WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

held on 26th January 2022 in the

Old School Room, WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH

**PRESENT**

 DC Cllr John Worth (Chair)

 DC Cllr Cherry Brooks

 Cllr Liam Deeney

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mr R Turley (Clerk), and 11 members of the general public.

 01/22. The Chair’s opening remarks:

This meeting is in public but not a public meeting. Public Participation will be limited to 15 minutes in total with each single participant limited to 3 minutes each on subject items within the agenda only.

On a serious matter:

At an informal meeting the previous week it was disclosed that one of the applicants seeking co-option had contacted clerks from other nearby Parish Councils purporting to be the new chair elect of WWPC and as the clerk had handed in his resignation and was seeking if any other local clerk was interested in taking on the Clerks role.

1. the clerk’s resignation was not in the public domain and was confidential and only 3 Cllr & CEO of Daptc would have been aware, so not sure how he found out about this?

2. a potential co-opted person cannot assume that they would be the chair of this Parish Council.

Current investigations are ongoing by a Dorset Council senior officer.

If that person is co-opted and it is found that they were this person after signing the acceptance of Office it would breach the code of conduct.

If they own up now and withdraw the matter ends here.

02/22. Apologies for Absence NONE

03/22.Declarations of Interest NONE

04/22. Approval of Minutes for 15th September 2021 agreed and signed by Chair also Approval of Minutes for 1st December 2021 agreed and signed by Chair

05/22. Public Participation-A question was asked about the roundabout in Fields Close -The Clerk advised that due to the recent position of the PC nothing further has happened and still no response from DC Highways. This is hoped to be pursue further once the new councillors are in position. To be added to next Agenda

06/22. Co-option of applicants to become Councillors.

Each applicant gave a short introduction about themselves and each was asked the same question by the Chair regarding his earlier statement.

Meeting adjourned for deliberation of the

Following the decision-making process of the three Councillors – and a subsequent discussion with one candidate – a candidate withdrew their application and the remaining 5 applicants were co-opted.

07/22. The five new councillors then Made their Declaration of Office and signed them before the Proper Officer.

The New Councillors then took their seats on the Parish Council

08/22. The Meeting was then reopened by The Temporary Chair

The New Chair Cllr Liam Deeney was then voted in and the Temporary Chair resigned as did the other Temporary Councillor

The Clerk/Proper Officer advised that all Councillors are required to complete their Declarations of Interest forms within 28 days from then which is now on line. Clerk to provide details.

09/22. Budget & Financial Update

 The Clerk/ Financial Officer provided a Financial Statement with a proposed budget for the coming year and a suggested Precept for the coming year 2022/23 plus Income & Payments to date with current reconciliation of Bank Accounts. After a short discussion The Chair proposed acceptance of the Budget this with four in favour and one abstained.

The Chair proposed acceptance of the Precept at £18850 for 2022/23 All in favour

10/22. Appointment of Councillors Duties the Clerk provided a list of duties to the councillors for them to decide on who does what. LD agreed to temporarily deal with the Play Park and SP offered to deal with Defibrillators. The other Duties decisions deferred until next meeting to give time to find out more about them.

11/22. Confirm Date of next Meeting -The Chair proposed 23rd February at

7pm which was agreed. Dates for the rest of the year to be decided later.

The meeting closed at 7:05pm