

WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7 March 2012 in the Village Hall, WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH

PRESENT

Mr Paul Ritchie
Mrs Christine Flemming
Ms Caroline Ward
Mr Richard Fry

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs P. Parker (Clerk), Mrs Jane Somper (District Councillor) and 3 members of the general public.

16/12. Apologies for absence- Bob Spray and Emma Parker

Cyril Couldwell had resigned and Paul Ritchie, as former Vice-Chairman, would chair the PC until the AGM in May. The consequent vacancy had been advertised, with residents having the opportunity to call for an election. If none were requested, co-option could take place next month.

Meanwhile, the co-option of Richard Fry was proposed by CF, seconded by CW and all were in favour. Richard took his place at the table.

17/12. Declarations of Interest- None

18/12. Public Participation – JS informed the meeting that NDDC had frozen Council Tax for the coming year.

19/12. Approval of Minutes- The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2012 had been previously circulated and were now approved and duly signed.

20/12. Matters Arising

Land above Fosters Meadows – A letter had been received from Carol Felton explaining that she did not wish to be involved with any negotiations to purchase the land. She believed, if it were to happen, it should be a matter led by the PC. The Clerk was asked to reply to Ms Felton that the PC felt the likely cost would be prohibitive, if indeed the owners were willing to sell. Historically, they had not been inclined to do so. Having recently taken on the land at Fields Close, Councillors felt that this was enough to cope with for the time being. The canvassing of the village about Neighbourhood Plans had perhaps led to some misconceptions.

Parking signs on the church wall – An officer from NDDC had visited to check the signs and said that this was a civil matter between the owner of the wall and the owners of Church Cottage. The Clerk had informed the vicar.

WWPC response to NDDC re. Neighbourhood Plans – Ian Smith (NDDC) had acknowledged receipt.

Election of Vice-Chair- this would be an item for the April agenda

Bus timetables- CW had still not received a reply from the local bus company regarding removal of graffiti from the bus stop in Whatcombe Lane. She would keep trying.

Look Again Project – CW reported that she had met with a representative of the project as well as Peter Allison from the PCC .Lots of suggestions had been put forward as to how the area could be enhanced at low cost. It seemed that Dorset Wildlife Trust may be keen to keep this as a project. CW would continue to keep the PC informed.

Planning Policy Framework – JS reported that the first consultation stage had now closed, with the majority of responding PCs choosing Option 3, the ‘light touch’. In response to CF’s question, JS confirmed that NDDC was now considering a review of the designated sustainability of villages.

In response to a question from a member of the public, JS said she would discuss the necessity of obtaining planning permission for the installation of solar panels.

21/12.PLANNING

Decisions:

2/1011/1475 - 3 East Farm Cottages –Erect two storey extension – GRANTED

2/2011/1477 – Walston Poultry Farm - Install solar PV modules on agricultural buildings (retrospective) - GRANTED

2/2012/0004-Sunnyside Farm Stud- Demolish existing dwelling and garage. Erect one replacement dwelling. REFUSED

Application:

2/2012/0179-Church Cottage, Chescombe Lane- Demolish internal wall. Erect new internal walls, form new doorways and carry out associated internal alterations.

There was no objection to the above.

22/12. CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Paul Lowe, Solicitor -</u>	Confirmation of land transfer & copy of Land Register entry
<u>N Dorset CAB -</u>	Thanks for £50 donation
<u>Dorset AONB –</u>	Traffic in villages Toolkit- website address. Passed to CW.
<u>Pauline Roberts</u>	Fields Close - Mrs Roberts suggested that an application be made to the Woodland Trust for a donation of 100 trees to be planted on the green area, along with plots of wild flowers. Councillors felt that such a large number of trees may prove claustrophobic and would certainly require a lot of maintenance.
<u>DCC</u>	Local Flood Risk Workshop on 29 March.
<u>Naomi House Charity</u>	Charity Auction 23 March –to be placed on PC noticeboard.
<u>Dorset Police</u>	New opening times for enquiry offices
<u>NDDC</u>	Draft Corporate Plan. Comments needed by 12 April.

FOR CIRCULATION

Police	Newsletter & The Rural 'G'
NDDC	Neighbourhood Plans- FAQs
DAPTC	Winter Newsletter
	Clerks & Councils Direct

23/12. REPORTS

- (a) Playground -CF proposed that RF become PC Officer with responsibility for the Playground. This was seconded by CW, all were in favour and RF was happy to take the position. With a view to establishing recorded checks of the Playground, the Clerk handed RF a suggested check list. This would be reviewed by the Clerk and RF.

