

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th September 2017 at St Andrews Primary School, Fontmell Magna at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr H Horstead (Chairman), Cllrs M Ayre, R East, M de la Perrelle, G Roberts, L Williams.

In attendance: Cllr. Catherine Langham – District Councillor; members of the public

Public Questions:

A question was raised regarding the application by Springhead Farm for an access way. It was queried whether there was a need for a second access. There is an existing track serving the farm buildings which could more efficiently serve the whole of that site, so the application for the new access is not necessary as separation of access can be achieved with the present two access points. It was confirmed that the application was supported by a letter from the British Distillers Alliance confirming that an access to a residential property should not go through the distillery compound.

11/09/01 Apologies for Absence. Cllr M Humphreys, Graham Carr-Jones County Councillor.

11/09/02 Declarations of Interest. Cllr M de la Perrelle declared an interest in the Planning Application for Woodbridge Farm.

11/09/03 Minutes of the Meeting on 10th July 2017. These were approved without amendment. **Nem Con**

11/09/04 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting.

Vodafone Base Station – Cllr. East confirmed that the application for prior approval had been refused on the basis that the base station was too big and in the wrong place. Cllr. East expressed his concern regarding one of the responses to this application which had been published on the Dorset for You website. The Chairman concurred that some of the comments in the response were inappropriate. Cllr. East would follow this up.

Telephone Box at Bedchester – The Parish Council thanked Paul Phillips for painting the telephone box. The work was well done and had saved the Parish Council a great deal of expense. The Clerk confirmed she had written to Mr Phillips thanking him for his work.

The Chairman welcomed Marianne Wheatley back as the Clerk and thanked Cllrs. East, de la Perrelle and Humphreys for their assistance during the 12 month period when Marianne had been unable to work for the Parish Council.

11/09/05 County Councillor's report. Graham Carr-Jones provided a report to the PC which had been circulated to the Councillors. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes.

11/09/06 District Councillor's report. The District Councillor reported:

- That the District and County Council were still waiting to hear from the Secretary of State regarding whether the Unitary Authority could proceed.

- Grants up to a maximum of £4000 had been made available to support apprenticeships in local businesses.
- Following the delegation of the powers of the Planning Committee the last 4 meetings of the Planning Committee had been cancelled because there were no matters referred to it. The matters had been dealt with by the Planning sub-committee which included the Head of Planning and the Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Chairman had commented that the 8 applications which it had considered were minor and the concern was that the Planning Committee could make the wrong decision leading to costly appeals.
- A leaflet had been forwarded regarding Community Led Housing – the Clerk confirmed she would circulate this to the Councillors.
- The Local Plan had failed due to the lack of a 5 year housing plan. The major problem was that developers were not building. Accordingly it would now be much more difficult to refuse planning permission even if the proposal conflicts with the local plan. NDDC will need to balance the potential harm against the benefit of increasing the housing supply. Elsewhere, we can only refuse permission if the harm ‘significantly and demonstrably’ outweighs the benefit. NDDC were looking at ways of persuading developers to start building. Where there is an adopted neighbourhood plan, a Ministerial Statement of last year says that planning policies can be given full weight where there is a three-year housing land supply. At present North Dorset’s Housing supply is 3.42 years. However this may be worse next year unless the developers could be persuaded to build. Concern was expressed that this could mean that there was nothing that could be done if a developer wished to build 50 houses in the village. Cllr. Langham confirmed that conservation areas and AONB would still be taken into account. Barry Roberts and Dick Stainer confirmed that the conservation area had not been appraised for a long while and accordingly as part of the Neighbourhood Plan they were arranging an up to date appraisal. They would like NDDC to adopt the appraisal. Cllr. Langham confirmed she would follow this up with NDDC.

A request was made to move item 11 b forward and that item was dealt with at this point – see below.

11/09/07 Development Control Matters. There were two extant applications:

- 2/2017/1290/FUL - Woodbridge Farm Woodbridge Lane Bedchester SP7 0BF – it was agreed that Cllr. Horstead would review this application.
- 2/2017/1246/FUL - Springhead Farm Mill Street Fontmell Magna SP7 0NU – it was agreed that Cllrs. Horstead and East would review this application.

Cllr. East reported that he had been contacted regarding works that were being undertaken to the roof of the Methodist Chapel in Bedchester. The work did not have the relevant permission and the enforcement officer was due to visit shortly. In the interim the works had stopped because the neighbour who had reported the works had withdrawn permission to have scaffolding on his land.

11/09/08 Financial Report from the RFO.

The Clerk confirmed that she had had trouble accessing the online bank account and had therefore been unable to produce a bank reconciliation however she confirmed that as at 31st August 2017 the bank balance was £11,885.91. The Neighbourhood Plan had cost £17,138.60 to date of which £14,432.40 had been paid for out of grants and £2706.20 had been funded by the Parish Council. The current grant was £4296.00 of which £1994.50 had been spent leaving a balance of £2301.40 to spend. The Parish council accordingly had a balance of £11,885.91 - £2301.40 i.e. £9584.51 to spend.

11/09/09 Bills presented.

Cllr de la Perrelle the previous RFO confirmed that the invoice for Vale Garden Services could be paid without separate approval. She also confirmed that because of the expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council had had to pay an audit fee of £120.00 which was not included in this year's budget but there were funds available in the budget to cover this cost. £20.00 VAT could be reclaimed.

11/09/010 Other Parish Matters

a. Highways.

