MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 1 MAY 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. Diana Padfield (DP)

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 plus Jane, our new PCSO.

* Chris Tripp, resident of 12 Cattistock Road, reiterated his concerns about the garage conversion which had taken place at number 14B, next door to him. The building was now being advertised and occupied as a holiday let and was thus far more intrusive than previously and, in his view, totally exceeded the planning permission granted. JB said that he had received an e-mail from Simon Ludgate (WDDC Planning) about the building and began to read out what he had said. It was immediately obvious to JH, however, that the comments received related to an entirely different building that she was aware of in Cattistock. JH said that she would raise the issue with Kevin Perry in WDDC Planning Enforcement. JB would revert to Simon Ludgate to seek an explanation of the confusion that had clearly occurred.
* AG reported on the discussions he had had with Grant Brooks, a drainage expert, and Brian Haynes about the flooding at the allotments. They had advised that there was no easy solution as the water bubbled up in a number of areas. The only way to try to alleviate the problem would be to dig quite a number of deep tranches and fill them with gravel. A very rough price for this would be £3,000 and this was without the cost of moving sheds, greenhouses, polytunnels etc. and the removal of excess soil. The area would be extremely muddy after the work and it might result in the soil draining too quickly in the summer months. Even though there had been problems in both of the last two years, the extensive flooding which had occurred had only happened a handful of times in AG’s 50+ years in the village. His view was that it would have to be accepted that it would happen from time to time and that the cost quoted was too high to justify the work. Charles le Vay, on behalf of the Allotment Association, thanked AG for the investigation and concurred with his analysis of the results.
* DP said that there were things allotment holders could do to try to mitigate the drainage problem. One tenant had recently dug channels around the edges of his plots in an effort to help. SF talked about the problem where the water came out of the allotments onto The Drift. Most of the planings rolled in last autumn under the railway bridge had been washed away by the constant running water. JB would speak to Jill Exton at Rights of Way to see if her budget could help and JH said that she might be able to contribute a small sum from the £5K each County Councillor had recently been allocated to spend within their areas. It was agreed that, at the very least, the ditch down the side of The Drift needed to be dug out annually.
* In respect of WDDC, JH said that they were still struggling with their financial situation and were considering whether a further officer amalgamation (with North Dorset) could help.
* At DCC, Mike Harries had been appointed the new Director of Environment. JH was meeting the Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss their possible input to the changes required to the Country Cars scheme. The original deadline of 30 June for the withdrawal of DCC from the scheme administration had now been put back. In respect of the DCC boundary review, it had now been agreed that there would be no reduction in the number of councillors from the present 48.
* As she was going to have to leave the meeting shortly, JH mentioned, in respect of the Surestart building, that the County would not be able to give it to the pre-school but they could lease it, possibly through the Community Land Trust. The pre-school also had to accept that the legal situation was quite complicated and would not be resolved quickly. In respect of item 13 (the speed limit between Frampton and Maiden Newton) although she might have sympathy with the suggestion, these changes were extremely expensive to make and, unless there were overriding road safety reasons, were unlikely to happen.
* Jane, our new PCSO, said that she had attended because she thought it might be useful to update councillors following the ram raid at the garage the previous week. She couldn’t go into too much detail but it was clearly the same raiders who had carried out similar jobs in neighbouring areas and they were following up some good leads. PV took the opportunity to thank her for following up his suggestion regarding the Chilfrome Lane car park.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.33 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **There were no apologies for absence**  |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**JB asked for nominations for the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman. PV nominated and NHo seconded AG for the former and there were no other nominations. DP nominated NHo as Vice Chairman and CD seconded this. There were no further nominations. AG and NHo were duly elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. DP thanked AG for his chairmanship over the previous year.  |  |
| **4** | **Appointment of representatives and cheque signatories**AG asked if all councillors were content to keep the posts they had been assigned to in May 2013. They were and NHo proposed and PV seconded that all were reappointed. This was agreed. |  |
