MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 7 MARCH 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)

County & District

Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were three members of the public at the meeting.

JH mentioned the following :-

* The Boundary Commission were going to carry out a review within West Dorset. The objective was to create constituencies with c. 1800 residents per councillor. It was likely that the number of councillors would reduce by up to 8 from the current 48. There would be a consultation exercise in the summer.
* WDDC’s four director posts were reducing to three and there would be a review of the senior management structure.
* Work on the Rampisham solar farm had been halted until full planning permission had been granted. Demolition of the old masts (all but one of which would go) had not required permission but the proposed installation of solar panels on 30% of the land area awaited approval at the April WDDC meeting. English Nature had objected to the plans because of the presence of some rare plants. The site would become the headquarters of the company involved and would create a number of jobs.
* As a result of the possibility of using the Surestart building (or an extension of it) for the playschool, the County Council had initiated a countywide review of all early years provision. This was likely to result in a delay to any decision for the playschool project although JH felt that they were favourably disposed to it.
* The county had been given a further £2mn. for road repairs following weather damage, a large proportion of which was likely to be spent in West Dorset.
* SF said that she had not had any reply to her most recent letter about the changes to the mobile library service and asked whether any decisions had yet been made. JH said that the issue was still under review.
* There were still some legal issues to resolve before the work to repair the Beaminster tunnel could be completed and this was likely to delay the project by around three weeks. Contrary to reports in the local press which suggested that work had ceased, there were three crews currently working there.
* In response to a question from NHo, JH said that work on the A35 which would result in temporary closures was the responsibility of the Highways Agency not DCC.

SF declared the Parish Council meeting open at 7.22 p.m.

 **ACTION**

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| **1** | **There were no apologies for absence.**  |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of interest.** AG said that he had a sealed quotation for work on the Village Hall car park and play area which would be discussed later in the meeting. As this was from his employer (Webb & Ford) he would not be able to take part in its discussion. |  |
| **3** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2013** were agreed and signed. |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-** * JB had now received a final draft of the transfer document for Network Rail’s sale of the land outside the Village Hall to the parish council. The clawback provisions would result in Network Rail receiving 50% of any profit resulting from our sale of the village hall/play area land (unless it was for new buildings etc. continuing the existing uses) during the next 80 years. Councillors were happy for the document to be signed and asked JB to contact Porter Dodson to arrange.
* JB had told Porter Dodson that the parish council would only be prepared to purchase the White Horse Mews car park without the potential maintenance liability of the road or the visibility splay. However, as WDDC had agreed to fill the potholes at the Rock Pit Farm car park prior to the parish taking it on, Porter Dodson had agreed that, tactically, it would be better not to inform WDDC of this decision until the latter had been carried out.
* The plaque to accompany the tree planted on The Green in Harveys Close had now been put in place.
* The number of Christmas trees collected for recycling by WDDC had been 21. NHi said that in future years he would be prepared to arrange a collection service in the village to maximise the number and thus the income received by the parish council.
* JB had circulated the final draft of the Dorchester Area Community Plan. SF would retain for future reference.
* SF and JB had attended a tour of WDDC’s new premises at South Walks House.
 | JB |
| **5** | **Reports – Chairman:-*** SF circulated a written report (attached).
* Paper copies of the consultation on subsidised bus services had been posted on noticeboards and individuals were encouraged to comment online.
* SF had attended the WDDC consultation about possible changes to the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan following strong local concern about development proposals for Sherborne, Beaminster and Crossways. She had brought back copies of a form to comment on the possible changes but it was agreed that it was not really appropriate for the parish council to comment as a body but that individuals were encouraged to do so online.
* JB would circulate the 4 booklets SF had collected about AONB projects.

