MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 3 JULY 2014

**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. Paul Valinski (PV)

County and District

Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were four members of the public at the meeting.

* Mr Chris Tripp of 12 Cattistock Road asked what the latest position was on the planning enforcement enquiry into the work carried out at his neighbour’s property, number 14b. JH replied that she had made a formal complaint to the WDDC Chief Executive about their handling of the issue and was awaiting a reply.
* Mr Mark Butcher of 14b Cattistock Road said that Simon Ludgate from the Enforcement Team had visited his property in September 2013 and had declared himself content that the work done was within permitted development rights. Mr Butcher accepted that there was now a change of use issue as he was using it as a holiday let rather than allowing his in-laws to live there which had been the original plan. He had appraised Simon Ludgate of the position (there had not been a further site meeting) and had received a letter three days previously which had confirmed the change of use requirement.
* JH asked that any correspondence on the issue be copied to her and said that she had heard that Simon Ludgate was going to be leaving his job at WDDC. NHo noted that Mr Butcher had submitted a further planning application for a summerhouse and asked him what use he intended to make of this. Mr Butcher replied that it would be for storage.
* In respect of the Local Plan, JH reported that the shorter plan period had now been agreed. The whole of West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland would now be looked at as one area for housing development, 35% of which would be in the affordable category.
* A full investigation was taking place into the possibility of having one set of officers covering the whole of the North Dorset, WDDC and W&P areas.
* Re DCC, JH said that the ‘Ask Dorset’ roadshows were going well and that there had also been over 600 online comments. The responses had been constructive and would be useful in informing the decision making process.
* Interviews were currently taking place for two senior Environment Directorate positions.
* It had been agreed that the resurfacing work on Bull Lane would not now take place until after the railway engineering work (which required HGV access) had been completed. This was scheduled to be around 6 October. A section of Chilfrome Lane was now also going to be resurfaced.
* CD mentioned that the verge to the left as cars exited the A356 onto the A37 needed cutting back. JB would report this.
* SF asked JH whether there was any update on the Country Cars situation. JH said that we could assume that DCC would continue with the administration and payment of sums due to drivers until we heard different. It was unlikely that the Scrutiny Committee would meet before October.
* NHo had brought to the meeting the correspondence given to him by Martin Ridley of 29 Bull Lane concerning his complaints to Oliver Letwin M.P. and The Echo about the disruption caused by the ongoing night time railway engineering works, access to the line being obtained at the top of Bull Lane. SF said that it was a pity that Mr Ridley had not contacted the Parish Council before escalating the issue, as in her capacity as Transport Representative, she could have explained why night time working had proved to be a better option to doing work during the day. AG added that there was little the Parish Council could do – although we had sympathy, the work had to go ahead and others in the vicinity did not seem to have been affected to the same extent. JB would reply to Mr Ridley accordingly.
* CD reported that the padlock recently purchased to secure the Village Hall gate had disappeared. Various other locking options were suggested.
* SF asked JB to report the moss growing on the surface of the footpath between Cattistock Road and Manor Farm Close to Highways.
* AG declared the meeting open at 7.30 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr. Diana Padfield (DP) |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June were agreed and signed.** |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * Greenford School had now obtained an ‘A’ Board which was being placed in the layby to discourage parent car parking. * The two flytipping incidents had both been dealt with swiftly. * JB had managed to contact Jill Exton (DCC Rights of Way) about the problem with the road surface on The Drift and had arranged a meeting with her and Dave Ackerley (who was taking over responsibility for this area) on site the following Monday at 10.00 a.m. AG, SF and NHo would try to be there. * Jess Carver had trimmed the hedge on the upper part of Chilfrome Lane, but the bottom corner still needed doing. AG said that he would speak to Lily Foster about it. JB had replied to Eric Foster’s e-mail concerning land ownership and the water supply to the allotments. Eric had suggested that parish councillors’ visit to The Mill could take place on Saturday 26 July at 10.00 a.m. when a party from the Wessex Mills Group were also going to be there. * JB was chasing the three outstanding gate licence agreements from residents of Greenford View. * JB had sent the annual accounts to the external auditors. * JB had purchased the shed for sand etc. storage behind the Fire Station. AG and Lawrie Goff would erect it as soon as the skip currently there had been taken away. * JB had received quotes for the removal of the two small trees in the Rock Pit Farm car park from Ian Harman (£70) and Jess Carver (£45). Jess had also quoted for the removal of the scrub between the Youth Centre and the car park (£175). It was agreed that Jess Carver’s quotes were both reasonable and JB would accept them. Once the area of scrub had been cleared, JB would ask Andy Whitty to quote for the removal of the two old electric light units. * JB had informed the Harlequin Group where the Church Road seat should be moved to when the Superfast Broadband cabinet was installed. Whilst on the subject of seats, SF said that all 5 parish seats needed revarnishing. JB would ask Lawrie Goff, who did the work last time, to quote. | AG  JB  AG  JB  JB  JB |
