

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Child Okeford Parish Council held on 04 September 2017 held in the Community Centre at 7 pm

308 Attendance and approval of Apologies for Absence

Present: Councillors: Cllrs Giles (Vice Chair); Baird, Blake, Chetwode, Holdeman, Jespersen, Smith

309 In attendance: (Parish Clerk), Footpaths Officer. There were nine members of the public present.

310 To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs Rudd (Chairman); Hepburn

311 To receive declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest

312 Confirm Minutes of the previous meeting held on 03 July 2017

An amendment is required covering the omission from the minutes of the late approval notification from the Planning Department covering application number 2/2017/0431/FUL for Beehive Self Storage change of use from Class B8 to Class B1. This notification arrived just before the meeting and was declared, but omitted from the minutes in July.

With the above amendment, the minutes were approved as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Giles

313 To discuss matters arising from previous minutes

301 - Cllr Jespersen asked if any feedback had been received from the Tree Officer in relation to the agreed plan for Joiners.

314 Councillor Reports

District Councillor Jespersen delivered her report. In particular the matter of loss of land supply was explained in more detail under section Development and Planning.

In summary:

Local Government Reorganisation – whilst no firm commitment from Westminster has been received as to the application to form two unitary councils for Dorset, work is being done in the meantime to progress strategic planning for reorganisation as in any event, reorganisation is essential for a viable future.

Development and Planning – due to the announcement by NDDC that it can no longer guarantee to deliver the number of houses required over the next five years, a new strategy has been required.

Register to Vote – the annual audit for the Register of Electors is underway. An incentive of £1,000 prize draw is in place to encourage residents to respond electronically, online or by text. The move to electronic responses last year saved the council £27,000 in administration costs.

Single Person Discount – NDDC is reviewing the claimants of the 25 per cent single person discount on their council tax bills. This is to ensure only those entitled to the discount are receiving it.

Funding to Help North Dorset Businesses – there is funding available to help support local start-up businesses with grants up to £4,000 along with grants to help local businesses, large and small, take on apprentices. Details can be found at

Blandford Town Centre Improvements – NDDC has funding available to make improvements to Blandford Town Centre. This funding could be used for town centre enhancements or promotion projects; improvements to the market place or to shop fronts. How to determine the best application of this funding will be decided following an overview by NDDC and is inviting local organisations and businesses to apply for funding.

Hambleton Division Meeting – the next meeting will be on 06 October 2017 in Durweston village hall. The guest will be Simon Hoare MP.

315 **Public Participation**

The Chair opened the meeting to the public to participate.

The first question was in regard to a planning application that a resident did not feel had had enough advertising throughout the village. Cllr Jespersen responded to his concerns by explaining in detail the statutory obligations of the Planning Department regulations and also explained how the Parish Council manages to fulfil its obligation as a consultee when planning applications do not coincide with regular meetings of full council.

The fact that The Hill magazine will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in publication was mentioned next. Evidently some 600 editions have been revisited and 50 articles have been chosen to select from to feature in the anniversary issue.

The Village website now has a team of volunteers committed to enhancing its appearance and content. The Parish Council wanted to formally offer its thanks for the changes made to date and for the ongoing offer of help with its management.

In relation to the first question, another member of the public further questioned the Members about the procedures surrounding this planning application. In particular a query was raised about requesting extensions to the 21 day statutory consultation period. Cllr Jespersen responded by explaining that this was a route that could have been pursued in the past, but more recently requests for extensions are not guaranteed. A question about the delivery of speed indicator devices SIDs was answered by Cllr Smith; whilst there is no definitive date yet, the matter is in hand and being monitored.

A question about the 20 mph signs being obscured was raised. Whilst there is a cleaning programme in place for most of the signs, it was acknowledged that a cut back of foliage would be beneficial to improve visibility and so to this end, Cllrs Chetwode and Blake volunteered to sort this.

316 **Footpaths**

- (a) The footpath officer advised that there were no issues with the footpaths at this time and that they were all clear.
- (b) Cllr Smith provided a progress report on where we are with the grant application for footpath improvements. He confirmed that he had an acknowledgement the application had been received but not processed due to number of applications received and the limited time to process them. Cllr Smith will report back at the October meeting.
- (c) Legal Lane. A complaint had been received from a member of the public in relation to the new 'No Horses' sign situated at Legal Lane. The footpath officer provided the background to the classification of the path and explained there are also two other bridleways in the village that are technically dead-ends also. Whilst it is unusual to have a bridleway that ends in a footpath, it is the situation and the ban on horses using this section of the path stands. Cllr Jespersen advised that anyone is within their rights to apply to change the status of a footpath into a bridleway on the definitive map. It will be a matter of providing evidence for consideration.

The footpaths officer left the meeting following his report at 7.45 p.m.

317 **Trees**

No new applications to discuss

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Planning

- (a) To receive decisions on planning applications:-
2/2017/0879/HOUSE - Erect single storey side extension, 12 Homefield **Approved**
- (b) To discuss new planning applications:-
2/2017/0956/FUL – Erect extension to grain store to house plant (retrospective) – Gold Hill Farm, Ridgeway Lane **No Objection**
2/2017/1016/FUL – Conversion of barns into 2 No. dwellings, erect 2 No. detached carports and 6 No. parking spaces. Erect replacement smaller agricultural storage building (demolish 2 No. agricultural buildings) **No Objection**
2/2017/1018/FUL – Erect single storey ext to stable block and carry out alterations to convert to 1 no. dwelling. Convert store to summerhouse. Erect ext. To existing shed to form double garage. – Little Hanford, Chisel Dairy. **No Objection**
2/2017/1096/FUL – Station 1 No. Mobile Classroom for use by The Ark Nursery St Nicholas C of E Primary School, Station Road, Child Okeford. **COPC has concerns about the level of increased traffic**
2/2017/1232/FUL – Erect 1 No. reception building (demolish existing reception building) Gold Hill Bus Pk, Gold Hill, Child Okeford DT11 8HF **Deferred to Planning Group as application arrived very late and needs more time to discuss.**
- (c) To discuss resident correspondence – previously circulated **Matter was covered during public questions**

