

CHILD OKEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Child Okeford Parish Council held on Monday, 05 June 2017 held in the Community Centre at 7 pm

277 **To Receive Acceptance of Office Form from Chairman**

Due to the approved apology for absence at the May meeting, the Chairman signed the official acceptance of office form following the unanimous vote for the continuation of his position as Chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council for another year.

278 **Attendance and approval of Apologies for Absence**

Present: Councillors: Rudd (Chairman), Giles (Vice Chair) Baird; Chetwode; Hepburn; Holdeman; Jespersen

Apologies: Cllrs: Blake and Smith

In attendance: Debra Holland (Parish Clerk), Alan Blundell, (Footpaths Officer). There were 11 members of the public present.

279 **To Received Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

280 **Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 08 May 2017**

It was proposed by Cllr Rudd to accept the minutes and seconded by Cllr Baird

281 **To discuss matters arising from the previous Minutes**

Minute 263 Appointment of other officers and working groups: It was agreed to place this item on the July agenda again in order to choose a representative from the Parish Council for the Village Hall.

Minute 268 Cllr Holdeman reported that she had a meeting booked on 06 June, with Dorset Forge to discuss hand railings.

Minute 276 The village Design Statements had now been handed to the Clerk.

Matters Arising Cllr Jespersen asked if the results are available in relation to the traffic survey. Cllr Hepburn said not in a position to report yet, but hopefully should be available soon, therefore topic will be placed on the July agenda.

282 **Councillor Reports**

District Councillor Jespersen delivered her report and said that the District Council is the electoral authority, so the County Council elections, closely followed by the General Election have given rise to a good deal of extra work. Nonetheless, services are continuing to be provided uninterrupted. The General election has further delayed the response from the government on the proposed local government reorganisation. Such work as can be done to progress this is in hand, so as to minimise the impact of the delay. The White Hart link was now operational and provides a 50 mile working route of footpaths and lanes linking five villages/towns surrounding Child Okeford. This is a community led project.

283

Public Participation

Saxon Inn Planning Application

Cllr Jespersen advised that the Parish Council is just a statutory consultee and that ultimately the decision will be made by the NDDC Planning Department. Cllr Jespersen then went on to outline the national view on the process for determining the application and the District Council's policy covering the planning application in question for the change of use from A4 Public House to C3 Residential development.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to the public for questions.

A member of the public asked if the views of the public were taken into account with the Parish Council and if they had any influence on their overall view? Cllr Jespersen explained it's not representative of the members that either agree or object – it is not a vote situation that decides if in favour or not. Another question received was that of viability vs. public facility. Cllr Rudd advised that the whole plan is geared in the retention of the facility. Planning guidelines are produced by NDDC and may not be available to COPC. Cllr Rudd then went on to say that the Parish Council can make an informed decision within certain parameters and encouraged the members of the public to lodge their views with the Planning Department. The general consensus was that the parishioners would like to retain the pub but have sympathies with the owners' plight. A question of its purchase for the community was raised. Cllr Jespersen confirmed that public houses have been saved but under different circumstances. Cllr Rudd invited the members of the public to research this avenue and to approach the Parish Council with their findings if they want the Parish Council to pursue it. Another question from the public was whether affordable housing could go on the site but Cllr Jespersen advised this is not the intention of the application, but for a change of use.

A request was made from the owners of the Saxon Inn for a copy of the background information Cllr Jespersen referred to and apologised for the upset to the village the application had caused.

On a difference topic, the issues surrounding the village website was brought up. A request to enable various clubs and groups to be able to upload documents to inform/promote their organisations was being hampered by lack of access. A discussion followed on how to address this issue being mindful of the difficulties in the management of this request. Cllr Rudd said that an option would be for individuals to be considered for authorisation for the uploading of data to the website on behalf of their organisation and that this was on the agenda for discussion later on.

284

Footpaths

A report from the Footpath Officer also mentioned that finally the White Hart Link was completed and that it had been a very exciting project that Child Okeford would benefit from. He also mentioned that nine footpaths had now been cleared and produced one of the newly made signs depicting the 'No Horses' legend that will soon be installed at the end of Legal Lane.

285

Trees

To discuss any Tree Preservation Orders or tree works:-

- (a) 2/2015/7292DDTREE T1 Beech – Fell **Approved** - (Noted)
- (b) 2/2017/0858/DDTREE T1-C Macrocarpa, remove failed limbs to a suitable junction using the natural target pruning method. Joiners High Street **Approved** (Noted)

286

Planning

(a) To receive decisions on planning applications:- (None)

(b) To discuss new planning applications:-

2/2017/0658/FUL change of use from A4 Public House to C3 Residential Development – Saxon Inn, Gold Hill (previously circulated)

Cllr Giles expressed empathy for the applicants. Cllr Jespersen said that the views of the feedback provided by the public needed to be taken on board in terms of community value. Viability on behalf of the community; we request NDDC would satisfy themselves on the question of viability on behalf of the COPC. The evidence is that the Saxon Inn is the provider of many community services including the Cob's Lunch; quiz nights, the Remembrance Service, B&B and not least that it is the focal point of the village and has a very different identity and catchment from the other establishment in the village.

