

**Minutes of the Minterne Magna Parish Council held on Wednesday January 24th 2018
at Minterne House, at 7.30pm.**

Present: The Hon. Henry Digby, Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. S. Tite, Mrs. M. Penfold, County Councillor, Mr. A. F. Horsington, District Councillor, Mr. T. Yarker, District Councillor, PCSO Daniel Gent and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington.

Nine members of the public attended.

47. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs. C. Howard-Johnston & Mrs. H. Smith & PCSO S. Pilcher.

48. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on November 29th 2017, having been circulated, were signed as correct.

49. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

50. Open Session – Police & Community matters

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Gent to the meeting, who introduced himself and highlighted three ongoing issues.

- a) Theft from local Beauty spots
- b) Scams both online & telephone contact
- c) Traffic speeding and the need for Driver awareness

PCSO Gent informed the meeting that there were no recent crimes to report within the Minterne Magna Parish. This was welcomed, and the Chairman thanked PCSO Gent for attending.

The Council considered the details circulated, reference new General Data Protection Act, which comes into force in May. It was agreed that this is an ongoing process, but this has to be addressed, and agreed to appoint the Clerk as the Officer responsible for the information and necessary actions as needed.

The Chairman invited Mr. Paul Sherry to give an overview of his plans for Change of Use at Bridgewood, Middlemarsh. The application when submitted, would seek to change of use from Forestry as at present, for use of Outdoor pursuits. The plan being to assist disadvantaged young adults aged 8 – 18 years in the art of Bush craft. This Course, resulting in a Navigation award, which is recognised nationally. The number on site at any one time would be six, with a minimum of two adults, in charge.

Mr. Stanzl queried the access being proposed, as shown on the WDDC website, expressed concerns at the apparent behaviour of some of those on site and the Council were given a resume of activities, occurring since last August. Mr. P. Foot queried the proposed access, stating that historically this had never been used. These comments were noted.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Sherry for outlining his plans and assured all present, that the Parish Council will hold an extra meeting to consider the planning application, when notified by WDDC.

51. County & District Councillors' reports

Mrs. Penfold, County Councillor informed the meeting that to date, the Secretary of State had not formally announced the formation of the proposed Unitary Authority. Christchurch has voted against joining the Unitary, preferring to remain as the status quo, or entering discussions with Poole & Bournemouth. Mr. Yarker, District Councillor stated that the Joint Councils Working Party are to recommend that the new Authority will be called 'Dorset County'. The intention is to hold elections to new Authority in 2019, with members being elected initially for two five year terms of Office, and thereafter then to revert to the present four year cycle.

52. Financial matters

The Council noted that the Balance at December 30th 2017 was £3,301.32p. It was noted that the Cheque for £50 sent to Future Roots, had not been cashed.

Receipts – nil

Payments - nil

The Chairman gave each member a copy of the Budget statement showing figures to March 31st 2018. After discussion, the budget was approved.

The Council discussed the Precept requirement, noting that there is no longer any Council Tax Support Grant, and there will be now a minimum External audit fee of £200 to PKF Littlejohn LLP , Canary Wharf, London.

On the proposition of Mr. Digby, seconded by Mr. Goodfellow, it was unanimously agreed to precept £1,700 for 2018/19 adding £200 to the Precept to cover the potential £200 external audit fee. The Council expressed concern at the External audit minimum fee of £200 for the Council, as it only raises normally £1,500 precept, as being proportionally unreasonable. The Clerk was instructed to contact the External auditors highlighting the cost per transaction for the audit.

53. Planning matters

The Council noted that application WD/D/17/002322 Oaklands, Middlemarsh to erect two storey extension had been granted.

The Council noted that application WD/D/17/001976 at 2. Manor Cottages, Middlemarsh for a single storey rear extension had been granted.

The Council discussed and supported applications WD/D/17/002266 FUL & WD/D/002267 LBC at Kennels Lane, Middlemarsh for Change of Use of outbuilding from ancillary domestic to holiday lets. Refurbishment & extension of outbuilding.

The Council noted that application WD/D/17/002618 on land south of Manor Farm Cottages, access to Hurdley Moor Farm for installation of new track with turning circle / storage at northern end of Bridge Wood had been withdrawn.

The Council noted that application WD/D/18/000078 on land south of Manor Farm Cottages, access to Hurdley Moor Farm to widen access had been granted, under permitted approval.

The Council noted that the Parish Council will hold an extra meeting to consider the planning application for Bridgewood, Middlemarsh, when notified by WDDC.

54. Rights of Way

In the absence of Mrs. C. Howard-Johnston, there were no issues raised.

55. Highway issues

The Clerk reported that Dorset County Highways had confirmed that after investigation, the County Council will not reduce the speed limit in Middlemarsh from 40 MPH to 30 MPH. This was noted. After discussion, it was agreed to ask the Police to attend and use speed cameras to monitor the speed through Middlemarsh.

56. Flooding issues

It was reported that an Officer had looked at the situation, reported at the previous meeting, in the area of the Old School house on the A.352, beyond Lanes Cottages, and he had concluded there was no problem with potential flooding. Mr. Digby stated that he will monitor the situation and report to Mrs. Penfold, County Councillor if there an ongoing issue.

57. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence from the Dorset Local Access Forum, highlighting three events in Blandford Forum on March 8th, Bridport March 20th and in Wareham on March 21st. Clerks Direct was also noted.

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

There were no matters raised.

59. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The Council confirmed the date of the next Parish Council meeting for Wednesday May 9th 2018. This will follow the Annual Parish meeting, being held at 8.00pm.

It was confirmed and agreed that there will be an extra Parish Council meeting, to consider the planning application, when received, for the Change of Use on land south of Manor Farm, Cottages, Bridgewood, Middlemarsh.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for attending, and closed the meeting at 8.42pm.

Signed:

Date:

