MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 3 APRIL 2014

**IN THE COMMUNAL ROOM WEBBERS PIECE**

**CHAIR:** Cllr.Alan Goff(AG) **PRESENT:** Cllr. Cherri Dyke (CD)

Cllr. Sally Falkingham (SF)

Cllr. Neville Higman (NHi)

Cllr. Norman House (NHo)

Cllr. Diana Padfield (DP)

Cllr. Paul Valinski (PV)

County and District

Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were nine members of the public at the meeting.

* Julian Brooks, who had lived in the village for around 6 months, said that he had heard about the Maiden Newton to Bridport Trailway project and was very supportive. However, on investigation, he felt that it seemed to have lost some momentum at the Maiden Newton end and he had therefore set up a Friends Facebook page to coral support. SF said that the parish council had supported the project from the beginning. It was in the 2009 Community Plan and a number of interested parties had met with Tara Hansford (DCC Rights of Way) in December 2012 to discuss the way forward. Unfortunately she had then been sidetracked onto another project and little progress had been made. Certain landowners between Maiden Newton and Toller Porcorum also remained to be convinced. JH said that another issue was that a small part of the Trailway would need to run on an area other than the old railway line.
* Eric Foster, husband of Lily, owner of The Mill, spoke about flooding issues. Lily’s son, Ben Pettitt, now lived at Mill Cottage with his family and had been involved in operating the sluice gates in flood situations. The water levels could rise very rapidly and he had had to react very quickly on more than one occasion and this had sometimes been in the middle of the night. His actions had been praised by Malcolm Munro of the Environment Agency who had said that the hatch management over the past few months had been ‘exemplary’. The problem was that the interim injunction imposed as a result of Richard Pearson’s (owner of Maiden Newton House) court action, restricted their ability to open the sluices when they felt it was necessary. At times over the past few months it would have been sensible to have left the sluices open for days at a time to cover a series of high water peaks. He hoped that later this year, when the court order might have been overturned, it would be possible to set up management protocols in conjunction with the village flood wardens.
* Richard Pearson replied that, so far as he was concerned, the court order was not to do with the opening of the sluices in flood situations, it was to prevent unnecessary opening in the summer (fishing) months and he therefore couldn’t see that there was a problem.
* SF reminded those present that the parish council drew water from Richard Pearson’s part of the river for use on the allotments and that opening the gates could have a detrimental effect on this supply. She also asked Eric if he could arrange for the brambles protruding from the hedge bordering Chilfrome Lane to be cut back as some children had caught themselves on them.
* AG said that there was no doubt that opening the sluices helped the river to flow more quickly in times of flood and that the fact that they had not been opened in July 2012 had exacerbated the flooding that occurred. He thanked Eric and Richard for their comments but reiterated that the parish council had to remain neutral in any dispute.

