MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2013

**IN THE COMMUNAL ROOM WEBBERS PIECE**

**CHAIR:** Cllr.Sally Falkingham (SF) **PRESENT:** Cllr. Cherri Dyke (CD)

Cllr. Alan Goff (AG)

 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.

* Chris Tripp of 12 Cattistock Road said that he had attended the meeting because of the planning application which had been submitted by his next door neighbour at number 14B. The application was asking for the removal of a condition imposed when planning was granted the previous year for the addition of a room above the neighbour’s detached garage. The condition related to him not being allowed to put windows in the side of the roof which faced Mr Tripp because of them overlooking his property. Mr Tripp continued to oppose the placing of any windows in the roof (the application was asking for velux windows) and he would be writing to the Planning Department to strongly oppose the reapplication. SF said that the application was on circulation to councillors and would be discussed at item 6 on the agenda.

SF declared the Parish Council meeting open at 7.05 p.m.

 **ACTION**

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| **1** | **Apologies for absence** had been received from County & District Councillor Jill Haynes (JH).  |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2013** were agreed and signed. |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-** * In Theresa Critchell’s absence, she had asked DP to inform councillors that there had been little progress on the playgroup’s need to find alternative accommodation to the Youth Centre - she was waiting to hear back from the Head of Children’s services at DCC. CD felt that the parish council should be putting pressure on DCC to find a solution. SF and PV both argued that the pressure of the Youth Club’s lease expiry on 31 December 2014 was not as great as she imagined - 12 month extensions of the lease would be very likely to be granted as the Youth Club was currently very active. NHi pointed out that deadlines for potential funding opportunities were slipping by but he acknowledged that funding could not be applied for until a scheme had been agreed.
* The litter bin which WDDC had agreed to provide outside the Fire Station in Bull Lane was not yet in place. JB had chased WDDC.
* AG and his brother would clean the Millennium Stone, the War Memorial and the area around the Cross when the weather improved in the spring.
* JB had had further discussions with Porter Dodson in respect of Network Rail’s sale of the land outside the Village Hall. The wording of the transfer document had been agreed and there should now be no more issues to resolve before the transfer took place.
* JH had been talking to Mark Osborne (James Tawse’s replacement at WDDC) about the purchase of the Rock Pit and White Horse Mews car parks. He had visited the sites and agreed that there was a need to fill potholes at Rock Pit prior to the parish taking it on. He had reported this to the Car Parks team for action. With regard to the White Horse Mews car park, he had said that WDDC was not in a position to fund the road adoption process. There was a discussion about White Horse Mews and it was agreed that the parish were not prepared to take on the liability for future road repairs etc. JB was asked to tell Porter Dodson that we would only be prepared to purchase the car park itself and not the road or the visibility splay.
* The support for the plaque which accompanied the tree planted on The Green in Harveys Close had now arrived.
* JB had circulated copies of the Flood Plan to all appropriate parties.
* The replacement Parish Council noticeboard had been received and put in place.
* JB (with help from NHi) had brought the replacement laptop into use. As agreed at the previous meeting, a subscription to the Parish Online mapping tool had been taken out.
* The Christmas trees had been collected for recycling on 14 January. The parish would receive £1 for each one recycled – JB estimated that there had been 10-15.
* The pump purchased for the use of the Flood Wardens had now been received.
* JB had distributed copies of an application form for potential funding under the Property Level Protection Scheme to all properties shown as vulnerable in the Flood Plan. This scheme was run jointly by DCC and the Environment Agency.
* CD had ascertained that planning permission would be required for the work necessary on the Village Hall disabled fire escape. JB explained that VAT would not be able to be reclaimed unless the Parish Council agreed to fund and commission a discrete portion of the work. AG mentioned that there was an alternative solution to the work required which would entail the surface of the car park (which was owned by the Parish) being graded down so that the whole area sloped towards the hall. Some form of hard surface would then need to be applied and drainage etc. considered. NHi suggested that this solution was one which the Parish should aspire to and that quotes should be sought for both options before further consideration.
* SF had been in correspondence with DCC about the changes to the Mobile Library service. She awaited a reply to her second letter.
 | JBAG |
| **5** | **Reports – Chairman:-*** SF and AG had attended the DAPTC Central Area Group meeting on 8 January. Flooding had been one of the items on the agenda and AG had made some useful contacts.

