

CHILD OKEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Child Okeford Parish Council held on 07th. SEPTEMBER 2020 by Zoom video conferencing at 7.00pm

Present

Cllr. Mary Giles (Chairman), Cllr. Kirsty Baird (Vice-Chairman), Cllr. Tim Cotton, Cllr. Mark Kerridge, Cllr. Robert Smith, Cllr. Susan Case and Cllr. Sylvia Holdeman.

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk – Philippa Tandoh
Cllr. Sherry Jespersen
0 members of the public were present

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. Karen Knapton (Vice-Chairman)
Alan Blundell – Footpaths Officer

Declarations of Interest in any Matter on the Agenda – No Declarations of Interest to report.

20/15 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 06th. July 2020

Proposed: Cllr. Mary Giles

Seconded: Cllr. Robert Smith

20/16 To Discuss Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

20/17 Dorset Councillor's Report

Dorset Council has used the summer months to re-open remaining services, prepare for the return to school and take stock of the damage to the Council's finances resulting from the Covid emergency. Infection rates remain low in Dorset, but Public Health Dorset continues to monitor closely, and the Outbreak Control Plan is in place should we experience a "spike" during the winter.

The Senior Leadership has decided that Dorset Council staff will continue to work from home where possible until March 2021. Members are aware that this might have implications for delivery of some services.

The key messaging from Dorset Council remains that the virus has not gone away so we must all be vigilant and continue to observe the government guidance on social distancing, masks and hand washing.

Cabinet Reshuffle

At the postponed Annual Council, on 6 September, some changes were made to the Council's Cabinet Portfolio Holders and a number of Lead Members were announced. Lead Members will provide extra support in the three biggest portfolios, Environment, which includes highways, Children's and Adult's Services. This extra support should enable more work to be done and make it easier for residents to communicate with Cabinet.

I am pleased to be continuing as Chair of the Planning Committee.

Planning White Paper

Dorset Council is drawing up a response to Planning White Paper, which proposes radical changes to the planning system to enable more homes to be built. The Council's draft response will be considered by Cabinet on 8 October. It will then be shared with Parish Councils, hopefully for your comment and input. The date for this consultation with Parishes is not yet set but you might want to consider, at your September meetings, how you wish to participate because the turnaround time might be a bit tight, given that the Government consultation ends in October.

This is a public consultation, so it is quite in order for a Parish Council or group of councils to respond on your own behalf, and some of you I know are considering this.

Highways

The temporary high street measures put in place to encourage safe, socially distanced shopping are being wound down in Blandford but in Shaftesbury will be in place for a few more weeks.

Dorset Highways maintenance gangs are working across the county to repair road damage and Hanons will continue to work on residential roads on behalf of DC.

The Highways teams must work within Government guidelines for construction work, which includes revised working practices, fewer people on site, social distancing and daily health and temperature checks. In this difficult new normal Highways are doing a pretty effective job.

All planned road work can be tracked on the Dorset Council website.

School Transport

This year, in order to limit the interaction between pupils at different schools, each closed school bus service will only pick up children for one school, instead of several. There will be no social distancing on closed school routes although Dorset Council are advising operators to introduce measures to improve safety, such as good ventilation, improved cleaning regimes, no face to face seating and orderly pick up and drop off regimes.

Face coverings for children age 11 and above are highly recommended but will not be compulsory. Dorset Council has also recommended that pupils sit in the same seat each day, wherever possible.

Children using public transport to get to school must socially distance on the bus and must wear a face covering, unless they are under 11 or medically exempt from doing so.

More information has been given to parents and schools.

Funding Bid to House Homeless

During the pandemic the number of homeless people in Dorset rose. The Council has a statutory duty to provide emergency and temporary accommodation for the homeless and we have too many people in bed and breakfast accommodation. This is costly to the Council and not ideal for the residents. Dorset Council has put together a bid to MHCLG for £1.2m towards the cost of purchasing accommodation for single people, who make up most of the homeless

population. If this bid is successful it would eventually result in a reduction to revenue costs year on year.

