

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Parish Council held on Wednesday February 12th 2014  
at Minterne House at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** The Hon. Henry Digby Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mr. S. Tite, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. C. Saunders and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington.

One member of the public attended.

**41. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, Mrs. S. East, District Councillor, Mr. A. Chisholm, District Councillor & PCSO S. Pilcher.

**42. The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on November 13th 2013, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

**43. Open Session**

Mr. Saunders introduced Mr. Allen from Middlemarsh, who stated that it was his intention to apply to build a house on his property at Middlemarsh and asked the Council for an opinion.

The Chairman explained the role and procedure of Parish Councils in dealing with planning applications.

**44. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**45. Police & Community Matters**

Mr. Digby reported that a trailer had been stolen and a four wheel drive vehicle taken at Godmanstone.

PCSO Pilcher's report was read, which stated that for the Minterne area, on December 13th there had been theft of diesel, also theft of show jumps, and on January an attempted theft.

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

In the absence of Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, The Clerk reported that the County Council are considering their Budgets for the coming year.

In the absence of Mrs. East, District Councillor, her Emailed report was read by the Chairman, which included that West Dorset District Council are to freeze prices for short term parking charges. The charges at the Fair Field, Dorchester long stay charges will rise from £2 to £4 per day, and a modernisation is underway to introduce a barrierless pay on exit on WDDC car parks.

Mrs. East stated that funding from Central Government is set to decline, and WDDC will have a funding gap of £6.7 million by the year 2019/20. The Council tax element from WDDC is set to increase at just under 2% for 2014/14.

Mrs. East stated that the delay in agreeing the Local plan is regrettable, but is because the issues raised by the Government Inspector, have to be addressed.

Mrs. East stated that to progress the Charles Street development, subject to WDDC Full Council approval - the meeting is to be held on February 25th - the District Council is to underwrite 50% of the viability gap on commercial terms up to £2.062 million. This being due to WDDC insisting on 474 parking spaces.

In the absence of Mr. A. Chisholm, District Councillor, his Emailed report was read by the Chairman, which included his dismay that the Efficiency & Scrutiny Committee of WDDC had approved just over £2 million to underwrite phase 2 of the Charles Street development. Mr. Chisholm also stated in his report that it was likely that WDDC will agreed to the Developer removing the 14 affordable housing units from the Phase 2 proposals.

In view of the information received from the two District Councillors' reports, the Council agreed that a letter is written to both the Chairman & Chief Executive of West Dorset District Council expressing the Parish Council's concerns at the need for extra payment to the Developers of the Charles Street site, and worse still the potential loss of any affordable housing, which is at present being proposed, from this development.

**47. Financial matters**

The Council noted that the Council's financial balances were as at September 30th 2013 being £1,258.39p, and the Clerk reported that the Precept form had been sent, requesting £1,000 for 2014/15.

There were no other financial issues.

**48. Planning matters**

The Chairman reported that the Cerne Neighbourhood Plan has been sent to the West Dorset District Council and to the Dorset County Council. The process is being delayed as it is waiting for the WDDC Local Plan to be adopted.

The Council noted that the decision on the appeal to the Secretary of State, against the appeal decision, reference application 1/D/12/001285 at The Stables, Middlemarsh for Change of Use from stables and store to storage and residential had been received, giving Mr. Allen a six month period to comply with the WDDC decision.

**49. Rights of Way**

Mrs. Howard - Johnston reported that there is a broken Footpath sign at Little Minterne as well as a couple that are missing.

Mrs. Howard - Johnston reported that the stile by the Pump House, Minterne is in need of repair. The Chairman stated that he will get it repaired.

Mr. Digby reported that the fallen tree on a Footpath had been removed, and the Right of Way at Manor Farm, Minterne is now passable.

**50. Highway issues**

Mr. Tite reported that the flooding on the Old road at Lyons Gate and a flooding issue on the A.352 in Lyons Gate beyond the Caravan Park following the works done has resulted in a slight improvement, with the water on the A.352 draining away slowly. Mr. Tite felt that the issue is now the water cannot get away on the far side of the A.352. It was agreed to monitor the situation, because of the very heavy rains since Christmas.

Mrs. Howard-Johnston stated that there is a blocked drain between the Church & Hollowbank House, Minterne, and County Highways had been informed.

**51. Correspondence**

The Council noted the following items – DCC Waste & Minerals Sites Plans, DAPTC newsletter & Annual report, North Dorset Local plan & Clerks Direct.

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

The Council discussed the details of the new Wheelie bins scheme for separate waste collections, which is due to commence on March 7th.

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

The Council confirmed the time & date of the next meeting for May 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 8.00pm.

There being no further business; the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Signed.

Date

