

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

361 Attendance and approval of Apologies for Absence

Present: Cllr Rudd (Chairman), Cllr Chetworth (Acting Clerk) Councillors: Jespersen; Holdeman; Smith; Baird

To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Giles; Blake; Hepburn, Debra Holland (Clerk)
The Chairman advise the council that the Clerk had resigned and in her absence he requested Cllr Chetworth to take the minutes of the meeting.

362 In attendance: Members of the public were present.

363 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

364 Confirm Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th November 2017

The minutes were confirmed and signed

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Smith

345 To discuss matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

346 Councillor Reports

Cllr Jespersen confirm she had nothing to add to the report circulated before the meeting and asked for any questions.

Cllr Smith asked about any change in council tax due to merge of councils referred to as 'Harmonising'. Cllr Jespersen explained that all councils that are merging will have to merge tax in line with the average. North Dorset will go up rapidly while others may come down. It will be harmonised, either immediately over a period of several years. That decision has not been made.

Cllr Rudd asked about the local plan to build new houses. Cllr Jespersen reported that it was difficult to force developers to complete houses after planning has been given. Resulting in Dorset missing targets on paper while in fact enough building approvals have been granted.

347 Public Participation

Three comments were heard from the public;

The council was informed that several years ago it was the policy of the planning group to visit neighbours of a proposed planning development.

Concern was raised that, in the opinion of that person, the council was not showing enough reverence towards the war memorial.

Regret was expressed at the leaving of the Clerk.

348 Footpaths

The footpath officer reported the following:

Little lane connecting Child Okeford to Shillingstone to is now fully surfaced. Will be open in the near future.

Village footpaths they are in reasonable conditions but with lots of mud due to the weather.

The Bere Marsh estate stile has been mended.

The stile from Southfield lane off Melway lane style has been fixed.

349 Trees

To discuss any Tree Preservation Orders or tree works:-

One decision received:

1 Stansway Court Ridgeway, Fell Maple Tree, 2/2017/1654/CATREE **Approved.**

350 Planning

(a) To receive decisions on planning applications:-

No new decisions

(b) To discuss new planning applications:-

No New applications

351 Finance

(a) To approve the cheque schedule (copy enclosed)

Proposed: Cllr Jespersen

Seconded: Cllr Smith

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

With the correction that Invoice P2017042 Budget Head J1 should be E5 Miscellaneous.

Proposed Cllr Baird

Seconded Cllr Chetwode

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

Proposed: Cllr Holderman

Seconded: Cllr Smith

(d) 2017-18 Budget – to discuss

The following items were discussed:

Expect NALC and DAPTC to cover the training and recommendation regarding the GDPR. Heads B1 and B2 cover training and insurance.

No need for us to budget for the takeover of the Community Centre Trust.

We are not in a position to budget for Election costs at the moment. This is not expected to arise this budget year so no provision will be made in the current budget.

Cllr Jespersen proposed reducing Miscellaneous down by £200 to £500.

With the above change the proposed budget was accepted

Proposed: Cllr Rudd

Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

- (e) To approve the appointment of the internal auditor
Darkin and Miller are the previous auditor and thought to be very good. There have been extended discussions as to whether we need this or not. Cllr Smith thought we need a proper audit due to the size of the budget..

Proposed that we retain the current auditor and accept their quotation and we will review our position next year.

Proposed: Cllr Rudd

Seconded: Cllr Smith

352 Highways Update

Cllr Hepburn was absent from the meeting no information was available. As a result it was decided to leave the selection of a public meeting to a later date.

353 Calendar of Meetings 2018-19 To agree the timetable

It was reported that the proposed date for Annual Parish Meeting has been booked at the village hall on Friday April 20th 2018.

Discussion took place on the proposed dates for council meeting, these were agreed as presented.

Proposed: Cllr Chetwode

Seconded: Cllr Rudd

354 Risk Assessment – to approve format.

After discussion it was decided that the new format still do not meet our requirements.

ACTION: Cllr Rudd to redesign for next meeting.

After some discussion it was proposed that the risk assessment should be reported back to the council every 6 months.

Proposed: Cllr Rudd
Seconded: Cllr Jespersen

355 Consultations

- a) Minerals and Waste Plans Consultation – PUBLIC CONSULTATION – advertised on website and The Hill - **Noted**
- b) North Dorset Local Plan Review – Issues and Options Consultation – **Noted**

356 Notice Boards

Old notices on the existing notice boards are not being removed and need clearing out. Cllr Holderman mentioned that she tries to remove old notices. Some discussion took place and no easy solution could be found. Decided that we would encourage whenever possible groups to remove notices as soon as their event has ended.

357 Village Map situated at The Cross needs attention – Cllr Holderman

The wooden frame is showing signs of wear and need some renovation. After discussion it was decided to approach a resident who has some skill in this process.

ACTION: Cllr Smith to make enquiries

358 Correspondence and Information

- a) DAPTC Chief Executive Circular - **Noted**
- b) DAPTC AGM news - **Noted**
- c) NDDC – Update re Unitary Authorities - **Noted**

359 Matters of Interest

The Chairman noted thanks from the Hill for grant for special edition.

Cllr Jespersen asked that as 'The Cross' signage was not on the agenda suggested that it should be discussed. Several varied opinions were heard and the Chairman noted that this was a subject with wide views held by different members of the council.

After several opinions were voiced Cllr Baird suggested the text "Please respect our war memorial". This was generally accepted as a suitable wording. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for formal agreement.

Cllr Smith – Still chasing grant for footpaths. Gang mower repair still in hand no final date has been arranged.

The chairman wished everyone a happy Christmas
The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2045

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