Keeping in Touch

As always, there is a mass if useful information on the Dorset Council website. Council meetings, now all virtual, are live streamed and recorded for the general public to view and agendas and the Cabinet Forward Plan are published in accordance with the regulations. And I am always available to offer any further help and advice, on cllrsherry.iespersen@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

Further to her response, Cllr. Jespersen reiterated the points her report regarding Dorset Council's draft response to Planning White Paper and encouraged the Council to consider their plan to acknowledge and comment on the response from Dorset Council. All Councillors agreed that the Council's response is important and comment should be made. Cllr. Tim Cotton, Cllr. Mark Kerridge and Cllr. Robert Smith volunteered to review the response and comment on behalf of the Council. Dorset Council's response should be available for the Council to discuss at the next meeting on the 5th of October 2020.

ACTION: Clerk to contact surrounding villages to understand their Parish Council plans for commenting the response.

20/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present, however as a village resident, Cllr. Jespersen thanked the Council for their efforts with the footpath to the river.

20/19 Footpaths and Tree Matters

Footpath officer Alan Blundell reports that all footpaths are in good order in spite of the storms. He requests that Council consider Councillor Smith's recommendation that the gate money can be used for 3 new gates on Mr. Pearson's land and that additional money will be available in the New Year for surfacing the new footpath behind Nutmead.

The Council raised NO OBJECTION to Councillor Smith's recommendation for the gate money to be used for the new gates on Mr. Pearson's land.

20/20 Planning Matters

Decisions on planning applications:

- **2/2020/0659/HOUSE** **3 Melway Lane, Child Okeford, DT11 8EW**
Erect single storey rear extension

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION:

No Objection

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION:

APPROVE

- **2/2020/0898/HOUSE – 9 Olivers Mead, Child Okeford, DT11 8HT**

Erect two-storey extension.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION:

No Objection

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION: APPROVE

- **2/2018/0595/OUT Dorset Self Storage Company**

Develop land by the erection of 68 No. dwellings, form vehicular accesses, public highway improvement, parking, landscaping and open spaces. (Outline application to determine access).

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION: DISMISSED

- **2/2019/0318/OUT Land Off Haywards Lane, (West of Allen Close), Child Okeford, Dorset**

Develop Land by the erection of up to 32 No. dwellings, form vehicular and pedestrian access. (Outline Application to determine access)

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION: APPROVE

a) **Planning applications:**

Applications considered by the Planning Committee whilst in August break:

- **2/2020/0884/HOUSE – The Olde House, High Street, Child Okeford, Dorset, DT11 8EH**

Erect Garage and woodstore (demolish existing garage).

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: No Objection

- **2/2020/0885/LBC – The Olde House, High Street, Child Okeford, Dorset, DT11 8EH**

Demolish existing garage and erect garage and woodstore and carry out associated external alterations

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: No Objection

- **2/2020/0898/HOUSE – 9 Olivers Mead, Child Okeford, DT11 8HT**

Erect two-storey extension.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: No Objection

b) **Planning Appeals:** None

c) **Consultations:** None

The Chairman invited Cllr. Mark Kerridge to add any comments regarding the planning committee meeting for application 2/2019/0318/OUT (Land off of Haywards Lane/West of Allen Close). Cllr. Kerridge felt that the Council had grounds to challenge the application after speaking with a solicitor. However, the Council and the private individuals who could fund the

challenge felt that the land would ultimately be developed and the funds may be more beneficial to potentially challenge other larger future developments that may be approved within the village. There was a charge for the Solicitor's time and Cllr. Kerridge felt it inappropriate to ask the private individuals to settle this fee, although the amount is unknown but expected to be around £500. The Council raised no objection to settling the amount. However, Councillors did wish to acknowledge that this should not happen again in the future and potential fees should be approved by the Council before a bill is incurred.

ACTION: Cllr. Kerridge to advise Council of solicitor charge.

