MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 14 MAY 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.

AG welcomed the two new councillors, Anne Clements and Dave Marsh.

Two members of the public mentioned the poor condition of the wooden walkways on footpath 1 behind the church. JB said that he would contact DCC Rights of Way.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.03 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **Declarations of Acceptance of Office by members of the council:-**  As this was the first meeting since the election on 7 May, each councillor was required to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form. JB handed out one of the forms to each councillor together with a copy of the Parish Council’s Code of Conduct and countersigned each form after councillors had completed them. JB also gave each councillor copies of the Register of Members’ Interests form and asked for these to be completed and returned to him within 28 days. | All |
| **2** | **Apologies for absence** had been received from County and District Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH). |  |
| **3** | **Declarations of interest**  DP and PV, as allotment tenants,declared an interestin the annual review of rents at item 11 and PV additionally declared an interest as an employee of one of the companies who were likely to be involved in the summer holiday activities at the Youth Centre. |  |
| **4** | **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**  JB asked for nominations for the role of Chairman. SF nominated AG and DP seconded this nomination. As there were no other nominations and all councillors were in agreement, AG was elected Chairman. JB asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. DP nominated CD and AG nominated PV. AC seconded PV and, as there was no seconder for CD, PV was elected Vice Chairman. The newly elected Chairman and Vice Chairman signed Acceptance of Office forms and JB countersigned them. |  |
| **5** | **Appointment of representatives and cheque signatories**  JB went through the list of responsibilities which needed to be shared out and these were allocated as follows:-   * Allotments – DP and AG * Old Fire House – AG * Ancient Monuments – * Village Hall – CD and AC * Childcare provision – DP and CD * Footpaths – Chris Slade (Rights of Way Liaison Officer) * Play Area – CD and AG * Transport – SF and PV * Dorchester Area Community Partnership – SF and AG * Youth & Community Centre – PV and DM * Playing Field and MUGA – PV and DM * Emergency (including Flood Wardens) – AG and Lawrie Goff * DAPTC – SF, AG, PV and AC * Cheque signatories – SF, CD and DP * Quarterly bank reconciliation – AC |  |
| **6** | **The minutes of the meetings held on 9 April were agreed and signed.** |  |
| **7** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * JB had contacted the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) to ask them if they would empty a new waste bin if the Parish Council purchased one to go by the beginning of footpath 1 by Church Barn. Their response had been unhelpful - any waste bins which were purchased would be for us to empty and dispose of the waste. There might be a possibility of one of the bins at the Youth Centre being moved there – JB would investigate. The DWP had clarified that waste bins were serviced by their street cleansing crews not by the Thursday waste collection teams. * As agreed at the previous meeting, JB had purchased and AG had installed a specific dog waste bin in Frome Lane. AG thanked Karin Chandler-Wilson who was emptying this as required. * JB had chased Jon Sloper of Alacrify about the village website but no response had been received. It might be that a new website would have to be created in due course and that someone in the village with the appropriate skills would need to be recruited. Alternatively, JB had details of companies who were prepared to help with this process. * The outline planning application for The Quarr had still not been submitted. * DCC had been successful in securing funding from the Department for Transport cycle rail fund for improvements at the station. A meeting had taken place between DCC and First Great Western at which it had been agreed that improvements would be made to cycle access, cycle parking and trailway signage. It was also hoped that funding could be found for improvements to the road up to the station, particularly resurfacing and additional lighting. * JB had ascertained that the next deadline for application to the Southern Electric Power Distribution storm fund grant scheme was 25 September. He would ensure that this was put on the agenda in time for the deadline to be met. * Oliver Letwin had called a meeting at WDDC on 21 May to discuss the enforcement action being taken on the plots adjacent to Marl House, Frampton, some of which were in Maiden Newton parish. SF and AG would attend. * JB had almost completed his work on the 2014/15 accounts and Gary Free as internal auditor would be looking at them the following Friday. They would need to be approved at the June meeting before being sent to the external auditor. * There was a brief discussion about Superfast Broadband and how much of the village now had access to it. * On behalf of the Community Land Trust, SF reported that 10 of the 12 rental properties in Neil’s View 2 had been let to residents with Maiden Newton connections. Two of the flats had eventually had to be advertised by Aster, as the applicants originally allocated them had declined. The two joint ownership houses were under negotiation. There would not be another WDDC Housing Needs Survey until May 2016 but it was likely that Maiden Newton’s current affordable housing requirement had been satisfied by this development. | JB  JB |
| **8** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors**   * CD reported that the village hall committee had met. A Fire Risk Assessment had been carried out and the recent work completed had been well received. Provision of a disabled exit ramp into the car park was still outstanding. Bookings had increased. She asked AG whether he had come to any conclusions about the best option for the surface of the car park. On a recent visit to Leigh Village Hall, AG and SF had been very impressed with their car park and asked JB to contact the Leigh parish clerk to find out who their contractor had been. A discussion took place about the most effective way of securing the gate, the padlock which had been in place having gone astray. The Village Hall Committee AGM would be on 19 June at 7.00 p.m. * SF had been talking to DCC about the situation following Damory Coaches taking over the 212 service on 20 April. The main problem was the loss of the (supposedly poorly used) 17.15 from Yeovil which had been the return bus for students at Yeovil College. DCC were trying to find a solution. SF also reported that the new train timetables would come into effect on 17 May. | JB |
