

## **PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Child Okeford Parish Council held on  
Monday, 03 April 2017 in the Community Centre at 8.00 pm**

### **242.17 Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

**Present:** Councillors:

M Rudd (Chairman), S Jespersen, R Smith , P Blake, K Baird, M Giles, S Holdeman

**In attendance:** Debra Holland (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Deborah Croney, Footpaths Officer. There were five members of the public present.

**To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs: M Hepburn and J Chetwode

### **243 To receive Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **244 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 06 March 2017 having been previously circulated, were signed as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Rudd

### **245 To discuss matters arising from the previous Minutes**

In relation to item 237 Highways, Cllr Holdeman informed the meeting that she had been informed a drop kerb worth £1,000 will be installed outside the school by the bus stop; hopefully within the next 18 months. Cllr Holdeman then went on to say the white line that has been painted on the road at the bottom of the footpath by the church had been painted out. Cllr Rudd wanted it noted that he was extremely disappointed by the action taken to paint over this white line and to remind everyone that it is indeed classed as criminal damage. Cllr Holdeman asked if a letter could be sent to Highways to report the fact the white line is being painted out.

**Action:** Clerk to write to Highways to report incident

### **246 Councillor Reports**

The report to Parish Councils from **County Councillor Croney** had previously been circulated to all Members. It was noted that the accompanying referenced spreadsheet was out of date and an explanation was provided by Cllr Croney whilst confirming the report was accurate. In summary:-

Highway Maintenance & improvements for Financial Year 2017/2018. A spreadsheet depicting the DCC's Highways capital programme provided a brief description for agreed work but did not incorporate recent additions.

Two consultation dates are scheduled covering improvements to the A350 and C13. These are:

Monday 15 May, 2 – 8 p.m. at Stourpaine Village Hall

Wednesday 17 May, 10.30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Compton Abbas Airfield.

**Durweston Bridge Repairs** Delayed until A350 works completed.

**Iwerne Minster 20 mph Zone** Due for implementation later in 2017.

246 Cont'd The report from - **District Councillor Jespersen** is featured in full in the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, but the following is a summarised excerpt:-  
During 2016 the nine Councils which provide services across Dorset devised a plan to reorganise local government right across the county. Together we commissioned three major pieces of work - *Options for the Reconfiguring of Local Government*, from consultants Local Partnerships; a *Case for Change Report* from PwC and a public consultation, run by Opinion Research Services. The evidence in favour of LGR which emerged from this work was overwhelming and received strong support from households and businesses through the public consultation.  
In January, six of the nine Councils voted to replace the existing nine Councils with two new Unitary Authorities, one for the conurbation and one covering the rest of the district. A formal proposal for two Unitary Authorities has now been submitted to the Secretary of State and we wait his response.  
The headline case is that reorganisation can deliver £28m cost savings each year, with a payback period for the £25m cost of reorganisation delivered in the first year. These are pretty compelling figures. Collaboration and strategic and operational co-ordination could strengthen the public realm across Dorset for decades to come.

#### 247 **Public Participation**

A discussion took place following concerns about the entrance of the path that leads to the Church from the Cross.

Cllr Jespersen suggested that bollards or railings might be an option at the end of the path. It was agreed to add this item to the May agenda for further discussion.

**Action:** Cllrs Blake and Rudd would research the various fixings available that would also accommodate disabled access.

**Action:** Clerk to place on May agenda.

A member of the public raised a concern about the narrow access for wheelchairs past a concrete pillar sited centrally in the alleyway from the old Post Office to Homefield as access is very narrow for wheelchairs. It was suggested that a report be sent to Clerk outlining how many people this affected.

#### 248 **Footpaths**

A full report from the Footpaths Officer is detailed in the Annual Parish Minutes but in summary: Four more gates have been installed to replace stiles at Gold Hill and Chisel Farm. There are now 48 pedestrian gates in the parish. The application for a recognised path through the wood above Markstone is still pending. Hopefully, one day there may be an official off road route between the Trailway and Child Okeford. The excellent service provided by the Countryside Rangers was acknowledged.

#### 249 **Trees**

There was nothing to report on this occasion

#### 250 **Planning**

(a) To receive a report from the Planning Group on the **decision forwarded** to the Planning Authority: 2/2017/0341/HOUSE Erect single storey extension (demolish existing conservatory) The Old School House, High Street, Child Okeford **No Objection**

(b) To receive **decisions** on planning applications.

2/2017/0227/HOUSE Erect single storey extension, Cobblers Cottage, Upper Street, Child Okeford DT11 8EF **Approved**

(c) To discuss **new** planning applications

2/2017/0408/HOUSE Erect a single storey and first floor extension, 5 Higher Common, Shaftesbury Road, Child Okeford DT11 8QX **No Objection**

**Action:** Clerk to inform Planning Authority of the Members' decision

251

### **Finance**

(a) Members had previously been circulated with the cheque schedule as amended.

**RESOLVED: that the monthly cheque schedule be agreed, as amended**

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Rudd

(b) Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the bank statement, budget figures and monthly accounts.

**RESOLVED: that the monthly reconciliation of accounts be agreed**

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Rudd

A letter updating the change in Clerk's details both for contact purposes and for salary had been sent to the bank.

