MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 4 JUNE 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)

County and District

Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were 5 members of the public at the meeting together with PCSO Jane Goodwin (JG).

Nick Goozee of 2 Manor Farm Close said that he had detected what he felt was a shift of opinion of some parish councillors concerning the proposed development at The Quarr. The public stance when it was first mooted had been very much against the development but, other than those who were directly affected, he now sensed a softening of resolve. JB said that, although he was aware that the outline planning application had been submitted to WDDC, it had not yet been received for parish council comment. He had, however, looked at it online and there was a large volume of paper which he would circulate quickly when it arrived. Comment was due very soon after the July meeting and AG said that it was likely that an extra meeting would need to be held to discuss it.

JH mentioned the meeting which had taken place at WDDC about the Frampton plots. She had been unable to attend but Oliver Letwin MP had been there and so had AG and SF. She had done some research on other, similar, sites, one of which was near Wimborne and was aware that an enforcement notice had been served on the owner of one of the Frampton plots enforceable on 12 June. It was agreed that JB would look at the Land Registry website to see if it was possible to find out the names of the owners of the plots.

WDDC/Weymouth & Portland were pressing ahead with the merger with North Dorset.

A review was being carried out on the enforcement of parking in the county which comprised a mixture of county council and district council responsibilities.

At JH’s instigation, a meeting involving Oliver Letwin MP had taken place at the Holywell crossroads on the A37 to discuss the recent fatal accidents on two stretches of the road and whether additional measures such as extra double white lining could be considered. PCSO Jane Goodwin reminded the meeting that the police were keen for ‘near-miss’ incidents to be reported on the ‘no excuse’ link on the Dorset Police website.

The Local Authority Trading Company being set up to run the County’s Children’s and Adult Services would go live on 1 July.

