

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council held on Wednesday 12 June 2019 at Briantspuddle Village Hall

Present: Councillors Charles Barter (Vice Chair), Stuart Chorley, Lizzie Guinn, Sue Jones (Chair), Graham Lightfoot, Sarah Lowman and Trevor Poole

Also Present: Louise Dowell (Parish Clerk), Councillor Peter Wharf (Dorset Council) who joined the meeting later due to a prior engagement.

2019/22 Apologies

No apologies received.

2019/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2019/24 Public Participation

Mr Monro, the applicant for planning application 6/2019/0261 addressed the Council. He outlined the pre application discussion and advice received from the Planning Authority and summarised the key elements of the application.

2019/25 Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the statutory meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 May 2019 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Subject to the amendment of word 'works' to 'Rights of Way' in Minute 2019/21, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 May 2019 were approved.

Councillor Lightfoot updated Council on discussion he had had with Dorset Council's ecologist regarding improving the diversity of plant species in roadside verges and the timing of verge cutting. The initiative will be progressed by Councillor Lightfoot.

2019/26 Southover Farm Slurry Lagoon Planning Application WD/D/18/001035 Update

The Chairman reported that the Southover Farm Slurry Lagoon planning application had been determined. The condition to establish a Liaison Committee is one the Parish Council is actively working to progress. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Dorset Councillor Wharf regarding this.

There was discussion about whether the one way system for the site was being used but it appeared that this was not the case all of the time. The Chairman asked that Councillors and residents keep records of when the one way system was not being used to provide this information to the Liaison Committee.

2019/27 Planning Applications

a) 6/2019/0261– The Dairy House, 22 Affpuddle, Dorchester DT2 7HH

Resolved: The Council voted to approve the application.

b) WD/D/19/001069 – Land at Shakes Hole, Southover Farm Access Road, Tolpuddle

The Council voted to object to the application.

In considering the matter the Parish Councillors made the following points:

- The intensification of operations at the site would result in a further loss of amenity of the surrounding countryside. The area is extensively used by walkers and horse riders and noise from the site impacts the enjoyment of these activities. Maintaining the days of operation to those currently permitted would preserve the remaining general amenity of the area. The application would therefore be contrary to the Policy ENV16 of the

adopted Local Plan and the NPPF.

- Parish Councillors were concerned that the sound survey was limited in its scope. It was conducted over a limited time period of 72 hours which may not be representative of the noise created by activities during peak times of the year.
- It is well-known that extensive areas close to the site are being returned to heathland with large areas of forestry being cleared. It is likely that the effect of the noise emanating from the site will have a greater impact on the surrounding countryside with a further loss of amenity value to local residents and recreational users. Further evaluation is needed.
- Concerns were expressed about litter. Visitors of the site are directed from Rye Hill towards the site. Regular Parish Litter Picks reveal high levels of sandwich wrappers, crisp packs, beer and soft drinks cans etc which appear to have been thrown from vehicles. This profile of litter is totally different from anywhere else in the Parish and is considered to be as a result of visitors to the site. Any intensification of operations at the site is likely to increase the already unacceptable amounts of rubbish along this route.
- There was no certainty offered in the application about which days are proposed as an extension to existing operations. Maintaining this flexibility means that other users of the area for amenity purposes will not know when they can enjoy the surrounding countryside without noise coming from the site, with any degree of certainty (apart from Sunday).
- Councillors could not understand from the application how the proposed hours of operation compared with the existing.

c) 6/2019/0239 (Listed Building Consent) – 17 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle

Resolved: The Council voted to approve the application.

d) 6/2019/0284 + 6/2019/0285 (Listed Building Consent) - Cob Cottage, 3 The Hollow, Briantspuddle, Dorchester, DT2 7HX

Resolved: The Council voted to approve the application.

APN/2019/0004 – Land at Affpuddle, Dorchester

The Council noted that it was not required to give a formal response to this application. However, it was agreed to note the importance and merits of the site as containing the last working water meadow on the River Piddle and the hope that the integrity and functionality of the water meadow system will be preserved by the new owner.

2019/28 Tree Work Applications

Tree applications TWA/2019/101, TWA/2019/107 and TWA/2019/108 were noted.

2019/29 Dorset County Councillor's Report

Councillors reported the problems that they had experienced using the search facility for planning applications on Dorset Council's website and Councillor Wharf gave the contact details of the relevant officer to report this to.

Councillor Wharf reminded Councillors to direct individual concerns through the Chair or Clerk to him and he would then deal with these as appropriate.

Councillors raised the ongoing problems with the traffic lights in Affpuddle. Conflicting advice given by the various parties involved was continuing to cause frustration. There was a suggestion that motion sensors could be installed to improve the situation at night and it was agreed that this should be put to Dorset Council as an option. It was also agreed that Councillor Barter would restate the original points from the Parish Council that still needed attention and the Chairman would pass these to Dorset Council officers.

The Chairman pointed out that a Dorset Council highways officer had made good suggestions regarding the situation with the traffic lights in relation to the scaffolding and

'Google' traffic information and it was hoped that these would lead to improvements. Councillor Wharf reported that Councillor Miller was now a member of the Working Group considering the impact of moving local A&E provision to Bournemouth and he would be on Dorset Council's Climate Review Group.

2019/30 B3390

The problems associated with large vehicles using the road was discussed. A suggestion was made to request a weight or width restriction through the Parish to limit the size of vehicles. Councillor Wharf advised that this would require a Traffic Regulation Order that might not be welcomed by adjoining Parishes. It was agreed that Councillor Poole would investigate this further and it would be discussed again at a future Council meeting.

