

CHILD OKEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Child Okeford Parish Council Meeting held on 1st NOVEMBER 2021 at Child Okeford Community Centre at 7.00pm

Present

Cllr. Kirsty Baird (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Karen Knapton, Cllr. Sylvia Holdeman, Cllr. Tim Cotton and Cllr. Robert Smith

In Attendance: Philippa Tandoh – Parish Clerk
Alan Blundell – Footpaths Officer
Cllr. Sherry Jespersen – Ward Councillor
5 Members of the Public

Apologies for absence were received from:
Cllr. Mark Kerridge and Cllr. Mary Giles.

In the absence of the chair, Cllr. Baird chairs the meeting.

21.11.01 To Receive Declarations of Interest in Matters on the Agenda

- a. Cllr. Holdeman declares an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall but as it is not a pecuniary interest, she will not be required to leave the meeting.

21.11.02 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4TH OCTOBER 2021.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 4th October 2021.

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

21.11.03 To Discuss Matters arising from the previous Minutes

- a. The Clerk updates the Parish Council that the bank mandate form is updated and ready to be signed by Signatories at the meeting this evening to add Cllr M Giles to the mandate as agreed in a previous meeting. The convex mirror opposite Jacobs Ladder is confirmed as a private matter. Despite chasing in the last week, the Clerk has not yet received an update from Highways regarding the house number signs at the entrances to Jacobs Ladder.

21.11.04 Public Participation

- a. The village hall Secretary addresses the Parish Council that, although a kind suggestion to support the village hall, the Precept should not be increased to create funds for the village hall roof as the village hall committee would not encourage this. The village hall request that the Parish Council use unallocated reserves towards this project. Referring to the last meeting's minutes, the Secretary asks the Council if they believe the village hall is part of the entirety of the village. Cllr. Smith answers that the Parish Council is solely financially responsible for the village assets such as monument, playground and playing fields alongside items such as the tractor but does not have responsibility towards the village hall, as no responsibility towards the Church or school. These assets must be cared for by the Parish Council before

anything else is considered as they are a direct responsibility, funds are prioritised for these assets.

The Secretary notes that some documents were circulated to the Parish Council prior to the meeting to inform Councillors of all events that take place within the hall. She also advised that the committee regularly ask their users for feedback and are planning ahead to the future, adopting new policies and considering installing WiFi and the use of a card reader to help and encourage new booking. The village hall has shown to be self-supporting, with investments in the past such as the extension, it is unlikely that the hall would require a large grant again. The Secretary confirms that the Trustees of the village hall are willing to put £30,000 towards the cost of the roof, leaving reserves of £8000 which they feel need to be kept for emergency repairs.

The Secretary refers to the Parish Council website to note that reserves should not be excessive as funds are generated from taxation and spent on behalf of residents in the parish, to improve facilities, services and respond to community needs. The website also states that the reserves must be held to cover 6 months operational costs or for specifically earmarked projects – the Secretary is unaware of any such project. As a Parish Council, rather than individual views, Councillors should be representing the view of the parish. The Secretary asks why an unidentified future need takes precedence over an immediate and obvious need which will support the community.

The village hall has requested a 10% contribution towards the £50,000 cost, at this evening's meeting a contribution of £500-£1000 or between 1 or 2% will be discussed. The Secretary explains the village hall feel they have not been given one good reason why the Parish Council seem so reluctant to help and wishes to know what each of the Councillors views are whilst reminding them of the responsibility each of them must represent their community. The village hall will gratefully accept any amount the Parish Council choose to offer.

To conclude, the Secretary requests that the Parish Council dip into unallocated reserves to repair the village hall roof. The Secretary has been approached by a local couple who feel an outstanding need in the village is the hall roof and therefore are offering to match fund what the Parish Council can offer, up to a maximum of £5000.

