

## **Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council**

Minutes of the meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council held on Wednesday 14 August 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)

### **2019/60 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Dorset Councillors Laura Miller and Peter Wharf.

### **2019/61 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Guinn declared a pecuniary interest in tree application TWA/2019/153 as her husband was the applicant.

A Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Councillor Chorley declared a pecuniary interest in the Village Hall's application for S137 and S133 grant funding and did not take part in the debate or discussion on that part of the agenda item.\*

\*Post meeting note - the following statement was read out by the Chairman at the Parish Council meeting on 11 September 2019:

The advice given by the Parish Clerk to Cllr S Chorley was given in good faith. The advice was that as the Chairman and a Trustee of the Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee he should not take part in either the discussion or vote on whether or not to award a cash grant to Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee. The Parish Clerk had concluded that he did have a pecuniary interest in this item.

Advice now given by one of Dorset Council's Solicitors is that Cllr Chorley's interest was not best described as pecuniary but one of pre-determination or bias. However, the advice also given was that Cllr Chorley should not have taken part in the debate or vote to determine the grant application, which was, in fact, the case.

Councillor Lightfoot declared a personal interest in the agenda item regarding S137 and S133 grant applications as his wife was a member of the Village Hall Committee

### **2019/62 Public Participation**

Several members of the public addressed the Parish Council about various issues relating to the application to make changes to Bridleway SE4/11. They considered that aspects of the proposal needed clarifying as at present the full implications of the changes were unclear. A particular concern was the ongoing requirement to keep the bridleway surface in good condition as it was regularly used by those with mobility issues and horse riders. The need for a second gate was questioned as was the suggestion that the adjoining field would be used for stock and it was pointed out that the bridleway had always operated successfully without being gated before.

Councillor Poole, as the Parish Council's footpaths officer, did advise on a few points, such as the landowner's and Dorset Council's responsibilities in relation to the maintenance of the bridleway but he also had some queries about the proposal, which he would raise under the Agenda item.

### **2019/63 Minutes and Matters Arising**

Councillor Lightfoot raised two amendments to the minutes and these were agreed by the Parish Council:

- Minute 2019/45 - final paragraph change wording to 'as part of a wider **environmental** emergency'

- Minute 2019/49 – fifth line after the word development, add in ‘along the lines of the first draft of the Local Plan’.

Subject to these amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 July 2019 were approved.

The Chairman reported that she had been advised that the start of the Southover Farm Slurry Lagoon development was not expected to commence in the near future.

#### **2019/64 Bridleway SE4/11**

The Chairman stated that she would not take part in this item and she then sat with the public for the debate. The Vice Chairman took the Chair for the item.

The Council considered the points raised in public participation and they had similar concerns and questions about the proposal. There was a wide ranging discussion about the issues raised by the proposal. Councillors stressed the need for the bridleway’s surface to be maintain in a condition suitable for use by those with mobility issues and horse riders. Questions remained about the need for a gate, legal requirements/responsibilities and the potential for secure use of the area for stock. It was stressed that the bridleway had always been used, satisfactorily, without any gates and this was seen as a positive situation.

The Council agreed that there was insufficient detail on a number of points that they had discussed and considered that these needed clarification before it could comment formally. It was also agreed that Councillor Poole, as the Parish Council’s footpaths officer, was best placed to progress these enquiries.

#### **Resolved:**

That the Parish Clerk contacts Dorset Council’s Senior Ranger for Purbeck to advise her of the Parish Council’s position and that Councillor Poole also contacts her to seek clarification on the issues of concern.

#### **2019/65 Planning Applications**

##### **6/2019/0381 – 7 Affpuddle Dorchester DT2 7HH**

The Council discussed the application and some issues were raised about keeping the new detached garage as an integral element of existing residence and for it to remain for domestic use only.

#### **Resolved:**

The Parish Council voted to **approve** the application.

If the Planning Authority does give planning approval, the Parish Council requests that the following planning condition be added:

The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied at any other time than for the domestic purposes which form an integral part of the planning unit known as 7 Affpuddle, Dorchester and as indicated within the red line, showing a single dwelling unit, on the approved location plan received by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the built development remains compliant with the planning permission and the accommodation is not considered suitable for separate use, because of the relationship between it and adjacent dwellings.

##### **6/2019/0419 + 6/2019/0420 – 17 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle DT2 7HP**

The Parish Council understood the reasoning for replacing the side extension but had concerns about the design and materials and the impact these would have on the Conservation Area.

**Resolved:**

The Parish Council voted to **object** to the application.

The design of the works proposed would not enhance the extension's visual relationship with the Listed host building. The extension would be detrimental to the character of the Conservation area, it would be out of keeping with the street scene and the development neither enhances nor improves the Conservation Area.

The Council considered that the applicant should consider the Piddle Valley Conservation Area Appraisal's guidance (2018) to 'assist the planning process, and to promote careful management and enhancement.' Also the development appears to be contrary to Policy LHH. of the adopted Local Plan (2012).

**2019/66 Tree Work Applications**

The Parish Council noted tree works applications TWA/2019/137 – The Dairy House, Turnerspuddle, DT2 7JA, TWA/2019/138 – 4 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle, DT2 7HP and TWA/2019/153 – The Old Vicarage, Affpuddle DT2 7HH.

**2019/67 Dorset County Councillor's Report**

The Parish Council noted Councillor Wharf's report for August that had been circulated by email.

