

CHILD OKEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Cllr. Mary Giles (Chairman), Cllr. Kirsty Baird (Vice-Chairman), Cllr. Tim Cotton, Cllr. Karen Knapton, Cllr. Susan Case, and Cllr. Mark Kerridge.

In Attendance:

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

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. Robert Smith
Cllr. Sylvia Holdeman
Alan Blundell – Footpath Officer

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

20/48 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd. NOVEMBER 2020

Proposed: Cllr. K Knapton **Seconded:** Cllr. K Baird

20/49 To Discuss Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

The Clerk had spoken with the contractor who completes the regular village cleaning regarding cleaning of the benches, the contractor is able to complete these works.

20/50 Dorset Councillor's Report COVID Tier 2

At the time of writing, Dorset is in Tier 2 of COVID regulations. Nationwide, the tiers will be reviewed within days, but I have been advised not to expect Dorset to go into Tier 1 this side of Christmas. We must wait and see. In the meantime, be assured that I have discussed the perceived unfairness of assigning Dorset's tier based on the numbers in the BCP Council area, with our MP, Simon Hoare, and he in turn has raised it with Ministers. I am assured that Ministers are well aware of the cost to small businesses such as we have in Dorset. Meanwhile, I know that our residents will continue to abide by the rules and ensure that our infection rates continue to fall.

Dorset Council Local Plan

A consultation will begin in mid-January on the draft new Dorset Council Local Plan. Once adopted this Plan will guide decisions on planning applications across Dorset for the next 15 years. The Local Plan sets out the housing numbers required to meet local need, outlines the strategy for growth and development across the area and ensuring it is of the right quality and includes the necessary infrastructure such as schools, shops and leisure and community services.

The Plan is very important to local communities because it sets out the housing numbers required to meet the needs of the whole of Dorset and allocates land for future development. The draft Local Plan will be available on the council website. A public consultation will run for eight weeks, from mid- January, during which time there will be displays in libraries where a hard copy can be seen, a dedicated phone line, virtual webinars on key themes within the plan for residents and Parish Councils and a series of podcasts.

Parish Councils are absolutely central to the planning process and I know that every Parish Council will wish to consider and comment on the draft Plan and to involve your residents as

fully as possible. Please inform yourselves of the dates of the virtual discussions and ensure your communities are well represented.

We hope the new Plan will come into force in April 2023, and in the meantime, planning continues under the existing North Dorset Local Plan, along with the existing issues arising from the lack of the five-year housing numbers.

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Christmas Parking

To support local business at this most difficult time Dorset Council has introduced free parking in town centre car parks on Saturday 5th, 12th and 19th December 2020.

A wide-ranging review of car parking charges will be carried out early in 2021, to align the charges from the former Districts and ensure we are making best use of our car parks to support our changing town centres. There will be a full public consultation before any decisions are made.

Budget 2021/2022

Dorset Council has published its initial proposals for the next year's budget. The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget, but this year budget setting will take place against a continuing national background of extreme financial pressure. The council's response to the pandemic has resulted in unplanned expenditure on things like support for vulnerable residents, PPE and extra activities required by central government, alongside lost income from business rates and council tax and charges such as car parks and leisure services. The government provided some funding but not enough to meet the budget gap of just under £42m.

The council proposes to meet this budget gap with a variety of savings which aim to protect front line services. Inevitably, however, we are looking at a council tax rise of 1.99% plus a rise of 2.99% for the social care precept. The budget scrutiny process is already underway and the final proposal will be signed off by Full Council in February.

ReachOut –Domestic Abuse

With continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic this year, life at home is difficult for people at the moment for both women and men. For some couples, working from home has meant they are spending a lot more time together than normal with arguments more common as pressures increase. With the addition of financial difficulties due to reduced working hours or redundancy, and home schooling, 2020 is proving a difficult time.

Confidential help and support are available for anyone struggling with their relationship.

Organisations in Dorset such as Relate, Samaritans and You First have specialist advisors waiting at the end of a phone. Relate can be contacted on 01302 380900 or www.relate.org.uk/relationship-help. Samaritans are on Freephone 116 123.

If anyone needs advice about Domestic Abuse, speak to You First advisers on 0800 032 5204. Alternatively, visit www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dvahelp.

Dorset Council Climate Consultation

Dorset Council has extended the consultation period for the Climate and Ecological Emergency strategy until Mid- January 2021.

The original four-week lockdown may have prevented many people from seeing paper copies of this important survey or accessing a local library, and to complete the questionnaire both on and offline.

I strongly encourage everyone to have a read of the strategy and complete the survey online <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/climate-emergency/climate-ecological-emergency-strategy/the-climate-and-ecological-emergency-strategy.aspx> Those who need offline copies of the documents can request these by calling 01305 221000.

Keeping in Touch

As always, there is a mass of 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.jespersen@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

In addition to her report, Cllr. Jespersen reinforced the importance of the Local Plan to the Council and encouraged members of the public to be involved. Cllr. Jespersen welcomes emails from the Council and members of the public should they need clarification on any of the wording within the draft Local Plan.

20/51 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

20/52 Footpaths and Tree Matters

The new public footpath has a completed base layer which has been rolled and will hopefully last through the winter. It was not possible to complete with a fine gravel top layer as the weather has been unsuitable. This will be added in the Spring with hopefully warmer weather. Three gates have been ordered and should be installed within the next few weeks. There will be one on either side of Southfield Lane and a kissing gate will be fitted on the footpath from Chisel Farm to Hanford school.

The Parish Council wish to thank the footpath officer, Alan Blundell with his assistance in co-operating with and securing significant funding from Dorset Council for the footpath to be laid.

20/53 Planning Matters

a. Decisions on planning applications:

• P/HOU/2/2020/1280 – Wyke House, The Hollow.

Erection of a single storey extension and partial cladding of the exterior wall on the rear (north-east) elevation (demolition of existing conservatory)

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: NO OBJECTION

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION: GRANTED

b. Planning applications:

• P/HOU/2020/00064 Okeford Cottage, Gold Hill, DT11 8HF

Conversion of attic, installation of 3 No. dormer windows, rear roof extension and alterations. Render external elevations.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: OBJECTION

The Council raised concerns that the proposed alterations in the application are not in keeping with the local vernacular and character of the conservation area in which the property lies. In particular, the Council agreed that the dormer windows were not in keeping with the character of the property which is a traditional brick built cottage.

• P/PAPA/2020/00265 The Oasis, Shaftesbury Road, DT11 8EQ

Construct road

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: NO OBJECTION

• P/HOU/2020/00143 and P/LBC/2020/00144 Prides Cottage, High Street, DT11 8EH

Rebuild two existing chimney stacks.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: NO OBJECTION

• P/FUL/2020/00074 Dairy House Barn, Olivers Mead, DT11 8HT

Change of use and conversion of office building and separate outbuilding to 4 no. residential units.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

The Council requested that the Clerk contact Dorset Council to request an extension for this application. The application was received two days before the meeting, giving insufficient time for the Planning Committee to fully consider the documents.

c. Planning Appeals: None

d. Consultations: None

20/54 Finance, Accounting and Administration Matters

- a. Approval the Schedule of Payments
The Council **RESOLVED** Approval of the Payments Schedule and total amount of £851.79 for NOVEMBER 2020.
Proposed: Cllr. K Baird Seconded: Cllr. K Knapton
- b. To Approve the Statement of Accounts to 30th. NOVEMBER 2020
The statement of accounts to 31.10.2020 was reviewed and approved -
Proposed: Cllr. T Cotton Seconded: Cllr. K Baird
- c. To undertake the Formal Adoption of the Annual Budget for the year 2021/2022
The Annual Budget was reviewed and approved by the Parish Council-
Proposed: Cllr M Kerridge Seconded: Cllr. M Giles
- d. To consider community funding for defence against large building developments.
The Council agreed that there was not room within the budget to allow for significant Parish Council funding. One Councillor suggested crowdfunding options to fund any defence. The Council agreed that this would be a role for a volunteer outside of the Parish Council.
- e. To consider adding an additional Full Power Signatory to the Parish Council bank account
The Clerk approached the Council to request an additional Full Power Signatory for the Parish Council bank account. The Chairman volunteered as an additional Signatory.
Proposed: Cllr M Giles Seconded: Cllr. K Knapton

20/55 Update on Highways Matters – nothing to report.

20/56 To Report on Consultations

- The Clerk reported that Dorset Council’s draft Climate Strategy consultation has been extended until 20th January 2021.

20/57 Correspondence and Information

- Two letters were received from neighbouring properties of Okeford Cottage raising concerns regarding application P/HOU/2020/00064. These letters were circulated prior to the meeting.
- Correspondence was received from the tree officer at Dorset Council confirming that tree protection order had been placed on two trees within the village. One tree at Land Off Haywards Lane (West of Allen Close) and a further tree at Land East of Gold Hill Business Park, Lower Common Road.
- The Clerk has received the invoice from the contractors who maintain memorial and they regret to inform the Council that they can no longer continue their regular maintenance.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Mark Downie regarding regular maintenance of the memorial.
- The Governors from St Nicholas School requested space within the Parish Council noticeboard to display a notice regarding the Admissions Policy. The Council agreed that the school can utilise the noticeboard space temporarily.
- The Clerk discussed an email from a member of the public regarding photographs being taken from the school website to use in an article by Britain First. The individual was seeking advice from the Council on how the photographs could be removed. Councillors discussed that although they empathise and support the individual, they cannot assist any further as it is outside of a local authority’s remit.
ACTION: Cllr Baird to discuss the letter with the Head of the school.

20/58 Matters of Interest

- Councillor Susan Case advised that she is hoping to meet with the Speedwatch co-ordinator regarding speeding in the village plus the visibility of the 20mph roundels and signs. Councillor Mark Kerridge also volunteered to attend the meeting.
ACTION: Cllr. Case to contact Speedwatch co-ordinator regarding a meeting.
- Councillor Susan Case and Councillor Karen Knapton also wished to raise their deep concerns regarding the recent traffic incidents within the village, one within the High Street and one at Haywards Lane/Chalwell. The Council spoke at length regarding the locations of the incidents

and the speculated events leading to these incidents. The Council approached Councillor Case to ask if she would volunteer as a dedicated highways Councillor given her enthusiasm for improvement, Councillor Case accepted the role.

ACTION: Cllr Case to follow up with highways matters at the next meeting.

- The Chairman reported that despite the local lockdown at the time, the Remembrance Day service was well attended with spectators adhering to social distancing, she reports it was very poignant.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 4th January 2021

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

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