21.11.05 Ward Councillors Report

- a. Cllr. Jespersen circulated her Autumn Report to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. A copy has been uploaded to the village website. Further to her report, Cllr. Jespersen updates the Parish Council on the recent bad weather. She reports that most of the issues on roads were dealt with swiftly but some roads are still closed whilst the flooding subsides. Any highways issues such as flooding, fallen trees or similar issues should be reported to Dorset Council either by the website or the emergency number, which will be forwarded to the Community Highways Officer. Referencing her report, Cllr. Cotton asks Cllr. Jespersen if Dorset Council will suggest a mandatory increase in the Parish Council precept to cover some community services as experienced in the last financial crisis. Cllr. Jespersen assures the Council this would not happen. Cllr. Knapton asks Cllr. Jespersen if there is any update regarding the recent temporary closure of the village doctors surgery and Blandford Group Practice due to a lapse in public liability insurance. Cllr. Jespersen reports there was a recent article

in the Blackmore Vale Magazine which gave insight into the situation but currently there is nothing more she can add. Cllr. Knapton thanks Cllr. Jespersen for her assistance and reassurance during the closure.

21.11.06 Footpaths Report

a. Footpath Officer's Report

The Footpath Officer notes that due to the recent weather he cannot guarantee that all footpaths are in good condition but the newly surfaced footpath has withstood the weekend storms and is in very good condition despite the amount of rain. The Rangers have been busy and have rebuilt the banks at the mill stream.

21.11.07 Tree Matters

- a. A Tree Preservation Order was placed on a conifer tree at Crispins, The Hollow.

21.11.08 Highways Matters

- a. Cllr. Smith reports that there are new 20 roundels in the High Street. The Hollow is now on the list for resurfacing but a date is yet to be scheduled.

21.11.09 Planning Matters

a. To Receive Decisions of Dorset Council

- i.** P/FUL/2021/02001 1 Melway Gardens, Child Okeford, Dorset, DT11 8EP

Proposal: Erect Front Extension

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION:

NO OBJECTION

DORSET COUNCIL DECISION:

GRANTED

b. To Consider Planning Applications

- i.** P/LBC/2021/02317 & P/HOU/2021/04209 The Olde House, High Street, Child Okeford, DT11 8EH

Proposal: Installation of PV solar panels on outbuilding & carry out associated alterations.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION:

NO OBJECTION

- ii.** P/RES/2021/03578 Hambledon Cottage, Shaftesbury Road, Child Okeford, DT11 8EQ
Proposal: Erect 1 No. dwelling & form vehicular access (Reserved Matters application to determine access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following the Outline Planning Permission No. P/OUT/2020/00177)

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION:

NO OBJECTION

- iii.** P/LBC/2021/03048 Chisel Farm House, Little Hanford, Hanford, DT11 8HH

Proposal: Install two dormer windows and four conservation roof lights.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATION:

NO OBJECTION

c. To Consider Planning Appeals:

- i.** Application No: 2/2020/0749/OUT – Land East of Gold Hill Business Park, Lower Common Road, Child Okeford. Appeal Reference: APP/N1215/W/21/3279462

The Parish Council have sent their objection to the Planning Inspectorate, and it is available to view within the Dorset Planning website under the application.

Cllr. Knapton updates the Parish Council that there are 75 individual comments added to the application. As members of the Planning Committee have work commitments, Cllr. Knapton volunteers to speak at the appeal hearing on the 16th of November. The Parish

Council encourage members of the public to attend the appeal hearing, details of which can be found on the village website. A meeting is arranged with the Case Officer for the application and Councillors next week.