| **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors:-**   * PV reported that the Junior Football Club had donated £100 to the Parish Council and he had given JB the cheque. * SF had attended the Dorchester Area Community Partnership meeting on 9 June. WDDC had asked for a questionnaire to be completed in order to inform their review of the support they currently give. SF would complete this as she was particularly concerned about the possibility of council tax relief on community buildings being discontinued and funding for the Action Van stopping. She would circulate her response. * AG mentioned the Allotments Seminar that he and JB had attended. It had been very useful and there were a number of issues to discuss in respect of possible changes to the tenancy agreement. He proposed that he, JB, DP, NHo and Charles le Vay should meet and bring their thoughts back to the August meeting. JB would arrange. As a result of the seminar, AG had decided that the Parish Council should become members of the National Allotment Society. JB had completed the application form. | SF  JB |
| **6** | **Planning Applications:-**  The following plans were discussed:-   * WD/D/14/001415 – 14b Cattistock Road – Erect summerhouse. It was felt that it would not be appropriate for this application to be considered whilst the enforcement team were investigating the previous application for this address. JB would comment to WDDC accordingly. * WD/D/14/001456 – 3 Dorchester Road – Extension to create kitchen/diner and utility room. Councillors had no objections to this application. * WD/D/14/001509 – 1 Glebe Close – Erect side extension. The paperwork for this application was on circulation. Those who had seen it had no objections. JB would await its return before commenting. | JB  JB  JB |
| **7** | **Allotments:-**   * NHo had been speaking to Rob Buffett about the number of rats being seen on the allotments. Rob was already dealing with the problem and it was agreed that the Parish Council would reimburse him for any poison that was required. Rob would be asked for a sight of the certificates confirming that he was qualified to do this. * NHo also mentioned that the amount of water currently being drawn off was restricting the amount getting up to Manor Farm and that Ian Sargeant had complained. Charles le Vay was aware and had circulated an e-mail that day. * As agreed at the previous meeting, JB had written to eight tenants who were in breach of their tenancy agreements, mainly due to non-cultivation. In DP’s absence, JB reported that two had given up their plots and that he would ask DP to carry out a further inspection of the remainder so that decisions could be made at the August meeting. * JB reported that he had let 2 more half plots in the new area. | JB  JB  DP |
| **8** | **Play Area:-**   * CD had ordered and received the replacement items such as swing seats which were required as a result of the recent inspection. AG would fit these as soon as possible. * The Play Area committee were looking at ordering a picnic table and goalposts. Funds for these would come from the £3,000 reserve set aside in the Parish Council accounts. They would be reminded to put the order through the Parish Council to save the VAT. | AG |
| **9** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * The junior football tournament had been successful although the weather had not been kind. PV reported that there was likely to be a second junior team next season. |  |
| **10** | **Pre-School’s move to the Surestart building – update**  CD reported that she had attended a further meeting with Vanessa Glen, the new DCC Head of Children’s Services, at which Rebecca Knox and DP had also been present. The business plan had been handed over and Ms. Glen had seemed very enthusiastic about the project. A further on site meeting would take place on 22 July at which the Play School officers would be present. |  |
| **11** | **Superfast Broadband**   * SF and NHi had attended the Superfast Broadband update meeting on 16 June at which the exchanges to be included in phase 2 of the roll out had been announced - the Maiden Newton exchange had been one of them. Not all the 01300 numbers would have access but all those beginning 320 and 321 would. Three cabinets would be installed in the village and, depending on a house’s proximity to these, speeds of between 24 and 50 mbps would be achievable. It was expected to be up and running sometime in December and subscribers were advised to wait to see the full range of providers before committing to a new contract. |  |
| **12** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners – annual subscription - £66.00 – signed under delegated powers on 13 June (071). * John Ball – skip hire paid by credit card - £215.00 (072) * John Ball – Screwfix shed paid by credit card - £279.99 (073) * Fenland Leisure Products Ltd. – play area spare parts - £98.16 (074) * Jess Carver – grass cutting contract - £325.00 (075) * DAPTC – allotment seminar - £80.00 (076) * John Ball – salary for July – £395.81 (077) * The Post Office – PAYE July - £98.95 (078) * Magna Housing Association – room hire for July and annual rent for Webbers Piece bus shelter - £17.00 (079) |  |
| **13** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**  The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each risk. PV reported that the MUGA had been locked during the junior football tournament to prevent studs damaging the surface. |  |
| **14** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * E-mails from Mr & Mrs Duke about the old school clock (owned by the Parish Council) which had stopped. JB had spoken to Derry Thompson who had carried out previous work and had asked him to carry out a full service. * St John Ambulance – donation request – circulated and declined. * Dorset Blind Association – newsletter June 14 – circulated. * Dorchester Area Community Partnership – invitation to ‘Communitea’ – circulated and put on boards. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletin 12 June – circulated. * DAPTC – Chief Executive’s circular 5/14 – circulated. * Clerks and Councils Direct magazine – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – funding bulletin June 14 – circulated. * DAPTC – request for photos for newsletter – circulated. * Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner – Community Remedy Consultation – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletin 26 June – circulated. * DCC – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy consultation – circulated to AG and Lawrie Goff. |  |
|  | Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m. Date of next meeting 7 August 2014 at 7.00 p.m. |  |