MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2015

**IN THE COMMUNAL ROOM, WEBBERS PIECE**

**CHAIR:** Cllr.Alan Goff(AG) **PRESENT:** Cllr. Anne Clements(AC)

Cllr. Cherri Dyke (CD)

Cllr. Sally Falkingham (SF)

Cllr. Diana Padfield (DP)

Cllr. Paul Valinski (PV)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were 7 members of the public at the meeting.

Jane Lofts mentioned the amended vehicular access plan which had been received for the outline application on The Quarr. She would be commenting on the proposal to route pedestrians into Manor Farm Close past her house. She was also looking ahead to when the application might come in front of the Development Control Committee (possibly September) and wanted to ensure that potential speakers from the village had a co-ordinated plan. AG said that there would be representation from the parish council but that it would be up to her to arrange other parties as she thought fit. Possible names were mentioned.

The WDDC Local Plan was discussed. AG reported that it had been mentioned at the DAPTC Central Area Committee and that more work had been requested on the renewable energy section. JB agreed to try to get an up to date position report from JH.

CD had received a note from Theresa Critchell updating the Childcare Provision situation. The lease with DCC on the Surestart building had been signed and she hoped that groundworks might begin later in August. The building could be in use in early 2016.

AC asked if a mirror could be provided at the Cattistock Road/Station Road junction so that vehicles turning left up Norden Lane could see up the blind turning. SF said that there had been one in place some while ago but that it had been knocked down. JB was asked to contact Highways.

CD had heard reports of at least one person sleeping rough in the village. JB had noticed someone in Station Road by the electrical sub-station. JB would inform the PCSO so that the situation could be monitored.

CD also reported that there was a tree down across footpath 2 just down from 29 Cattistock Road. JB would investigate and report accordingly.

CD was pleased to see that the side of the hedge on the footpath next to the Play Area had been cut back but wondered whether the excessive height could also be dealt with. Apparently it used to be possible to see over the hedge into the Play Area from Station Road. JB would ask Meadfleet if they could come to a meeting to discuss it.

