MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2013

**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)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were two members of the public at the meeting.

* Karin Chandler-Wilson thanked JB for arranging for the sides of the path on the old Bridport railway line to be strimmed. JB had asked the DCC Rights of Way team to do this and he would thank them.
* NHi mentioned that he had contacted Graham Perryman to ask whether anyone in his congregation would be interested in setting up a service point in Maiden Newton for FiDo, Dorset’s Credit Union. If this didn’t elicit any response he would like the parish council’s support in trying to find someone.
* NHo asked JB to contact Highways about cutting the hedge on the left hand side of Norden Lane between Webber’s Piece and the railway bridge.
* In this context and at AG’s request, JB had spoken to Highways about the hedges on the right hand side of Cattistock Road on the far side of the railway bridge. They had been cut, but at anything over a car height, protruded too far into the road, resulting in commercial vehicles having to drive a distance out from the side which was clearly dangerous for vehicles coming in the opposite direction. Highways had acknowledged the problem and were contacting the land owner.

AG declared the Parish Council meeting open at 7.13 p.m.

 **ACTION**

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| **1** | **There were no apologies for absence.**  |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest.**  |  |
| **3** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2013** were agreed and signed.  |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-** * Following CD’s request at the previous meeting, JB had contacted the Dog Warden who had explained that she would not have disclosed the complainant to the alleged perpetrator. It was often the case, however, that the perpetrator guessed who the complainant was when recalling the incident.
* JB had spoken to Paul Walker (DCC Traffic Engineering) about the problem outside 74 Dorchester Road. He had agreed that one of his team would meet a parish council representative on site to discuss. Karin Chandler-Wilson said that the solution she had seen work in a similar location was to substantially increase the height of the curb.
* The application forms for the new Barclays Bank accounts had been submitted. One had been returned to be re-signed but JB expected the accounts to be ready to use soon. He would be careful to ensure that cheques had been cleared and expected credits received before asking signatories to sign the instruction to close the Santander accounts.
* JB had answered a question from the external auditors who had requested details about the receipt of Section 106 monies.
* JB had obtained a triplicate book for PV which was now being used to record any income received from ad hoc use of the MUGA.
* JB reported that DAPTC had supplied him with a possible list of Parish Council objectives but that they were based on another parish’s Finance Committee terms of reference and did not cover the broad spectrum of work. NHi said that he felt that there was really no need to produce a list of objectives and other councillors agreed.
* JB had awaited the invoice for the new play equipment before submitting a VAT claim which totalled £3,296.
* JB had accepted the quote of £1,978 from Highways for the resurfacing work under the railway bridge up to the allotments on Drift Road.
* JB had also accepted the quote of £1,105 from Haskins Fencing for the rabbit proofing of the fence in the allotments.
* The cheque for Rob Buffett had been signed and delivered.
* JB had obtained two quotes for the felling of the pine tree at the corner of the village hall. It had emerged that, as it was in the conservation area, planning permission would be required. JB had completed the relevant application which was likely to take around 6 weeks to process. He was asked to accept the lowest quote once permission had been obtained. It was agreed that there was no need to grind out the stump.
* JB had asked DCC Rights of Way to reseat the Drift Road bridleway sign at the bottom of North Road which was leaning at an angle.
* JB had arranged for Green Thumb to carry out the first of two weed treatments on the Green. It had become clear that the cost of each treatment would be £75, not this sum for both as had originally been thought.
* JB had responded to the Local Government Boundary Commission’s request for comments on the Electoral Review of West Dorset.
 |   JBJB |
|  **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors:-*** An initial meeting (attended by AG, NHi, Darlene Ford and Sally Lloyd-Jacob from WDDC) had taken place to discuss Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Neighbourhood Planning. Andy Elliott had agreed to provide some mapping expertise and a public meeting was likely to take place in the autumn.
* NHi had met with representatives from Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council to talk about the car sharing iPhone app which had now been trialled. It was possible that a joint project, run by a separate legal entity, could be the way forward. The IT link to DCC from the Fire Station Training Room had worked successfully.
* CD had been asked by the Village Hall Committee to thank the parish council for carrying out the work on the car park. A ramp would be fitted to provide a level exit point from the hall and a new external kitchen door was due to be installed.
* DP asked about the late Dick Wood’s two garden troughs which were going to be sited at the front of the Village Hall. CD confirmed that they were still in Chris Slade’s front garden but would soon be moved into place.
* SF had provided a written report, mainly covering the DAPTC Central Area meeting. The guest speaker had been Steve Burdis, Director of the Dorset Waste Partnership, who had explained the revised waste collection arrangements. These had already been introduced into some areas of the county and were due to begin in our area in October 2014. Public information meetings would be held in December/January.
* Cynthia Starkey, the new DAPTC Chief Executive, would be having a meeting with Martin Underhill, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and would like to hear of any issues parishes would like raised.
* Radio Dorset was now broadcasting on 103.8 FM from 6.30 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.
* SF also circulated copies of WDDC’s latest Revenue and Benefits update.
 | All |
|  **6** | **Finance – budget report at 26 July:-*** JB had circulated a spreadsheet (see attached) showing expenditure and income against budget as at 26 July. This was the first of what would be a quarterly report to satisfy the requirement to monitor the position regularly throughout the year. He went through some of the figures which, for both expenditure and income, were roughly in line with what would be expected.
* At the foot of the page he had shown the reserves position following the expenditure decisions taken at the previous meeting. This showed a reduction from £25,312 to £18,088 which equated to one year’s precept, a much more appropriate level. £15,000 of this figure was earmarked.
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|  **7** | **Gate Licences:-*** JB had produced a proposal (see attached) to change the way the parish prevented those properties which had gates opening onto the playing field from gaining a legal right of way. This involved ‘agreements’ rather than ‘licences’ and recommended that no annual charge (currently £5 p.a.) should be made. This was in line with an NALC Legal Topic Note on the subject.
* A discussion took place about whether the parish could prevent houses having gates at all but this was not considered a viable solution and, as SF pointed out, a number of the residents’ children used their gates to get to the school.
* PV proposed that JB’s suggestion should be accepted and NHi seconded this. After some further discussion all agreed.
* JB would get an up to date list of residents from Darlene Ford in October and write to the relevant households. He would also inform Magna as four of the seven houses were their properties.
 | JB |
|  **8** | **Bus services:-*** DCC’s letter of 22 July about their bus services’ consultation had been circulated. So far as Maiden Newton’s two services were concerned it was still unclear exactly what changes would be made. It was likely, however, that no Saturday services would survive and that the 73 route to Bridport could become term-time only. SF was keeping in touch with the Public Transport Team who had met with the bus operators to discuss what they could provide under the financial constraints being proposed from January 2014.
* If significant cut backs were proposed, SF would organise protests and petitions in conjunction with other parishes affected. She asked JB to contact Jill Haynes to seek her support to retain existing services.
* The DCC letter had enclosed a report from the POPP Programme Manager on volunteer driver and car schemes. SF’s opinion was that the POPP scheme was complicated and expensive and that the Country Car Scheme operated in Maiden Newton was a better alternative.
* It was agreed that bus services would be a separate item on the September agenda.

