

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Magna Parish Council held on Wednesday September 20th 2023
at Minterne House at 7.30pm.**

Present: The Lord Digby, Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. Paul Stanzl, Mr. S. Tite, Mrs. J. Haynes, Dorset Councillor and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington. Nine members of the public attended.

17. Apologies

Apologies were received from PCSO S. Pilcher.

18. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday May 17th 2023, having been circulated, were signed as correct.

19. Declarations of Interest

Mr. Saunders declared an interest in application P/FUL/2023/02431 at Chapel Farm, Middlemarsh.

20. Open Session - Police & Community Matters & Dorset Councillor's report

In the absence of PCSO S. Pilcher, her crime reports were noted. These had been circulated.

Mrs. J. Wildin raised her concerns over application P/FUL/2023/02842 at The Milestone, Lyons Gate for change of use and conversion of buildings to form 2 No holiday lets. Mrs. Wildin stated that the proposed application will impact on her adjacent property, as it is right up to their boundary, with noise, overlooking and traffic movements to & from the site. It was noted that members had been notified of this application, but the Clerk apologised that he had omitted it from the agenda. This will be amended on the Council's website.

After some discussion, it was agreed that members of the Council will have a site visit on Monday next, to form their response to this application. Mrs. Haynes stated that the Parish Council can still make formal comment on this application.

Mr. C. Perry asked why was there no speed limit through Lyons Gate. Lord Digby stated that the Parish Council has asked over many years for at least a 40 MPH speed limit, but have been informed by Dorset County Highways that Lyons Gate does not match their criteria.

Mrs. Haynes spoke on her monthly reports, which had been circulated, and updated the Council on the issues under review by the Council. Mrs. Haynes stated that the next year's budget process is starting next week. Transport costs are £5 million over budget, with the Adult Services' provision at present under control. There is a new Digital service being created, as there are more 4G masts required to meet demand for better coverage for Mobile phones. Dorset Council were encouraging the 'Phone companies to share masts.

Mr. Saunders asked whether any Council money was being spent on the Barge in Portland Harbour, proposed to house illegal immigrants whilst their status being assessed by the Home Office. Mrs. Haynes stated that there was no one on board at present and the area when the Barge is moored is in the private ownership of the Portland Harbour Authority. Services are being provided by Dorset Council, which may be refunded from Central Government. Further discussion took place on this issue. Mrs. Haynes was thanked for attending.

It was agreed that there had been no issues arising from the recent Iron Man event.

21. Financial matters

The Council noted that the account balance at 31/08/23 was £5,279.78p.

It was noted that the second half of Precept of £1,700 is due in September.

Receipts – £128.48p VAT refund & £1,700 Precept to be received.

Payments made – .£3,315.60p Morelock Signs Ltd - SID, £1,048 Dorset Highways & £540 Dorset Highways.

The Council noted that there had no issues raised from the External Auditor BDO Stoy.

These payments were approved & the cheques approved.

The Council received the written report from Mr. Stanzl asking for a further post to be installed in Middlemarsh, this being further down from the Knapp entrance to accommodate the owner's objections. After discussion, the Council approved the potential cost of £725 for the post needed, plus the Solar panel.

Lord Digby thanked Mr. Stanzl for all he has done with getting the SID up & running.

22. Planning matters

The Council noted there was no decision on application D/D/19/002556 for Lord Digby 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 – amended plans.

The Council noted there was no decision on application P/CLP/2022/07954 Lyons Gate Caravan Park, Lyons Gate for use of land for the siting of 40 no caravans for human habitation – Certificate of Lawful Use.

The Council noted that application P/FUL/2022/07664 at Mill House, Tiley Knap, Middlemarsh to form a new vehicular access and driveway (close existing access) had been granted

The Council noted that application P/FUL/2022/07781 at the Old Sawmills, Tiley Knap, Middlemarsh to extend existing car park (retain works already carried out) had been granted.

The Council noted there was no decision on application P/FUL/2023/02431 at Chapel Farm, Middlemarsh for replacement and re-siting of existing mobile home.

The Council noted there was no decision on application P/HOU/2023/03770 at Oaklands, Middlemarsh to erect a single storey extension, note the above application is for Householder Planning permission.

The Council noted the comments made in the Open Session reference application P/FUL/2023/02842 at The Milestone, Lyons Gate for change of use and conversion of buildings to form 2 No holiday lets and confirmed that there is to be a meeting at Lyons Gate on Monday September 25th.

The Council considered and full supported application P/FUL/2023/03732 at The Potting Shed, Middlemarsh to retain change of use of agricultural land to well-being nursery & therapy centre. Including formation of hardened parking area, paths, landscaping, extension of existing building & erection of additional buildings consisting of workshop, potting sheds, zen garden pavilion, compost, tool & machinery store, treatment rooms, staff welfare room, kitchen & polytunnels.

23. Highway issues

Mr. Stanzl updated the Council in a full written report on the SID, now installed and in use, with two sites used at either end of Middlemarsh. The SID was commissioned on July 2nd and at that point it had been agreed that Solar panels were need to allow the unit to operate for longer than two weeks without battery replacement. With solar panels the operational time will exceed the six week duration needed before moving to another location. The necessary training had been carried out. Unfortunately the Device was vandalised, but has been repaired at no cost by the Dorset, Council Community SID team. The incident has been reported to the Police and a Crime reference number has been given. Results from the Holnest show a top speed of 102 MPH, with 44.31% exceeding the 40 MPH speed limit. Mr. Stanzl stated that residents noted a significant reduction in speed due to the device. Mr. Stanzl highlighted that the existing 40 MPH speed signs through Middlemarsh are either faded or covered by vegetation and ought to be checked by Dorset Highways, and also felt that 40 MPH roundels painted on the road surface would be useful. After discussion, it was agreed to forward these issues to Dorset Highways for consideration.

The Council noted that there had been a response to permit a site for the SID below the entrance to Thorn Knap, Middlemarsh and the Council agreed that this would be acceptable rather than have a long debate on the issue. As under finance, the Council authorised the additional expenditure needed.

The Council agreed that the visibility at the triangle at the junction of the C.12 with the A.352 at Middlemarsh, continues to be a great improvement.

Mrs. Howard – Johnston spoke on her Email, which highlighted two issues, being the poor state of the road from the A.352 into Minterne Parva and lack of visibility when exiting onto the A.352. Lord Digby stated that he intends to clear back the growth to improve the visibility.

24. Rights of Way

Mrs. Howard - Johnston stated that she had no issues to report.

25. Flooding issues

It was noted that despite recent heavy rain in some parts of Dorset, there had been no major flooding issues within the Parish.

26. Correspondence

Waste recycling news, Iron man were noted. All correspondence is circulated.

27. Items for report, or for the agenda of the next meeting

There were no issues raised.

28. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed Wednesday November 15th 2023 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business; the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 9.04pm.

Signed.

Date.

