MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2014

**IN THE FIRE STATION TRAINING ROOM, BULL LANE**

**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 three members of the public at the meeting.

JH updated councillors on the following WDDC matters:-

* Weymouth and Portland Borough Council had now agreed that the 3 way merger with West Dorset and North Dorset should go ahead. The suggestion that the emergent council would be a unitary authority was incorrect.
* The revised Local Plan was now almost there and should be approved by early 2015.
* The resubmitted planning application for the Rampisham Down solar panel farm would be going to Committee on 13 November. All parties except English Nature (who were a consultee only) were supportive. The area covered was now cut back from 90% of the available land to 40% and a gap was proposed between each panel to allow rare plant growth. The eventual output would be enough to supply 7,000 homes.
* JH had had phone calls about the surveying currently taking place on the field behind Manor Farm Close. JB mentioned that he and AG had also received calls from concerned residents. No one had any more information about what was happening and it was not clear whether the field was still owned by St Pier Estates or whether Ian Sargeant, who had been their tenant, had purchased it. JH pointed out that the land was outside the Defined Development Boundary and was not earmarked in the WDDC Local Plan. It was a very old part of the village and there would certainly be archaeological remains present. AG would attempt to get more information about what was happening.

and at DCC:-

* Having looked at WDDC boundaries, the Boundary Commission was now consulting on the DCC ones. It was largely a numbers game and, as there were around 8,300 voters in the Three Valleys (JH’s constituency) and only 6,500 in Beaminster, some rearrangement was likely. JB had already responded to the consultation on behalf of the parish council, pointing out the anomaly of Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch coming under different constituencies.
* The setting up of a local authority trading company to cover adult care services had now been approved. In due course, Bournemouth and Poole could also come under the same umbrella. JH said that this was a good way of protecting jobs in this sector.
* PV thanked JH for using her personal DCC budget to provide a PC for the Youth Club.
* She had attended a conference in Manchester at which it had emerged that the government were considering pooling certain health budgets and that these would be administered by the Clinical Commissioning Group. This would have serious implications and she was sceptical about its viability.
* SF asked whether there was any more news on accessibility at Dorchester West Station. JH replied in the negative and felt that this was a Network Rail issue.

NHo said that he had been asked to mention the poor condition of Norden Road between Norden Farm and Webbers Piece. JB agreed to look at this and report issues to Highways.

JB had been informed that the resurfacing work on Bull Lane would take place between 5-8 January and that there would be no access (other than for the fire service) between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. JH had already voiced her concerns to Highways as this area was effectively one large cul-de-sac. NHi wondered how waste collections would take place on the Thursday. JB would be writing to the Waste Partnership on other issues and would ask the question.

Simon Vines, Chairman of Frampton Parish Council, attended to update councillors on the situation with the plots of land on the left of the A356 just before Frampton. The majority of the plots were in Frampton parish but a few were in Maiden Newton. There had been a meeting the previous week at WDDC where representatives of the Planning and Legal Departments had met two Frampton councillors, WDDC Councillor Mary Penfold and SF to discuss the position.

The plots had been sold freehold and some purchasers had subsequently sold on. One plot had obtained planning permission for a stable block. Two others had been occupied by owners using a caravan and converted horsebox and a hut. There had been issues at Marl House which adjoined the plots and the police had been involved. WDDC had agreed to take enforcement action against the owners of these two plots but anticipated that they would appeal and the process could therefore take some time. Ownership of each plot had to be established through the Land Registry and Simon would be recommending to Frampton Parish Council that they paid for the necessary searches – he had been told that these cost £10 each but NHi thought that they might only be £3. It was agreed that JB would draft a letter to Kevin Perry in the Planning Department pledging Maiden Newton’s support for Frampton’s stance.

SF would be attending the DAPTC AGM on 8 November and had been sent the texts of two further motions to be voted on. The first of these concerned the promulgation of DCC (as opposed to WDDC) planning applications. It was agreed that this would be supported. The second concerned the consideration (or lack of it) given to the impact of alternative/renewable energy sources on the natural environment. As this was usually a very parochial issue it was agreed that Maiden Newton would abstain on this motion.