RESOLUTION: To object to the planning application outlining the viability argument

Proposed: Cllr Rudd

Seconded: Cllr Giles

287

Finance

(a) To approve Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

Proposed: Cllr Rudd **Seconded:** Cllr Holdeman

(b) To approve Annual Accounting Statements 2016/17

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen **Seconded:** Cllr Rudd

(c) To approve the cheque schedule

Proposed: Cllr Baird **Seconded:** Cllr Hepburn

(d) To receive the bank statement and monthly accounts

Proposed: Cllr Rudd **Seconded:** Cllr Baird

(e) Date for the internal audit set for 08 June – to note (Noted)

Additional agenda items:-

(f) Confirmation provided that the Parish Council Insurance Policy covers the Hey Day event.

(g) Expenditure carried forward 2016-17

1	DCC Working Together initiative	£1000	
2	Hand rail at Cross footpath	£400	
3	Renovation of fingerpost at the Cross	£600	
4	Highways speed tubes	£840	
5	CORGI Project	£850	(to be the £850 overcharge "set aside" in 2016/17)
6	Styles Grant fund remaining	£742	

Resolved: Items 2,3 and 4 to be paid for from General Reserves

Proposed: Cllr Rudd **Seconded:** Cllr Jespersen

(h) Allocated Reserves

Resolved: Items 1,5 and 6 to be paid for from Allocated Reserves

Proposed: Cllr Rudd **Seconded:** Cllr Jespersen

(i) Asset Register

The new draft asset register was discussed. A new Asset Register was created to reflect the split in the assets now attributable to the Trust. These assets still show, but the value does not as the values of these items will now be shown on the dedicated asset register for the Trust.

It was agreed to include the litter bins and seats on the Parish Council asset register and delete from the Trust asset register. With this change, the new item list was approved. However it was decided to review of the values allocated to the items on the asset register, therefore the asset register will be added to the agenda for July.

RESOLVED: to include the bins and seats on the Parish Council asset register.

Proposed: Cllr Rudd

Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

288 **Speed Watch Signs**

Cllr Hepburn, defer to next month for discussion when hopefully the results of the survey are in. It was agreed to wait for the in its entirety rather than receive information piecemeal as and when it was issued.

289 **Child Okeford Parish Council Website**

It was agreed to organise the training the Clerk asap in the method of uploading Parish Council documents to the website. The Clerk advised the Members of a resource available to apply for funding to help with parish websites. Cllr Hepburn offered to look into this.

It was apparent that there are two issues with the current website. The first one is the tardy uploading of Parish Council documents and those of various clubs/groups in the village and then whether the website should be structured differently altogether meaning it becomes more of a community website with the Parish Council uploading its documents to it in the same way as any other group/club would.

Resolved:-

- (a) As an interim measure, until the direction and design of the parish website is determined, to facilitate the uploading of documents by interested parties to support their club/group, individuals should apply for a password via the current website www.childdokeford.org;
- (b) Cllr Rudd to research security measures to support this resolution.
- (c) Cllr Hepburn offered to research the top parish council websites for inspiration and ideas on how to improve what we currently have.

Proposed: Cllr Rudd

Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

290 **Annual Parish Meeting**

The date was decided for the Annual Parish Meeting 2018 as 20 April.

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Giles

ACTION: Clerk to inform bookings administrator for the Village Hall

291 **Correspondence and Information**

(a) Great Dorset Steam Fair

Cllr Giles confirmed that some tickets had now been received and that they would be raffled at the Hey Day event.

Additional Items:

(b) Bell Project

A request to install a funding thermometer next to the village map at the Cross to monitor the progress of the Bell Project. Unfortunately, the Members felt that on balance, they did not feel this was an appropriate siting for this apparatus.

ACTION: Clerk to write to advise outcome of request.

(c) Millennium Garden

A report of a loose brick in the wall of the Millennium garden was passed to Cllr Rudd.

RESOLVED: Clerk to approach Paul Corbett for a quote to rectify the problem. Clerk to be authorised to instruct if under the agreed value.

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Giles

292 **Matters of Interest**

Cllr Holdeman raised the matter of the unpainted notice board situated outside the Cross Stores.

Cllr Holdeman reported that there is a gap in the hedge that bounds the recreations field. Cllr Rudd undertook to talk to the owners of the adjoining property about filling it in as it poses a security issue.

ACTION: Cllr Rudd to speak to resident.

292 Cllr Holdeman reported that she had contacted the Water Board and the leak that was reported last month has now been fixed.

Cllr Jespersen advised that in relation to Little Lane, that the Bridge to Oakford Fitzpaine has now been cleared by the community and will be now be accessible. It just needs the road crossing methods to be organised.

Cllr Giles advised that the Hey Day programmes are now available for 50p and that the tickets that cover the evening 'do' are available at £5.00.

Cllr Rudd thanked Cllr Chetwode for undertaking the path clearing

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at **9.00 p.m.**

Signed Date:.....

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.

Date of next meeting: 03 July 2017