AG (on behalf of Lawrie Goff) asked if Lawrie could put something on the grass outside his house (and further along Dorchester Road) to deter tractors pulling onto it. JB would check that Highways were content.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.17 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **Apologies for absence** had been received from County and District Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH) and Cllr. Dave Marsh (DM). |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July were agreed and signed.** |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * JB had written a letter to the Clinical Commissioning Group backing Theresa Critchell’s campaign to save the SCBU and Kingfisher paediatric wards at the Dorset County Hospital from closure. They had responded to say that proposals would now be put out for public consultation in 2016. * JB had also written to the resident of 29 Newton Road asking him to cut back the hedge overhanging the pavement from the garden. This had had the desired effect. Magna had also cut back the hedges bordering the footpath between Newton and Stanstead Roads. * JB had written to Mark Butcher of 14B Cattistock Road to politely ask him not to light bonfires when smoke was likely to drift towards residents in Webber’s Piece. He had sent a rather unsympathetic reply. * Following a complaint from a local parent, JB had contacted Oliver Letwin regarding the c.£500 per annum cost of the bus to Beaminster School for sixth formers. He had responded that the school should have a budget available for discretionary support. Having contacted Keith Hales (KH), headteacher at the school, SF had learnt that this funding had had to be subsumed into the general sixth form budget but KH asked that the parents be directed to contact him to discuss the issue. This whole subject had since escalated as other sixth form parents had made the parish council aware that, with less than a month to go before the schools returned, they were still waiting to hear from DCC whether their children would even be allocated a place on the bus. SF agreed to draft a letter to DCC (which AG would sign) saying how unsatisfactory this was. CD thanked SF for all the work she had done on the subject. * AC had spoken to Tara Hansford (DCC) and Andy Elliott about the poor condition of Cycle Route 26. Neither had been aware of the deterioration which had taken place. The upkeep was DCC’s responsibility but it was only on their longer-term list. AC would be cycling the route the following weekend. * JB had sent the revised Neighbourhood Planning letter (signed by AG and countersigned by Darlene Ford) to WDDC. Although they were content to re-start the consultation process, they had asked Frome Vauchurch Parish Meeting to give more formal consent (through the minutes of a parish meeting). * JB had circulated the large document which AG had been given at a DCC Emergency Planning event. Following discussion, JB agreed to circulate the Flood Plan produced in 2013 so that new councillors, in particular, could see it. This would also be an opportunity to see how it conformed to the latest Emergency Planning principles. * Councillors had met on 21 July at Rock Pit Farm car park to discuss the following issues:-   Banked area between the car park and the Community Centre. It was agreed that AG would seek a quote from Steve Marsh to clear the bottom 2-3 metres or so of the bank so that a safe walkway between the two areas could be created.  In the car park itself, AG would get a quote for the ditch to the left of the entrance to be filled in to enable cars to drive straight into this area. He would also arrange for the lower branches of the small trees to be cut back to give headroom.  JB had had a further conversation with Roger Snellgrove of Dorset Important Geological Sites (DIGS). His wife (Pat) would be the person to liaise with about creating an information board (similar to the one at the station) to be sited in the car park. This would incorporate parish council items (including a map showing footpaths) and information provided by them on local geology and, possibly, something on the stone used in Maiden Newton houses. DIGS would be prepared to contribute to the cost of the board. PV agreed to be the councillor who would liaise with her. | SF  JB |
| **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors**   * CD reported that new fire doors had been fitted at the village hall and that a ramp into the car park would be added in due course. * SF had attended a Dorset Broadcasting Action Group (DORBAG) meeting and circulated a note about a BBC consultation on Local Radio. If councillors or members of the public felt strongly enough that there should be a BBC Dorset radio station she encouraged them to comment accordingly. * SF also reported that planned engineering works in preparation for electrification would be taking place between Bath Station and Bathampton Junction until 31 August. Services from Maiden Newton would terminate at Westbury where coaches would take passengers onwards. * SF had also been to a West Dorset Housing Forum meeting and would circulate the minutes when they arrived. * AG and SF had been to the DAPTC Central Area meeting at which they had learned that the Maiden Newton sewage works were likely to be enlarged within the next 5 years. Also WDDC Planning were struggling to cope with an increased workload and the processing of applications was taking much longer than usual. |  |
| **6** | **Planning Applications:-**  With reference to WD/D/15/832 (outline application for up to 20 houses to be built on the land known as ‘The Quarr’ off Cattistock Road), JB had agreed the wording of the parish’s response and submitted it to WDDC.  The following applications had been circulated and no objections had been raised:-   * WD/D/15/1042 – Whiteacre, Crockway, Maiden Newton – erect a new garage/carport over existing footprint of single garage and erect porch to the west elevation of the main dwelling. * WD/D/15/1439 – 2 Dorchester Road. Maiden Newton – change of use from agricultural land to an agricultural contractor’s site to include the erection of a new agricultural machinery store.   Councillors’ comments had been collated and submitted on the following application:-   * WD/D/15/1393 – 14B Cattistock Road – erect detached garage.   The following applications were on circulation for comment:-   * WD/D/15/1559 – 3B Station Road, Maiden Newton - form new entrance door to south east elevation. * WD/D/15/1652 – 6 North Road, Maiden Newton – proposed side extension to form 2 bedrooms.   The parish had been asked to comment on application WD/D/15/1388 – Plot 10, NW of Marl House, Frampton – change of use of land to site one Romany Gypsy pitch and associated works including one static caravan, one utility shed and hard standing. This was in Frampton Parish Council’s area, but plots 1-9, next to it, were actually in Maiden Newton. The field concerned had been the subject of concern for some time, following its division into 71 plots around 12 years ago and two meetings had already been held with WDDC and Oliver Letwin (OL) to discuss the situation. JB had written to the registered owners of the Maiden Newton plots to find out whether they were aware of the application and what comments they had. He had received three responses, all of whom were unaware and objected to the plans. Frampton PC had held a public meeting which had been attended by over 100 residents, all of whom were against the development. Frampton had submitted a very well worded letter of objection which, it was agreed, would be endorsed in Maiden Newton’s response and submitted with the letters of objection from the Maiden Newton plot holders.  JB had received a phone call earlier in the week to say that the application had been withdrawn on a technicality but was likely to be resubmitted soon. JH had also been involved and had discussed the legal position with senior WDDC managers. A further meeting with WDDC and OL was due to take place on 4 September – AG would attend. | JB  AG |