20/21 Finance, Accounting and Administration Matters

- a. Approval the Schedule of Payments
The Council **RESOLVED** Approval of the Payments Schedule and total amount of £756.84 for July 2020 and £369.49 for August 2020.
Proposed: Cllr. Robert Smith **Seconded:** Cllr. Mark Kerridge
- b. To Approve the Statement of Accounts to 31st. August 2020
The statement of accounts to 31.08.2020 was reviewed and approved -
Proposed: Cllr. Robert Smith **Seconded:** Cllr. Susan Case
- c. To update Asset Register
The Asset Register was reviewed and the Council approved to update the following:
- Removal of the Silhouette Soldier
 - Removal of the Bench at Oliver's Mead
- Proposed:** Cllr. Robert Smith **Seconded:** Cllr. Mary Giles
- d. To consider replacement of fence on boundary of recreation ground and the Old Dairy
No quotations were available for consideration.
ACTION: Clerk to get quotations for the replacement of the fence for consideration at the next meeting.
- e. To consider installing car park barrier at community centre car park
Cllr. Karen Knapton was receiving quotes but is not at the meeting.
ACTION: Add to Agenda for the next meeting.
- f. To consider replacing bench at Oliver's Mead
The Council discussed that as the received little use and no member of the public have contacted the Council regarding the missing bench, the bench would not be replaced.
- g. To consider low flying aircraft after 9pm over the village
The Council agreed that there is an increase in military aircraft flying significantly low over the village at unsociable hours which may be concerning to young children and animals.
ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of concern from the Council to RAF Odiham.
- h. To consider maintenance to village map
A quotation for maintenance to the village map to replace the posts has been received for £250.00. The Council agreed to this quotation.
Proposed: Cllr. Robert Smith **Seconded:** Cllr. Mary Giles
- i. To consider reduction in speed limit to 20mph by St Nicholas School
The reduction in speed limit has previously been applied for by the Council but it was denied. However, in light of the granted planning permission to the Haywards Lane site,

Cllr. Mark Kerridge suggested that the Council consider applying again. Cllr. Susan Case volunteered to read through the previous files and look into this further.

ACTION: Cllr. Susan Case to follow up.

- j. Report on the vandalism at the village shop
Cllr. Susan Case reported on the vandalism at the village shop and thought it is important for this to be reported to the Council. The shop owner's car was vandalised in the Church car park with a corrosive liquid poured over his car and flowers pulled out of the pots outside the shop.

20/22 Update on Highways Matters

Application from BT to close Upper Street, Child Okeford from the junction of The Hollow to a point approximately 110 metres north east. The closure has been requested to give BT a safe working area to carry out pole testing. These works are programmed to commence from 09:30 to 15:30 on 25th September 2020 and remain in force for five days. However, it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 25th September 2020.

20/23 To Report on Consultations

None to report.

20/24 Correspondence and Information

Two parishioners have emailed regarding the poor road surface in The Hollow. Councillors also raised concerns that areas of the village that are not used as frequently have been resurfaced whereas the road surface in The Hollow is very poor. Cllr. Mark Kerridge also raised concerns over the recent work in Duck Street which is of poor quality.

Cllr. Sherry Jespersen advised members of the Council and public to take photographs of poor road surfaces and resurfacing works to forward to community Highways.

20/25 Matters of Interest

Cllr. Mark Kerridge was contacted by a member of the public who questioned whether the new offices above the village shop had been granted through a planning application. No application had been made and thus a change of use application is required.

ACTION: Cllr. Robert Smith will speak with the owner of the village shop.

Cllr. Robert Smith asked the Council if they could purchase a new filing cabinet for David Pope. Cllr. Kirsty Baird advised she thinks there is a cabinet in the container for him.

ACTION: Cllr. Kirsty Baird to check container for filing cabinet.

Cllr. Mary Giles raised concerns about the Parish Council Noticeboard at the shop containing adverts.

ACTION: Clerk to clear noticeboard of any adverts and advise the village shop.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 5th October 2020

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed Dated
Chairman of the Council

*Please note that these minutes are draft minutes until approved by Council and signed
at the next meeting of the Parish Council*