

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Parish Council held on Wednesday September 14th 2016
at Minterne House at 8.00pm.**

Present. Hon. Henry Digby, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mrs. H. Smith, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. S. Tite, Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, Mr. A. F. Horsington, District Councillor, Mr. T. Yarker, District Councillor, PCSO S. Pilcher and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington.
No members of the public attended.

16. Apologies

There were no Apologies.

17. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on May 11th 2016, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

18. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a Personal & Pecuniary Interest in WD/D/16/001614 at Radio Transmitter DT0048 for removal of 3 no. existing antennae and the installation of 3 no. new antennae, as it is on the Minterne Estate.

19. Open Session

In the absence of any members of the public, no issues were raised.

20. Police & Community matters

PCSO Pilcher reported that there had been one car broken into at the Minterne car park, and there has been one minor road traffic accident at Upcerne.

PCSO Pilcher informed the meeting that a new Rural Crime team has been set up, this covers the whole of West Dorset, specialising in Rural crime.

PCSO Pilcher warned the meeting to be on their guard against scams, which are becoming much more sophisticated.

PCSO Pilcher informed the meeting that there is a seminar on Anti Poaching to be held on September 22nd, to which interested members are invited.

Mr. Tite reported that he has had a caravan stolen from his premises, on the previous Sunday. The Chairman thanked PCSO Pilcher for her attendance.

21. County and District Councillors' reports

Mrs. Haynes, County Councillor informed the meeting that there had been major issues at Buckland Newton during the recent Iron Man event. This had arisen, as the Organisers had not delivered what they had promised. This was noted.

Mrs. Haynes informed the meeting that the County Council had made savings of £58 million over the past three years. Discussions had taken place to create an Authority to include with Dorset County Council, both Poole & Bournemouth, but Poole & Bournemouth had refused to be involved. Central Government have decided that this very large Unitary would not happen, as it would be too large, but will provide funding to set up an alternative Unitary authority. There is now an ongoing public consultation on possible alternatives, with submissions having to be made to Central Government by January 2017.

Mrs. Haynes stated that because of these proposals and proposed Parliamentary boundary changes, it may well be that County Council elections due in 2019, will be delayed for one year.

Mrs. Haynes stated that 'no change' is not an option.

Mr. Yarker stated that there are three options available

Option 2a - Large Conurbation - Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch and East Dorset with Small Dorset - North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland.

Option 2b - Medium Conurbation - Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch with Medium Dorset - East Dorset North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland.

Option 2c - Small Conurbation - Bournemouth & Poole with Large Dorset - Christchurch, East Dorset North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland, and felt that Option 2c would be the best option.

Mr. A. F. Horsington stated that he had issues with the proposed timescale, as there are the proposed Parliamentary boundary changes, the change of West Dorset District Council from Cabinet style to that of Committees, and there had just been a vote to combine two District authorities, to be in place by April 2017. These both having to run in parallel, to be in theory, in place by 2019.

The Council discussed the proposals in detail and agreed to support Option 2c, which was to create two Unitary Authorities, one being Small conurbation Bournemouth & Poole and the other Large conurbation Dorset, being Christchurch, East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland District Councils. Discussion took place on how Parishes will be able to access and influence these larger Authorities, with Mrs. Howard - Johnston asking how will the new Councillors manage to represent their areas. Mrs. Haynes stated that Councillors on the whole, did not receive many issues from the public, except for matters on planning, and there will still be a local planning authority in place, and it is proposed to have Local Area Boards, each of which will have an allocated budget to spend.

The Parish Council considered and completed the survey discussion document, to be returned by October 25th. It was agreed that Mr. Digby and Mrs. Howard would attend a DATPC meeting in Blandford Forum, to be held on September 20th, to listen to further details of the process.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor and both District Councillors for their reports.

22. Financial matters

The Chairman presented the financial statement to date, with copies being given to members.

The Council noted that the account balances at August 31st 2016 were £2,772.26p, with £561 precept being due at the end of September.

Payments received –

Payments made – £259.90p and £600 Vision ICT Ltd.

The payments were approved and authorised.

The Council noted that £259.90p had been paid to AON Insurance rather than £272.69p, this due to accepting a three year agreement.

The Clerk reported that the External auditors BDO LLP had completed and signed off the External audit, and the Notice of Closure of Audit had been posted on the Notice board at Minterne. There had been no issues raised, and no fees to pay.

23. Planning matters

Mr. A. F. Horsington reported on the situation at the Stables, A.352, Middlemarsh, stating that WDDC had served Notice on Mr. Allen and WDDC had spent £77K on removal and clearing the site.

It was reported that Mr. Allen had appeared in court and had received a suspended sentence on the charges brought by the Environment Agency, with pollution of watercourse offences.

Mr. Goodfellow informed the meeting that Mr. Allen still owns the property, and visits it occasionally.

Mr. Goodfellow and Mr. Stevenson both thanked the WDDC Officers for all their efforts in the resolution of the issues at the Stables, Middlemarsh.

The Council noted that WDDC intend to supply all plans electronically from April 2017.

It was agreed that until that date, all hard copy planning applications received, will be sent to Mr. Saunders, as all other members were content to use the WDDC website and view plans on line. This was noted.

The Council, having supported application WD/D/16/000187 at Hollowbank House, Minterne for the erection of a wooded store, noted that it had been granted.

The Council, having supported application WD/D/16/001130 for Minterne Estates at Sandy Lane, Minterne for a new grain store, noted it had been granted.

The Chairman having declared a Personal & Pecuniary Interest in WD/D/16/001614 at Radio Transmitter DT0048 for removal of 3 no. existing antennae and the installation of 3 no. new antennae, left the meeting.

Mr. Goodfellow took the Chair and after discussion, the Council agreed to support the application. The Chairman returned to the meeting.

The Council noted that application WD/D/16/001478 for Mr. P. Goodfellow at Bridles Farm, Middlemarsh for change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Use Class C3) (Prior approval Agricultural to dwelling) had been granted, as permitted development.

24. Rights of Way

Mrs. Howard - Johnston stated that there were quite a few overgrown paths in the Parish. This was noted. Mrs. Smith stated that walkers were still getting lost when leaving the car park at Minterne. The Chairman stated that he would provide a larger sign.

25. Highway issues

The Council noted that the A. 352 through Middlemarsh had been re-surfaced.

26. Flooding issues

To date, there were no issues to report.

27. Correspondence

Mrs. Smith was given the copy of the Dorset Transport support papers, dealing with Bus services. The Council noted the Dorset Access Forum & Clerks Direct.

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

The Chairman reported an issue of young children aged nine years, having to use public transport to get to School, there being eight local children involved from Lyons Gate. The Council agreed that this was not a satisfactory state of affairs and Mr. Tite stated that he and his wife now take their children to Cerne Abbas, so that they can then there, catch the School bus to take them to School in Dorchester.

29. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The Council confirmed the date for the next meeting for Wednesday November 30th at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.

Date

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