| **7** | **Allotments:-**   * JB had written to Wessex Water about the damaged meter inspection cover outside the allotments entrance. They had responded quickly and replaced it. * DP and JB had contacted 4 plotholders to tell them that their tenancy agreements would not be renewed on 1 September as they had failed to maintain their plots to the required standard. This had created 2 full and 2 half plots available for letting. JB would contact the two people on the waiting list to offer them tenancies. * Joanne Clifford, who currently shared a half plot, had asked if she could have a half plot in her own name. Because of her previous history, this was discussed, and it was agreed that she would be given another chance. JB would offer her plot 21A. * Wayne and Jackie Briggs (plot 12A) had always asked if they could have 12B as well if it became available. As it now was, JB would offer it to them. * Claire McCarthy (plots 56B, 57 and 58A) had requested a move further down the allotments if a suitable plot was to become available. This would be discussed if one became available but was unlikely to be acceded to. * JB had circulated a draft tenancy agreement and covering letter for the 1 September annual renewals. These were both agreed. | JB  JB  JB  JB |
| **8** | **Play Area:-**   * CD reported that the picnic table and ‘Frogbuddy’ waste bin had now arrived. AG and Lawrie Goff would put down a concrete base for them in the next few weeks. Following these purchases, JB reported that £505 remained from the WDDC Section 106 grant and £378.60 from the amount set aside in the Parish Council reserve bank account. * The repairs to two wetpour areas had been carried out and looked good. * The wetpour under the climbing net was deteriorating. AG and Lawrie Goff had a possible remedy which they would try. * CD had spoken to Maiden Newton Runners about adult exercise equipment and they had suggested two items which they thought would be popular and would cost c. £500 plus fitting costs. * CD would also speak to Clare May about whether some wooden play equipment would be the best option for 11/12 year olds. | AG  AG  CD |
| **9** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * PV reported that there were two wooden rails missing from the fence bordering the playing field above Rock Pit Farm car park. AG agreed to look at repairing them. * PV had agreed that three junior football teams (the under 7s, u9s and u11s) would play at the field from September. * SF asked about floodlight repairs. PV said that Ian Hewitt was lined up to do this in September. * CD asked whether the football teams had any sponsorship. PV said that Honda did sponsor the shirts. The children’s weekly contributions went towards the cost of belonging to the leagues. * A football coach who was helping the holiday coaching on Fridays had remarked to PV how well behaved the children were. | AG |
| **10** | **Southern Electric Power Distribution grant scheme**   * JB had circulated the background papers to this flood relief grant funding scheme which had been brought to the council’s attention. The second deadline for applications was 25 September. * JB agreed to print off an application form and AG would speak to Lawrie Goff about what kit could be useful to them as the village Flood Wardens. It had recently been discovered that the Environment Agency would supply road signage. | JBAG |
| **11** | **Finance**   * **Audit completed.** BDO had completed the 2014/15 external audit and had sent back the annual return duly signed. The completion of audit certificate had been put on the noticeboards for the statutory two weeks. * The annual return was presented to the council and CD proposed and PV seconded that it be approved and accepted. * **Annual Insurance Renewal.** JB reported that he had received the annual insurance renewal invitation from Community First which was due on 1 September. The percentage applied under the all risks property cover had decreased resulting in a reduced premium of £1,215, a welcome £485 under budget. This would be offset slightly by the need to add the recently purchased picnic table. * JB reminded councillors that this was the final year of a 3 year long-term agreement with Community First. They had asked if the Council wished to renew this for a further 3 years. JB recommended that no such commitment was entered into but that the new clerk should carry out a review in 2016 taking into account quotes from other possible suppliers. * **Bank accounts as at 31 July.** JB had reconciled the bank accounts at 30 June and 31 July. AC had carried out the quarterly check on the former and recommended that an exercise should be carried out by the new clerk to look at how best to identify a minimal amount to be held in the current account and carry out regular transfers to/from the reserve account, maximising the interest earned on the latter. This was agreed with AG adding the proviso that transfers would need to be agreed by the Council. * **Accounts for payment** * John Ball – salary for August – £276.21 (170) * The Post Office – PAYE August - £184.14 (171) * Community First – annual insurance - £1,215.82 (172) * Realise Futures – picnic bench - £653.99 (173) * BDO – external audit - £120.00 (174) * John Ball – Shaw & Sons minutes binder - £91.19 (175) * Jess Carver – grass cutting contract - £330.00 (176) * Magna Housing Association – room hire for August - £12.00 (177) |  |
| **12** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports**  It was mentioned that there was some graffiti on the bus shelter in Dorchester Road and that it could, in any case, do with a repaint. AG agreed to get a quote. | AG |
| **13** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * Alacrify – Alex Pledger to take on Maiden Newton website – circulated. * DCC – revised Mobile Library Service schedules - circulated. * DCC – consultation on Draft Minerals and Waste Plans – circulated * WDDC – newsletter 22 July – circulated * Dorset Highways – Councillors’ Satisfaction Survey – circulated. * Rural Services Network – Weekly News Digests – circulated. * Rural Services Network – Rural Vulnerability Service – circulated. * Rural Services Network – Rural Health & Housing spotlights – circulated. * Rural Services Network – 2015 Rural Conference – circulated. * DAPTC – 2015 AGM – circulated. * DAPTC – Commonwealth Flag Day – circulated. * DAPTC – Ramblers’ Big Pathwatch – circulated. * DAPTC – Courts & Tribunals Service consultation – circulated. * DAPTC – Dorset CCG local services consultation – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletins July – circulated. * Healthwatch Dorset – ‘Loud and Clear’ launch – circulated. * Healthwatch Dorset – e-mail update – circulated. * Help & Care Dorset – free carers’ workshops – circulated. * Nick Goozee – adoption of Manor Farm Close – circulated. |  |
|  | Meeting closed at 8.42 p.m. Date of next meeting 3 September 2015. |  |