

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Parish Council held on Wednesday September 10th 2014  
at Minterne House at 8.00pm.**

**Present:** The Hon. Henry Digby Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. S. Tite, Mr. C. Saunders, Mrs. S. East, District Councillor and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington.

Two members of the public attended.

**15. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor & Mr. A. Chisholm, District Councillor.

**16. The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on May 14th 2014, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

**17. Open Session**

There were no issues raised.

**18. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**19. Police & Community Matters**

In the absence of PCSO Pilcher, there were Police matters reported.

**20. County & District Councillors' reports.**

In the absence of Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, the Chairman read her Emailed report, which was circulated to members. This included - that following a survey, the top priorities for residents were shown to be,

- a) to help persons to live independently for as long as possible at home
- b) to maintain a suitable highway network
- c) to assist with rural bus transport

All this information will be processed and considered by DCC, as part of its priorities' decisions.

All three directorates are still working on restructuring, which is proving difficult for members of staff. This process should be complete by the end of the year.

A meeting of the Adult & Community Overview Committee is to look at the business plan for a Local Authority Trading Company for the County Day Centres and Residential Care Homes for adults. This will be 100% owned by DCC, but be able to trade and provide services for self funders as well as current users. Any profit generated would go back into Social care.

The Council noted that there is a review of the County Highways section, but this is to remain an 'inhouse' service, but it is hoped to obtain ideas from the review that will result in saving money, without compromising the service. Mrs. Haynes stated that DCC Highways are in the top 10% for performance in this area at the moment.

Mrs. East, District Councillor, gave her report, which included WDDC has carried out a job evaluation of all staff and now have a new pay scale in place, to make sure that the Weymouth & Portland staff are all on the same pay scale. There has been a 10% reduction in staff numbers and all Services are being reviewed.

West Dorset District Council have agreed to enter into dialogue with North Dorset District Council to discuss forming a partnership and a bid has been made for transportation money - c. £1.5 million set up by Central Government to enable Councils to work more closely. The bid is being made in two parts.

Mrs. East stated that a further planning application has been made for the Charles St. development in Dorchester.

Mrs. East reported that according to Central Government, the WDDC Local Plan did not include sufficient housing for the area. This is being revised in accordance with the Government Inspector's recommendations with the necessary public consultation.

## **21. Financial matters**

The Chairman reported that the Council's financial balances were £1,448.24p at August 31st 2014, with £500 part of precept due in September.

The Clerk reported that the External auditors, BDO have signed off the Annual accounts and there was no fee charged this year. The only issue raised was the need to separate the Social tax element, granted & paid by WDDC from the total amount of precept received. The Notice of the Closure of the Audit has been put on the Notice board.

## **22. Planning matters**

The public examination of the Cerne Abbas Neighbourhood plan has taken place, and the residents are expected to vote on the plan in early December.

The Council noted that application WD/D/001136 for Mr. Pires at Lyons Gate Farm for structural stabilisation of the south west gable had been supported and granted.

The Council agreed to support application WD/D/001724 on Land off A.352 before Oaklands, Middlemarsh for the erection of steel framed building finished in concrete wall sections, metal cladding sheets and fibre cement roof sheets, if planning was required.

The Council agreed to note and make no comment on application WD/D/002092 at Blackberry Farm, Hartley Street, Hermitage for proposed rear extension to listed building with associated internal & external alterations, and triple garage with guest accommodation above. To include removal of trees (adjacent Parish).

## **23. Rights of Way**

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

## **24. Highway issues**

Mr. Tite reported that County Highway officials have cleared drains at Lyons Gate, but stated that until it rains, it will be only then that it will become known if the works will prevent flooding.

Mr. Stevenson stated that County Highways were clearing drains in Middlemarsh.

## **25. Correspondence**

The Council noted that Mrs. Smith had completed the DCC Bus transport survey. The Dorset AONB management plan 2014/19 was available & noted.

The Council considered an appeal for Flood Wardens, and after some discussion, the Chairman agreed to take on this role for the Parish.

A letter was received from Mr. Michael Wood asking for information concerning the Bus shelter at Lyons Gate. It was agreed that the Chairman would supply the necessary information.

Mr. Saunders stated that he had been informed that the Bus shelter was in need of being varnished. This was noted

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

There were no issues raised, except to note that the Council will consider the precept at the next meeting.

## **27. To confirm the date of the next meeting**

The Council confirmed the time & date of the next meeting for Wednesday November 19th 2014 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business; the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.

Date