d. To Receive Consultations – None

21.11.10 Finance, Accounting and Administration Matters

- a. To Approve the Schedule of Payments
The Council **RESOLVED** Approval of the Payments Schedule and total amount of £631.79 for OCTOBER 2021.
Proposed: Cllr. K Baird **Seconded:** Cllr. T Cotton
- b. To Approve the Statement of Accounts to 31.10.2021
The Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Statement of Accounts to 31.10.2021.
Proposed: Cllr. K Baird **Seconded:** Cllr. R Smith
- c. To Consider the Draft Budget and Precept for 2022/23.
The draft budget was circulated prior to the meeting. The draft budget includes a decrease to insurance costs and small increase for village cleaning and Clerk costs.
ACTION: Draft Budget to be put forward for approval at the December meeting.
- d. To Consider a Grant Request from Child Okeford Village Hall between £500-£1000.
Cllr. Knapton discusses the unallocated reserves and how much would need to be kept for the 6-month reserve, Cllr. Smith advises this would be up to £12,000.
Cllr. Smith advises the Parish Council that the long-term project of the Parish Council was to keep funds for the improvement and renovation of the Community Centre. There was a significant balance in unallocated reserves some years ago, but this has since been reduced.
Cllr Cotton feels that the village hall secretary spoke convincingly, and the village hall is an interest of the Parish Council. Unallocated reserves should be used but the Council should be cautious in how much is spent as there are still needs throughout the village.
Cllr. Knapton agrees with his statements and in light of the match funding suggest that the Parish Council consider a grant of £2,500. With £1000 to be agreed at this meeting and the remaining £1500 to be agreed at a later date. Cllr Baird notes that £5000 was a quarter of the Parish Council's current reserves and that £2500 seems acceptable.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve a grant request of £1000 towards the village hall roof repair considering the offer of match funding and a further grant of £1500 will be discussed at a future meeting.
Proposed: Cllr. K Baird **Seconded:** Cllr. T Cotton
- e. To Consider an Increase to the Clerk's Salary in Line with the NALC Pay Scale
As advised by the Internal Auditor, the Clerk's salary should be increased in line with the NALC Pay Scale. This would be an increase of 33p per hour. The Clerk notes this was raised in October last year. Cllr. Smith notes that this should be back paid. The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the NALC Pay Scale.
Proposed: Cllr. R Smith **Seconded:** Cllr. S Holdeman
- f. To Consider the Purchase of a new Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The cost of the new SID is £1,100. It requires a new solar panel at a cost of £175 and potentially another battery for £45, a total cost £1320. It is an updated SID that is easier to install between sites and shows 'Thank You' to those keeping to the limits – Cllr. Knapton reports evidence shows these SIDs are more effective at slowing those speeding. Cllr. Smith reports that he would be unable to download any data on the new SID but is unable to use the data anyway. Cllr. Knapton notes that a neighbouring Parish may be interested in buying the old SID.

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase the new SID subject to the neighbouring parish purchasing the existing SID.

- g. To Consider the Draft Annual Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23 (to be circulated prior to the meeting)

The Council are satisfied with the dates agreed for meetings.

ACTION: Draft Annual Calendar to be added to the Agenda for Approval at the December meeting.

21.11.11 Correspondence and Information

- a. A Correspondence Report was circulated prior to the meeting and no further discussion was needed. Please see attached on page 45. In addition to the report, an email was received over weekend regarding village hall grant request. It was forwarded to Councillors.

21.11.12 Matters of Interest

- a. Cllr Holdeman requests that the Clerk contact Dorset Highways for the drains to be cleared of leaves to avoid any flooding.
- b. The Clerk reports the Parish Council's wreath for Remembrance Sunday has been received. The cheque requires signing.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th December 2021.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.24pm

Signed Dated

Chairman of the Council

Please note these are draft minutes until signed by the Chairman of the Council at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Correspondence Report

Correspondence received to the Clerk between 29/09/2021– 26/10/2021.

Date:	Received From:	Regarding:
01/10/2021	Dorset Highway	Updated SID Information
03/10/2021	Resident	Portal Query regarding Leaper Appeal
04/10/2021	Resident	Query regarding report in The Hill Magazine
10/10/2021	Resident	Query regarding Leaper Appeal
12/10/2021	Dorset Tree Team	Notification of TPO
14/10/2021	Dorset Planning	Notification of P/LBC/2021/03048
17/10/2021	Resident	Comments regarding application P/ADV/2021/02120
26/10/2021	Resident	Filing Cabinet Query
22/10/2021	Dorset Planning	Notification of P/LBC/202102317
22/10/2021	Dorset Planning	Notification of P/HOU/2021/04209
23/10/2021	Resident	Remembrance Wreath Collection
25/10/2021	Village Hall Secretary	Further documents regarding grant request
26/10/2021	Dorset Planning	Notification of P/RES/2021/03578