SF mentioned that she had been speaking to Terry Spracklen at DCC about the loss of the 17.15 bus from Yeovil to Maiden Newton which some local students at Yeovil College relied on. JH said that subsidies could only been provided where there was sufficient demand and that there was also, of course, in this case, the possibility of using the train. She also mentioned the Holistic Transport Review which was taking place.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.23 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **There were no apologies for absence** |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **Parking at junction of Dorchester Road and Newton Road.** (This item was brought forward on the agenda so that JG could be present to comment.)   * AC explained that she had raised this issue on behalf of residents of Newton Road who had asked her to see whether anything could be done to stop vehicles, particularly larger vans, parking in Dorchester Road close to the junction with Newton Road, making it quite dangerous to pull out. She had already contacted DCC Highways who had told her to contact the police if vehicles were causing an obstruction or get the parish council to request the Traffic Engineering team to look into the possibility of yellow lines. * AC thought that the Highway Code stipulated that vehicles couldn’t park within a certain distance of such junctions and other councillors also thought that this was the case. JG agreed to look at the relevant law and revert. In the meantime the situation would be kept under review and AG would speak to the owner of one particular van. * This led onto a more general discussion about parking problems in the village and the apparent lack of policing of illegal parking. JG also agreed to look at these issues. * JG asked if mention could be made on boards and in local publications of the National Rural Crime Survey which could be found online at the Dorset Police website. * SF had heard that JG was shortly going to be riding along Cycle Route 26 with some Greenford School pupils and asked her to report back on the surface condition (see item 15). * PV took the opportunity to thank JG for attending some of his Youth Club sessions as it was very helpful for youngsters to see who she was. | AG  JB |
| **4** | **The minutes of the meetings held on 9 April were agreed and signed.** |  |
| **5** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * JB had reported the broken planks on the boardwalks of footpath 29/1 to Rights of Way. He had stressed the safety issues arising and hopefully they would be repaired soon. * JB thanked councillors for completing the Register of Members’ interests forms. Copies had been sent to WDDC’s Monitoring Officer. * JB would contact the Dorset Waste Partnership to see whether they would move one of the waste bins at the Community Centre to Manor Farm Close. * JB had eventually received a reply from Jon Sloper about the maidennewton.info website. Although he no longer lived in the village, he was still happy to create user accounts for new pages and had explained how other areas of the site worked. JB had forwarded his e-mail to Neville Higman to consider what to do about Neighbourhood Planning information and both he and JB felt that a decision would need to be made as to whether to create a new village site or continue with the existing one. * JB had contacted Leigh Parish Council about the surface of their village hall car park and had been given the name of the contractor they had used for the groundworks. The mesh squares and stone chippings had been laid on the top by villager workparties. * JB read out the main points from an e-mail update he had received from Neville Higman on Neighbourhood Planning. Neville was meeting Jo Witherden (the consultant he had contracted) on 10 June and would then convene the first meeting of the steering group. WDDC had put the Neighbourhood Planning area out to consultation for comments by 9 July. * AC and DM were booked to attend New Councillor training on 9 June. * AG was booked on the emergency planning training course on 17 June. | JB |
| **6** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors**   * SF had intended to go to the May DORBAG meeting but, in the event, hadn’t been able to. She mentioned that there was currently a BBC consultation survey about local radio. |  |
| **7** | **Planning Applications:-**  The following application had been withdrawn:-   * WD/D/14/2743 – 2 Dorchester Road – agricultural machinery storage building.   JB read out his summary of councillors’ comments on the following application and would submit the agreed wording to WDDC:-   * WD/D/15/1064 – 76 Dorchester Road (The Mill) – conversion of workshop to form dwelling.   Comments had been submitted on the following application:-   * 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. | JB |
| **8** | **Allotments:-**   * DP reported that the skip hired to get rid of the pile of rubbish left from the clearance of plot 23b had now been filled and taken away. * DP asked if the parish council were happy for the water trough next to the main path to be moved, because the tap it was connected to was now redundant. This was agreed. * DP informed councillors that ‘The Village Show’ would be held in the Village Hall over the weekend of 14/15/16 August in conjunction with the Art Group. The Art Group would have full use of the hall and the car park on the Friday evening and Saturday with the usual Allotments Association vegetable etc. judging and showing on the Sunday. This would be the first time the two societies had held a combined event and DP felt that it could be the forerunner of a larger village event in the future. AG confirmed that the additional work planned for the village hall car park would not be carried out before this date. SF said that she felt that the parish council should officially allow the Art Group to utilise the car park. This was agreed. |  |
| **9** | **Play Area:-**   * CD was still waiting for Aplin’s, the sub-contractors, to contact her to arrange the surfacing remedial works. She would chase them through Wicksteed’s, the main contractor. * The picnic table which CD had identified as being suitable cost £496 + VAT. It was possible that this could be paid for from the amount to be discussed at item 13 below. In addition it was agreed that CD would order a new waste bin to be paid for from the £323 left as earmarked for the Play Area in the parish council Reserve Account. * There was a little used piece of play equipment in the Play Area which CD sought permission to sell if a suitable buyer could be found. This was agreed. |  |