Cllr Jespersen raised the matter of the Year End and the budget and invited Members to revisit expenditure for allocated reserves and outstanding expenses formerly agreed.

**Action:** Cllr Rudd to organise a discussion amongst the Members.

County Cllr Croney left the meeting at 8.30 pm

252

### **Finger Posts**

The Cross. A renovation quotation was provided by Cllr Smith. The amount of funds required to renovate the finger posts at The Cross is £600.00.

**RESOLVED:** To spend £600 on renovating the Finger Posts

Proposed: Cllr Holdeman

Seconded: Cllr Blake

**Action:** Clerk to write to provider instructing them to commence work.

253

### **Playing Fields and Community Centre**

(a) Groundsman's Weekly and monthly reports

Whilst all other areas were in good order, the latch is broken on the gates near the play area. It was also noted that a badger has been at work; no major damage other than a little turf disruption that has been repaired.

**Action:** Clerk to source a quote to replace the broken latch.

(b) The current groundsman's tender was discussed. It was agreed that the tender submitted by the current groundsman going forward, was outside of budget. Therefore it is understood that this tender has been rejected for the new term, but that the contract would continue under the existing terms for the remaining three months. Members agreed that it would seem an appropriate time to review the contracts and Service Level Agreements (SLA) in place with the Parish Council before inviting tenders, therefore it was agreed to set up a group to review these.

**Action:** Cllrs: Rudd, Smith and Holdeman to form a group to discuss the contracts and SLAs before detailing the schedule of works ahead of the tender process.

Where to advertise the invitation to tender was discussed next. Whilst advertising in the more well known magazines would provide a wider audience, it was felt that the expense could not be justified along with the fact that in view of the nature of the contract, a more local business would be more desirable. Also, time was of the essence and print deadlines and publication dates would mean more delays.

It was agreed to advertise the invitation to tender locally on the Parish Notice Board, the village store, Parish website and Facebook as well as notice boards in surrounding villages.

**RESOLVED:** To tender for the Groundsman's contract

Proposed: Cllr Rudd

Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

**Action:** Clerk to prepare tender documents by 28 April

(c) Football Nets

An opportunity has presented itself to purchase some nets for the football goal frames on the playing field. The cost of these nets is £50 for the pair. After checking the funds in the budget, it was agreed that they should be purchased. The expenditure will be added on May's agenda but it was agreed that the vendor could be informed that permission is granted for the nets to go up now and payment will follow.

**RESOLVED:** To purchase football nets for £50.

Proposed: Cllr Smith

Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

(d) Dangerous Activity

Cllr Smith raised the issue of loose bricks being used as target practice via the basket ball hoops. Cllr Rudd responded by informing the meeting that he had already spoken to the Head Teacher at the school and asked her to request her pupils refrain from this activity. Cllr Smith said he would look into someone removing the bricks from that area.

254

**Adoption of BT Kiosks and Provision of Community Defibrillators**

(a) A report from Geoff Sparrow, Chairman, Hey Day Committee had previously been circulated to the Members. Cllr Giles asked if COPC could adopt both telephone boxes? If both kiosks were adopted it would mean the village was represented at each end. It was suggested that the maintenance of the kiosks could be managed on a volunteer basis. Cllr Jespersen raised a concern about insurance cover.

The meeting was suspended at 9.00pm in order to invite Mr Sparrow to answer questions relating to insurance. The meeting was resumed at 9.03 pm.

**Action:** Clerk to check with COPC insurance company if public liability cover would be provided should the Council adopt these kiosks.

**RESOLVED:** COPC to adopt both BT telephone kiosks for the purpose of providing a community public accessible defibrillator at either end of the village.

Proposed: Cllr Giles

Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

**Adoption of BT Kiosks and Provision of Community Defibrillators**

(b) The matter of payment to replace the battery for the current defibrillator was discussed. Cllr Giles advised that a sum of £120.00 was on offer towards the cost from the Hey Day Committee if match funding from COPC was forthcoming as the total cost of a battery is £240.

**RESOLVED:** The sum of £120 was approved as 50% of the cost of the replacement battery.

Proposed: Cllr Giles

Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

**Action:** Clerk to place on payment schedule for the May meeting.

255

**Correspondence and Information**

A letter was received from a resident about the poor condition of the road and verges in the High Street. It was agreed that the concerns raised in his letter were a matter for the Highways Dept.

**Action:** Clerk to email Highways to advise them this letter had been discussed at the COPC meeting and to ask them to acknowledge the letter directly with the resident. Clerk to write to resident to advise this matter was discussed but it is a Highways matter.

Cllr Blake left the meeting at 9.07 pm.

256

**Matters of Interest**

Cllr Holdeman mentioned that a hedge belonging to COPC and situated at the eastern edge of the community centre car park needed attention as it was overhanging a resident's boundary. Whilst laying this hedge would be preferable, unfortunately insufficient funds meant that usual trimming methods should be used.

**THE NEXT MEETING will be the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and will be held on MONDAY 08 MAY 2017 at 7pm in the Community Centre**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.09 pm

Signed ..... Date:.....

(Presiding Chairman)

**Please note that the foregoing do not become minutes until approved by Council and signed to that effect by the Presiding Chairman at the next meeting**