**Reports - Councillors:-*** AG and his brother Lawrie had been called out on the night of 26 January as the river was rising. Water had risen to a depth of about 8 inches across Dorchester Road and had penetrated Beconsfield in Crewkerne Road. The water had subsided after about two hours.
* AG had had a meeting with the Environment Agency on 29 January during which the possible straightening of the river north of the road had been discussed. This had been seen as a good idea and the Environment Agency had asked if anyone had pictures of this stretch of the river from 30+ years ago.
* NHi had attended a Superfast Broadband Gateway Review ‘champions’ session on 23 January. The report emanating from this review would go to DCC’s Chief Executive, Debbie Ward, and it would be at her discretion whether it was further disseminated.
* NHi also reported on Community Land Trust progress. Asterhomes (formerly Synergy) were continuing discussions with Mr & Mrs Marsh and there had been a meeting with the architect of Neil’s View phase 1 who had sketched out some possible thoughts for phase 2.
* PV had attended a Maiden Newton at War meeting and they were looking for someone prepared to run a future event. If no-one was forthcoming, the amounts distributed to local groups from this year’s event might be increased as there would not need to be funds retained.
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|  **6** | **Planning Applications:-**The following two applications had now been approved:- CA/12/00409 – Cromwell Hall, Dorchester Road – fell one holly tree. CA/12/00430 – 63 Dorchester Road – fell two ash trees.No objections had been raised in respect of the following application:- 1/D/12/001704 – 1 Harveys Close – construction of a boundary fence.The following application was discussed and comments would be submitted :- 1/D/13/000091 – 14b Cattistock Road – removal of condition 4 of application  1/D/12/000019 to allow velux windows and a door. Councillors were unanimous in agreeing that the application should be strongly opposed. The previous condition had been imposed for very valid reasons i.e. that the view from any window allowed in the garage roof would be directly into Mr Tripp’s garden and the rear rooms of his house, including the bathroom.  |  |
|  ***7*** | **Allotments:-*** Two plot holders from the bottom end of the site had contacted JB to request an allocation of one of the new plots being created at the top end once they were ready for occupation. One of these was as a replacement and one a (temporary) additional plot.
* Steve Marsh had cut the Drift hedges as requested.
* Rent for 2013/14 was discussed. NHo’s opinion was that, as the weather in the current year had been so poor, rents should be held at £16 for a full plot and £8 for a half plot. SF proposed and NHo seconded that this proposal should be adopted. All agreed.
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| **8** | **Play Area:-** * AG agreed to speak to James King to get a quote for removal of the old concrete slab.
* JB had ascertained that the deadline for the next round of WDDC Leisure Development Fund grants was 1 April for consideration in June.
 | AG |
| **9** | **Playing field and MUGA:-*** PV had collected two of the seven £5 gate licence payments for 2012/13 and handed JB £10 in cash. Three more had agreed to pay during the coming week and two had yet to be contacted.
 | PV |
| **10** | **QE II Fields Challenge*** The Deed of Dedication for the Playing Field to be safeguarded under the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge 2012 had now been signed under seal by Fields in Trust. JB would initiate the correspondence to the Land Registry to enter the restriction on the Register of Title.
* JB had received a plaque to be erected somewhere on the field together with a large file which suggested ways of celebrating the dedication.
* PV suggested that, as there was to be no large fundraising event in the village this year, a village fete raising money for all village groups should be considered. All were in favour of some sort of event being arranged but most felt that the money raised should be put towards either the proposed new Sports and Community Centre or whatever new facility was decided on for the Playgroup. It was agreed that SF, PV and NHi would come up with some thoughts.
 | JBSF/PV/NHi |
| **11** | **Accounts for payment:-*** S C Marsh Ltd. – allotment hedge cutting - £198.00 (731)
* Village & Urban – new parish noticeboard - £1,116.00 (732)
* Getmapping – set up and subscription to Parish Online - £48.00 (733)

 (Cheque number 734 was spoiled)* John Ball – overtime for courses attended - £51.27 (735)
* Post Office – PAYE (February) - £96.84 (736)
* Jess Carver – balance of 2012/13 grass cutting contract - £390.00 (737)
* Magna Housing – room hire for February - £12 (738)
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| **12** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each property risk and no action was required. |  |
| **13** | **Precept:-*** A letter dated 7 January had been received from WDDC. This confirmed that as a result of the Localisation of Council Tax Benefit, funding for 2013/14 would be received in two parts – an annual precept amount of £16,365 and a top up amount of £1,635 in the form of a grant. The total of these is the figure we had already requested as a precept i.e. £18,000. The form requesting this amount to be split as above had been returned to WDDC but needed to be retrospectively agreed at a Parish Council meeting. SF proposed that the split be ratified and all agreed. In future years WDDC could decide not to distribute 100% of the grant amount received, thus effectively reducing the parish precept – some local authorities had already decided to take this course for the coming year.
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| **14** | **Any Other Correspondence:-*** SF asked JB to circulate the Final Draft of the Dorchester Area Community Plan which she had received.
* JB had written to Mrs Lillie Foster, the owner of The Mill, to request that she cut back branches of a small laurel tree overhanging the pavement on Dorchester Road. A reply had been received which JB would respond to once the tree had been trimmed.
* JB had been investigating options for changing banking arrangements and would report his findings at the March meeting.
* Firefighters from the Maiden Newton station had cleared snow and ice from pavements in the village over the weekend of 19 January. JB had put a note of thanks on the noticeboards.
* Invitation to DCC Bus Service Consultation Stakeholders Workshop on 13 February – circulated. SF to attend.
* Invitation to a tour of WDDC’s new premises at South Walks House – circulated. SF and JB will attend.
* Invitation to ‘Today’s youths – Tomorrow’s leaders’ - official launch of Democracy Handbook on 22 March - circulated.
* Invitation to drop-in session about suggested changes to the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Draft Local Plan – circulated.
* Statement of Community Involvement on County Council Planning Matters – Consultation Draft – circulated.
* E-mail from WDDC about funding opportunities – circulated.
* Invitation to DAPTC update event on 26 February – on training list.
* DAPTC Chief Executive’s circular January 2013 – circulated.
 | JBJBJB |
|  | Meeting closed at 8:51 p.m. Date of next meeting 7 March 2013 at 7.00 p.m. |  |