

Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Parish Council held on Wednesday May 14th 2014 following the Annual Parish meeting held at Minterne House at 8.00pm.

Present: The Hon. Henry Digby Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mr. S. Tite, , Mr. C. Saunders Mr. A. Chisholm, District Councillor and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington.

Two members of the public attended.

1. Apologies

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

2. Election of Officers

On the proposition by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Goodfellow, Mr. Digby was unanimously elected Chairman.

On the proposition of Mr. Digby, seconded by Mrs. Howard-Johnston, the following Officers were elected -

Vice - Chairman	Mr. Goodfellow
Finance	Mr. Digby
Rights of Way	Mrs. Howard-Johnston
Highways	Mrs. Smith & Mr.Tite
Internal auditor	Mr. P. J. Baillie

3. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on February 12th 2014, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

4. Open Session

Mr. Allen, Middlemarsh, informed the Council that he is hoping to apply to build a house on his property at Middlemarsh. This was noted.

5. Declarations of Interest.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

6. Police & Community Matters

PCSO Pilcher's report, as recorded at the Annual Parish meeting earlier was noted - this stating that there had been 5 recorded crimes in Minterne and 12 Road Traffic Incidents on the A.352 & c.12 from Charlton Down to through to Minterne Parish. PCSO Pilcher stated that vehicles were being randomly checked late at night, as part of 'Operation Shogun', but to date there has been nothing untoward to report.

PCSO Pilcher informed the meeting that Dorset Police are now liaising with Avon & Somerset Police. Farm thefts continue to be a problem and advice is being given to famers on security.

7. County & District Councillors' reports.

In the absence of Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, her report given to the Annual Parish meeting was noted. This had been circulated and was available. The principle issues included the need for DCC to manage the cuts in Government grants, and the need to save a further £43 million in the next two years. The County Council are focusing on two areas - Growing the local economy & enhancing healthy wellbeing, and safeguarding.

As a result of the wettest winter, there were more houses flooded in Dorset than in Somerset, leaving the DCC with a repair bill of £12 million for roads. The new Care Bill will have an impact on the County. The DCC have agreed to trial giving Councillors £5K each to spend in their Division. Mrs. Haynes has 21 Parishes in her Division.

In the absence of Mrs. East, District Councillor, the Chairman read her report, which included that the Local Plan has suspended for six months to allow further work on Housing numbers. WDDC Officials have been updating information on Strategic land availability. This includes the Dorchester Prison site, on which only the Gateway is listed.

Mrs. East, in her report stated that more permitted development has been brought forward by the Government. Prior approval is need and Parish Councils will be consulted on the planning considerations, but the aim is to allow more development.

West Dorset District Council have agreed to enter into dialogue with North Dorset District Council to discuss forming a partnership. Mr. Matt Prosser has been appointed to be Chief Executive to succeed Mr. D. Clarke, who has retired.

The Council were read the reply received from Chief Executive of West Dorset District Council in reply to 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. This explained that to complete the Scheme, some extra funding guarantee has been necessary and has now been agreed..

Mr. A. Chisholm, District Councillor, stated that he had not been impressed at this decision, as the development on the old Brewery site had not required any public funding. Mr. Goodfellow asked why was the Charles Street development an exception. No reply was forthcoming. It was agreed that the loss of affordable housing within the development to accommodate the Developers was wrong.

The Council discussed how the new Refuse collections are working and agreed that to date, these are working well, despite having to adapt to the new regime.

8. Financial matters

The Chairman reported that the Council's financial balances were £958.24p at March 31st 2014. The payment of £6 VAT was received, within that total. It was noted that the half precept of £500 has now been received, making a Balance of £1,458.24p.

The Council endorsed the payments of £306.15p Clerk's expenses, and £263.97 AON for the Insurance. Mrs. Howard-Johnston recommended that the Council should explore all other options for the Insurances before making a final decision. This was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman presented the accounts for the year ending March 31st 2014.

On the proposition of Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Goodfellow, the Annual accounts were unanimously adopted, and signed by the Chairman.

The Council noted that the accounts had been inspected by Mr. Baillie, Internal Auditor and he had signed the External audit return.

The Clerk reported that the Notice of Audit has been put on the Notice boards.

The Chairman signed the External Audit return, and also read and signed the Annual Governance Statement. These will be sent to the External auditors, BDO for their examination.

There were no other financial issues.

9. Planning matters

The Council noted that application WD/D/14/000579 for Mr. & Mrs. JM. Brooks at Hill View Farm, Middlemarsh for a first floor extension, had been supported by the Parish Council, and has now been granted.

The Chairman reported that the Cerne Neighbourhood Plan is progressing, and despite the lack of a WDDC Local plan, the Village will be able to vote on the proposals, probably by the end of this year.

Mrs. Howard-Johnston informed the meeting that the School at Cerne Abbas had been flooded by springs.

The Council noted the West Dorset District Council planning review.

The Council received a letter from WDDC giving advice to Parish Councils on what issues are relevant for comment on planning applications and those which are not. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain copies for each Councillor.

10. Rights of Way

Mrs. Howard - Johnston stated there were issues to report.

11. Highway issues

Mrs. Howard-Johnston stated that there are potholes in need of repair on the A.352 near Lanes Cottages, to which Mr. Tite stated that these had been repaired in the last couple of days.

The Chairman reported that he had recently seen County Highway officials at Lyons Gate.

Mrs. Smith highlighted a dangerous situation, due to lack of visibility on the C.12 at the crossroads from Cerne Abbas to Piddletrenthide due to overgrown vegetation. It was agreed that the Clerk reports the issue to County Highways.

The Council discussed the temporary road closure of the A.352 Charminster to Cerne Abbas from May 7th to May 30th between 08.00 and 17.00. It was agreed that this will have an impact on Minterne, as diversions are in place, and there is a Bank Holiday weekend within the period.

The Council received & discussed the schedule of County Highways planned / routine Vegetation management programme for this year. Accident blackspots highlighted, did not include roads within Minterne Parish.

12. Correspondence

The Council noted the following items – DCC Temporary Road closure Charminster to Cerne Abbas -May 7th - May 30th, Dorset waste Partnership Spring clean, WDDC Managing Green Spaces & Clerks Direct.

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

The Council discussed and agreed the following times & dates for meetings 2014/15.

These were Wednesday September 3rd at 8.00pm
 Wednesday November 19th at 7.30pm
 Wednesday February 11th at 7.30pm
 Wednesday May 13th at 8.00pm

It was agreed that if there were any controversial Planning applications or other issues, to consider outside of these dates, then the Chairman would call a separate meeting to discuss these.

14. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The Council confirmed the time & date of the next meeting for Wednesday September 3rd 2014 at 8.00pm.

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

Signed.

Date