| **10** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * PV had received the annual MUGA inspection report which had raised one or two minor issues but no real problems. * He reported an accident on the playing field which had occurred the previous week where a boy had sustained cuts and bruises after a goalpost he was swinging on fell onto his head. PV had removed the goals temporarily. * PV was talking to Action Van and Footie for Dorset to organise the summer holiday activities which would take place on Fridays. |  |
| **11** | **2014/15 Accounts**   * JB had circulated an explanatory note together with copies of various documents to be discussed. * The first of these was Section 1 of the Annual Accounts Return for the year ended 31 March which he had completed with the end year figures. He took councillors through these figures, giving explanations for significant variances from the previous year. JB and AG signed at the foot of this section. * Section 2, the annual governance statement, had been circulated and the council approved that, for each of the eight statements, a tick could be placed in the ‘yes’ column. AG and JB signed at the foot of the page. * Section 4 was the annual internal audit report and JB confirmed that Gary Free had carried out the internal audit and ticked ‘yes’ to confirm that he was happy that each of the 10 internal control objectives had been met. Councillors asked JB to thank Gary for taking on this task. * Gary had produced a note making a few comments and these were discussed. In respect of the parish council’s ‘objectives’, JB would contact DAPTC again to see if they could assist in formulating something. He had done the same the previous year without anything substantive emerging. In respect of monitoring against the budget, councillors agreed that they were content with the timing of JB’s current reports and did not feel that more reporting was necessary. * SF proposed, CD seconded and all agreed that the annual return be approved by the council. JB would send it to the external auditors by the deadline in early July. * JB had also circulated two tabular statements for the year (a receipts and payments/balance sheet and a 2014/15 budget v actual) which he explained. The second table also showed the 2015/16 budget which JB had updated to take account of changes agreed since it was set. * SF pointed out that there had been underspends in the 2014/15 maintenance budgets for the Playing Field and the Play Area of approximately £400 and £200 respectively and she proposed and PV seconded that these sums be transferred to the Reserve Account. This was agreed. | JB  JB  JB  JB |
| **12** | **Resurfacing of Rock Pit Farm car park and clearing of banked area towards the Community Centre**   * AG suggested that this subject should be deferred until councillors had met at the area concerned to see the issues involved. A date for this would be set at the parish council meeting on 2 July. |  |
| **13** | **£1,050 to spend on ‘improving community recreational and sports facilities’**   * JB had circulated the letter from WDDC about this Section 106 money. * CD suggested that the picnic table mentioned at 9 above could be paid for from this pot and DP suggested that the remainder could be put towards some adult exercise equipment. This was agreed. JB would just check with WDDC that a picnic table was eligible expenditure under this heading and would then go ahead and order it. | JB |
| **14** | **Need for a shelter for children waiting for the school bus in Dorchester Road**   * AC had raised this as an issue and had got 30 parents supporting her on Facebook. * Other councillors talked about the history of the subject with SF, in particular, having been involved in previous discussions. The main problem was that all the children lived on the east side of the road and the bus stopped on the west side. There was a bus shelter on the east side but this was inconvenient and not used. Most children were reluctant to wear waterproof clothing and thus, when it was raining, were wet on arrival at school. * It was agreed that there was a bigger issue here which involved all bus stops in the village and it was agreed that AC could look into what might be able to be done to alleviate it. | AC |
| **15** | **Improvement of cycle route 26 between Cruxton and Frampton**   * AC had cycled this route recently and had been appalled at the condition of the surface and the number of gates which had to be negotiated. * Again there was a history here and SF explained some of it. She suggested that AC should speak to Andy Elliott and to Sustrans. Some of the landowners had changed since it opened and there may possibly be less need for gates to be kept closed. AG also suggested that she should contact Frampton Parish Council. | AC |
| **16** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * John Ball – salary for June – £276.21 (153) * The Post Office – PAYE June - £184.14 (154) * Jess Carver – grass cutting contract - £330.00 (155) * John Ball - Portland Stone Ltd. skip hire – £220.00 (156) * John Ball – broadband and calls Mar - May – £66.68 (157) * Magna Housing Association – room hire for June - £12.00 (158) * National Allotment Society – annual subscription - £66.00 (159) * Playsafety Ltd. – annual MUGA inspection - £78.00 (160) |  |
| **17** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports**  There were no matters arising from inspections in May. |  |
| **18** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * DCC – ‘Forward Together’ event – AG and AC to go – JB to book places. * DAPTC – request for summer magazine contributions – JB to contact Neville Higman re Neil’s View 2. * DAPTC – spring magazine – circulated. * DAPTC – Bournemouth University eating disorders event – circulated. * DAPTC – Dorset Police Safer Dorset Fund – circulated. * DAPTC – Dorset Police Young People Award – circulated and on boards. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletins May and June – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – training days – circulated. * Rural Services Network – weekly news digests – circulated. * Rural Services Network – spotlight on older people – circulated. * Rural Services Network – rural opportunities bulletin – circulated. * NALC – Local Government Religious Observances Act – circulated. * Boud Digital – Your Council App – circulated. * DCC – Waste Planning consultations – circulated. * DCC – Health & Wellbeing Legacy Fund – circulated. | JB  JB |
|  | Meeting closed at 8.56 p.m. Date of next meeting 2 July 2015. |  |