

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Parish Council held on Wednesday January 25th 2017
at Minterne House at 7.30pm.**

Present. Hon. Henry Digby, Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. C. Howard – Johnston, Mrs. H. Smith, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. A. F. Horsington, District Councillor, Mr. T. Yarker, District Councillor, Mrs. J. Haynes, County Councillor, PCSO Jane Goodwin, PCSO Charlotte Alcock and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington. Two members of the public attended.

45. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. G. Stevenson & Mr. S. Tite, & PCSO S. Pilcher.

46. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 14th 2016, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jane Goodwin & PCSO Charlotte Alcock to the meeting.

47. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

48. Open Session

Mrs J. Haynes reported that the request for a 30 MPH through Middlemarsh, as there is no footpath and School children have to walk through the village to catch the School bus on the C.12 by the Sawmills site, has been put onto the County Highways list of improvements. A meeting with herself and County Highway officers had been arranged, yet to take place, and Mrs. Haynes Stated that she felt that a footpath through Middlemarsh would be the ultimate solution. These comments were noted.

49. Police & Community matters

PCSO Jane Goodwin & PCSO Charlotte Alcock reported that three new PCSOs have just been appointed. PCSO Goodwin stated that since Christmas, there have been no further reports of Poaching incidents in the area. Mr. Digby informed the meeting that trophy heads had been left and a number of killed birds left on display by the offenders, with Mrs. Haynes adding that there has been issues with stray rifle bullets.

PCSO Goodwin highlighted recent thefts from parked cars in the area.

Both PCSOs highlighted the 'Dorset Alert' system, which contacts both countryside members with each other and the Police, with up to date information.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Jane Goodwin & PCSO Charlotte Alcock for their attendance.

50. County and District Councillors' reports

Mrs. Haynes, County Councillor in her report stated that Dorset Waste Recycling Services is now in the top 10 for recycling in the Country.

Mrs. Haynes informed the meeting that DCC are to spend £16 million on road improvements, and a Cycle path is being constructed from Grimstone into Dorchester.

Mrs. Haynes reported that the Children & Adult Services budget has been overspent, due to more children - at present 526 - in care. The Services are now working with whole families and the Fire service are also being involved. Mrs. Howard - Johnston asked why the numbers were up, to which Mrs. Haynes replied that main causes were mental health issues, impact of social media and that many children just do not go outside enough.

DCC Adult Services has received a £6 million hike - 15% rise in charges, from providers, with the providers refusing to continue unless they are paid more, despite the number of patients remaining the same. For this year there will be balanced budget, but the present system is now being reviewed. Changes are needed in the way that G.Ps work, as recruitment is becoming a major problem and there are insufficient Doctors in practice.

Mrs. Haynes stated that due to Boundary changes, this will be her last meeting as County Councillor for this Division, as Minterne is to become part of the Sherborne Rural division. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Haynes for all her support over the past four years, and wished her well for the future.

Mrs. Haynes introduced Mrs. M. Penfold who will be a candidate for the County Council elections to be held in May. Mr. Digby wished her every success in the democratic process.

Mr. Yarker, District Councillor reported that the Unitary proposals for two potential Unitary Councils is being voted on by DCC on Thursday January 26th.

Mr. Yarker stated that affordable housing remains a serious issue and the District Council has been awarded £1.36 million to assist Community lead schemes. There is a need to build 775 dwelling per annum, but at present this target is not being achieved. This impacts, on the District Council, as it faces being fined by Central Government for not achieving the target, plus extra if additional numbers are not also built.

Mr. A. F. Horsington explained that a major obstacle to house building programme, is that first time buyers are not in a position to get mortgages, due to prices and lending practices.

Mr. A. F. Horsington reported that WDDC Planning Office has no longer any historic applications.

Mr. A. F. Horsington reported that there is a public consultation by WDDC on the possible sites for the expansion of Dorchester, by 2021.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their reports.

51. Financial matters

The Chairman presented the financial statement and budget with copies being given to members.

The Council noted that the account balance at December 31st 2016 was £2,417.26p.

After discussion, and accepting that due to County & District Councils cutbacks, with roadside trimming being done only once a year, the Parish Council may need to have pay for some extra works to the Highways etc.

On the proposition of Mr. Digby, seconded by Mrs. Smith, it was unanimously agreed to precept £1,500 for 2017/18. It was noted that £11 Government Support grant will be added, making the amount requested from WDDC will be £1,511 in total.

52. Planning matters

The Council discussed and supported application WD/D/16/002574 at Middlemarsh Wood, Middlemarsh to create a ring route within the wood providing access for 4WD vehicles and an extraction route for forestry forwarders by upgrading existing tracks

53. Rights of Way

Mrs. Howard - Johnston stated that there were still some overgrown paths in the Parish, which needed attention. It was noted that there is a tree blocking a path from Minterne Parva, which has been used in the past as a route, used as a hill climb, by a local MG car club. This was noted.

54. Highway issues

The Council noted the support by Mrs. Haynes and the letter received from DCC Highways, was read, which stated that the request for the 30 MPH on the A. 352 through Middlemarsh is on a consultation list for the works. This was noted.

55. Flooding issues

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting on flooding issues.

56. Website

The Clerk reported that the members' Registers of Interests have been added to the Website, to conform with Government legislation under the Transparency Code. It was noted that all signatures have been redacted. The Council considered Mr. Stevenson's suggestion to have a moving header, which would cost £75 to add on to the Website. After discussion, it was agreed to add two extra photos on the head banner rather than the carousel. The Council were shown the website and it was agreed that so far, it is very satisfactory.

57. Correspondence

The Council noted Clerks Direct.

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

There were no issues reported.

59. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The Council confirmed the date for the next meeting for Wednesday May 10th 2017 following the Annual Parish meeting at 8.00pm.

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

Signed.

Date