  | SFJBJB |
|  **9** | **Planning Applications:-**The following application had been approved:- * 1/D/13/000701 – Altro Resins, Station Road Industrial Estate – extension to link up units 3&4 to provide an additional warehouse.
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| **10** | **Allotments:-*** JB had put a sign up on the allotments noticeboard asking tenants to respect the requirement to keep dogs on a lead.
* JB reported that he had let two more of the new half allotments.
* David Blackburn from DCC Highways had agreed to provide a quantity of road planings when roadworks were next carried out in the vicinity.
* JB had circulated a draft tenancy renewal letter and agreement to be sent out on 1 September. These were agreed as submitted.
 | JB |
| **11** | **Play Area:-** * The new play equipment had been installed and was proving popular. JB had submitted the claim for the agreed WDDC Leisure Development Fund grant of £2,000.
* Sutcliffe Play were consulting with their sub-contractors about the degradation of some of the wetpour surfaces.
* AG would speak to his brother about cutting the hedge between the play area and the cemetery and some branches which required trimming.
* The possibility of providing some adult fitness equipment next to the village hall car park was discussed. The list from the internet showing the sort of equipment available had been circulated and all councillors thought that the idea was a good one in principal. JB had investigated obtaining a grant from Healthwatch but these were no longer available. He agreed to investigate possible alternative sources.

  | JB |
| **12** | **Playing field and MUGA:-*** The Junior Football Club had now purchased the storage shed for their equipment and were awaiting the base being built.
* The weekly holiday programme of children’s sports activities was proving popular and numbers were expected to increase as word spread.
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| **13** | **Accounts for payment:-*** Sutcliffe Play – play area equipment - £12,000 (770)
* Green Thumb – weed treatment of The Green - £75 (771)
* John Ball – Viking stationery - £37.60 (772)
* Maiden Newton Fire Station – overpayment of annual rent - £15 (773)
* Magna Housing Association – room hire for August - £12 (774)
* Post Office – PAYE (August) - £85.45 (775)
* Jess Carver – grass cutting (July) - £300 (776)

JB mentioned that he had just received the 1 September insurance renewal documentation. He had requested one or two additions (e.g. the new play equipment) and would need to get a cheque signed before the next meeting. This was agreed - the amount would be approximately £1,550.  | JB |
| **14** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each property risk and no action was required. CD had agreed to add the village hall car park to the play area inspection.  |  |
| **15** | **Any Other Correspondence:-*** JB had received a draft Land Registry transfer for the White Horse Mews car park from Porter Dodson. He had made one or two comments and had now authorised Porter Dodson to approach WDDC on the basis of the parish purchasing the area excluding the approach road.
* E-mail from ‘Protect Congleton’ - petition for amendment of the National Planning Policy framework – circulated.
* Communications update on Localisation of Council Tax Support – circulated.
* DAPTC – Chief Executive’s Circular 5/13 – circulated.
* E-mail from DAPTC re project ideas for EU funding in the Dorset Local Enterprise Area – circulated.
* JB had written a letter to Magna about overhanging vegetation on the footpath between Stanstead Road and Newton Road.
* Public Health Dorset – update bulletin July 2013 – circulated.
* Dorset Highways – Councillors satisfaction survey – circulated, SF will respond.
* Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Minerals Development – modifications to submission strategy – circulated.
* Dorset Local Access Forum – recruitment – circulated.
* Poster re Loan Sharks – put on boards.

  | SF |
|  | Meeting closed at 8:35 p.m. Date of next meeting 5 September 2013 at 7 p.m. |  |