MAIDEN NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2013

**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 & District

Cllr. Jill Haynes (JH)

John Ball (Clerk) (JB)

There were three members of the public at the meeting.

* Karin Chandler-Wilson and Susan Hinchley mentioned that one of the planks placed on a boggy part of footpath 1 behind the church had broken. It was also asked why chicken wire (which got quite slippery when wet) had been attached to these planks rather than the felt which was on the bridge, as the latter was a far better anti-slip surface. JB would raise these issues with DCC’s Rights of Way team.
* Anne Clements said that the paving slabs around the Market Cross were deteriorating and chunks were breaking off, causing a trip hazard. JB would report this to DCC Highways.
* CD asked if the weeds growing around the war memorial could be dealt with. NHi, as the councillor responsible for Ancient Monuments, agreed to do this.
* DP mentioned the potholes in Bull Lane. JB confirmed that Bull Lane was on the Highways capital projects list for a total resurface but was not yet at the top of that list. In the meantime, Highways did repair any potholes that became dangerous.
* SF reported three drains which had been blocked during the heavy rain. JB would report them online.

JH spoke about the following:-

* Stage 2 of the Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on new WDDC ward boundaries would be open until 11 November. Three scenarios based on 42, 43 and 44 councillors (reduced from 48) had been circulated for comment, the middle option being the one favoured. Maiden Newton’s position was the same in each proposal and JH felt that any of the scenarios would be workable. It was not felt that any more comment from the Parish Council was required.
* A peer review had been carried out at WDDC and Economic Development was the one area highlighted as not performing well at present. NHi said that the peer review at DCC had also been useful. JH agreed and said that it was important that the county council was benchmarked against other similar councils and not just Bournemouth/Poole.
* DCC’s required budget cuts would mean that some £15mn. would have to be saved in 2015/16 and a further £16mn. in 16/17. Decisions were likely to be focused more on the desired outcomes for individual residents than on traditional thinking.
* Bus services would be discussed at DCC’s November cabinet but final decisions may not be able to be made. It had become clear that a different way of thinking was required and the transport needs of certain sections of the community needed to be addressed. At present buses were largely used by those with bus passes which didn’t help the bus companies to generate income. The local volunteer scheme in Purbeck may be a model to be considered elsewhere.

JH left the meeting at this point.

