

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of The Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th November 2019 at St Andrews Primary School, Fontmell Magna at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. M Humphreys (Vice-Chair), A Newbury and J Long

In attendance: Jane Somper – Dorset Councillor, M Wheatley – Clerk and 12 members of the public.

Cllr. Bellers, the Chair, having resigned, Cllr. Humphreys the Vice-Chair opened the meeting.

Public Questions:

A resident commented that the drains in the village particularly by Piper's Mill, West St., and Lurmer St. needed emptying as soon as possible. Some of the drains were covered over by the verges and in the heavy rain they started to overflow. Cllr. Long commented that he had looked at the drains at Piper's Mill and they all seemed to be clear and running. Another resident commented that none of the drains on Mill St. above Springhead were working. Cllr. Long commented that he thought Highways had cleared the drains last month. It was commented that the sumps below the drains had not been cleared for over 12 years and unless the sumps were cleared the drains would just overflow. A resident commented that the drains in Church St. also needed to be done along with the drains from Piper's Mill up to the Bedchester crossroads. Cllr. Long confirmed he would take this up with Highways.

Action: Cllr. Long to ask Highways to clear the drains.

A resident commented that she would be very upset if the BT phone box was removed. Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the subject to the outcome of this meeting the Parish Council were proposing to buy the phone box.

Another resident commented that various potholes had been marked for repair on West St., but the white lines were now fading so how would Highways know what to repair. Cllr. Long commented that when he spoke to Roger Bell the Community Highways Officer he was told that the work was on the list to be done. Another resident commented that there are potholes on Church St. that needed to be repaired. Cllr. Newbury confirmed that these potholes and any other potholes in the village could be reported online on the Dorset Council website. Cllr. Long confirmed he would chase Highways regarding the potholes.

Action: Cllr. Long to chase Highways regarding the potholes in the village.

Another resident asked whether the vegetation that was obscuring the new signs on the A350 could be cut back. Cllr. Long confirmed he would also ask Highways to do this.

Action: Cllr. Long to ask Highways to cut back the vegetation.

11/11/01 Apologies for Absence. There were no apologies for absence.

11/11/02 Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

11/11/03 Election of Chair. Cllr. Humphreys stood down as acting Chair and the Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chair. Cllr. Humphreys having been nominated by Cllr. Newbury and seconded by Cllr. Long was duly elected as the Chair. The Chair nominated Cllr. Long as Vice-Chair. Cllr. Newbury seconded this nominated and Cllr. Long was duly elected as Vice-Chair.

11/11/04 Co-options. The Chair confirmed no-one has come forward to join the Council since the last meeting and he encouraged the residents to join the Parish Council. He confirmed that as there are only 3 Councillors there was a danger that if a Councillor is away or ill the Council would not be quorate which would mean that nothing could be done. He emphasised the importance of the Parish Council in the light of the various issues that were likely to arise. The Chair then confirmed that because of the reduced number of Councillors the Parish Council is considering reducing the number of meetings from 6 per year to 4 per year. The Clerk had confirmed that the Parish Council needed to have a meeting in May. Various permutations were discussed but to avoid a meeting in August when people were likely to be away the Chair suggested that the Parish Council

should meet in March, May, September and December. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council would continue to transact business by email and would call EGM's if necessary to deal with any business that it was not appropriate to deal with by email. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that starting from next year it would meet 4 times a year in March, May, September and December.

11/11/05 Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd September 2019. The draft minutes were unanimously approved.

11/11/06 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd September 2019.

a. VE day 75th Anniversary – The Chair confirmed that an event was going to be organised and asked the resident in question to present his report. It was reported that there had been a brief meeting with the Village Hall and the Parochial Church Council. Springhead had not been able to attend the meeting. It had however been agreed to bring together the various groups. The plan was to close Church St. and to start the day off with a church service. There would be various events including a treasure trail at Springhead. Lunch and other activities including maybe a duck race and street parade would take place on Church St. They were considering organizing a fly past and they were going to encourage everyone to dress in 1940's gear. This was planned for 8th May 2020 which was the May Bank Holiday. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council are happy to support this event. It was confirmed that the Parish council would be asked to organize the road closure, to get a temporary event notice for the service of alcohol and the playing of music on church St., and to organize the insurance.

Cllr. Newbury commented that she thought the Village Hall are looking into the temporary event notice. Cllr. Newbury confirmed she would ask the Village Hall about this. It was agreed that Cllr. Newbury and the Clerk would liaise in relation to the road closure, temporary event notice and insurance.

Action: Cllr. Newbury and the Clerk to liaise regarding the VE day event

b. Website – The Clerk confirmed that she had had a quote for making the website compliant with the accessibility legislation of approximately £1000.00. She has included this in the budget. She would like to go ahead and upgrade the website but would prefer this to be just for the purposes of the Parish Council and not a village-wide website. A resident commented that this seemed rather a lot for a new website. The Clerk confirmed that the firm she used is the one recommended by the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils. The firm provided websites to various Parish Councils and are familiar with the statutory requirements regarding Parish Council websites. It was agreed that the Clerk could proceed with the quote and that she and the Chair would liaise regarding the look and contents of the new website.

