MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 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)

County & District

Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

JH mentioned the following in respect of West Dorset District Council:-

* There was no date set as yet for the Local Plan Inspectorate meeting.
* There was to be a further Service Review which was creating more staff uncertainty.
* A planning application had been submitted for a solar panel farm on lead shot polluted land behind the George Albert Hotel. The same company was involved as the one carrying out the Rampisham Down installation. The position at Rampisham was that Natural England were likely to ask for a judicial review because of the site being an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

She then reported the following in respect of the County Council:-

* The Council was to become more ‘member led’. Officers would be obliged to involve the members more and papers would be presented by members rather than officers. This was a big cultural change and it was hoped that better communication would result, joined up across Directorates.
* A new Director of Children’s Services would begin work in the new year – Sara Tough, formerly with Swindon Borough Council.
* There was to be a review within Children’s Services of work carried out in buildings not owned by the County Council e.g. Youth and Community. Many of these centres were charitable trusts and had very little use at certain times of the day. There was to be a series of public meetings to discuss how economies could be made.
* Responsibility for public health had reverted to the County Council from the NHS. The County had joined together with Bournemouth and Poole to review around 100 contracts which were some £1mn. underspent.
* Some difficult decisions were still to be made following the review of bus services. It seemed likely that the 212 and 73 routes could lose their Saturday services in March. The current bus company contracts had 2 years left to run and the companies sometimes had different views to the Council on which routes were viable. There was to be a review of all transport provision before the contracts expired and it was likely that more funding would be put into community schemes. SF said that she had attended the DCC Cabinet meeting the previous day and had spoken in support of the routes which came through the village.
* Consideration was being given to setting up a Local Authority Trading Company to carry out Highways repair and maintenance. A meeting was to take place with Cornwall County Council who had already gone down this route.
* The cap of £73,000 on the total amount which an individual will have to pay for care costs is being introduced in 2015. Consideration was currently being given to what point this figure should begin to be included in the calculation.
* An additional £750,000 had been awarded to Dorset to work with Bournemouth and Poole on Adult Social Care.

SF asked JH what would happen about the cost of Public Liability Insurance if POPP (Partnership for Older People Programme) took over the Country Cars scheme. JH said that the County were not currently proposing to relinquish responsibility for the scheme.

CD asked whether anyone had heard that there were travellers residing in a barn above the railway bridge past the Marsh’s Farm. AG said that this was correct and that Steve Marsh was aware. (It subsequently transpired that the barn concerned, and the land it was on, did not belong to Steve Marsh but to Ian Sargeant and that he, too, was aware).

CD said that she had heard that the junior football team were moving from the MUGA to Cattistock for their Tuesday evening training sessions and wondered why. PV replied that the offer was made and that, as there were showers available and a grass pitch, it was a preferable location. Matches would still be played at the Playing Field.