AG declared the meeting open at 7.40 p.m. **ACTION**

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| **1** | **There were no apologies for absence** |  |
| **2** | **There were no declarations of interest** |  |
| **3** | **The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October were agreed and signed.** |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * JB had reported the broken stile on footpath 29/24 to the Rights of Way team. Chris Slade had also e-mailed them about it. * JB had asked the WDDC dog warden to do an early morning patrol in Frome Lane. He had also asked The Waste Partnership to provide a further waste bin in the area. * CD was still trying to find out who the landlord of 9a Cattistock Road was so that JB could write to him about cutting his hedge. * JB had again chased Dave Ackerley (DCC Rights of Way) about the quotes he was getting to carry out the work on The Drift. This was now becoming urgent as the work on Bull Lane had been programmed for 5 January and this had to be done in advance so that planings from Bull Lane could be put down. * Although it was clear that work was currently taking place in the village in preparation for the introduction of Superfast Broadband, JB asked whether the rumour that the project was behind schedule was correct. No one had any specific knowledge of this. * Derry Thompson had contacted JB to say that he had carried out some work on the Old School clock but that it was clear that a deeper clean involving taking it out of its casing was required. He had quoted £200 for this and JB had accepted the figure. * NHi had received a letter from WDDC confirming that The Chalk and Cheese had been accepted as an ‘Asset of Community Value’. * JB had accepted the quote from Paul Ferris for the removal of the trees on the bank between the Community Centre and Rock Pit Farm car park. He had agreed to let JB know when the work would be carried out. * JB had submitted comments to the following:-  1. WDDC’s consultation on their support for community and voluntary organisations. 2. Dorset Waste Partnership’s consultation on street cleaning/litter. 3. Dorset Fire Authority’s consultation on their possible amalgamation with Wiltshire.  * JB had replied to the letter received from Mr Christopher Amos of 35 Bull Lane about bonfire smoke. |  |
| **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors:-**   * PV reported that he had had a meeting at the MUGA with the Funding Manager from Barclays Spaces for Sport. He had been very happy with the site and intimated that, if required, money could be available for resurfacing work from 2015. * SF reported on two meetings she had attended – the first being the West Dorset Community Partnership annual meeting and the second one at the surgery to talk about the formation of a partnership consultation group, something which all GP practices would be setting up. |  |
| **6** | **Planning Applications:-**  Comments had been submitted on the following application:-   * WD/D/14/002200 – 14b Cattistock Road – change of use from residential annex to holiday accommodation (retrospective). |  |
| **7** | **Allotments:-**   * Chris Slade’s old plot (23b) had been transformed by Joe Dittrich who had cleared away all the old vegetation and re-fenced the top boundary. * JB had included a piece about bonfires in the November Herald. * Paddy Kerr (tenant of allotments 61b and 62a) had now created a much larger, more appropriate, area for his 13 turkeys. * JB had e-mailed Clare McCarthy (tenant of plots 56b, 57 and 58a) to say that, subject to her proving that she could manage the two additional half plots she had only recently taken on, she would be considered for tenancy of plot 56a (when it had been cleared) along with any other names on the waiting list at that stage. * JB reported that there was now only one tenant who had not paid his 1 September rent – Tom Raymond, plot 62b. He would be given until 4 December and the plot would then be added to those available for rent. * Having made the decision to retain plot 1 for access and other potential uses, only one half plot (20b) was currently available for tenancy. | JB |
| **8** | **Play Area:-**   * CD reported that she had met the local rep from Wicksteed’s (the only company which Dorchester Town Council were prepared to recommend) to discuss the repairs required to the edges of the wetpour surfaces. The quote for the three areas which were in need of immediate remedial work totalled £2,992 + VAT. She was asked to check on the guarantee which they would give for the work, and, subject to this being satisfactory, AG proposed and DP seconded that the quote be accepted. All agreed.   (It subsequently transpired that this figure understated the total cost by some 50% and the quote will be further discussed at the December meeting) |  |
| **9** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**  There was nothing to report other than the meeting mentioned in 5 above. |  |
| **10** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * Royal British Legion – wreath for Remembrance Day - £40 (103) * John Ball – salary for November – £353.40 (104) * The Post Office – PAYE November - £88.35 (105) * Jess Carver – grass cutting contract - £325.00 (106)   JB had circulated a letter from Life Education Wessex about the provision of health and drug prevention education to Greenford School students. This was to happen on 27/28 January 2015. The cost to the provider was £975 of which the school contribution had been agreed at £535. The letter asked the Parish Council to consider a grant towards the shortfall. This was discussed briefly and it was agreed that no contribution would be made.  (AG declared an interest in the next item to be discussed and withdrew from the room, leaving NHo to chair the meeting temporarily)  JB had received a phone call from Lawrie Goff (AG’s brother and joint Flood Warden) saying that he had recently needed to have the clutch replaced on his van and that, when the work was done, they found a significant amount of water damage. The work had cost him £588 and, as he felt that his driving through deep water whilst carrying out his duties as a volunteer Flood Warden had contributed to the problem, he asked if the parish council would consider contributing towards the cost.  This question led to considerable debate. The village had not flooded for at least 9 months so it could not be proved that the water he drove through performing his Flood Warden duties had contributed to the clutch failure. In addition there was debate as to the principle of reimbursing volunteers for expenses incurred in the carrying out of their duties and whether this would set a precedent. NHo proposed that a payment of £50 be made and that any similar requests from volunteers in the future would be considered on their individual merits. PV seconded this and all agreed.  Lawrie Goff – contribution towards cost of clutch repair - £50 (107)  AG was asked to rejoin the meeting. |  |