* Sarah Pilcher (our PCSO) introduced Jane who was taking over the role. They were aware of a couple of shed break-ins and thefts of farm machinery which had taken place in the area and reminded us that they were willing to visit farmers and fit alarms where practical. They also reminded residents to report any suspicious vehicles/individuals to them on 101. JB asked if they could provide replacement posters with new pictures for the boards. PV mentioned that a visit to the Chilfrome Lane car park in the late evening could be of interest to them.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.56 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **There were no apologies for absence** |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of interest** were made by NHi and SF in respect of item 12 on the agenda – letter of support for the Community Land Trust. |  |
| **3** | A few points of clarification were required on the **minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2014.** JB would amend them before asking AG for his signature. NHi thanked CD for covering for JB at the March meeting. | JB |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * The two gulley problems reported by Keith Pritchard had not been reported to DCC. JB would rectify. AG had carried out the necessary repairs to the Dorchester Road bus shelter, although foliage on private property still obscured the view of approaching buses. * JB had received an e-mail from Jill Exton about the problem area on footpath 1. She would remove the differences in height on the boardwalk with immediate effect and would get the whole boardwalk re-decked and anti-slipped (with the help of the local working group organised by Chris Slade) when the weather improved. * JB had received an e-mail from Anne Clements about the Welcome Pack. She had requested the parish council’s view on whether she should include Frome Vauchurch (FV) as she had not heard back from Darlene Ford. This was discussed and the view was that FV should be included. JB would inform her. * JB had chased Simon Ludgate (WDDC Planning Enforcement) about 14a Cattistock Road. No reply had been received. * A letter of thanks had been received from Nicola Butler following the grant given to the First Dorset Credit Union. * The meeting about the future of the Country Car Scheme would take place on 8 April in the village hall. SF mentioned the names of some of the attendees she had been made aware of. * JB would comment on the Local Government Boundary Commission review of West Dorset boundaries as agreed at the March meeting. * JB said that now that the parish owned the Rockpit Farm car park in Chilfrome Lane, he intended to get in touch with the Dorset Important Geological Sites Group (DIGS) to set up a meeting to discuss future management and maintenance. | JB  JB  JB  JB |
| **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors:-**   * NHi reported the excellent news from the CLT that the building of Neil’s View 2 would begin before the end of the month. There were potential problems with the allocation process and JH was setting up a meeting with WDDC officers. * CD reported from the Village Hall Committee that the ceiling would be replaced over the Easter period. The collage was also now in situ. * SF had attended a DORBAG meeting. Steve Harris, who is the newly appointed reporter and presenter of the Radio Dorset Breakfast programme, would like anyone who had any interesting local stories to contact him on [steve.harris@bbc.co.uk](mailto:steve.harris@bbc.co.uk) or office 01305 262512 or mobile 07866 520422. * SF had seen someone from BT measuring up for what may be a Superfast Broadband cabinet in Church Road – watch this space!! * SF had also been to a meeting of the Community Rail Working Party (CRWP). First Great Western (FGW) would be continuing the franchise until October 2015. There would be a High Speed Train (HST), which would stop at Maiden Newton, every Saturday during the summer period. SF asked if the parish council could recognise the contribution made by Stella Amos, the Maiden Newton station gardener, who was approaching 80 years of age. It was agreed that JB would write her a letter of thanks. * JB mentioned that he had received the £50 grant from CRWP and had ordered the replacement water butt and stand. He would contact FGW about fitting. * SF had attended the West Dorset Housing Forum on 20 March and asked JB to circulate two documents which councillors might find interesting – a CAB report on the availability and cost of rented accommodation in the county and a paper entitled ‘What is a dementia-friendly community’. * SF had noticed that the 4 bedroom house in Neil’s View 1 was currently on WDDC’s weekly list for an exchange. She was concerned that the local connection criteria for any new resident might not be applied. | JB  JB  JB |
| **6** | **Planning Applications:-**   * A review of WDDC’s planning application process had been carried out and various e-mails had been circulated about this over the previous month. There had been revised guidance about material planning considerations, the parish council’s comments form had been amended and a weekly list of all applications (listed by ward) was now circulated.   Amended plans had been received for the following applications:-   * 1/D/13/001338 – Neil’s View – erect 14 new dwellings. * WD/D/14/000713 – Greenford Farm – removal of existing mobile home and erection of an agricultural building to incorporate toilets, washroom, mess room/reception room and farm shop.   The following application had been approved and a copy of the Section 106 agreement had been received:-   * 1/D/13/001338 – Neil’s View – erect 14 new dwellings. |  |