Action: Clerk and Chair to liaise re: new website.

c. Trees and verge at Bedchester crossroads – Cllr. Newbury confirmed that purchase orders had been sent out to contractors to install some short loosely anchored posts on the verge at the Bedchester crossroads and for the works on the tree. She anticipated that the posts would be installed shortly but the tree would probably not be done until next year when all the leaves had dropped.

d. Access on Mill St. – The Chair confirmed that no further action had been taken with regard to this access. One of the residents commented the hole continued to fill up with water and another resident commented that the hole is not now fenced off and is dangerous as it is so close to the footpath. The Clerk confirmed that the enforcement officer could not force them to complete. She confirmed that she would go back to the enforcement officer and ask him whether there was anything else he could do but in the meantime she wondered whether Highways might be able to do something. It was agreed that the Clerk would go back to the Enforcement Team and that Cllr. Long would approach Highways.

Action: Clerk to go back to the Enforcement Team. Cllr. Long to contact Highways.

11/11/07 Dorset Councillor report. The Dorset Councillor reported as per the written report attached hereto. The Dorset Councillor was asked whether any of the money that was being pledged as part of the election campaign would come to local government. Cllr. Somper confirmed she did not know. The Chair confirmed he had attended a workshop in relation to the new relationship

between Dorset Council and the Parish Councils. It is recognised that there needed to be an effective relationship but no conclusion had been drawn as to what that would be. He commented that Dorset Council had rejected the proposal to have area committees along the lines of the Wiltshire model. Cllr. Somper commented that she thought it would be better to speak directly with the Dorset Council but it was still early days. The Chair commented that the major issue was what influence the Parish Council would have on any planning decisions. Cllr. Somper confirmed that she thought no-one from planning had been at the workshops. The Chair commented that he understood that in the past if the Parish Council objected to a planning application it would normally go to the Planning Committee. This is not what happened now and if the Parish Council objected it could still be decided by a single officer under delegated powers. Cllr. Somper commented that this was the same if the Dorset Councillor objected.

11/11/08 Reports from the Parish Councillors

a. Planning – Cllr. Humphreys had circulated a report to the Parish Council and he confirmed that the NPMG had reported on various planning applications. The Clerk confirmed the decisions made by the Parish Council as per the Schedule (which can be seen on the website) since the last meeting and confirmed that the Parish Council had two matters to consider at this meeting.

i. 2/2019/1451/PDT Fontmell Magna Phone box Removal of BT phone box - response due 12th Nov 2019. It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase the BT phone box by the shop in Fontmell. The Clerk and the Chair would liaise regarding the acquisition and would organize an electrician to check the light in the box and confirm if it is compliant.

Action: Clerk and Chair to liaise re: the acquisition of the phone box.

ii. 2/2019/1260/HOUSE & 2/2019/1261/LBC Fernlea Cottage, Mill Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU Alterations to the front porch to include extension of roof and addition of painted vertical boarding to the sides; install hay-door style dormer in rear roof of attached outbuilding and install 2 No. conservation roof lights in the same roof. Erect front garden retaining wall and re-lay stepped front path. Response due 15th November 2019. The Chair commented that the NMPG had submitted a report recommending that this application be rejected because of the hayloft dormer window which is not in keeping with the building.

Action: Clerk to draft objection.

b. Trees – Various applications for tree works had been circulated. The Clerk confirmed she had received no comments regarding any of these proposed works.

c. Highways – Cllr. Long confirmed there was very little to report. The A350CG were organising a meeting on 22nd January 2020 which he would attend. The Clerk would confirm Cllr. Long's attendance. The A350CG had asked for an allowance to be included in the budget for £200 to £250 as a contribution to its costs. Cllr. Long was not sure what this was for and would ask them at the meeting in January 2020.

Action: Clerk to confirm Cllr. Long's attendance on 22nd Jan. 2020. Cllr. Long to confirm what the A350CG costs were.

d. Environmental Protection – Cllr. Newbury had circulated a report. She was proposing to investigate what Dorset Council are doing with regard to the verges. She thought they are going to adopt a new policy whereby they would cut less and cut later. The Community Litter pick had been a success. The general comment was that there seemed less to pick up. She thought this was probably because they were clearing the backlog. When the litter pick had been done in the summer the grass was too long and this time there were too many leaves so she was proposing to organise the next litter pick for some time in February 2020. Cllr. Newbury commented that DWP were very quick and efficient in providing the equipment and picking up the collected rubbish. The Chair thanked her for organizing the litter pick and she thanked all of the volunteers and the Village Hall for providing a hot drink. She confirmed she was going to put an article in the Gossip Tree.

e. Social Infrastructure – Cllr. Newbury confirmed that the Village Hall are continuing with its fund raising efforts. There will be a Christmas Fair on 30th November 2019 from 10.30am to 4.30pm. There would be various crafts, food and a Santa. Various bids are being put in for

funding for the playground. The Village Hall are also discussing whether an electric re-charging point for cars should be installed in the car park. The Clerk confirmed she would check but she thought Dorset Council are only looking for sites on the land it owned. The Chair confirmed he had asked Pennyfarthing Homes about installing a re-charging point but they had not got back to him as yet. In this regard he thought that the decision with regard to this development would be made before Christmas.

A resident then provided an update on the Community Land Trust. He confirmed that a Special General meeting had been held and the founding Directors had all been elected to continue as Directors of the Community Land Trust. The Shop Working Group were still considering in what way they would go but a liaison group had been formed with the Village Hall, the Parish council and the Doctors to canvas the idea of some kind of central hub next to the Doctors and the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to check re: recharging points.

f. District Liaison – The Chair confirmed that save for the workshop referred to above he had not been to any other meetings. The Compton Abbas airfield meeting was the following day: he was unable to attend and asked whether anyone else would like to go.

g. Footpaths – Cllr. Long confirmed he had taken on this responsibility from Cllr. Bellers. He was trying to get a map showing all of the footpaths and would have a look at the paths to see what was going on. The signs he had been given were out of date and he had ordered some new ones..

h. Governance – The Clerk had circulated various revised policies. There were some figures to be agreed in the Financial Regulations. It was agreed that the figure in clause 1.15 of the Regulations should be £2500, the figure in clause 4.1 should be £500 and the figure in clause 11.1 h. should be £250 subject to these amendments the following policies were approved and adopted: The revised Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, the Risk Management Schedule, the various Data Protection policies, and the Code of Conduct were all approved.

Action: Clerk to finalise policies and post on the website.

11/11/09 To consider report from the RFO. The Clerk confirmed she had circulated the Income & Expenses, the Budget v Spend to date, the draft budget and the draft Precept Plan to the Councillors.. The available balance is currently £10,982.84. The Clerk then went through the Precept Plan and confirmed that the expenses for 2020/2021 are estimated to be in the region of £9471.00. The expenses will be approximately £1000.00 more than last year which is essentially the estimated cost of the new website. The Chair commented that as this is a one off cost this could whilst be incurring in the next financial year be spread between next year and the following year. He therefore suggested that the precept be set at £9000.00. Cllr. Newbury put forward the proposal that the precept be set at £9000.00; this was seconded by Cllr. Long and it was unanimously agreed that the precept for 2020/21 would be £9000.00. It was also agreed that the Precept Plan and other documents would be posted onto the website.

Action: Clerk to put in request for a precept of £9000.00. Clerk to amend the Precept Plan to show the Precept of £9000.00 and to post this on the website.

11/11/010 To resolve to pay Bills presented. The invoices and standing orders paid since the last meeting were set out in the Schedule. It was agreed that the bills as set out in the schedule should be paid:

- Vision ICT – Operation London Bridge - £42.00
- DAPTC – training - £40.00
- Vale Garden Services Invs 1999 & 2022 - £100.00
- DM Payroll Services Ltd - £36.50

11/11/011 Other Matters arising from recent correspondence

a. Repair gate to War Memorial. The Clerk had been asked to put this on the agenda by the retiring Chair but was not sure what needed to be done. Cllr. Newbury confirmed she would have a look at the gate.

Action: Cllr. Newbury to look at gate.

b. Climate Change Emergency. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had been asked by Dorset Council to declare a Climate Change Emergency. He had put an article about this in the Gossip Tree but no responses to this article had been received. The question was if a climate change Emergency is declared what steps would the residents take in this regard. Cllr. Newbury commented that she thought the Council should do this and the Parish are looking at for example putting in a re-charging point for cars. A resident asked whether a list of all of the renewal energy generators in the village could be compiled. It was agreed that a form asking about this could be included in the Gossip Tree. The Chair confirmed he is going to the Climate change Seminar and would report back. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should declare a Climate Change Emergency.

Action: Cllr. Newbury to put form in the Gossip Tree. Clerk to notify DC of the declaration.

c. BT telephone box at Fontmell Magna. This had been discussed as above. Cllr. Long asked whether any ideas had been put forward as to its use. Various suggestions were made including a book exchange, flowers, a local information centre and a museum. It was agreed that a decision as to its use would be made after the telephone box had been acquired.

d. Local Electricity Bill. Cllr. Newbury confirmed she had not had time to look at this and it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: To be discussed at next meeting.

11/11/012 Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Monday 9th March 2020. The Clerk confirmed that an EGM would be called if in the meantime there was anything else that was contentious to discuss.

11/11/013 A.O.B. Cllr. Newbury confirmed that a Village cookbook would be coming out in January 2020.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.31pm.

Date

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Chair, Fontmell Magna Parish Council