| **11** | **Telephone Box in Church Road – lose or adopt:-**   * Following receipt of a letter from WDDC saying that BT were proposing to remove the public telephone box in Church Road, JB had put a paragraph in the November Herald asking parishoners to give him their opinions as to whether they felt that the option of bidding to adopt it for other uses should be considered. He had received 4 responses, all favouring adoption. * It was only possible for adoption to be taken up by parish councils or registered charities and AG was concerned that the cost of ongoing maintenance, insurance and upkeep would outweigh any benefit gained. * DP spoke in favour of adoption but AG proposed and NHi seconded that removal of the box should be accepted. DP made it clear that she opposed this proposal but all other councillors were in agreement and JB was asked to respond to WDDC that the parish council agreed that the box should be removed. | JB |
| **12** | **Future of the Community Centre**   * DP and CD had asked for this to be an agenda item as they were aware that the lease on the Community Centre building expired at the end of November and that alternative arrangements had now been agreed for premises for the Play Group. * PV responded that it was too early to talk about this as it would still be some time before the Play Group could be totally independent of the Community Centre and that DCC had always said that they were happy to let the lease run on until this happened. * DP asked if the parish council might be interested in acquiring the building in due course. AG responded that it was too early to say and that he was aware that there were other local groups potentially interested in hiring it after the Play Group had moved out. |  |
| **13** | **Remembrance Services**  AG would be attending the service at St Mary’s on Sunday 9 November and laying the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. JB had agreed to be at the service at the War Memorial at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday 11 November to read out the names of those killed in the two world wars. |  |
| **14** | **Risk Assessment**   * **Monthly condition reports.**   The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each risk. There were no matters arising.   * **Annual review of financial and property assessments.**   JB had circulated copies of both the financial and property risk assessment documents. He had added Rock Pit Farm car park to the latter following its purchase. It was agreed that the former needed no amendment. DP said that she was concerned that the assessment for the allotments was not comprehensive enough. In particular she asked for the presence of adders and rats to be included. JB agreed to contact the National Allotment Society for their advice. | JB |
| **15** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * JB had received a number of complaints about issues arising following the new waste collection arrangements and would be contacting Dorset Waste Partnership. * Letter from Clare Marsh of 12 Newton Road about dog fouling. She had asked for it to be posted on the parish boards which JB had done. She was also keen for it to go in The Herald. JB had contacted Judith Stinton who did not want it to go in the Christmas edition but would consider it for the future. * JB had contacted the Bridge Management Section at DCC about the crack in the buttress of the old railway line bridge in Cattistock Road which seemed to be getting worse. An engineer would be visiting the site the following week. * Just prior to the meeting Andy Elliott had given JB a letter asking for the parish council’s support for his proposal for Highways to consider constructing a pavement along the north side of Bull Lane. As councillors had not had a chance to study the proposals, it was agreed that the subject would be put on the December agenda. * Letter from the Financial Services Manager at WDDC advising the parish council that the Local Council Tax Support Grant would be phased out over the next 4 years. JB would circulate it so that the implications could be considered when the 2015/16 budget was discussed in December. * Dorset Community Action – e-bulletins 3 and 16 October – circulated. * Dorset Blind Association – October and November newsletters – circulated. * West Dorset partnership – Annual Assembly 6 November – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – Workforce Planning course – circulated. * DAPTC – Parliament outreach event 16 October – circulated. * Dorset County Hospital – invitation to events to hear about plans to join up hospital and community services – circulated and put on boards. * Dorset Community Action – October funding bulletin – circulated. * Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner – Business Crime Consultation event – circulated. * Dorset Community Action – Invitation to Funding Fair – circulated. * NALC – consultation about their conference and events programme – circulated. * Public Health Dorset – October update bulletin. * DCC – Planning for minerals and waste newsletter – circulated. * DAPTC – Chief Executive’s circular 8/14 – circulated. * DAPTC – Accessible Britain Challenge Awards – circulated. * NALC – Nomination form for committee elections – circulated. * DAPTC – Intercom Trust Crime Support Worker – circulated. | JB  JB  JB |
|  | As January 1 was a Thursday, SF suggested that the parish council meeting should be held the following week i.e. Thursday 8 January. This was agreed.  Meeting closed at 9.05 p.m. Date of next meeting 4 December 2014 at 7.00 p.m. |  |