| **5** | **The minutes of the meetings held on 3 April were agreed and signed.**  |  |
| **6** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-** * It was noted that all 5 buildings in The Mill complex were being advertised for sale, either as one lot or individually. AG said that Flood Wardens had now been given full control of the sluice gates. SF mentioned that the brambles which Eric Foster had agreed to trim from the hedge bordering Chilfrome Lane had still not been cut back. JB would contact him.
* The two gulley problems in Newton Road mentioned by Keith Pritchard had been reported to DCC.
* At the request of Keith Pritchard, JB had also written to Fred Park at 2 Newton Road about his hedge, which was causing a minor obstruction to the pavement. This had now been cut back.
* Jill Exton (DCC Rights of Way) had arranged for the differences in height on the Footpath 1 boardwalk to be rectified but the re-decking and installation of anti-slip were still outstanding.
* There was no further progress on the Welcome Pack.
* The meeting about the future of the Country Car Scheme had taken place on 8 April and had been well attended. A further meeting with Erica Pretty (Community Development Worker, POPPS) and the drivers would take place soon.
* JB had commented on the Local Government Boundary Commission review of West Dorset boundaries as agreed at the April meeting.
* JB had contacted the Dorset Important Geological Sites Group (DIGS) to set up a meeting to discuss future management and maintenance of the Rock Pit Farm car park. He had given them some possible dates later in May. DP said that her vision was for the whole area to be gravelled. JB said he would inform her when a meeting date had been arranged.
* JB had received an e-mail from the Harlequin Group, (the company organising the installation of Superfast Broadband) saying that they needed to site one of their new cabinets in Church Road, to the right of the telephone box, where there was currently a village seat. After looking at the area with SF, JB had had a meeting with Wessex Water (there were a number of their meters/stop taps in the vicinity) and was meeting DCC Highways the following Thursday to discuss where the seat could be relocated to. He had also contacted BT as the telephone box was in a poor state of repair and the line did not seem to have a dialling tone. BT had sent someone out the following day who had cleaned the box and was arranging for it to be repainted. They had said that the box needed to be retained for emergency purposes. It was agreed that the item would be put on the June agenda for discussion.
* JB had written to Stella Amos, the Maiden Newton station gardener, to thank her for all she and her team did to maintain the appearance of the station.
* The replacement water butt and stand for the station had now been received and JB would contact FGW about its fitting.
* JB had circulated two papers to councillors as requested by SF at the previous meeting.
* JB reported that he had done quite a bit of work on the end-year accounts and would be presenting them to the June meeting for approval. Gary Free would be carrying out his internal audit on 19 May.
* The annual Village Spring Clean would take place on 11 May. JB had put notices up on the boards and an advert was in The Herald.
 | JBJBJBJB |
| **7** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors:-*** CD reported that the Village Hall Committee AGM would be held on Monday 2 June at 7.30 and said that she would be grateful for some support. The question of hire rates was to be discussed and an increase was likely.
* SF had attended the DAPTC Central Area meeting and the DACP Annual Assembly.
* AG had met Oliver Letwin and others to discuss flooding issues and the Environment Agency were currently carrying out flood relief work on both sides of the river.
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|  **8** | **Planning Applications:-**No objections had been raised to the amended plans which had been received for the following application:-* WD/D/14/000713 – Greenford Farm – removal of existing mobile home and erection of an agricultural building to incorporate toilets, washroom, mess room/reception room and farm shop.
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| **9** | **Allotments:-*** DP thanked AG for his investigations into the flooding issues.
* A skip had been hired by the MNAA and the settee mentioned at the last meeting had gone into it together with other accumulated rubbish.
* DP asked if a further skip could be hired, mainly to get rid of some old play equipment. On further investigation, it transpired that this belonged to an existing tenant and councillors felt that this should be the tenant’s own responsibility.
* JB reported that there were now only 5 half plots (2 in the old area and 3 in the new) available.
* AG and JB were booked to go on the DAPTC allotments seminar on 9 June.
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| **10** | **Play Area:-** * CD thanked AG and Lawrie Goff for their help in rectifying issues which had arisen from the annual inspection.
* DP and CD mentioned that the play group were making a picnic table which would be sited in the play area. As this would be non-standard construction, it was suggested by other councillors that it would not be able to be insured and thus not suitable. CD agreed to look at commercially available versions.

