MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 2015

**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)

County and District

Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH)

There were 12 members of the public at the meeting.

NHi asked if the April 2015 meeting could be held on Thursday 9 April as the first Thursday of the month was Maundy Thursday - this was agreed. JB also asked about the date for the May meeting as Thursday 7 May was the Parish Council election date. It was agreed that the May meeting would be held on Thursday 14 May.

JH mentioned the following in respect of WDDC:-

* The new leader of the Council was Cllr. Anthony Alford from Netherbury, replacing Cllr. Robert Gould who had been appointed Leader of Dorset County Council.
* It was hoped that the Local Plan would be approved sometime in the next 3 months as the Inspector who was examining it had not reverted with any substantive questions.
* WDDC currently provided about 50% of the funding needed to run the Citizens Advice Bureaux. They had agreed to maintain this for 2015/16 but after that they might not be able to. Town and Parish Councils might be asked to help out.

And at DCC:-

* It continued to be an unsettling time for staff as all were potentially affected by the restructuring which would continue until the end of March.
* It had been agreed that the Local Authority Trading Company being set up within Children’s and Adult Services would now also incorporate the Bournemouth and Poole authorities. It was expected to be operational by July/August.
* The Holistic Transport Review Board was looking at the transport services provided for schools and social services, the annual cost of which was some £22 million. There was no statutory requirement to provide transport for over 16s but it was likely that the services would continue with the individuals having to pay. Any changes agreed would not be implemented this September but a decision would be taken by then.
* It was likely that some big changes to DCC services would be made in 2015/16 and even more the following year.
* AG asked JH about the extra £200,000 which had been given to the Dorset Waste Partnership. JH explained that their costings had assumed that income from selling recycled materials would partially offset costs but that, at the moment, the prices for these raw materials were very low and the cost of sorting was high. Other markets were being sought.
* SF said that she had attended the West Dorset Housing Forum where it had emerged that the care and repair services for equipment had been retendered and that a new service provider would begin on 1 April. JH said that she had been surprised to find out that items such as wheelchairs, crutches and surgical boots were often never collected from patients because it was deemed too expensive to do so.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.26 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **There were no apologies for absence** |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **Proposed development on land at the rear of Manor Farm Close**   * As agreed at the previous meeting, JB had written to Strutt & Parker informing them of the strength of feeling against the proposed development. JB read out the reply he had received which had said that they would be pressing ahead with their plans and were proposing to hold a public meeting in the village hall to show residents more detail and answer questions. * JB also reported that he had carried out a Land Registry search which had confirmed that Mr Ian Sargent and his wife were the owners, having purchased Manor Farm in September 2012. * JH repeated her thoughts on the issue stressing the fact that the WDDC Local Plan did not include this area and would provide for a sufficient number of houses to be built to satisfy current national requirements. * AG mentioned that he had spoken to Ann Marie Budgett, a member of the family who used to own of the land, who had said that the field in question had not been included in the Manor Farm Close development because it was said to be an ancient plague burial site. Mr Chris Tripp of 12 Cattistock Road, a local archaeologist, said that his understanding confirmed this possibility. AG asked that, if anyone felt that they might have the time, perhaps they could arrange to visit the Dorset History Centre to look into this. * Mr Nick Goozee (NG) said that he had estimated that 81 new houses had been built in Maiden Newton in the last 10 years and that this was surely enough for a village of its size. JH replied that this was not a criteria that WDDC Planning would take into account. They were more interested in the Defined Development Boundary which it was outside and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which it was inside. NHi did not share JH’s confidence in the Planning Department and felt that their record of enforcement of the rules in recent cases was poor. He was keen to press on with the Neighbourhood Plan but was concerned how enforceable even that would be. * NG felt that a large majority of residents in the village would not be against the development because of the perceived benefits that it could bring in terms of new community facilities. Those against it would mainly be those directly or indirectly affected, who would be in the minority. SF stated that the parish council had fought development in this field before and would do so again.   **Land Registry searches on other potential sites**  NHi asked if the parish council would be prepared to fund further Land Registry searches for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was clear that it was not a difficult process and cost only £3 a time. This was agreed and JB said that he had already included a sum for this in the 2015/16 budget which would be discussed at item 11. |  |