| **7** | **Allotments:-**   * DP reported that a new roof had now been put on Digger’s Inn following the recent storm damage and that a settee had been dumped on plot 16. JB would investigate the latter. * DP had offered to attend the Allotments Seminar being organised by DAPTC on 9 June. However, she now might not be able to attend. JB and AG expressed an interest. JB would book two places. * DP had let four more of the new half allotments (two to each of two new tenants) and handed JB the tenancy agreements and rent. * JB had received notification that Rob and Lucy Nolan were moving and had therefore given up tenancy of plot 13b. This left two half plots vacant in the old area and three in the new. | JB  JB |
| **8** | **Play Area:-**   * The Play Area Inspection Company had finally carried out their annual inspection and their report had been received that morning. CD would liaise with AG about any issues raised | CD/AG |
| **9** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * PV reported that Wessex Ground Services had carried out a chemical clean of the surface of the MUGA. It had been done fairly quickly at the request of the school and additional work may still be required. In response to a question from CD, PV and SF gave a brief summary of MUGA use in the past year. * An inspection by ROSPA Playsafety would be carried out in May. This was likely to become an annual inspection. |  |
| **10** | **Preliminary assessment of the financial position at end-March**   * JB said that the 2013/14 financial year had ended three days previously and that he had balanced the accounts at that date. He would be completing the external audit forms over the next few weeks. He reported that the underspend for the year was approximately £6,600. In addition the following amounts were set aside in the reserve account - £10,000 for MUGA maintenance, £3,000 for the Play Area and £2,000 for allotments’ fencing. | JB |
| **11** | **Pre-School’s move to the Surestart building – update and consideration of grant**   * CD reported that she had been concerned that the process of moving the pre-school into an extended Surestart building had been losing momentum and had written to Oliver Letwin for his assistance. As a result she and DP had met him the previous Friday. He had been positive in his support and had suggested ways in which the remaining funds required (around £30,000) could be raised/borrowed. * She felt that there were some misconceptions about the detail of the move which would hopefully be ironed out at a meeting to take place with DCC officers on Monday April 14. This had been organised by JH and CD and DP would be attending. Because Theresa Critchell had not been able to devote much time to the subject recently owing to family problems, CD was keen to praise Kelly Critchell (not a close relative) who had done sterling work on the fundraising side. * CD reported that approximately £25,000 (from a total of £75,000) was still required and encouraged the parish council to give a donation. After some discussion, it was agreed that an amount of £3,000 (proposed by DP and seconded by AG) would be agreed in principle as a grant but that this was dependent on a positive outcome to the impending meeting. The subject would be put on the May parish council agenda. * NHi offered to consider getting the CLT involved in granting some form of a lease of land if this would help and was feasible. |  |
| **12** | **Letter of support for Community Land Trust grant application to the Rural Community Energy Fund.**   * NHi had circulated a form of words which he hoped would be agreeable to the parish council as a letter of support for a grant application they were proposing. The wording was agreed to be acceptable and AG and JB signed a letter accordingly. |  |
| **13** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * John Ball – salary for April – £353.40 (053) * The Post Office – PAYE April - £88.35 (054) * John Ball – cost of station water butt (paid for by credit card) - £41.97 (055) * Jess Carver – grass maintenance contract - £325.00 (056) * Magna Housing Association – room hire for April - £12.00 (057) * Play Inspection Company – Play Area inspection - £99.00 (058) |  |
| **14** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**  The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each property risk. JB mentioned that there was still a problem with dog mess on The Green and that he intended to contact the WDDC dog warden. | JB |
| **15** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * Dorchester & West Dorset Scout District – invitation to annual St. George’s Day celebrations 27 April – circulated. * WDDC – planning policy consultations – circulated. * WDDC – appeal for Polling Clerks for 22 May – circulated. * DCC – South West Conference of Local Councils - circulated. * Dorset Community Action – March e-bulletin – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – funding bulletin – circulated. * DAPTC – request for contributions for newsletter – circulated (NHi will do something on Neil’s View 2 in due course) * DCC Highways – results of annual satisfaction surveys – circulated. * DCC – Great Dorset Beach Clean posters - 27 April – put on boards. * Dorset Waste Partnership – Village Spring Clean 2014 – circulated. It was agreed that ours would take place on Sunday 11 May. JB to organise. * BDO – annual external audit papers – JB to action accordingly. * Dorset Waste Partnership – recycled paint – circulated. | JB  JB |
|  | Meeting closed at 9.05 p.m. Date of next meeting 1 May 2014 at 7.00 p.m. |  |