CD raised the question of the Playschool’s move. It was confirmed that, although planning permission had been granted for an extension to the Surestart building, it was proving very difficult to raise the necessary funding. The Parish Council confirmed that they were 100% behind the proposal but that information on the situation was sparse. It was hoped that, now that DP was on the Playschool Committee, communication would be better.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.25 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 7 November 2013** were agreed and signed. |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * JB would remind Jill Exton (DCC Rights of Way) about the provision of materials for the repair of the problem areas on footpath 1. They would be delivered to Chris Slade who now had contact details for Karin Chandler-Wilson and Sue Hinchley who had agreed to help. * JB had e-mailed Jill Exton about the missing signs for footpath 2 and The Drift. * JB had reminded Richard Stubbs from DCC Traffic Engineering that the chevron sign to be put on the corner of 74 Dorchester Road had not yet been delivered. * JB read out the e-mail that he had sent to Lily Foster (owner of The Mill) thanking her for her offer of help if problems arose with the allotments’ water supply and reiterating the problems which low water levels could cause. * The annual Remembrance Day service had taken place at the War Memorial on 11 November and a good number of residents had attended. NHo had read out the names and laid the wreath. * JB would accept Catherine Phillips’ offer of a grant to renew the village welcome poster at the railway station. * JB had written to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance giving them permission to land at the Playing Field if the need arose. * Jess Carver had provided a quotation of £3,900 for the grass cutting contract for 2014/15. This was considered reasonable and JB would accept it. * JB had written to the two allotment grazing tenants informing them of their rents for 2014/15. | JB      JB  JB |
| **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors:-**   * NHi reported on a further meeting of the Community Land Trust where the possibility of Neil’s View Phase 2 ground rents being received as a lump sum had been discussed. Solar panels on the roofs were also being considered. * CD mentioned that the Village Hall fire risk assessments had now been completed and that a successful Christmas Fair had taken place. The padlock on the entrance gate had disappeared and, as the land this was on now belonged to the parish council, it was agreed that the council would pay for a replacement. * DP reported that a meeting with members of the Allotments Association was due to take place the following Sunday, on site, to discuss how best to tackle the clearance and fencing of the boundary with the railway. Following the recent break in and theft of equipment, security would also be discussed. * SF had been to an interesting meeting of the West Dorset Housing Forum. She would let JB have the minutes for circulation as soon as she received them. * In respect of DCC’s Youth Club review, PV reported that an Assistant Youth Worker for the Club had now been recruited but that, as she was pregnant, a temporary replacement would be put in place. The Senior Football Club had generously decided to donate £200 to Youth Club funds. |  |
| **6** | **Finance – 2014/15 budget and precept:-**  JB had circulated a spreadsheet showing:-   * the 2013/14 budget, * expenditure and income against this at the end of November, * his estimate of the outturn at end March, and, * a proposed budget for 2014/15.   (see attached)  He explained the background to certain of the figures. In response to a request from the Treasurer of St Mary’s Church to consider an increase to the £600 annual grant for cemetery maintenance, NHo proposed and DP seconded that it should increase to £650. After some discussion this was agreed. JB would inform them accordingly. The amount for the grass cutting contract could also now be accurately input as £3,900. The amount for car parks maintenance was increased to £1,500 to take account of the need to repair the lights in the soon to be acquired Rock Pit Farm car park.  At the foot of the spreadsheet JB had also shown the estimated bank balances at the end of the year. These would total some £21,000 of which £15,000 was earmarked. It was agreed that, although expenditure within the proposed budget would exceed income, the difference could be absorbed by the positive balances at the bank and the resulting precept to be claimed would remain at £18,000, the same as in 2013/14. SF proposed and DP seconded that the budget be adopted. All agreed. It was still not known when WDDC required the precept information. JB would make the appropriate amendments to the spreadsheet and recirculate it. | JB  JB |
| **7** | **Village Welcome Pack/Contact List-**  Following discussion at the previous meeting about the possibility of the parish council producing some form of Welcome Pack for people new to the village, DP had agreed with Anne Clements (who had presented her apologies for not being able to attend) that they would form a small working group to look into options and revert at a future meeting. JB had looked at what was currently on the maidennewton.info website and it was quite comprehensive but out of date. This medium would clearly need to be incorporated in the working group’s deliberations. CD had circulated her old list of village organisations, which was, similarly, out of date. There was support for revamping this and making a concerted effort to keep it current. | DP |