| **4** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December were agreed and signed.** |  |
| **5** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * Highways had looked at the condition of the road at the entrance to Webbers Piece and had added it to the capital list for resurfacing. * The resurfacing work on Bull Lane had been completed that afternoon and looked good. * DCC Rights of Way had arranged for the digging out of the ditch at the side of The Drift and the building of a second hump. These had both now been completed and the parish council’s half share of the bill would be £630. The best quote for the subsequent scraping of the surface of The Drift and the rolling in of the planings from the Bull lane resurfacing had come from Steve Marsh at £993. This work had also taken place and was looking good. The real test would come when heavy rain fell. * JB had received an e-mail from the owner of 9a Cattistock Road who had read the minutes concerning the request for him to cut his hedge. It had transpired, however, that the hedge in question was actually in the garden of number 9 not 9a. JB would apologise to him for the error and CD agreed to find out who the landlord of number 9 was. * Derry Thompson had not yet carried out the work on the Old School clock. JB would contact him. * Paul Ferris had contacted JB and PV and was about to remove the trees on the bank between the Community Centre and Rock Pit Farm car park. * JB had given a copy of the letter from Clare Marsh about dog fouling to Judith Stinton and a shortened version had been published in January’s Herald. Unfortunately it had been attributed in error to Clare May. * Following discussion at the December meeting, JB had e-mailed Highways with the parish council’s thoughts on Andy Elliott’s suggestions about a footpath and parking in Bull Lane. Andrew Brown had responded and asked for a representative to attend a meeting on site on Monday 19 January at 2.00 p.m. SF and NHo agreed to attend. * Jess Carver had submitted a grass cutting tender for 2015/16 and JB had included the figure in his budget proposals (see 11 below). | JB  CD  JB  SF/  NHo |
| **6** | **There were no reports on meetings attended by councillors** |  |
| **7** | **Planning Applications:-**  The following application had been approved:-   * WD/CA/14/00418 – 36 Dorchester Road – surgery to one purple plum.   Comments had been submitted on the following applications:-   * WD/D/14/002794 – 73 Dorchester Road (The Old Bakery) – conversion of commercial property to provide two dwellings. Demolish existing rear extensions and the existing chimneys and the outhouse at the west end of the property. * WD/D/14/002839 – 14 Hill View – erect two new dwellings. * WD/D/14/002200 – 14B Cattistock Road – change of use from residential annex to holiday accommodation (retrospective) - amended plans.   In respect of this last application, JH had spoken to Sean Williams in the Planning Department who had confirmed that the building was just outside the conservation area. She would also be speaking to John Greenslade. |  |
| **8** | **Allotments:-**   * JB reported that Tom Raymond had not responded to any of his three letters about plot 62b and that he had therefore, by default, relinquished tenancy. * JB had written to Diane Rowland and Sue Elsworth informing them of the increases to their rents for 2015/16. * Two half plots were currently available and JB was showing a prospective new tenant around the following Saturday. * AG agreed to speak to Steve Marsh about cutting the hedges at the entrance to the allotments and working on the back half of plot 1. | JB  AG |
| **9** | **Play Area:-**   * Following discussion at previous meetings, CD said that she was happy that the Flat Seat Swing Area and the Seesaw/Rollover area were, at present, the only ones which needed surface repairs. Wicksteed’s quote of £2,676 plus VAT for these areas would therefore be accepted. Funding would be taken from the £3,000 set aside for the Play Area. | JB |
| **10** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * The only outstanding issue was the replacement of the two blown floodlight bulbs which PV said he was happy to wait for until the spring. |  |
