MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 2 JULY 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. Dave Marsh (DM)

Cllr. Diana Padfield (DP)

Cllr. Paul Valinski (PV)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were 9 members of the public at the meeting.

Derek Gregory of 26 Dorchester Road had seen mention of the discussion about parking which had taken place at the June meeting. He remembered when the subject had arisen a few years previously and hoped that the possible solution of getting cars to park on the field behind the garage was not being reconsidered. SF agreed that this would not be a viable option because of the possibility of flooding. Following her mention of parking issues in Dorchester Road at a recent WDDC Development Control Committee meeting, she had spoken to Ian Madgwick from DCC Highways. He had agreed to re-look at the issue as had PCSO Jane Goodwin. The subject had partly arisen because of the problem of schoolchildren having to cross the Dorchester Road to catch the school bus. All agreed that a pedestrian crossing was unlikely to be the answer.

Mr Tony Warren of Notton Valley Farm introduced himself and had sent the parish council a copy of his letter of opposition to the current planning application (WD/D/15/1018) by Notton Hill House - this had been circulated to councillors. He outlined these objections explaining the access issues across his land. Councillors agreed to discuss these at item 6 on the agenda.

Theresa Critchell had sent the parish council a letter asking for councillors’ support for the campaign (of which she was on the Steering Group) to save the proposed closure of the SCBU and Kingfisher paediatric wards at the Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester. Councillors were happy to support it and asked JB to write an appropriate letter to the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Theresa also mentioned the hedge overhanging the pavement from the garden of 29 Newton Road. JB was asked to write to the resident concerned to ask him to cut it back.

AC said that she had received a complaint about smoke from bonfires at a house in Cattistock Road blowing across a house and garden in Webbers Piece. JB would write to the resident concerned.

CD had also received a complaint – about the hedge growing across the footpath next to the Play Area. JB had a contact at Meadfleet from the previous year and would contact him.

SF mentioned that a parent in the village had contacted her about the cost of the school bus to Beaminster School for his lower sixth former. It was now compulsory for students to stay on in education until age 18 and the cost of transport for 16-18 year olds was not subsidised and had to be funded by the parents. This was costing him just under £500 per annum. He also had a 16 year old who would be entering further education in September which would double this figure. AC said that she was aware of a means tested grant fund which operated for 16-18 year olds at Kingston Maurward College. There was no knowledge of any such scheme at Beaminster and JB was asked to write to Oliver Letwin about this anomaly.