**Reports - Councillors:-*** NHi was borrowing an iPhone to test out the application which had been produced by Bournemouth University to help local residents who wanted lifts or were prepared to give lifts to/from Dorchester.
* NHi and SF had met with Darlene Ford (Chairman of Frome Vauchurch Parish Meeting) to discuss Neighbourhood Planning. She was receptive to the production of a joint plan. NHi was producing a map to show possibilities within the two parishes and would speak to Jo Witherden (WDDC Head of Spatial Policy and Implementation) in due course.
* NHo had attended a meeting about domestic violence and abusive relationships – leaflets were available and JB would put contact details up on the noticeboards.
 | JBNHiNHi |
|  **6** | **Planning Applications:-**The following application had now been approved:- 1/D/12/001704 – 1 Harveys Close – construction of a boundary fence.Comment had been submitted on the following application:- 1/D/13/000091 – 14b Cattistock Road – removal of condition 4 of application  1/D/12/000019 to allow velux windows and a door.  |  |
|  ***7*** | **Allotments:-*** AG had spoken to Steve Marsh who would arrange for the new allotment area to be rotovated as soon as possible. JB said that two tenants were waiting for plots to be available.
* DP reported that a plaque had been ordered to be put in the Allotment Association orchard. She was concerned about Sue Elsworth’s continuing use of the old shed in the corner of the composting area which she had now cleared out and had agreed to vacate. JB agreed to write to her. The new polytunnel was now ready to be used and DP was inviting anyone interested in having a plot to contact her.
* JB reported that he had let one more half plot in the main area which left two half plots still available.
 | JB |
| **8** | **Play Area:-** * In order to satisfy the village hall’s requirement to upgrade its disabled fire escape route, it had been agreed at the previous meeting that quotes would be sought to grade down the surface of the car park so that the area sloped towards the hall. In thinking about this work, AG had realised that, if it could be done at the same time as the removal of the old concrete in the play area, the soil etc. excavated from the car park could be used to fill in the hole created, thus killing two birds with one stone.
* AG had therefore got two quotes on this basis and passed them to SF. SF noted the quotes (from Webb & Ford and Steve Marsh) and asked AG to obtain one more so that consideration could be given to them at the April meeting. The timing of the work was discussed as the play area would need to be closed during excavations and the soil imported would need to settle before any new equipment could be located there.
* CD was awaiting two further quotes for the play equipment prior to JB completing the application forms for the next round of WDDC Leisure Development Fund grants. The deadline for submission was 1 April for consideration in June.
 | CD/JB |
| **9** | **Playing field and MUGA:-*** PV had collected two more (making four in all) of the seven £5 gate licence payments for 2012/13.
 | PV |
| **10** | **QE II Fields Challenge – event to mark dedication of playing field:-*** JB had completed the forms to enter the restriction on the Register of Title and the Land Registry had processed and returned them.
* At the previous meeting it had been suggested that, as there was to be no large fundraising event in the village this year, a village fete should be considered at which the QE II plaque could be unveiled. This had been mentioned in the Herald with a request for a volunteer to offer their services to co-ordinate plans. None had been forthcoming.
* PV said that it was now looking unlikely that Maiden Newton at War would be running an event in 2014. NHi felt that this presented an opportunity for a village event with more time to plan who might be involved and how money raised would be distributed. NHi proposed that nothing should take place this year but that a 2014 event should be planned. This was discussed and agreed.
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| **11** | **Accounts for payment:-*** Land Registry – QE II Field restriction - £40.00 (739) (signed 25/2)
* DAPTC – courses - £50.00 (740)
* Dorset County Council – support for plaque - £23.94 (741)
* John Ball – Broadband/phone costs - £38.21 (742)
* Post Office – PAYE (March) - £94.47 (743)
* Magna Housing – room hire for March - £12 (744)
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| **12** | **Banking arrangements:-*** Following dissatisfaction with the banking service of Santander, JB had circulated a note detailing the background and recommending that banking arrangements should change (see attached).
* Councillors were all happy with the recommendation and DP proposed that the parish’s bank accounts should be switched from Santander to Barclays. NHi seconded this and all agreed. JB said that he would put the arrangements in hand to happen as soon as possible in the new budget year.
 | JB |
| **13** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each property risk and no action was required. DP mentioned that there was quite a lot of rubbish behind the new polytunnel at the allotment and asked if a skip could be hired to dispose of it. JB agreed to liaise with her to arrange. | JB/DP |
| **14** | **Agenda for April annual parish meeting:-*** On the assumption that the agenda would be the same as in 2012, JB had sent out an e-mail asking those responsible to produce reports on the relevant aspects of parish council work/areas of interest.
* Following a question from NHi, there was a discussion about who was required to report and it was agreed that the Community Land Trust would not be added to the list this year but could well be in the future.
* The annual parish meeting would take place at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 4 April, immediately followed by the April parish council meeting.
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| **15** | **Any Other Correspondence:-*** Note from WDDC confirming that free pre 09.30 travel for concessionary bus pass holders would cease from 1 April – circulated.
* Invitation to retirement party for John Parker (DAPTC Chief Executive) – circulated. SF confirmed that she would be attending.
* E-mail from Harry Hogger (Dorset Echo) about enhanced coverage of parish matters and offering himself as contact point – circulated.
* Invitation to presentation on ‘Promoting National Honours for Local People’ on 19 March – circulated.
* DAPTC Chief Executive’s Circular 2/13 – circulated.
* Letter from South West Ambulance Service re recruitment of Community First Responders – circulated and put on noticeboards.
* Letter from Community South West re community awards – circulated and put on noticeboards.
* Invitation to POPP local profiling event – circulated.
* DAPTC Winter 2012 newsletter – circulated.
* Letter of introduction from new Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner – circulated and put on noticeboards.
* Budget speech from Leader of DCC – circulated.
* Agenda for Pre Hearing meeting of Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Minerals Local Plan Core Strategy Public Examination – circulated.
* Letter from NALC re retirement of Chief Executive – circulated.
* E-mail asking for parish coats of arms, seals etc. – circulated.
* Clerks & Councils magazine March 2013 – circulated.
* Advertisement for free presentations on Advanced Motorcycling Techniques – circulated and put on noticeboards.
* JB had obtained one quote for the resurfacing work required on The Drift. He would obtain two more before consideration could be given to having the work done. Other parties who used the road would be asked to contribute to the cost.

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|  | Meeting closed at 9:00 p.m. Date of next meeting 4 April 2013 immediately following the annual parish meeting. |  |