| **8** | **Planning Applications:-**  The following application had been approved:-   * CA/13/00273 – The Dairy House, 2 Station Road – fell one cypress tree.   There was no more news from the Planning Inspectorate on the appeal against refusal of the following application:-   * 1/D/13/00509 – 14 Hill View – construction of two 2 bedroom dwellings.   JB read out the comments that DCC Highways had made about the road and footpath layout for the Neil’s View phase two application. NHi said that these had been discussed with the architects who were amending the plans accordingly. |  |
| **9** | **Allotments:-**   * DP reported that the rabbit problem was getting worse – they had even managed to cause serious damage to some of the trees in the Allotment Association (AA) orchard. She would be attending a meeting the following weekend with the AA to discuss how best to tackle the boundary with the railway which was a particular problem area. JB had replied to David Charman’s e-mail about the issue, explaining the longer term plan. JB had also corresponded with WDDC to see whether any work done might be eligible for funding from the Conservation and Community Planning Grant Scheme. They had confirmed that rabbit proof fencing would not be eligible but that the land clearance might be depending exactly what work was done. * JB had sent strongly worded letters to the two allotment tenants whose renewals continued to be outstanding. It was agreed that they had been given enough chances to pay and would be evicted and given until 1 January to remove any belongings from their plots. JB said that he might make one final effort to get them to comply. | DP  JB |
| **10** | **Play Area:-**   * CD had met Sutcliffe Play to talk about the degradation of some of the wetpour surfaces but there was no easy fix. AG agreed to look at the problem again and talk to Altro Resins who might be able to help. * NHo thanked CD for organising the recent Christmas event and particularly for arranging presents for all the children who attended. * JB mentioned that he had been in touch with the Play Area Inspection Company and they were due to do their annual inspection later that month. | AG |
| **11** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * A list of broken parts following the shed storm damage had now been compiled and it was possible that the manufacturers might supply some replacement parts without payment. * Following an article in Clerks’ and Councils’ magazine, JB had been in touch with Rospa Play Safety about carrying out a MUGA inspection. They were due to be in Dorset in May 2014 and it was agreed that they would be asked to include us on their list. The cost would be £65 + VAT. | JB |
| **12** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * Alan Goff – purchase of macadam for work on The Drift - £69.60 (027) * John Ball – salary for December – £353.40 (028) * Post Office – PAYE December - £88.35 (029) * John Ball – Broadband costs Oct-Dec - £48.50 (030) * Jess Carver – grass cutting (November) - £300 (031) * Magna Housing Association – room hire for December - £12.00 (032) |  |
| **13** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**  The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each property risk. There were no issues arising. |  |
| **14** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * DAPTC – Newsletter (including picture and article about the opening of our new play equipment) and Annual Report - circulated. * JB had received a phone call from Sue Wreford asking if the parish council could write to Palmers to complain about the poor condition of the old bakery in Dorchester Road and the associated accommodation. SF recalled that a planning application had been made about 3 years previously to divide the property into 3 separate units and AG said that he was aware that some internal building work had been done within the last few months. It was also suggested that Palmers might be waiting for a change in planning law due to be implemented in the New Year before continuing the work. JB agreed to look up the planning application and let Sue know the latest situation. * JB had also received a phone call from Darrell Emanuel of 22 Cattistock Road, asking whether anyone on the parish council knew who owned the thin strip of land between numbers 14a and 16 which was overgrown and untended. He had been told by the Land Registry that it was unregistered. No one on the council had any knowledge of the ownership and JB would revert to him. * E-mail from Wessex Grounds Services, a company set up by two former County Council employees - offering to quote for various types of work – circulated. * E-mail from DAPTC – re a new online map facility showing road traffic collision data – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – News and events for November – circulated. * E-mail from Cllr Jill Haynes – re Bridport Community Plan Consultation Launch Event on 16 December – circulated. * Posters from DCC – re Dorset Safeguarding Children Week – circulated and put on boards. * Dorset Waste Partnership – notice re Christmas/New Year waste collection arrangements – circulated and put on boards. * Dorset Community Action – invitation to AGM – circulated. * NHS Dorset - Caring Matters magazine Winter 13/14 – circulated. * DCC leaflet – Emergency Local Assistance – put on boards. | JB  JB |
|  | Meeting closed at 8:50 p.m. Date of next meeting 9 January 2014 at 7 p.m. |  |