

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Child Okeford Parish Council held on Monday, 02 October 2017 in the Community Centre at 7.00 pm

- 326 **Attendance and approval of Apologies for Absence**
Present: Councillors: Rudd (Chairman); Giles (Vice Chair); Baird; Blake; Holdeman; Jespersen; Hepburn
To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs: Chetwode and Smith
- 327 **In attendance:** Debra Holland (Parish Clerk), Footpaths Officer. There were seven members of the public present.
- 328 **To receive declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest
- 329 **Confirm Minutes of the previous meeting held on 04 September 2017**
The minutes were approved as a correct and true record.
- 330 **To discuss matters arising from previous minutes**
Cllr Jespersen requested that the updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are re-circulated to Members.
- 331 **Councillor Reports**
Cllr Jespersen commented upon the report covering the Hill Forts Ward. In summary, There is no meaningful update on the **local government re-organisation** that is currently under debate; however confirmation has been received from the Secretary of State that Dorset is his top priority in terms of local government issues.
A350/C13 Road Improvements – funding for the maintenance works and improvement schemes have now been ratified and due to start shortly. Parishes directly involved may attend monthly update meetings where information, including HGV and the one-way system, may be gleaned once the project progresses. **Durweston Bridge Works** have been deferred to Summer 2019 due to the disruption the current plan will cause. A new solution is required. **Hambledon Division meeting:** Friday 06 October at 6.30 p.m. at Durweston Village Hall. Guest speaker Simon Hoare MP.
- 332 **Public Participation**
A member of the public highlighted that there are still a couple of 20 mph signs that are obscured by foliage; one approaching the High Street from the direction of the Village Hall and the other near Cobblers cottage.
- 333 **Footpaths**
The Footpaths Officer informed the meeting that the paths are a little overgrown and muddy this time of year but that hopefully the Rangers will be sorting this out shortly. There was news that funding has been secured for the resurfacing of the footpath at Little Lane at the bottom of Haywards Lane to Okeford Fitzpaine. This should be for a ¾ mile and hopefully should be completed before the end of the year. There is still uncertainty about the positioning of the crossing.
Legal Lane Following a complaint from a resident about the ‘no horses’ signage erected at Legal Lane, the matter was discussed again.
ACTION: Clerk to write to the resident to explain that the sign is only re-affirming the path’s status as a footpath (not a bridleway) and highlight that due process was followed before the sign was put up.

334

Trees

No new applications received.

335

Planning

(a) To receive decisions on planning applications:-

2/2017/1232/FUL Gold Hill Business Park Reception Building **APPROVED**

2/2017/1016/FUL Barn at Chisel Farm House, Little Hanford, Child Okeford. Conversion of barns into two dwellings, erect two detached carports and six parking spaces. Erect replacement smaller agricultural storage building (demolish two agricultural buildings) **REFUSED**

(b) To discuss new planning applications:-

2/2017/1306/FUL and **2/2017/1307/LBC** Erection of 1 No single storey pitched roofed rear extension for skittle alley and function room and carry out associated internal and external alterations. **COPC comments previously submitted** (the comments were read out)

2/2017/1345/HOUSE Raise height of chimney stack at north west end of property, Gold Hill Cottage, Gold Hill, CO DT11 8HD. **No Objection**

336

Finance

(a) To approve the cheque schedule (copy enclosed) – **approved**

(b) To minute the value of the payment schedule:

The value of the payments schedule is £1,485.81

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Holdeman

(c) To receive the bank statement and monthly accounts (copy enclosed) **noted**

(d) Best Kept Village expenses – Cllr Holdeman

Travel expenses incurred on behalf of the organiser of the Best Kept Village Awards were presented for consideration by the Members. It was agreed to reimburse the travel expenses and thanks were given for all of the organiser's efforts.

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Blake

(e) Budget Meeting

The Clerk requested permission to attend training course in October ahead of preparing the draft budget for Members to consider. **agreed.**

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Holdeman

(f) External Auditor Report

The Clerk informed the meeting that the final report from the external auditor had been received on the 30 September which was very late. The notice has now been issued to go on the notice boards and has been placed on the website. The Clerk then went on to explain that the internal auditor's report was endorsed as expected, but that the figures balanced and the comments contained therein had already been addressed. There will soon be an opportunity to opt out of the requirement to have accounts audited by an external auditor for smaller authorities

RESOLVED: To accept the Annual Return including the external auditor's certificate.

ACTION: Clerk to keep Members informed once more information is available about the exemption process. Deadline for submissions is June 2018

(g) The Hill Magazine – to discuss grant – Cllr Rudd

The Chairman shared his view on how valuable The Hill magazine is an information source for the Village and in particular conveyed his thanks to Pat Soward for all of his efforts over the years as it was appreciated by everyone. Due to the difficulties encountered with the failing equipment and the requirement for the printer to retire, the magazine is now in jeopardy and to this end, an appeal has been made to the Parish Council for financial support in the region of £500 - £750 as an interim measure until a more suitable solution is found. The Members unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should offer its support and referred to the monies held in its budget for grants. It was agreed to offer all of its funds under the grants heading in the budget for this cause.

Proposal: To provide financial support during the transitional period to The Hill publication in the sum of £680.00

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Hepburn

337 Highways

- (a) Dorset Highways – Grit Bins. Discuss siting of grit bins and orders for salt
ACTION: Members to check contents of grit bins and advise the Clerk if salt needs to be Ordered

- (b) SID (speed indicator device) Deployment follow up report
Cllr Hepburn reminded the Members that the next meeting to discuss the SID devices will be held on Tuesday, 10th October at 6 p.m. Data will be presented at the meeting with focus on best practice. Deborah Croney (County Councillor) has been invited to talk about the findings where SID's have been deployed in neighbouring villages. The Chairman pointed out that community involvement is required for this project. An analysis will follow and then decisions can be made as to where it is appropriate and if other options will be better. Highways, the community and the police are all to provide advice in order to make decisions on going forward. The Chairman thanked Cllr Hepburn for his efforts in getting behind this project.

- (c) Signage request at Duck Street
A request was put to the Parish Council by a resident to install a road sign outlining where Duck Street was situated. The Members discussed the request but as it is outside of the remit of the Parish Council to put up signs, this being the jurisdiction of the Highways, it was felt that if Highways were involved there was a risk of inappropriate street furniture being installed. Limiting street furniture in general was favoured; therefore the request was not endorsed.
ACTION: Clerk to inform resident.

338 Notice Boards

Cllr Jespersen passed on her observations about how many notices are placed on telegraph poles in the village to advertise events etc. but that another place by the triangle at Legal Lane seemed to be in need of a more suitable display area as it was used more frequently and is a central location for many people. Cllr Jespersen asked the Members if they thought researching a more suitable open notice board that the public could use freely, would be a good idea and it was agreed that it was.
ACTION: Clerk to research options and feedback to the November meeting.

339 Correspondence and Information

- (a) Government Consultation - Planning for the right homes in the right places **Noted**

340 Matters of Interest

Cllr Giles thanked Cllr Chetwode for clearing the foliage away from the speed advisory road signs and reminded everyone about Welcome Day. She also expressed what a success the French Quiz was. Cllr Holdeman commented that some of the posters advertising Welcome Day had now disappeared and that a position for the oak tree that she had been nurturing now needs to have a permanent home. It was agreed to discuss this at the November meeting of the Trustees.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00 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