

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Magna Parish Council held on Wednesday January 17th 2024
at Minterne House at 7.30pm.**

Present: Lord Digby, Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. Paul Stanzl, Mr. S. Tite, and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington. Two members of the public attended.

41. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mrs. J. Haynes, Dorset Councillor & PCSO S. Pilcher.

42. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday November 15th 2023 having been circulated, were signed as correct.

43. Declarations of Interest & appointment of Internal auditor

There were no Declarations of Interests.

Lord Digby informed the meeting that Mr. Peter Bailey has agreed to be the Internal auditor.

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

In the absence of PCSO S. Pilcher, her crime reports were noted. Lord Digby highlighted the theft of a quad bike at Minterne and the report highlighted a theft at Lyons Gate.

Mrs. Pires stated that there had been suspicious persons seen in Lyons Gate and she was strongly urged to report this incident.

Mrs. Pires asked that the Council put the dates of future meetings, if possible, for the whole year, on the Council's Website, this was unanimously agreed.

Mr. Sharman, who had asked to attend the meeting, was invited to speak and he explained that he will be standing as the Liberal candidate at the forthcoming election on May 2nd for the Dorset Council.

In the absence of Mrs. Haynes, the Council noted her monthly reports, which had been circulated, these highlighting the issues facing the Dorset Council.

The Council noted that there are to be elections on May 2nd 2024 for both Parish & Dorset Councillors. The Clerk requested that members return their nomination papers by the deadline of noon April 4th. It was noted that nomination papers will be available from March 11th.

The Council noted that the Parish is remaining within the West Dorset constituency.

45. Financial matters

The Council noted that the account balances at 31/10/23 were £7,257.18p.

Lord Digby gave members present, copies of the Finances & proposed Budget for 2024/25. The current year end spend has been estimated to be overspent by £1,888. However the Council had spent £4,200 on the purchase of the SID, which had been budgeted to be spread over two years. Going forward, it was agreed the budget will not have this expenditure and forecast a surplus even with any election costs. On the proposition of M. Stanzl, seconded by Mr. Saunders, the Council approved the Budget

After discussion, on the proposition of Mr. Goodfellow, seconded by Mr. Tite, the Council agreed the Precept for 2024/24 should remain at £3,400 as last year.

The Council approved the payment of £132 including VAT to Morelock Signs Ltd which was an outstanding underpayment. The Council noted within the budget figures that the Council make two donations each year - £100 to Future Roots, Holnest & £50 to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. These were actually paid following the meeting.

Receipts – nil

Payments made – £132 Morelock Signs Ltd, £150 Future Roots & £50 Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance.

46. 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.

Lord Digby highlighted the issues raised by phosphate situation and its impact on planning.

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/2023/02842 at The Milestone, Lyons Gate for change of use and conversion of buildings to form 2 No holiday lets had been granted.

The Council noted application P/CLE/2023/05673 at Chapel Farm, Middlemarsh for replacement and re-siting of existing mobile home for 1 No, unit of residential accommodation had been granted.

The Council noted that application P/HOU/ 03940 Farthing Gate Farm, Holnest for erection of extension and convert car port, garage and first floor loft room to annexe had been granted.

The Council noted that application P/PAEL/2023/05935 at Telecommunications Mast at High Stoy St648540 to install 1 No. 25m lattice tower telecommunications mast and ancillary equipment had received prior approval.

47. Highway issues

Mr. Stanzl gave members a copies of the detailed SID use and data recorded from it.

The highlights were from the sessions were as follows - 30/11/23 to 10/01/24 from Holnest into Middlemarsh were 57,596 vehicles with 46.27% over the speed limit – maximum speed 98 MPH.

The other details 30/11/23 to 10/01/24 leaving Middlemarsh towards Holnest were 62,341 vehicles with 76.54% over the speed limit – maximum speed 111 MPH. It was noted that the SID records data from both directions.

Mr. Stanzl stated that the solar panels powering the SID are a great benefit.

The Council thanked Mr. Stanzl for his detailed report, and it was noted that this information is on the Council's website.

Lord Digby stated that he will arrange to cut back the undergrowth to maintain the visibility at the triangle at the junction of the C.12 with the A.352 at Middlemarsh. The Council unanimously agreed to approve this action.

48. Rights of Way

In the absence of Mrs. Howard – Johnston, members had no issues to report.

49. Flooding issues

Mr. Goodfellow reported the drain opposite the Hunter's Moon, Middlemarsh has had works carried out.

50. Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated.

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

The Council noted that there will be the Council elections on May 2nd 2024.

52. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meetings was confirmed for Wednesday May 15th 2024 at 7.30pm.

These will be the Annual Parish meeting at 7.30pm followed by the Parish Council meeting at which officers are elected.

There being no further business; the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed.

Date.

