and that and the supporting evidence will guarantee the future of this farm. |
| P/HOU/2024/00377  Primrose Cottage Horseshoes  Gaunts Common \* | Erect single storey front extension | Support  Extension will improve layout and better living space. |
| P/VOC/2024/01001  High Lea Farm Witchampton Lane Witchampton | Variation of Condition to application 3/19/1698/FUL - Change of use of Existing Buildings to Class B1(a) Office Use and Associated Parking.  Condition 4 - Variation to allow the premises to be used for purposes falling within Class E | Support  Note – Autovan currently using car parking spaces thus reducing availability under this application. |

**Note - \* denotes decision outside of the regular meeting under Standing Orders.**

**24 025 Neighbourhood Plan** – the chairman had circulated a final draft ‘invitation letter’ prior to the meeting. After discussion is was agreed not to proceed until after the local elections. An agenda item for June.

**24.026 Matters of Information –**

* Cllr Mitchell advised she would add the parish councillor vacancies to the WhatsApp group.
* Cllr Lannon advised that the overgrown areas of the St Mary’s church in Long Crichel had been attended to.
* Cllr Bushell advised that the Gussage All Saints fete will be held this June.
* Cllr Read reminded members that 26/27 May was ‘open gardens’.

**24.027 Date of Next Meeting** – members noted that the next meeting would be held on 16 April at Hinton Martell village hall.

**Meeting closed 20:45pm**

Signed Chairman Date 16 April 2024