AG declared the Parish Council meeting open at 7.35 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 5 September 2013** were agreed and signed. |  |
| **4** | **Clerk’s report on points arising/action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda:-**   * JB, AG and SF had met with Richard Stubbs from DCC Traffic Engineering outside 74 Dorchester Road to discuss the traffic problems. As a result he had agreed that a white line would be drawn in the road to highlight the curb and that a large chevron sign would be provided to be put on the corner of the house. * The hedge projecting into Cattistock Road north of the railway bridge had now been cut back. * A letter had been sent to Santander on 19 August asking them to close the accounts and transfer the funds to the new accounts at Barclays. After a number of telephone calls and letters involving both JB and SF, this had finally happened on 17 September. * Despite asking Santander in the closure letter to ensure that the VAT credit of £3,296 from Revenue & Customs had been received, they had rejected the BACS remittance. JB had spoken to the Revenue and was now awaiting a cheque. * DCC Highways had finally carried out the resurfacing work on Drift Road. The planings under the bridge looked to have bedded down quite well but JB was not so confident about the mixed planings and recycled material on the far side. It was accepted that no solution would ever be anything like as good as tarmac and that it remained to be seen how it stood up during the winter months. NHi said that he thought that the vehicles used by the contractors had probably exacerbated the pothole issues at the bottom of North Road. AG agreed to get some more bags of instant filler to improve the situation. * The pine tree at the corner of the village hall had now been felled. * JB had received the draft transfer documents for the purchase of Rock Pit Farm car park from Porter Dodson and asked councillors to authorise him to proceed. There was discussion about the car park surface which WDDC had originally agreed to repair but had never done so. Eventually DP proposed that the council should agree to allowing the transfer to proceed and all were in agreement. JB said that he would mention the surface works in his e-mail to Porter Dodson but that they would not be a prerequisite to the sale. | AG  JB |
| **5** | **Reports on meetings attended by councillors:-**   * NHi reported on two meetings of the Community Land Trust. The first concerned the section 106 agreement for Neil’s View Phase 2 and the second was their AGM. There had been a good turnout for the latter with a number of new members signing up, one in particular who had good knowledge of the issues and could be useful in the future. PV and NHo asked NHi to make it clear in The Herald and other publications that anyone who signed up to become a member of the CLT had no future financial liability. * NHi had also had a meeting with Somerset County Council who were interested in the car-sharing iPhone app which had been developed. * As a result of discussion at a Village Hall Committee meeting, CD asked AG whether there was any more work to be done on the car park area. AG agreed to look at it but said that he saw no reason why they could not now go ahead with the ramp required for disabled egress. * SF had called in to the drop in session on WDDC’s Housing Policy Review. She had some doubts about their suggestions concerning the use of private landlords. A consultation about the council’s housing allocation policy began on 11 September and ran until 22 October. * AG and Darlene Ford had attended the Neighbourhood Planning training arranged by WDDC and given by a national body called Locality. It had been very useful in determining what needed to be done over a timescale likely to be around 2 ½ years. * AG had also gone to DCC’s Environment Directorate open day. This had opened his eyes to how much more the parish council and private landowners were going to be expected to take on over the next few years. A request to increase the precept may have to be considered to cover the extra work. | NHi  AG |
| **6** | **Sluice gates at The Mill:-**   * AG had received a letter from Richard Pearson of Maiden Newton House asking for the parish council’s written support in a court action he was taking on 21 October against the owner of Maiden Newton Mill. This was because she had locked the Mill’s sluice gates open for almost a week at the end of August, infringing his legal right to maintain the water level in the leat. * JB had drafted a reply which, after some discussion, was agreed. AG signed the letter and JB would deliver it the following day. | JB |
| **7** | **Planning Applications:-**  The following application had been approved but only for temporary occupation for three years:-   * 1/D/13/000438 – Faunbank Stables, Crockway, Maiden Newton – conversion of barn to rural worker’s dwelling.   An appeal had been lodged against the refusal of the following application:-   * 1/D/13/00509 – 14 Hill View – construction of two 2 bedroom dwellings. The Planning Inspectorate in Bristol was hearing the appeal and JB would respond to them making the additional points which had been raised by councillors during circulation of the appeal papers. Whilst talking about 14 Hill View, AG mentioned that their hedge was overhanging the pavement. JB would write to them in due course. * JB had circulated a copy of the plans (sent to Frome Vauchurch Parish Meeting for comment) to extend the Surestart building next to the Youth & Community Centre to accommodate the Playschool. He would inform Darlene Ford that Maiden Newton Parish Council fully supported the application. * A planning enforcement issue had arisen concerning the garage at 14b Cattistock Road. Having had permission to build a hobby room above the garage, it now appeared that the garage doors had been taken out and replaced by a front door and windows. JB and SF had contacted Simon Ludgate at WDDC Planning Enforcement who was investigating. An e-mail received from him the day before had, however, seemed to suggest that he was not unhappy with what had been done. | JB  JB  JB |
| **8** | **Allotments:-**   * JB reported that he had received 43 tenancy renewals out of 51, leaving 8 more to reply. He would chase those outstanding in due course. * Three tenants had given up half allotments (two of which were in the new area) and one half had been let. There was now only one half vacant in the main area. * The rabbit proofing of the fence between the sheep field and the allotments had been completed. * DP confirmed that the insurance of any equipment kept at the allotments (including any owned by the Allotment Association) was the responsibility of the tenants. | JB |
| **9** | **Play Area:-**   * CD was still talking to Sutcliffe Play about the degradation of some of the wetpour surfaces. A meeting was due to take place but it might be a difficult issue to resolve. * The Fun Day had raised around £300, half of which had been added to the Friends’ funds. * CD mentioned that the collage made up from pictures produced by the children at the Jubilee Fun Day in June 2012 had now been framed. The cost had been around £180 which was within the £200 the parish council had agreed to pay. JB would be happy to reimburse the cost on production of the receipt. * JB had enlisted the help of Dorset Community Action to consider the possibility of providing some adult fitness equipment next to the village hall car park. They had suggested that a working group should be set up to include a representative from the GP practice. SF agreed to speak to the surgery. Their main remit would be to provide evidence of need to back up any funding bids. Anne Clements suggested that the Maiden Newton Runners could be approached and could well be keen to get involved. JB had also obtained two more brochures showing the sort of equipment available. * JB had submitted an article and photo of the opening of the new play equipment to DAPTC for their next newsletter. | CD  SF |
| **10** | **Playing field and MUGA:-**   * PV reported that the Junior Football Club were now clearing the site for their shed and a skip would be arriving this weekend. The electrical point put in place for Maiden Newton at War would be re-routed and moved into the shed. * PV asked JB to speak to Jess Carver about cutting back nettles on the fringes of the field. | JB |
| **11** | **Accounts for payment:-**   * Honey Rose – tree surgery at Village Hall - £230.00 (Cheque 010 payable to JB). AG had agreed that this payment be made by direct bank transfer as they had requested. JB had arranged this using his bank account. * John Ball – salary for October plus additional hours for seminar day plus backdating of clerks’ pay award plus annual payment for use of home as workplace - £517.37 (011) * Post Office – PAYE October - £104.35 (012) * Haskings Fencing – work at allotments - £1,326 (013) * Green Thumb – weed treatment on The Green - £75 (014) * DAPTC – clerks’ seminar - £35 (015) * St Mary’s Church – annual cemetery maintenance grant - £600 (016) * John Ball – petty cash top up - £100.00 (017) * Jess Carver – grass cutting (September) - £300 (018) * Magna Housing Association – room hire for October - £12.00 (019) |  |
| **12** | **Risk Assessment monthly condition reports:-**  The inspection checking sheets had been completed for each property risk. JB mentioned that he had found evidence of dog fouling on The Green. He had contacted WDDC’s dog warden who had provided some signs to put up. |  |
| **13** | **Any Other Correspondence:-**   * DAPTC – Chief Executive’s Circular September 2013 - circulated. * DCC – Letter re street lighting changes – circulated and details to be put in The Herald. * Dorset Campaign to protect Rural England – Seminar on Renewable Energy and Planning on 31 October – circulated. * DAPTC – E-mail re Jo Hickson leaving – circulated. * DAPTC - E-mail re NALC book ‘Local Councils Explained’ – circulated. * WDDC – E-mail re sessions on ‘Improving success with funding bids’ – circulated. Councillors were encouraged to attend in Dorchester on 4 November. * Heart of Wessex Community Rail Partnership – possibility of Somerset County Council funding being withdrawn. * South Western Ambulance Service – posters re First Responder recruitment – circulated and put on boards. * DAPTC – E-mail re ‘Home Safety Falls Prevention’ events – circulated. * DAPTC – Central Area meeting AGM agenda 8 October – circulated. * DAPTC – Chief Executive’s Circular October 2013 – circulated. * DAPTC – E-mail re recruitment of Dorset PCC Older People’s Advocate – circulated. |  |
|  | Meeting closed at 8:54 p.m. Date of next meeting 7 November 2013 at 7 p.m. |  |