

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Magna Parish Council held on Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2021  
following the Annual Parish meeting at Minterne House held at 7.30pm.**

**The meeting was held with strict Covid regulations, social distancing & masks being worn.**

**Present:** The Lord Digby, Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. Paul Stanzl and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington.  
No members of the public were present.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr. S. Tite, Mrs. J. Haynes, Dorset Councillor & PCSO S. Pilcher.

### **2. Election of Officers**

On the proposition of Mr. Saunders, seconded by Mrs. Howard-Johnston, Lord Digby was unanimously elected Chairman. Lord Digby signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The other following Officers were elected -

Vice - Chairman	Mr. P. Goodfellow
Finance	Lord Digby
Highways	Mr. S. Tite
Rights of Way	Mrs. C. Howard-Johnston
Trees	All members
Internal Auditor	Mrs. H. Smith

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> & January 20<sup>th</sup> having been circulated, were signed as correct.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **5. Open Session - Police & Community Matters, Dorset Councillor's report**

PCSO S. Pilcher's report given to Annual Parish meeting was noted, this covered incidents from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. This included thefts of a horse box at Martinstown, chainsaws at Thorncombe, flat bed trailer in the Poole area and catalytic converter thefts. Cold calling asking about camper vans is occurring with a white transit van involved. A SUV is thought to be in the area, involved with poaching.

PCSO Pilcher recommended that members access the Dorchester Police Facebook pages for up to date and local information, stated that there are signs available via herself for Sheep worrying & Dog control.

The Council noted this report received from Jill Haynes Chalk Valley Ward. Dorset Council. The third Lockdown seems to have had the right effect in Dorset and the figures for the last week in April were 11.5 per 100K in the Dorset Council area. There was sadly one death and four people were in hospital. The rate continues to fall week on week through the month. Social distancing still needs to be maintained but the measures are gradually being relaxed. The government ruling that no longer allows councils to hold virtual meetings is very unsatisfactory. We simply do not have the spaces to have appropriate social distancing. For example, the large auditorium which is the county hall council chamber can only have 18 people socially distanced. For a cabinet meeting there are some 25/30 people without any members of the public so it looks as if we will have to have the 9 Cabinet members in one room and a video link to officers and clerks possibly a third room for the public. Wembley stadium isn't big enough for the full council!!

In Children's services there are some very positive results coming through from the new transformation work with children and their families. The numbers of children in the council's care, including foster children, has fallen from 525 before Christmas to 442 this month. Dorset Council purchased a private school, St Marys, in December. The school is based on the Dorset /Wiltshire border near Shaftesbury. After an 8 week consultation the council has been given the go ahead to turn the school into a centre of excellence for children with special educational needs. The school has superb facilities and is ready to go with virtually no alterations. This will give the council the opportunity to provide for these children locally and we hope to bring many of those who are educated out of county, and who have to travel very long distances for their special educational needs, into the school. Providing this in-house setting should make considerable savings for the council as the out of county private provision is extremely expensive. In some cases, as much as £15k per week for a child.

Dorset Council has just opened up a new Community and Culture fund, the link for the grants being [Community and Culture Project Fund - Dorset Council](#) Please share this as widely as possible in your community. There are some quite strict criteria so please read all the documentation through before making an application.

Mr. Goodfellow reported that there is to be meeting in Middlemarsh, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the improved Fibre Optic Broadband options, with Mr. J. Brooks co-ordinating the scheme.

## 6. To sign Annual Statement of Governance

Lord Digby, Chairman read & signed the Annual Statement of Governance.

## 7. Financial matters

The Council noted that the account balance at 30/04/21 was £6,717.25p.

The Council noted that £1,050 half precept is included.

**Receipts** – £1,050 precept & £28.60p VAT reclaim

**Payments made** – £171.60 Vision ICT – website hosting, £100 Future Roots, £50 Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance & £400 Clerk's expenses, £84 Vision ICT Ltd Operation Forth Bridge, & £244.83p BHIB insurance

The payments were approved & cheques signed.

The Chairman gave members a copy of the annual accounts to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 and answered questions.

On the proposition of Mr. Goodfellow, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, the Council formally adopted the annual accounts.

Lord Digby, Chairman read & signed the Annual return documents to be sent to PFK, External auditors, Canary Wharf, London. It was noted that the Notice for Public Inspection is to be displayed on the Notice board in Minterne, and put onto the Website, when legally required.

## 19. Planning matters

The Council noted that there had been a change of ownership at Bridge Wood, Middlemarsh, resolving all previous issues.

In the absence of Mrs. J. Haynes, Dorset Councillor, as there had been nothing received reference the situation at The Stables, Middlemarsh, it was agreed to ask Mrs. Haynes for an update.

The Council noted that there were no decisions on the two applications WD/D/19/002556 for Lord Digby, being at the building known as Manor Farm Barn, Sandy Lane, Minterne Magna for the conversion and alteration to 1 No. dwelling to include removal of lean to extension & erect single storey extension & WD/D/19/002557 at the building known as Manor Farm Barn, Sandy Lane, Minterne Magna for internal & external alterations to facilitate the conversion to a 1 No. dwelling. Lord Digby stated that these applications were in abeyance.

The Council noted application WD/D/20/002493 at Greenfields, Middlemarsh for use of land for the siting of four shepherd's huts with package treatment plants had been granted.

The Council noted application WD/D/20/002823 at Land & Barn west of Kennels Lane, Middlemarsh for Change of Use and conversion from Agricultural building to single dwelling had been refused, but noted that another application was being considered by the applicant.

The Council noted that there was no decision on application WD/D/20/002538 at the Lyons Gate Caravan Park for use of land for siting of 40 no. caravans.

The Council discussed and supported application WD/D/20/003300 at Cosmore Farm, Middlemarsh for erection of store, this being amended plans from the original plans submitted.

## 20. Rights of Way

Mrs. Howard-Johnston stated that there were no issues to report.

## 21. Highway issues

The Council discussed the junction of the C.12 with the A.352 at Middlemarsh, with Mr. Goodfellow stating that there is a safety issue with lack of visibility due to overhanging trees at this triangle, and if these were removed, and undergrowth removed, this would greatly improve the situation. There are also issues with the signage at this junction. After discussion, the Council agreed that these points are sent to Dorset Highways, copied to Mrs. Haynes, Councillor. The Council were informed that the owner is Mr. Paul Griffiths, who lives in Somerset.

Mr. Stanzl stated that he had details of a VAS device, which could be either purchased or hired from Road Technologies Ltd. After discussion, it was that the device would be very useful both at Lyons Gate and in Middlemarsh, as it would provide data both on volume and speed of traffic. It was agreed that Lord Digby would contact Cerne Valley Parish Council to see if their device could be hired on a trial basis. Mr. Stanzl would find out more and report back at the next meeting. Also, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mrs. Haynes, Dorset Councillor to ask if any grants would be available.

**22. Flooding issues**

It was noted that there had been no issues.

**23. Correspondence**

The Council noted Clerks Direct.

**24. Items for report, or for the agenda of the next meeting**

There were no issues raised.

**25. To confirm the date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business; the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.

Date.