WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th June 2023 at 7pm

in the Old School Room, Winterborne Whitechurch

**PRESENT**

Cllr Liam Deeney (Chair)

Cllr Helen Hakimzadeh

Cllr Steven Pringle

Cllr Andrew Howard

Cllr Angela Erkan

Cllr Ricky Trim

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mr R Turley (Clerk), DC Councillor Emma Parker and 7 members of

the general public.

96/23. Opening remarks from Chair-The Chair thanked those present for attending. He also advised that he is still working on the Flood Plan.

97/23. Apologies for absence – Cllr Julien Turner

98/23. Declarations of interest None

99/23. Approval of minutes from 12th April 2023 also approval of the minutes of 8th March were agreed and signed by the Chair but due to an error pointed out by Clerk in the Closed Meeting Minutes on 11th January 2023, and a written objection on the minutes for 10th May 2023 Chair withheld over until next meeting.

100/23 Public Participation on Agenda Items the Defibrillator Officer advised that he had reinstalled the emergency pack in the Lady Bailey one after it had been used. A member of the public asked if the Footpath Officer which map was used as it was noticed that the latest web site map was different to the older version in some areas. AH confirmed that he did use the new map.

101/23. The replacement of the barrier in Jubilee Walk- The Clerk advised that he had not received any quotes from the local people he had spoken to. HH suggested a notice on Facebook may produce an interest from a local Handy man etc.

102/23. Planning Applications—None received, A member of the public asked about an application for Frogmore Cottage in Lower Lane but Clerk advised that no application had been received. To be investigated by Clerk

103/23. Jubilee Committee Report -Not received from JT as not present.

104/23. Road Safety HH requested Ian Bruce from the local CSW team provide this. See Report Attached

105/23. A Discussion on the request for an AutoSpeedWatch Device A suggestion from Ian Bruce was that the PC should consider this device which is a camera recording equipment unit mounted on a shared post with a SID which can be used as a single unit speed camera or an average speed recording system requiring 2 units, Cost about £700 to £1000 per unit. This to be looked into further taking into account the current budget etc.

106/23. Implementation of the amended Standing Orders that were circulated some months ago. AH advised that update on some items including Data Protection was needed so deferred until next meeting.

107/23. A request from St Mary’s PCC for donation of £950 towards this year’s churchyard mowing and a donation of £1000 towards another Fun in The Field Event in September this year. The RFO pointed out that the budget for last year and current year for Donations had already been exhausted and that the PC should consider a review of the budget to see if there were monies to reallocate from anything that was no longer urgent or no longer necessary as you could not just ‘rob Peter to pay Paul’ even with the amount of money currently in the bank account. After a discussion it was suggested by LD to contribute £950 to St Mary’s PCC towards the Churchyard grass cutting which is usually made in December and delay until later regarding decision on Fun in the Park request. Vote on this proposed by AH Seconded by HH plus 2 in favour 1 against.

108/23. Correspondence- None

109/23. Councillors Reports (a) Fields Close- RT advised that the grass had recently been cut. (b) Footpaths AH many of the local paths are becoming overgrown and it was suggested that PC and public should report the issue independently to Dorset Council (c) SIDS AH reported that he had received a quote for another SID which had previously been discussed at a cost of £3560 which all felt was a good idea. AH proposed this to be purchased Seconded LD All in Favour It was confirmed that this item could be justified within the current budget. (d) Play Park – AE advised that still waiting for correct swing fitment for infants (e) LD Advised that he has still not completed the Flood Report but almost done.

110/23. Bank account LD confirmed that the email he had tried previously to open he has finally succeeded and meant to bring to the meeting for both Clerk’s and previous other signatory to sign as present at meeting but unfortunately forgot. The Clerk pointed out that due to the length of time it has taken LD to open emails he confirmed he had received, it is now urgent to complete application due to wrong standing order payments still being made. LD agreed to print off form and arrange with Clerk and other signatory to action as soon as possible before 15th of month. The Clerk did suggest that as LD had Cheque signatory payments could be made by cheque as he had the cheque book with him but LD did not comment.

The Clerk advised that the tree work in Fields Close was now completed but delayed

due to the chain saw breaking and Charles Lovell had to wait for replacement part and work

was finally completed on 18th May. LD proposed ok to pay as quote at £440 Seconded AH

All in Favour

111/23. Finance

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| No 1 Account at 31st May 2023 | £ 28,303.15 |
| Payment pending at last meeting |  |
| Teddy Rocks Charity (to Charity only not Company) | £ 200.00 |
| Gallagher Insurance Renewal | £ 813.97 |
| Redlynch Play Park Equipment | £ 4416.00 |
| Worknest Ltd | £ 2370.00 |
| Payments for authorisation | |  |
| Clerk’s Salary June 2023 | | £ 381.20 |
| HMRC PAYE payment on Clerks June 2023 Salary | | £ 121.60 |
| Charles Lovell Tree work Fields Close | | £ 440.00 |

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| No 2 Account at 31st May 2023 | £ 1217.90 |
| Payments for authorisation—Nil |  |

112/23. Completion of External Audit papers (AGAR) The forms read out in turn by Chair starting with Internal Audit Report. Then Annual Governance and Accountability Statement answering the questions which were then agreed and signed. Lastly the Financial Statement provided by the RFO and agreed and signed. The Clerk/RFO then explained that the completed forms together with the dates for Public Rights (between June 30th and August 11th will be sent to the External Auditors before June 30th 2023.