The emergency telephone number at the Playground would be changed to RF's.

- (b) Footpaths- Nothing to report.

24/12. Planning for Olympic Torch and Jubilee events

PR explained that two meetings had been held, both greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm. There were now two groups, one dedicated to organising events for 12 July when the Olympic torch was due to pass through Whitechurch, and the other to celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

JS apologised that she would be unable to attend the next meeting on 9 March, but said she would try to find out if North Dorset was likely to receive any funding for planned events.

25/12. Fields Close – Consideration of grass cutting quotes

The Clerk had found out further detail from Mr Lovell as requested at the previous meeting, and Councillors decided to ask him to take on the cutting on a trial basis for two months. This was proposed by CF, seconded by CW and agreed by all. The Clerk would write up an agreement and ask Mr Lovell to sign it.

The Clerk was asked to write and deliver a letter to residents in Fields Close, asking them for their suggestions as to how the grassed area should be utilised. For instance, there could be bulb planting or a few more trees or perhaps a bench or two.

26/12. Litter- Discussion of possible PC action

There was general agreement that there was an unparalleled volume of litter in the parish and beyond. With the coming of visitors for the Olympics as well as a visit by the Queen, it seemed particularly important to make the area look tidy.

JS said that there had been some recent clearing up and she would be watching to see that this was maintained. She believed that there was money available in the Olympic 'pot' towards the tidy-up.

PR would be organising another litter- pick on 30 March at 6pm. The Clerk would obtain equipment from NDDC.

RF suggested that a review, after the litter-pick, would help to highlight the worst areas.

27/12. Review of PC Standing Orders and Risk Assessment

As part of the annual review of the PC's systems of internal control, these two documents had to be checked and, if necessary, amended. The Clerk and CF had made proposed alterations to Standing Orders but, in view of the impending changes to the Standards Code, these could not be finalised.

CF explained that the present Code of Conduct expired on 1 July when Parish Councils would need to have a new code in place. The new requirements may prove to be contentious. Councillors would have to declare not only their own pecuniary interests but also those of their spouses or partners and these details had to be displayed on the Internet

The Clerk felt that only two amendments needed to be made to the Risk Assessment. These were:

the addition of recorded checks of the Playground, as discussed earlier in 23/12 (a) placing PC minutes on the webpage at Dorset for You.

These were agreed by all.

28/12. FINANCE

Current Account at 28 February 2012	£5,807.28
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The following cheque was authorised:

<u>Cllr C. Ward- printing expenses</u>	<u>£4.86</u>
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(a) Review of Financial Regulations (as part of annual check of PC's systems of internal control)

Councillors had been circulated with this document prior to the meeting.

CF drew attention to:

- Point 3.5 which stated that unspent money should not be carried forward to a subsequent year unless placed in an ear-marked reserve by resolution of the PC.
- The need for the Clerk to provide a minute proof that PAYE was in operation

(b) Request for funds from Milborne St Andrew Wednesday Club

The Clerk would try to find out more about the organisation.

(c) Request from Village Hall Committee to extend fence (between PC land and Village Hall)

The Clerk would obtain a quote for the work and find out how much the Village Hall committee was willing to donate to the cost.

(d) Request for funding for village celebrations

Mr Roberts had made the request in order to help with the cost of putting on entertainments for both the summer events, although some of the jubilee equipment, such as bunting, could be re-used for the Torch.

CF proposed that £500 be ear-marked to be split between the two events. This was seconded by CW and all were in favour.

29/12. Other information for report only

PR thanked Bob Spray, in his absence, for repairing the bench near the kitchen shop.

The Clerk would contact DCC Highways about flooding in the lay-by on the A354 during heavy rain.

An event show-casing local food would be held at the Parish Rooms in Blandford on 23 March

Neighbourhood Plans – CF and the Clerk had, the previous week, attended a DAPTC course on the Localism Act. Many details of the act remained unclear.

During a presentation about NPs, the following points had been made:

- District Council input was essential
- The production of a plan was costly, with, as yet, no confirmation as to where the funding would come from.
- A very large pool of volunteers was necessary as, over the protracted time of the plan's development, many people would be likely to drop out.
- Communication should be very clear to avoid residents getting the wrong idea from rumour and misinformation.

- It was vital to check the Local Development Plan before embarking on a NP to see if the needs of the community were already being met. Unfortunately, the review of North Dorset's Local Plan would probably not be complete until 2013.JS confirmed this.

30/12. Public Participation- None

31/12. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 4 April 2012 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05.