Cllr East reported that the he had recently spoken to Andrew Brown of Highways and:

- Gates were due to be erected at the entrances to the Village as part of the A350 improvement program. These would now be paid for by Highways.
- It was proposed that the 30mph sign heading south from Shaftesbury would be moved to the Cricket Pavilion which would be an improvement as the village entrance would be more clearly marked with better visibility.
- The 30mph limit would then continue through the village. Coming out of the village the speed limit to Sutton Waldron would be 40mph where it would reduce again to 30mph through Sutton Waldron. The speed limit from Sutton Waldron to Iwerne Minster would be 50 mph. The maximum speed on the A350 would be 50mph. This however would not make a significant difference to the speed along the road unless it was properly enforced. Cllr. East confirmed he would be following this up with the police.
- Highways had considered the suggestion that the road should be narrowed south of the village but had confirmed this could not be done as it would not pass a safety audit.
- During October/November resurfacing was due to take place on the C13. The road was going to be patched and there could be road closures.
- In February 2018 the A350 through Fontmell Magna was going to be rebuilt.

Peter Mole had done a survey of the 15 households on the A350 between The Mead and The Knapp. The results of the survey overwhelmingly supported warning signs, traffic speed indicators and a 20mph limit on this particularly dangerous stretch. Peter Mole had written to NDDC about this stretch of road and hoped he had the Parish Council's support to try and make this section of road less dangerous. He and Cllr. East would continue to liaise.

Cllr. East and the A350 Community Group were meeting with Daryl Turner the Head of DCC Highways, various other members of the Highways team and the County Councillors to push them on the issue of the A350. Following a change in the MP for Bath the discussions regarding a strategic North/South route had come to a standstill. It had now been 3 years and the strategic plan had been used to put off discussions on the A350. The current improvements were short-term solutions. Cllr. East had made it clear that the one-way system on the A350/C13 was just a sticking plaster and not a cure. He was concerned that if this system was made mandatory it would have a detrimental effect as it would then be demarcated as a freight route on sat navs resulting in more HGVs using the route. He had spoken to Simon Hoare MP regarding this but he did not agree and wanted the system to be made permanent. Cllr. East and the A350 group would continue to push for this to be a temporary measure.

- b. Neighbourhood Plan** - The Parish Council had recently met with the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and had gone through the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan. There had been some amendments which had now been incorporated into the Plan. Cllr. East had checked the amendments and was satisfied that all of the amendments discussed had been made. The Parish Council

unanimously approved the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan being version "11/9/2017 draft for approval" to go out for consultation to the community, the local authority and other relevant bodies.

Nem Con

The Clerk confirmed she had reviewed the licence from the National Library of Scotland which would allow a map to be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan. The licence was with the Parish Council but the Library knew that the map was going to be used for the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan accordingly provided it was only used for that purpose the licence could be signed. The term was 5 years from the commencement date. The commencement date needed to be clarified. It was agreed the Clerk could sign the licence on behalf of the Parish Council.

- c. **Bedchester Allotments** – Cllr. East was going to meet with DCC to walk through the site to agree what needed to be done to put the site in order. He was also waiting to get details of the lease from DCC.

11/09/011 Other Matters arising from Correspondence.

- a. **Community Defibrillator** – Cllr. Horstead confirmed he would follow this up. Cllr. de la Perrelle pointed out that the Parish Council should also look at any on-going costs.
- b. **School Traffic Concerns** - [dealt with out of order] – Cllr. East confirmed that the subject of the traffic outside the school had recently been raised with him by one of the parents.

Matthew House the Head of the School Governors confirmed that when the land to the south of the village was developed part of the proposal was to provide an access to the school. This was welcomed and would be good for the pupils, the parents and the village generally. Mr House had not had any direct contact with the developers but had had a number of email conversations with the agents. On 1st October 2017 the school was going to become an academy as part of the Southern Academy Trust. It will remain a church school but the move will entail a change of ownership of the land and possibly also a change in those responsible for running the school.

Mr House confirmed that since half term of last year on most days there was a governor present at the start and end of the school day monitoring drop-off/pick-up, not only for health & safety reasons but to acquaint the governors with what was going on. The issue is on the agenda for the next governors' meeting. One of the problems is that following bus changes there are now 3 buses dropping off children at the school. Cllr. East confirmed he would meet with the governors after the conversion to an academy to see what could be done. He would also speak to DCC Highways. Cllr. Roberts suggested that a Village Road Safety Group should be set up sooner rather than later in order to prevent a tragedy from occurring.

- c. **Request for funds (£900) from Fete for 2 x new Gazebos** – The village fete had asked for £900 for two new gazebos. It was explained that the gazebos needed to be of sufficient quality to last and that if they were purchased from the fete funds this would mean there would be less to distribute to from the proceeds of the fete. After some discussion it was agreed to give the Village Fete £450.00 towards the purchase of the gazebos.
- d. **Items for The Gossip Tree column** – It was agreed that no report was required this month from the PC, as the meeting notes would be sufficient. Cllr. East said that there had been a positive response to parish e-notices, and he would put another invitation in the next issue.

11/09/012 To receive a report from the Clerk and A.O.B. The Clerk raised the following matters:

- Whether her employment contract had been approved. It was confirmed that the contract had been approved but not signed. Cllr. East confirmed he would do this. It was agreed the disciplinary, grievance and other policies would be put on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.
- The Clerk asked whether anyone was willing to attend the presentation of the awards for the Best Kept Village. The Fontmell had entered the village without the Parish Council being aware but any prize would come to the Parish Council. It was agreed the Clerk would attend the presentation on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The Clerk wanted to go on a course regarding allotments and asked for confirmation that the Parish Council would share the cost with Stourpaine Parish Council. This was agreed. Cllr. East also wanted to attend the allotments course and Cllr. Humphreys wanted to attend a course on Data Protection. It was agreed that these courses and other training should be funded by the Parish Council. It was not appropriate for Councillors to fund their own training as this might deter people from joining the Council in the future.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.09 pm.

Date

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Chairman, Fontmell Magna Parish Council