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| **11** | **Playing field and MUGA:-*** PV reported that there were no current issues. The MUGA inspection by ROSPA Playsafety would be carried out before the end of May.
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| **12** | **Pre-School’s move to the Surestart building – update and confirmation of grant*** CD reported that a meeting had taken place onsite with DCC officers including the new Head of Children’s Services and JH on Monday April 14. This had been productive and she was hopeful that things were now likely to progress, albeit quite slowly. PV mentioned that he was aware of other instances nationally where underused Surestart buildings had been utilised for other things.
* As regards the £3,000 grant, it was agreed that it would be held in committed reserve until the way forward was more certain.

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| **13** | **Speed limits Maiden Newton to Frampton*** A letter from Mr David Southcott of Woodlands, Chalmington, addressed to JH, had been circulated. He was requesting that consideration should be given to reducing the speed limits on the A356 between Frampton and Maiden Newton. JH had already expressed her view (see above).
* Councillors were similarly minded – the County Council would not consider these sort of changes, which were expensive and more complex than might be envisaged, unless there were overriding road safety reasons. JB had looked at the accident statistics shown for this stretch of road on dorsetforyou and, although they were slightly out of date, they did not show any serious incidents in the period covered. JB would write to Mr Southcott accordingly.
 | JB |
| **14** | **Accounts for payment:-*** John Ball – salary for May – £353.40 (059)
* The Post Office – PAYE May - £88.35 (060)
* Jess Carver – grass maintenance contract - £325.00 (061)
* Magna Housing Association – room hire for May - £12.00 (062)
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| **15** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each property risk. DP mentioned that the majority of the potentially dangerous corrugated sheets used for fencing at the allotments had now been replaced.  |  |
| **16** | **Any Other Correspondence:-*** JB had eventually received a copy of the up to date register of electors for Greenford View from Darlene Ford. He had therefore written to all seven of the residents who had gates onto the playing field, enclosing the new ‘agreements’ for each to sign as discussed at the August 2013 meeting.
* All households had now received the letter and leaflet from the Dorset Waste Partnership about the new recycling and waste service to be introduced in October. The letter encouraged residents to visit the roadshow to be held in the village hall on Friday 16 May. It was agreed that JB would ask the Waste Partnership to bring along a set of the new bins to be displayed in the village hall entrance from 16-22 May.
* Invitation to joint DCC/Dorset Wildlife Trust workshop ‘Working with the community to manage our local green spaces and wildlife’ on 17 May. JB and SF would be attending.
* JB read out a letter received from Mrs Alison Fenwick of Frome Vauchurch complimenting the flood wardens on their excellent response to two problems which had occurred in her vicinity earlier in the year. She had enclosed a donation of £100 which it was agreed would be retained and earmarked for flood alleviation related work. JB would write her a letter of thanks.
* E-mail from Ms Claire McHugh who had asked for details of our play area to include in a national website she was creating. NHi had pointed out that this information for the whole of Dorset was already on the dorsetforyou website. JB had replied accordingly.
* Letter from the Environment Agency informing us that work on the Crockway House fish pass had begun on 28 April – circulated.
* DAPTC – list of courses and seminars – circulated.
* Invitation to South Western Dorset domestic violence and abuse forum AGM on 15 May – circulated.
* DACP – Spring 2014 newsletter – circulated.
* DAPTC – Chief Executive’s circular 3/14 – circulated.
* Dorset Blind Association – newsletter April 2014 – circulated.
* Invitation to WDDC Community Flood Advice drop-in session on 15 April – circulated.
* NALC policy consultation on National Planning Policy Framework – circulated.
* Invitation to DACP Annual Assembly on 29 April – circulated.
* Invitation to Police and Crime Commissioner’s Community Engagement Forum on 13 May – circulated.
* Chalk and Cheese Local Action Group – Local Development Strategy Update – circulated.
* Dorset Fingerposts - newsletter – circulated.
* Dorset Community Action – e-bulletin 10 April – circulated.
* Dorset Community Action - e-bulletin 24 April – circulated.
* Dorset Community Action – Press Release re Bake Sale – circulated.
* DCC Adult Services Bridport Community Consultation - feedback – circulated.

  | JB |
|  | Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. Date of next meeting 5 June 2014 at 7.00 p.m. |  |