2019/31 Waymarkers and Fingerposts (Minute 2019/21)

Councillor Poole reported that there were six fingerposts left to restore in the Parish and he estimated that to do all of this work would cost approximately £11k. He went through the condition and likely costs for each. He proposed that the fingerpost at Culpepper's Dish should be refurbished this year at a cost of up to £1k.

Resolved: The Council voted unanimously to proceed with the work at a cost of up to £1K. Councillor Poole then reported on the 24 waymarkers in the parish and that he had been advised by Dorset Council that there were no regulations controlling the design of these. He had designed a waymarker, at this own expense, for Councillors to approve as the model for other in the future. The Council thanked Councillor Poole for his efforts and look forward to seeing the example.

2019/32 Roads and Highways

Councillor Poole advised that he had been contacted by the landowner and the Rights of Way Officer about proposed works in Gulley Lane. He also confirmed that following what appeared to be an administrative error he was again being informed of footpath updates in the Parish.

2019/33 Financial Report and Authorisation of Payments

The following payments were unanimously approved:

Cheque 100688 A.W.W Garden Services (Garden Maintenance) £170

Cheque 100689 Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee (Hall Hire – April & May) £67

Cheque 100690 Susan Jones (Parish Clerk Office 365 License) £59.99

Cheque 100691 Community First Trading Limited (Annual insurance) £514.10

It was noted that the balance of the NSI Investment Account was £6,758.82.

The Council unanimously agreed that Councillor Lowman should become the third signatory to the Council's bank account and it was noted that the Chairman would need to liaise with Barclays bank to facilitate this.

2019/34 Annual Accounts

i) Internal Audit

The Chairman recommended that the Council have an internal audit and the company who had undertaken this last year was available again at the same cost.

Resolved: The Council unanimously agreed to engage the internal auditor for the 2018/19 accounts.

ii) Asset Register

The Asset Register for 2018/19 was accepted and it was agreed that it should be reviewed for 2019/20 with items such as the Debenhams paintings being added.

Resolved: The Council unanimously agreed to accept the Asset Register for 2018/19.

iii) **2018/19 Income and Expenditure Account**

The Council noted that the Clerk is to make a claim to recover VAT. In the meantime it was agreed that details of key capital projects should be added to the account for information.

Resolved: The Council unanimously approved the 2018/19 End of Year Accounts.

iv) **AGAR 2018/19 Certificate of Exemption**

The Council noted that as a smaller authority with a turnover of less than £25k it could certify itself as exempt from having a limited assurance review i.e. external audit.

Resolved: That the Council unanimously agreed that it should exempt itself from having a limited assurance review for 2019/19 and the Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

v) **Annual Governance Statement 2018/19**

Resolved: That the Council unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 and this was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

vi) **Accounting Statements 2018/19**

Resolved: That the Council unanimously approved the Accounting Statements 2018/19 and this was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Council of the publication details for the Annual Governance and Accounting Return 2018/19 and it was agreed that this would be from 1 July to 9 August 2019.

2019/35 Review of Parish Council Policy

The Council unanimously agreed to amend the timetable in the policy on Grants under Section 137 and 133 of the Local Government Act 1972 (adopted 10 January 2018) as follows:

- Applications to be submitted by 31 July
- Grant awards to be considered at the August Parish Council meeting.

Following discussion it was agreed to advertise the availability of Grants in the Parish Magazine, on the Community Website and on the Parish notice boards.

2019/36 Maintenance

Councillor Lowman reported that the back board of the Affpuddle notice board had degraded and was breaking down. She had received a quote of £87 plus VAT to repair this and it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Lowman should arrange for the work to be done. She also suggested that the bus shelter should be given a fresh coat of wood preservative and it was unanimously agreed that she should arrange for this work to be carried out, with dark stain.

2019/37 Correspondence and Information

An email had been forwarded by Councillor Wharf from Dorset Council asking for suggestions for locations for electric vehicle charge points. It was agreed that there were no suitable locations in the Parish so no response would be made.

A letter received from parishioner Mrs Beedle raising concerns about the lighting in the Information Centre was considered. The Parish Council agreed that it did not feel it was appropriate to make any changes to the Information Centre at the moment.

Resolved: That the Clerk would respond to the letter informing the resident of the points agreed by the Council.

2019/38 Risk Assessment

It was agreed that there were no matters to report.

2019/39 Working Group – The Parish Council, Bladen Social Club and Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee

The Chairman had received a response to the Parish Council's invitation to form a Working Group from Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee but as yet no reply had been received from Bladen Social Club. She highlighted the fact that the Parish Council would need to give consideration to the terms of reference of the Working Group and the objectives of the Council in regard to this. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

2019/40 Bladen Social Club

The Chairman reported that information concerning the reinstatement insurance had been received from Bladen Social Club for the year 2019/20.

2019/41 Urgent Items

Following Dorset Council's declaration of a climate emergency, Councillor Lightfoot raised his concerns about the amount of plastic litter and the burning of plastic products in the Parish. He hoped that the Parish Council would take a positive stand on these issues and give them a higher profile as part of a wider climate emergency.

The Council supported this suggestion and a further concern about added about hedge cutting at inappropriate times. It was agreed that the Parish Council would aim to take a lead on these matters and involve Parishioners in ways of addressing these problems.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm