

# CHILD OKEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Child Okeford Parish Council held on 01<sup>ST</sup>.FEBRUARY 2021 by Zoom video conferencing at 7.00pm

### Present

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

### In Attendance:

Parish Clerk – Philippa Tandoh  
0 members of the public were present

### Apologies were received from:

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

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

### 20/70 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

**Proposed:** Cllr. M Giles **Seconded:** Cllr. K Baird

### 20/71 To Discuss Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

- a. The Clerk reports she has spoken with the community highways officer regarding water at the junction of Haywards Lane and Station Road. The community highways officer suspects it is a natural spring due to historical maps marking a spring in this area however there is unlikely to be any budget available for any remedial works. Some Councillors reported that the road surface appeared to have sunk.

#### **ACTION: Clerk to report sunken road to highways officer.**

- b. The contractor who completes the village cleaning is able to clean the benches but intends to do so when the weather improves. The cost is £5.00 per bench, the Council agreed this was a very reasonable price.
- c. The Clerk discussed with the contractors who previously maintained the Cross area to ascertain what works were normally completed so this can be discussed with the new contractor.

### 20/72 Dorset Councillor's Report

#### **COVID Update**

Over recent weeks the rate of infection across Dorset increased markedly and it is not yet declining as much as was hoped.

The increased rate of infection has impacted care home settings which remain the highest priority. Dorset Council is working with the care home sector to help with workforce capacity and to ensure the right support and guidance is in place. The Council is also providing 24/7 emergency support. One of the two Mortality Support Facilities will be activated in the coming week as part of the county's response to the crisis. This is part of the multi-agency Excess Deaths Operation Plan which has been in place since the Spring but was not required during the first wave of infections but is now required.

The vaccination programme is underway with all possible speed across Dorset, but the position in our hospitals remains critical and all community leaders are urged to reinforce the message that the situation remains very grave and everyone must abide, in the strictest way, to the lockdown regulations.

### **Support for Schools**

All schools and other education settings remain open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Dorset Council and Public Health Dorset (PHD) are working together to ensure schools are following all guidelines to maintain Covid security and any outbreaks in schools are dealt with promptly and safely. At the time of writing there was one single outbreak in one school within the Ward.

A range of support and resources for parents home schooling is available on the Dorset Council website.

### **Support for Businesses**

Dorset Council is paying out the Government's next round of Local Restrictions Support Grants to local businesses impacted by lockdown and the pandemic. To make life as easy as possible all businesses which qualified for the previous round of grants will automatically receive a further payment. The Council has contacted 3,500 businesses to confirm that funding will be paid. Businesses which did not apply for the first round of funding but think they may be eligible can apply online. Further details are on the Council's website.

### **Dorset Council Local Plan**

The consultation on the draft Local Plan is now underway and runs until March. Dorset Council is running podcasts, and a series of webinars on specific topics covered in the plan. These can all be accessed on the Website. 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.

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

### **St Mary's School Site**

Dorset Council has purchased the site of St Mary's School near Shaftesbury. This is a significant investment which is intended to improve the delivery of services. The site is suitable for a broad range of services and community uses, which could include services for Dorset's children, supported living for Dorset care leavers, provision for adults with disabilities as well as possible sites for businesses. The council will work with local people and stakeholder groups to get the right mix of activities to ensure the best use of the site.

### **Highways**

The Highways Maintenance Gangs are out across the area continuing road repairs and the winter safety operation. Planned road works are scheduled, during February, in Durweston and on the A347 at Shillingstone.

### **National Census**

Dorset Council will be contacting households across Dorset to take part in the National Census 2021. The census is a once-a-decade survey which gives accurate information about residents and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade, except 1941, since 1801. This year it will be done predominantly online, with every household receiving a letter in late February with clear instructions. A paper questionnaire and support will be available for those who need it. The Census Team who follow up missing responses will work in a Covid safe way. The results of the Census are available in a year's time.

### **Garden Waste Service**

Letters have been sent to some households explaining changes to some Garden Waste Service routes. The changes will increase efficiency and accommodate new customers. All affected houses will be notified, so if no letter is received the collection date will remain unchanged.

**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](mailto:cllrsherry.jespersen@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

#### **20/73 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a. Prior correspondence was received from a member of the public regarding bridleways. They raised concerns over the damage caused by riders and wished to ask horse riders to leave a small strip at the side of the bridleway for walkers and cyclists to use.
- b. In addition, the member of the public raised concerns regarding the dog fouling bins not being emptied as they are usually overflowing with bags left underneath. The Clerk advises that the overflowing bins were reported to Dorset Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

#### **20/74 Footpaths and Tree Matters**

- a. Reports of horse riders using the footpath between Netmead Lane and Legal Lane. The Council discussed that the only reports of horses are of young children on ponies and it may be the safest route as the road is dangerous. However, it is reported that as it is a permissive footpath the landowner originally stipulates that it remained as a footpath rather than a bridleway.

**ACTION: Clerk to seek quotations for no bridleway signs at either end of the footpath.**

- b. Excess dog fouling on the footpath between Netmead Lane and Legal Lane. Some Councillors also reported excess fouling and suggested a new dog foul bin be placed along the footpath

**ACTION: Clerk to investigate new dog fouling bin.**

- c. Reports of dog waste bag littering. The Parish Council wish to remind members of the public to use the dog bins available. If not available or full to take waste with them to dispose of in their own household bin.
- d. Footpath use. Reports had been received regarding walkers straying from the footpaths. The Council wish to remind members of the public to adhere to footpaths when walking.

#### **20/75 To Consider Planning Matters**

- a. **Dorset Council decisions on planning applications:**  
No recent planning applications have been decided by Dorset Council.

- b. **Planning applications:**

- i. **P/FUL/2020/00090 Residence at The Cross Stores, DT11 8ED**

Change of use from residential flat to offices.

**PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: NO OBJECTION**

- ii. **P/HOU/2020/00409 9 Meadow Gardens, Gold Hill, DT11 8HD**

Erect two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (demolish existing conservatory)

**PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION: NO OBJECTION**

- c. **Planning Appeals:** None

- d. **Consultations:** None

#### **20/76 Finance, Accounting and Administration Matters**

- a. Approval the Schedule of Payments  
The Council **RESOLVED** Approval of the Payments Schedule and total amount of £680.18 for JANUARY 2021.

**Proposed:** Cllr. M Giles **Seconded:** Cllr. M Kerridge

- b. To Approve the Statement of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2021  
The statement of accounts to 31.01.2021 was reviewed and approved -

**Proposed:** Cllr. M Giles **Seconded:** Cllr. K Baird

- c. To approve the Annual Calendar of Meetings for 2021.  
The Council resolved approval of the Annual Calendar of Meetings for 2021. The Council did discuss that the Annual Public Parish Meeting is expected to take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 however, Councillors raised concerns that some members may not attend if the meeting is held virtually. The Clerk will seek advice from Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils as to whether the meeting could be postponed until later in the year to allow for more opportunity for public attendance.

**Proposed:** Cllr. T Cotton **Seconded:** Cllr. K Knapton

#### **20/77 Update on Highways Matters**

- a. Traffic through the village has increased dramatically as the A357 through Shillingstone is currently shut for a period of 6 weeks for emergency works. The Clerk had previously requested that 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs were placed at the junction of the A350/Hanford turning and the Haywards Bridge junction. Signs are yet to be placed; however, the community highways officer advises that as the road is permanently signposted as unsuitable for HGVs at these junctions, signs are unlikely to be placed.
- b. Cllr. Case updated the Council on an email received from Community Speed Watch. They both report that highways have been very slow in their response but is still anticipating a meeting to be arranged in the near future. Cllr Case suggests that changing the driver's mindset could encourage safer driving and that the village should consider '20 is Plenty' signs.
- c. Due to current lockdown restrictions, Cllr. Smith has been unable to move the SID. With the road through Shillingstone currently shut, the Council agreed the SID should not be moved from the current location at Station Road.

#### **20/78 To Report on Consultations**

##### **d. Dorset Local Plan Consultation**

Councillors were continuing to read through the recently released Dorset Local Plan Consultation and had yet to make comments. Councillors advised that there are webinars specifically focused on the North Dorset area available for members of the public to join on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

#### **20/79 Correspondence and Information**

- a. A letter was received from Dorset Council regarding the removal of the village hall from the Asset of Community Value List as it had reached the end of its five year listing. The Councillors attending the meeting were unsure if any action was required.

**ACTION: Clerk to discuss letter with Cllr. Holdeman and Cllr. Smith.**

#### **20/80 Matters of Interest**

- a. Cllr Baird suggested that for future reference it may be beneficial for the Clerk to compile a task list of what jobs are completed by the contractors who carry out regular work for the Council to avoid any confusion in the future.

**ACTION: Clerk to organise and compile list of individual contractor tasks.**

**The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.01pm..

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*