**2019/68 S137 and S133 Grant Applications**

The Chairman summarised the grant applications received from Affpuddle with Turnerspuddle PCC and from Briantspuddle Hall Committee.

Councillors expressed various views on the merits and strengths of each application in line with the Council's grant policy.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that they had a set aside a sum of £500 for all applications in the Council's annual budget. After full consideration, the Parish Council decided on the allocation of the S137 and S133 grant funds for 2019/20.

**Resolved**

- a) That Affpuddle with Turnerspuddle PCC be granted £200 towards a new lawnmower;
- b) That Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee be granted £200 towards the purchase of a floor scrubber;
- c) That the Parish Council reviews the S137 and S133 grants policy at a future meeting.

**2019/69 Financial Report and Authorisation of Payments**

The following payments were unanimously approved:

Cheque Nos: 100697 + 100698 Briantspuddle Hall Committee (June & July Hire) £50.00

Cheque No: 100699 R E Randall (Affpuddle Notice Board Repair) £97.54

Cheque No: 100700 L Dowell (July Clerk's Payment) £300.75

Cheque No: 100701 P White Accountancy Services (Int Audit 2018/19) £82.50

Cheque No: 100702 The Community Heartbeat Trust (DeFib Annual Support 2019/2020) £198.00

Cheque No: 100703 Normtec (Refurb of Culpepper's Dish Finger Post) £750.00

It was noted that the bank balance was £19,021.75 as at 31 July 2019 and that the balance of the NSI Investment Account was £6,758.82.

**2019/70 Polling Arrangements Review**

The Parish Council agreed that current polling arrangements worked well in the Parish and suited parishioners. The Parish Clerk would respond to the consultation accordingly.

**2019/71 Roads and Highways**

Councillor Lightfoot reported on the information he had been given by Dorset Council officers about 'cut and collect' verge cutting. A small area has been identified to trial this technique. If successful, the approach will be introduced more widely and represents the Council's desire to push forward ideas of sustainability within the Parish. Benefits of this technique, as nutrient levels reduce, should include the development of a wider range of flowering plants with greater biodiversity. Less vigorous growth should require fewer cuts with associated costs savings and a reduction in emissions from cutting machinery.

Councillor Poole raised the issue of minimum carriageway widths that had been discussed at a previous Council meeting and that he had been tasked to investigate. He had done some research and it appeared that there were certain roads in the Parish (the B3390 carriageway north of Beehive Cottage) that were less than the minimum legal width for highways carrying buses and lorries. However, he felt that this issue could have far reaching consequences that would require significant consideration at many levels so needed further discussion by the Parish Council on how it wanted to proceed. The Council agreed with this view.

**Resolved**

That the Parish Council considers the issue of minimum carriageway widths in the Parish at a future meeting when Dorset Councillors are in attendance.

Following a question about traffic use of the B3390, the Parish Clerk was asked to see if she had any previous traffic survey details filed on this.

Note was made that the traffic lights in the Parish were still breaking down regularly but in the light of advice provided by Dorset Council officers, Councillors reluctantly accepted that it was unlikely that anything further would be done. It appeared that Dorset Council would be doing an assessment of the condition of the verges near Peony Cottage when the works were complete.

Councillor Lightfoot mentioned that making a pedestrian connection between Affpuddle and Briantspuddle had been raised in the past and this still seemed to be a Parish aspiration. Councillors acknowledged that there were historical land ownership issues relating to this but considered that it should be looked at again.

**Resolved:**

That creating a pedestrian connection between Affpuddle and Briantspuddle should be considered at the next Council meeting.

**2019/72 Maintenance**

Councillor Guinn reported that the light in the telephone box, hosting the defibrillator, in Affpuddle was not working

**2019/73 Water Meadows**

Councillor Lightfoot reported on the advice he had been given by the Environment Agency about the activity on the watermeadows. They had advised that the landowner should have consulted with them as it appeared that a permit was needed for the works. The

Enforcement Officer was now considering what action to take. Councillor Poole indicated that DC's Senior Ranger had authorised the fencing on the watermeadows.

The Council discussed the water meadows in the context of the Piddle Valley Conservation Area Review, especially the cumulative impact of works across this area. Councillors were keen to support any protection of this area and decided to explore the possibility of additional Article 4 Directives, to protect the open nature of the water meadows.

### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council writes to the Planning Authority requesting additional Article 4 Directives to protect the open nature of the watermeadows.

Councillor Poole reported that a resident had asked him to present his views on this matter to the Council, which he did, and Councillors noted these comments.

### **2019/74 Risk Assessment**

There were no matters to report.

### **2019/75 Correspondence and Information**

The Parish Clerk reported the following correspondence:

- NHS Dorset CCG online survey – no comment.
- Email from Councillor Wharf re the private Sandbanks Ferry operation – noted.
- Email request from Andrew Munro to become a Parish Councillor – agenda item for September's Council meeting.
- DAPTC Newsletter 17 –information about VE Day events on 8 May 2020 – this to be an agenda item for September's Council meeting.
- Email from Bere Regis Parish Council asking if the PC wish to consider if they are interested in sharing a Speed Indicating Device (SID) – it was agreed that the Chairman would investigate this.
- Email from DAPTC re guidance regarding the death of a national figure – noted.

### **2019/76 Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items

The meeting closed at 9.30pm