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Finance

- (a) To discuss insurance quotation and approve provider
The insurance renewal document had been previously circulated. The option to save money by entering into a long term agreement was approved.
Proposed: Cllr Giles
Seconded: Cllr Blake
- (b) To approve the cheque schedule
The payment schedule was amended by the RFO to accommodate the reduced rate applicable now that a LTA had been approved and also the inclusion of a late item. An updated Version 2 of this document will be issued to Members. The payments schedule was then approved with the above additions and amendments.
- (c) To minute the value of the payment schedule
The value of the amended payments schedule is £6,916.44
Proposed: Cllr Giles
Seconded: Cllr Jespersen
- (d) To receive the bank statement and monthly accounts (copy enclosed) Noted.
- (f) To approve amended Financial Regulations
The suggested amendments by the RFO were discussed and a final document agreed upon. The amendments will be incorporated into the document and re-issued as a true record. The main alteration was the threshold value. It was **Resolved** to retain the £1K upper limit for seeking comparison quotations but to delete the requirement for comparison quotations to be sought for works under £1K as this was a duplication of the guidance earlier in the document that covers small or essential works.
Proposed: Cllr Smith
Seconded: Blake
It was **Resolved** that the RFO/Clerk will exercise good judgement for ensuring value for money and care in spending public funds.
Proposed: Cllr Holdeman
Seconded: Cllr Blake

- 320 Standing Orders**
The suggested amendments were approved and a new document will be issued.
Proposed: Cllr Giles
Seconded: Cllr Blake
- 321 Welcome Day**
Cllr Jespersen provided an update on the preparation for this event, advising that the Village Hall team had offered to help with the serving of refreshments on the day; the meeting was appreciative of this help. Based on the assessment of the last event, a few changes have been made to the set up in the Hall. Due to the number of organisations/clubs/groups that wished to attend and the crowded feel to the layout as a result, more display board options are to be available at the booking stage.
Cllr Holdeman offered to purchase the refreshments.
It was agreed that the Parish Council would opt for the notice board only option
Proposed: Cllr Jespersen
Seconded: Cllr Giles
- 322 Village Website**
Cllr Jespersen reported the outcome of a meeting she had organised in August with interested parties within the village with the aim of improving the website. This was a very positive meeting and has resulted in a team dedicated to making improvements and taking responsibility for keeping the data current and relevant. This group intends to be present at the Welcome Day and to place progress reports in The Hill magazine and to provide a report for the Annual Parish Meeting next year. The Parish Council wanted to officially record its thanks to this group and Cllr Chetwode wished to offer his personal thanks also.
- 323 Finger Posts**
Cllr Smith updated the meeting by confirming that all of the finger posts had now been renovated and that the overall costs came in under budget. Members **Resolved** to place the residual £125 back into General Reserves in the accounts.
Proposed: Cllr Jespersen
Seconded: Cllr Holdeman
ACTION: Clerk to transfer residual sum to general reserves in the accounts.
- 324 Correspondence and Information**
- (a) Great Dorset Steam Fair
Due to the GDSF office address and postcode rather than that for the fair site appearing on Google and the website, a large volume of traffic descended upon the village; Olivers Mead in particular. This caused a great deal of inconvenience and irritation to the residents. Cllr Jespersen took the opportunity to explain that this matter had also been drawn to her attention as a District Councillor. She reported that she had already raised this matter with the GDSF organisers, with the NDDC Cabinet Member responsible for the GDSF and with Highways. She had also put the matter on the agenda of the NDDC's annual review meeting with GDSF. Highways and the police are represented at this meeting. At the very least, Cllr Jespersen said, she will request Highways to provide signs at the entrance to the village giving the correct access address.
ACTION: Clerk to write the organisers of the Great Dorset Steam Fair expressing the desire for this issue to be rectified ahead of the next event as it caused a great deal of irritation to residents.
- (b) Traffic Concern from Resident
The Clerk had received a concern from a resident in relation to a request for the Parish Council to instigate the re-siting of a 30 mph sign and to request the repeat installation of these signs. The Members considered the request and agreed that the traffic control signs in some places are overgrown reducing visibility. Also the whole matter of speeding traffic has been the subject of a thorough monitoring programme via Speedwatch and a survey has been produced that will hopefully be the lever for better speed control in the future.

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ACTION: Clerk to write to resident to explain how the traffic problem in the village is being managed and to say how the Parish Council shares her concern.

ACTION: Cllrs Chetwode and Blake to clear foliage away from traffic control signs to allow better visibility.

(c) Two requests to share information with the meeting were received from a resident as he was unable to attend in person. Cllr Giles read the correspondence to the meeting which was a reminder that there will be a talk by Jake Moore on Cyber Security at COCCL on the evening of Thursday 14 September (details are featured in The Hill). The second matter was to endorse the requirement for a production manager to join the team at The Hill and to encourage someone to come forward.

(d) A letter had been received from a resident with concerns about the condition of the road and verges at the southern end of the High Street. The Members discussed the problem but felt they were not in a position to provide any more leverage as the resident had already pursued the matter through the proper channels where the authority to make changes is made.

ACTION: Clerk to write to resident.

325 Matters of Interest

Cllr Blake shared his sadness at the loss of the school bus service to Gillingham due to loss of subsidy.

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