| **11** | **Progress against 2014/15 budget and precept for 2015/16**   * JB had circulated a spreadsheet (see attached) showing the 2014/15 budget with the end December actual and his estimated outturn for the year. This showed that the final figures were predicted to be very close to budget. * He went on to explain the reasoning behind his recommended budget figures for 2015/16. During the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the cemetery maintenance grant would be kept at £650 and that the 2014/15 provision of £750 for summer holiday activities would be repeated. The £1,500 included for car park maintenance would be designated for the village hall only and the £3,000 for Community Centre plans and planning would be expanded to include maintenance of Rock Pit Farm car park. * NHi proposed, AG seconded and all agreed that the total budget request should remain at £18,000. As we had already been advised that the Local Council Tax Support Grant would be reducing from £1,307 to £980, this meant that the precept would increase by the difference (i.e. £327) to £17,020. JB would complete and sign the appropriate WDDC form. * JB had reconciled the bank accounts as at end December and estimated that some £6,500 would be available at the end year. It was agreed that £3,000 would be set aside for Neighbourhood Planning and that an additional £500 (making £10,500 in total) should be committed for MUGA maintenance. JB would transfer £3,500 to the reserve account to cover these provisions. | JB  JB |
| **12** | **Election recharge costs from 2020/21**   * JB had circulated a letter from the WDDC Electoral Services Officer advising that they would be charging town and parish councils for the costs of running elections from 1 April 2019. The charge would be deferred until the following budget year i.e. the cost of running the elections which would take place on 2 May 2019 would be charged in the 2020/21 year. The amount would be on a ‘cost recovery’ basis and would be shared if any other polls took place on the same day. JB had estimated that, based on the current register of electors, Maiden Newton would be charged around £1,700 for an election which had not been combined with any other. * WDDC had asked for a consultation questionnaire to be completed and NHi agreed to do this for the parish. | NHi |
| **13** | **Credit Union request for banner at The Cross**  Following discussion at the previous meeting, JB had asked Anne Clements for more detail about the proposed banner i.e. its size and exactly where and when it would be displayed. Anne had reverted to say that they hadn’t taken their proposal any further at present and would make contact again once they had. |  |
| **14** | **Removal of Church Road telephone box/repositioning of bench**  This was simply to confirm that the parish council would not be bidding to adopt the telephone box and that it looked likely that no other organisation in the village would either. The seat, which had been moved away in order to install the superfast broadband box, had now been placed on the pavement in the vicinity and would be fixed down when the telephone box had been removed. |  |
| **15** | **Project for £1,046 Section 106 money**   * A letter had been received from Tony Hurley (WDDC’s Leisure and Commissioning Manager) offering us £1,046 Section 106 money for the improvement of the parish’s community recreation and sports facilities. JB had replied accepting the offer and was expecting payment soon. * A couple of suggestions as to how the money could be spent were made but it was agreed that a decision would not be taken before the funds were available. |  |
| **16** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * John Ball – salary for January – £368.28 (115) * The Post Office – PAYE January - £92.07 (116) * Jess Carver – grass cutting contract - £325.00 (117) * Getmapping plc – Parish Online subscription - £33.60 (118) * John Ball – McAfee annual subscription - £39.99 (119) * Magna Housing – room hire for January - £12.00 (120) |  |
| **17** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports.**  The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each risk. There were no matters arising. |  |
| **18** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * First Dorset Credit Union – thank you letter for donation to set up costs and update on progress of Maiden Newton service point – circulated. * DCC Housing and Support Team – review of housing support options for older people – circulated. * Mrs Thomson of 4 Frome Lane – complaint about possible flytipping in the field opposite her bungalow – AG will investigate. * Dorset Waste Partnership – consultation on possible changes to Dorset household recycling centres – circulated. * Dorset Highways – results of satisfaction survey – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletin 18 December – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – January funding bulletin – circulated. * DAPTC – Chief Executive’s circular 9/14 – circulated. * Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner – reminder re deadline for Safer Dorset Fund applications – circulated. * Dorset Highways Flood Risk Management team – flood warning reporting tool – circulated to Flood Wardens. * Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group – grant scheme – circulated. * DAPTC – Christmas message from Chairman – circulated. * NALC – new Local Award Scheme – circulated. * Healthwatch Dorset – January newsletter – circulated. | AG |
|  | Meeting closed at 9.04 p.m. Date of next meeting 5 February 2015 at 7.00 p.m. |  |