| **9** | **Neighbourhood Planning:-**   * Neville Higman (NHi) had been in contact with Jo Witherden (formerly with WDDC) about her providing some consultancy assistance during the first stages of the Neighbourhood Planning process. She had sent him a proposal saying that she would provide help for the first few meetings for the sum of £500 plus travel expenses. This would hopefully lead to central funding of £8,000 being granted. A provision of £3,000 had already been set aside for Neighbourhood Planning in the Parish Council’s reserve account and SF proposed and PV seconded that this initial expenditure be approved. All councillors agreed that this was a sensible way to proceed. Councillors expressed their gratitude to NHi for taking on the task of leading the Neighbourhood Planning process. |  |
| **10** | **Planning Applications:-**  The following application had been discussed and approved at WDDC’s Development Control Committee meeting on 16 April:-   * WD/D/14/002991 – Maiden Newton Service Station, Dorchester Road – flat roof extension to enlarge the existing A1 use.   SF had spoken at the meeting and reported that Ian Madgwick (DCC Highways) had agreed to take a further look at the highway and parking issues she had raised.  The following application had been approved:-   * WD/D/14/002794 – 73 Dorchester Road - conversion of commercial property to provide two dwellings.   The following application had been on circulation to councillors and was discussed:-   * WD/D/15/000098 – 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.   Councillors had seen the objections submitted by Mr David Quick and were sympathetic to his views. However it was felt that:-   1. The proposed site was far enough away from Notton Cottage for the impact to be minimal, and 2. They understood the reasons why the Notton site had been chosen rather than the less accessible and more expensive site at Cruxton.   JB was asked to comment to WDDC accordingly. |  |
| **11** | **Allotments:-**   * DP said that the allotments were generally looking very tidy but there was a small pile of rubbish left from the clearance of plot 23b last year. She asked if the parish council would pay for a skip specifically to get rid of this. This was agreed on the understanding that the Allotments Association would also get a skip to clear more general items from individual tenants. There were 3 mini plots available and more plots for disabled tenants’ use were in the process of being created. * JB reported that all the allotments were now let and that there was no waiting list. * At this stage of the year, it was necessary to carry out an annual review of allotment rents. These would be due on 1 September and JB had circulated an e-mail showing the rents charged for the last 7 years. The current rent for a full plot was £18 and AG reiterated his view that this should be increased to £20 and then left at this figure for the foreseeable future. SF seconded this proposal and all agreed. |  |
| **12** | **Play Area:-**   * CD had inspected the wetpour repairs that had been carried out and had not been happy with the work done. She had contacted the company concerned and they had met her on site and agreed with her assessment. She was waiting for them to contact her to arrange remedial works. * The Friends of Maiden Newton Play Area still had some £2,000 in their account from the distribution of the Maiden Newton at War funds and this would be used to purchase new goalposts and a picnic bench. JB mentioned that, in addition, there was still £323 earmarked for the Play Area in the Parish Council reserve account. |  |
| **13** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * PV reported that the recent junior football tournament had been a great success with over 200 6-10 year olds taking part. The Playing Field had looked particularly good and thanks were due to Jess Carver for his efforts in this respect. * The budget included a sum of £750 for summer holiday activities at the Youth Centre/Playing Field. PV would contact the Action Van and Footie for Dorset, who had both been involved previously, to discuss a programme for this year. |  |
| **14** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * John Ball – salary for May – £276.21 (145) * The Post Office – PAYE May - £184.14 (146) * Jess Carver – grass cutting contract - £330.00 (147) * Lawrie Goff – honorarium agreed at April meeting - £100.00 (148) * John Ball (Street Furniture Direct) – dog fouling waste bin - £232.80 (149) * DCC – share of cost of The Drift ditch maintenance – £756.00 (150) * John Ball (Cartridgesave) – laser printer cartridge - £156.77 (151) * Magna Housing – room hire for May - £12.00 (152) |  |
| **15** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports**  JB handed out new monthly inspection checking sheets according to the responsibilities agreed. AG would take on the Cattistock Road bus shelter and AC the one in Dorchester Road. DM would take responsibility for the village seats. There were no matters arising from April inspections. |  |
| **16** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Dorset Draft Recommendations – circulated (already commented on at earlier stage) * Remittance Advice from WDDC re £1,050.31 Section 106 money credited to parish account to be spent on improving local recreational facilities. Councillors to consider possible projects for discussion at June meeting. * DAPTC – new councillor training – AC and DM to let JB know when they would like to attend. * DCC – emergency planning training 17 June – AG to attend. * E-mail from Community First Insurance – confirmation that volunteers are insured for litter picks – too late to arrange this spring, leave until autumn. * E-mail from Wessex Water – overrun of Cattistock Road works – JB will clarify dates for Norden Lane closure. * Dorset Community Action – Funding Fair 18 May – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletin March – circulated. * DAPTC –Chief Executive’s circular 4/15 – circulated. * Dorset Blind Association – Classic Car Run 17 May – circulated. * Healthwatch Dorset – newsletter – circulated. * Rural Services Network – Spotlight March 15 – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – breakfast workshop 22 May – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – LiveWell Dorset service – circulated. * Rural Services Network – news digests 5 and 11 May – circulated. * Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner – young people’s award – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – Dementia awareness week – circulated. * NALC – letter to all councillors following election – circulated. * DAPTC –Chief Executive’s circular 5/15 – circulated. | All  JB |
|  | Meeting closed at 8.35 p.m. Date of next meeting 4 June 2015. |  |