113/23. Matters for information Only LD thanked the members of the public who had been strimming the areas of overgrown grass in the village.

114/23. Public Participation

115/23. Date Of next Meeting 12th July 2023

Meeting Closed at 8:37 pm

**Item 104/23 CSW Consolidated Report to**

**Winterborne Whitechurch Parish Council (07.06.2023)**

**1. Introduction:**

* The CSW team was reformed in November 2022 after a break due to Covid19 and now follows in the footsteps of the previous team who did a fantastic job of helping to raise the profile of speeding in the village;
* One member of the pre-Covid team has continued as a volunteer, all other volunteers are new to the activity;
* The current team has 6 regular volunteers and a further 6 supporters/potential helpers who have asked to be kept informed of operations and progress as some have specialist skills (e.g., Solicitor) or experience (e.g., Police) that might be useful to the CSW team and the Parish Council in the future.

**2. Overview:**

* Dorset has over 900 sites of ‘Community Concern’ where speeding is an issue – far too many for Police resources to adequately cover;
* There are over 90 CWS teams in the county with approximately 500 volunteers involved in monitoring traffic speed. CSW volunteers (minimum requirement of 3 attending roadside sessions) operate under the direction and supervision of the Dorset Police Staff CSW Coordinator;
* Another member of Police Staff, equipped with a Home Office approved speed camera (TruCam), has responsibility for assisting CSW teams at the roadside. Once again, very thinly spread among the 90+ teams;
* The registered keepers of vehicles caught speeding by CSW using the standard Radar Speedmeter are sent a polite warning letter asking them to inform the driver to take more care. Details are recorded in the Dorset Police database. Vehicles recorded as speeding for a second and third time in a 12-month rolling period receive a more strongly worded letter and may receive a visit by the Police;
* An additional/separate polite letter is sent to the registered keeper of a vehicle where the driver or a passenger in the vehicle is abusive towards CSW volunteers;
* All these letters are produced by an office-based CSW volunteer.

**3. CSW Observations:**

* The main road (Dorchester Hill and Blandford Hill) has the highest volume of traffic with typically between 1000 and 2000 vehicles per hour passing through the village during rush hours where illegal speeds of between 35mph and 50mph (particularly where entering and leaving the village) are regularly recorded, the highest recent recording being 66mph coming down Blandford Hill – too fast to read the registration plate;
* Whatcombe Lane and Chescombe Lane are quieter by comparison, but are still plagued by too many drivers exceeding the 30mph speed limit;
* The geography of the village located in the valley (with long, straight, downhill approaches) is recognised by the Police and the Highway Authority as being particularly ‘challenging’ in respect of driver speed behaviour;
* Of most serious concern is the safety of children on their way home from school when crossing the busy A354 after alighting from the school bus, this is particularly the case during the cold wet winter months when it is dark by 4.00pm.

**4. Lessons Learnt:**

* While there’s no doubt CSW plays an important role in raising the profile of illegal speeding, the current operation is hugely ineffective in altering the unacceptable behaviour of many drivers – this is easily seen to be the case as the current CSW operation is simply not making any discernible difference to the levels of offending;
* The village CSW team would need to be active for at least 1 or 2 hours at different times of the day, every day, 7 days a week, and for a prolonged period, in order to improve the situation;
* Too many drivers believe they can ‘abuse’ CSW teams (usually hand signals and verbal gestures), which indicates a general lack of respect and understanding for what CSW is trying to achieve;
* The hand-held Speedmeter used by CSW teams is only effective when traffic is light as the radar beam has too wide a spread to be confident of correctly identifying an individual vehicle, therefore ineffective when used on the busy A354;
* The manual task of recording vehicle information (speed, registration number, make, model, colour, time) using paper and pen is time consuming and prone to error;
* There are many weather conditions (e.g., drizzle, rain, cold temperature, light conditions) and operational constraints (e.g., not allowed to target vehicles until over 169 metres into the 30mph zone, therefore restricting the location options from where to conduct monitoring) that thwart the team’s ability to be effective;
* Unfortunately, CSW are not allowed to make use of body cameras to record abusive behaviour directed towards them.

Note: Police Staff are not constrained by these conditions and restrictions. They are allowed to carry out single-person operations, by day and by night, in all weather conditions and wear body cameras for capturing evidence and for personal safety.

**5. Recommendations - the Parish Council is requested to consider and give support to the following initiatives:**

* Better and greater use of Speed Indicator Devices (SID) by making some locations

(e.g., at entry points to the village) permanent (c£4,000/SID);

* Adoption of the AutoSpeedWatch camera recording equipment (c£700/Unit mounted on a shared post with a SID). Note: can be used as a single-unit speed camera or an average speed recording system requiring 2 units.
* Introduction of 20mph speed limit zones in Whatcombe Lane and Chescombe Lane and the side roads leading off these lanes. Note: Dorset Council has currently excluded strategic roads (like the A354) from having 20mph speed limits;
* Construction of a pedestrian road crossing for the A354. Note: this has always been problematic (too expensive) for Dorset Council because of the complexity of the road layout in the centre of the village (i.e., general lack of pavements/safe pedestrian zones on the north side of the A354 combined with the close proximity of Whatcombe Lane, Chescombe Lane, Rook Lane and the main bus-stop/layby by the Reading Rooms.
* Provide formal backing and support to the CSW team with their demands for greater road safety arrangements, traffic calming measures and speed enforcement from Dorset Highways and Dorset Police.

**Ian Bruce (Winterborne Whitechurch CSW Team Coordinator)**