AG mentioned that the fence owned by the parish council between the village hall car park and the cemetery was in a poor state of repair. He had looked at it and estimated that it only required some new posts which would cost under £100. He and his brother were prepared to carry out the labour required for free. There was a budget for maintenance in this area and it was agreed that up to £100 could be used to buy the posts.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.28 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **Apologies for absence** had been received from County and District Cllr. Jill Haynes |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June were agreed and signed.** |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * As requested, JB had extracted copies of the title deeds of plots 1-10 of the Dorchester Road, Frampton, site from the Land Registry website. He would make a list of the registered owners and send them to Frampton Parish Council, copied to Kevin Perry at WDDC. Oliver Letwin had requested a further meeting with WDDC on Friday 4 September and SF would attend. * SF had had further conversations with Terry Spracklen at DCC about the bus services from/to Maiden Newton for Yeovil College students following discussion with the driver concerned. The Damory contract was up for review in 2016 and there was concern about lack of take up on the 07.30 service to Yeovil. She was in contact with the Head at Beaminster School about the possible implications. * JB had publicised the National Rural Crime Survey. * AC had been in contact with both Sustrans and DCC about the poor condition of Cycle Route 26. Both had agreed that the track needed to be kept up to a minimum standard but there was no funding available. Frampton Parish Council would also need to be involved. * The broken planks on footpath 29/1 boardwalks had been repaired. * Having spoken to Norman House about the waste bins at the Youth & Community Centre, JB felt that there was no scope for moving one to Church Road. This was agreed. * JB had e-mailed Leigh Parish Council about the mesh squares which had been used to surface their village hall car park. * JB read out a report from Neville Higman following the successful first meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning steering group. For technical reasons, the original letter to WDDC requesting the designation of the Neighbourhood Planning area had needed to be redrafted. AG signed it and JB would get Darlene Ford to countersign. * JB had sent the 2014/15 accounts to the external auditors and was in the process of answering one question which they had asked. He had transferred £600 to the Barclays reserve account as agreed. * Neville Higman had agreed to draft something on Neil’s View 2 for the DAPTC summer magazine. | JB  JB  JB |
| **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors**   * AC and DM had attended the DAPTC new councillor training which had covered the legal aspects of being a councillor. * AG had been to the DCC ‘Forward Together’ event at which all parish councillors present had agreed that there needed to be more communication from DCC/WDDC. * He had also attended a DCC Emergency Planning event and would ask JB to circulate the large folder he had been given. |  |
| **6** | **Planning Applications:-**  An Extraordinary General Meeting had taken place on 22 June to discuss the outline planning application WD/D/15/832 for up to 20 houses to be built west of Cattistock Road on the land known as ‘The Quarr’. Separate minutes had been written following that meeting and JB had produced a draft response to WDDC. JB had taken on board one or two small amendments to the minutes and they were signed by AG. SF had a couple of thoughts on the response to WDDC and JB would incorporate these and agree the wording with SF before submission.    The following application had been approved:-   * WD/D/15/98 – Land to south east of Notton Cottage, Notton – change of use of agricultural land to allow the construction of a new water supply booster station.   The following application had been circulated and no objection had been raised:-   * WD/D/15/1115 – 9 Ashleigh Avenue, Maiden Newton – erect rear extension and alterations.   The following application had been circulated and, initially, no objection had been raised:-   * WD/D/15/1018 – Notton Hill House, Notton - variation of condition 2 and removal of condition 4 of planning permission of 1986 to allow 12 month occupancy and to no longer retain the barn complex in one ownership with the house.   However, councillors had not been aware of any of the access issues raised by Mr Tony Warren before the meeting began. Following further discussion, JB was asked to write again to WDDC withdrawing the ‘no objection’ comment and backing the points raised by Mr Warren. | JB  JB |
| **7** | **Allotments:-**   * DP reported that the Wessex Water meter inspection cover (for the Norden Farm supply) which was on The Drift outside the allotments entrance had been damaged. JB would look at it and contact the company. * She also mentioned that she was aware that a few of the more elderly plot holders were considering giving up their plots at renewal on 1 September. Provided there was no waiting list, they would be allowed some leeway to harvest their crops. * She had carried out an inspection of plots and found 4 that were not being maintained to the required standard. She would liaise with JB before talking or writing to them. | JB |
| **8** | **Play Area:-**   * CD reported that she was waiting for Wicksteed’s to contact her about the surface repair work. Their new sub-contractors were originally supposed to have come that day. * The surface under the climbing frame was in poor condition and it was agreed that CD, AG and PV would inspect it. * CD had met with HAGS to discuss various issues. They were happy to talk about supplying some adult exercise equipment which would need to be sited outside the children’s area. Items would only need grass under them rather than a child friendly surface. Funding assistance could come from waste management companies but SF mentioned that she had looked into this before and Maiden Newton was not within the required distance of their sites. CD had been advised that the underused play equipment could not be sold on because of liability issues. * A more general discussion ensued about what equipment was popular. DM said that his children preferred to go to Cattistock because of their zip wire. DP was concerned that footballs had damaged the fencing behind the goal and felt that other items such as a wooden adventure area for older children would be preferable. AG suggested that CD and Clare May should decide what they wanted and that mums and dads should be consulted about adult exercise equipment. Dorchester Town Council who had adult equipment at the Borough Gardens and Poundbury could also be asked. * JB confirmed that he had ordered a picnic bench and a ‘Frogbuddy’ waste bin. Funds for the former would be taken from the WDDC £1,050 grant recently received and payment for the latter would come from the earmarked amount in the reserve bank account. | CD  CD |
| **9** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * PV had met with an electrician and agreed that some floodlight work would be carried out in September. * He also mentioned that there were quite a lot of weeds around the MUGA. JB would ask Jess Carver to deal with them. | JB |
| **10** | **Resurfacing of Rock Pit Farm car park and clearing of banked area towards the Community Centre – date for site meeting**   * Councillors agreed to meet on site on Tuesday 21 July at 7.00 p.m. * JB mentioned that Roger Snellgrove of Dorset Important Geological Sites (DIGS) had been in touch. He had recently carried out the annual clearance of vegetation on the rock surface and had noticed that the small staked DIGS sign had been vandalised. He would like the parish council to consider replacing it with a larger information board (similar to the one at the station) which would incorporate a village map together with footpath information for walkers and site specific information provided by them. It was agreed that this would be looked at at the meeting. | All |
| **11** | **Parish Clerk job advertisement**   * SF had circulated a note showing the advertisement together with a proposed timetable for interviews etc. It was agreed that it was not necessary to place the advert in The Echo. It was further agreed that, following shortlisting, which would take place immediately after the meeting on 6 August, interviews would take place on Thursday 13 August. JB was asked to contact Andy Elliott to see if the Fire Station Training Room was available. AG, PV, SF and CD all expressed an interest in being on the interview panel. JB would contact JH who would also be invited onto the panel. * SF had updated the job description and the supporting information documents. JB would send copies to the 2 individuals he had received applications from. | JB  JB |
| **12** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * John Ball – salary for July – £276.21 (161) * The Post Office – PAYE July - £184.14 (162) * DAPTC – annual subscription - £351.64 (163) * DAPTC – courses - £60.00 (164) * John Ball – Leafield Environmental Ltd. litter bin - £173.88 (165) * John Ball – Land Registry charges for 9 searches - £27.00 (166) * Maiden Newton Y&CC – hire of hall - £24.00 (167) * Jess Carver – grass cutting contract - £330.00 (168) * Magna Housing Association – room hire for July (£12) and annual bus stop ground rent (£5) - £17.00 (169) |  |
| **13** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports**  There were no matters arising from inspections in June. |  |
| **14** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * DCC – Ask Dorset 2015 – circulated. * DAPTC – announcement that Hilary Trevorah would be their new Chief Executive – circulated. * Citizens Advice Bureau – poster and offer to speak to the PC – on boards and circulated. * WDDC – Tourist Information Service survey – circulated. * Rural Services Network – weekly news digests – circulated. * Rural Services Network – rural vulnerability service newsletter – circulated. * Rural Services Network – rural economy spotlight – circulated. * Rural Services Network – rural opportunities bulletin – circulated. * DAPTC – chief executive’s circular 6/15 – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletins June and July – circulated. * Healthwatch Dorset – invitation to Loud and Clear event – circulated. * Superfast Dorset – community newsletter – circulated. * Dorset Blind Association – driving challenge – circulated. * Dorset Blind Association – Sainsbury’s local charity scheme – circulated. * DCC – requesting help with site of ‘Hill Barn’ – replied with assistance from Andy Elliott. * DCC – A37 fatal accidents – circulated. * WDDC – Register of members’ interests – circulated. * National Allotment Society – newsletter – circulated to DP and Charles le Vay. * Kjelgaard UK – rural economic development project – circulated. * Lions Club of Dorchester – youth brass band event – circulated. |  |
|  | Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m. Date of next meeting 6 August 2015. |  |