

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Parish Council held on Wednesday November 19th 2014  
at Minterne House at 8.00pm.**

**Present:** The Hon. Henry Digby Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mrs. H. Smith, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. S. Tite, Mr. C. Saunders, Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, Mrs. S. East, District Councillor, Mr. A. Chisholm, District Councillor, PCSO S. Pilcher & PCSO J. Goodwin and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington.

Three members of the public attended.

**27. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**28. The Minutes** of the previous meeting held on September 10th 2014, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

**29. Open Session**

The Chairman reported on the background details of the situation at The Stables, Middlemarsh, stating that an Enforcement Order is due to be effective from November 27th and that WDDC planning had refused to accept application WD/D/ 14/002626 for Mr. Allen, at The Stables, Middlemarsh and it had therefore been withdrawn. The meeting noted that members of the Parish Council had visited the site on November 10th at the invitation of Mr. Bryer, agent for Mr. Allen.

Mr. Bryer stated that there had been a series of planning appeals for this site and asked for support particularly in regard to the impact on the education of Mr. Allen's daughter, as she is happy at her present school.

There were no other comments made by the public.

**30. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

As the application WD/D/ 14/002626 for Mr. Allen, at The Stables, Middlemarsh change of use from Stables and store to storage and residential (retrospective) had been withdrawn, there were no Interests to declare.

It was agreed that the Council discussed the situation at The Stables, Middlemarsh, at this point. Mr. Goodfellow, supported by Mr. Stevenson and Mrs. Smith, stated that Social Services would certainly be involved to ensure that the best would be done for the daughter, to be able to continue her education. This was confirmed by Mrs. Haynes, County Councillor. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter to be sent to the WDDC Director of the Environment, expressing the Parish Council's sympathy for the need to have the daughter's education taken into consideration, ideally, continuing at her present School, if this is possible.

**31. Police & Community Matters**

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Pilcher, who introduced her colleague PCSO J. Goodwin.

PCSO Pilcher informed the meeting that there had been no significant crime within the Parish, the problem of poaching game has been an issue elsewhere as well as diesel theft.

The Chairman referred to persons camping at Telegraph Hill, and was informed that the owner was aware of the situation.

The Clerk reported a letter received from WDDC asking if the Parish Council wished to retain the use of the Telephone kiosk at Minterne. The Chairman stated that it had already been bought by the Minterne Estate.

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

Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, gave her report, which included that there is an ongoing Boundary review of the County Council wards, which, much to Mrs. Haynes regret, proposes that Minterne Parish will move to the Sherborne Rural. The principle of the changes is to balance the number of electors between each County Councillor more equally.

Mrs. Haynes reported that the County Council are taking Public Health Services back from the NHS.

Mrs. Haynes informed the meeting that the County Highways department is being OFSTED and had been evaluated as being the second best in the whole Country.

Mrs. Haynes reported that the County Council are only obliged to provide sites for itinerant Travellers and the Transit site at Piddlehinton is proving very successfully.

The Council noted an offer of Salt in Dumpy bags from DCC for Parishes, however, these are at a charge.

Mrs. East, District Councillor, gave her report, which included that WDDC with Weymouth & Portland are in discussions with North Dorset with a view of making savings and merging Services. Each Council will still retain its own elected Councillors. It is expected to have a decision by the end of March. There will a grant from Central Government of £100K to help implement these changes.

Mrs. East stated that the Examination of the Local Plan before the Government Inspector will take place on November 26th. The Chairman stated that the Cerne Neighbourhood plan can be adopted even if the West Dorset District Council Local Plan has not been formally approved and is in place.

Mrs. East reported on the Annual West Dorset Partnership Assembly held on November 6th, which was also attended by the Chairman. This had been a useful exchange of information.

Mr. Chisholm, District Councillor gave his report, which included that he was concerned at the lack of discussion by the District Council, and public consultation, at the proposed merger with North Dorset. As a member of the Council he had hoped that WDDC would consider forming a Unitary Council.

Mr. Chisholm stated that he had asked why the housing information put to the Government Inspector had not been adequately scrutinised. The Chairman stated that 50% of homes in Europe are owner build, whilst here in Britain this figure is nearer 10%. Mr. Chisholm stated that the greatest need in Dorchester is for affordable housing. The Chairman thanked the County Councillor & the two District Councillors for their reports

### **33. Financial matters**

The Chairman reported that the Council's financial balances were £1,694.27p at September 30th 2014, having received the second payment of £500 in September.

The Council approved the payment of £120 inclusive of VAT to Paul Dance Ltd for planning advice given to the Council.

After discussion, the Council agreed to donate £100 to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. The cheques were approved & signed.

The Chairman gave members a copy of the budget showing the finances up to date and projected expenses to the end of the financial year. After consideration, Mr. Goodfellow proposed, seconded by Mr. Stevenson that the precept remains at £1,000 for 2015/16 & on the advice of the Clerk to add on the amount of the Local Council Tax Support Grant, as this is amount which is at present is repaid by the District Council, and in future will not be repaid by the District Council. This was agreed.

The Council were informed that West Dorset District Council have agreed not to charge the Parish Councils for the General, District & Parish elections due to take place in May 2015.

### **34. 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 were eventually informed that application WD/D/14/001724 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 did not require planning permission.

The Council formally noted that the West Dorset District Planning Office had refused to consider application WD/D/ 14/002626 for Mr. Allen, at The Stables, Middlemarsh change of use from Stables and store to storage and residential (retrospective).

### **35. Rights of Way**

Mrs. Howard - Johnston reported that there is a stile in need of attention at Little Minterne. It was noted that this is not part of a Right of Way.

### **36. Highway issues**

Mr. Tite reported that there are drain covers that have been removed from the verge in the Old road at Lyons Gate. It was agreed to contact County Highways.

Mr. Goodfellow reported that County Highways have been clearing drains in Middlemarsh.

**37. Correspondence**

The Council noted Posters reference Children's Centres & Schooling entrance 2015 - to be put on the Notice board - Dorset Mineral's plan & Clerks Direct.

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

Mrs. East, District Councillor gave her apologies for the next meeting.  
There were no other issues raised.

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

The Council confirmed the time & date of the next meeting for Wednesday February 11th 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business; the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.

Date