

## **Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council**

Minutes of the meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 July 2019 at Briantspuddle Village Hall

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

Apologies: Councillor Trevor Poole and Dorset Councillor Laura Miller

Also Present: Louise Dowell (Parish Clerk), Councillor Peter Wharf (Dorset Council)

### **2019/42 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Poole.

### **2019/43 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Lightfoot declared a personal interest in planning application 6/2019/0336 as an adjoining neighbour.

### **2019/44 Public Participation**

A parishioner addressed the Council expressing concerns about horses being kept on the watermeadows in the Conservation Area and the fences that had been erected there. A question was raised about whether this was a change of use of the land, requiring planning permission. The parishioner offered to carry out more research and to share it with Councillors.

The Chairman advised that having previously discussed this with the parishioner, she had sought advice from the local planning authority on the issues involved. The advice received was that it appeared that this was still agricultural use of the land that did not require planning permission but if, for example, the horses were ridden on the land or jumps were installed this could be considered a change of use. Similarly if the two stable structures erected at the site were moveable and the fences were less than two metres in height, these did not require planning permission. With regards to flooding, the structures might have an impact which the Environment Agency could advise on.

A Councillor reported that horses had been ridden on the site. Councillor Wharf suggested that with the upcoming changes in staffing at the planning authority, and from the evidence already available, it would be wise to ask for a planning enforcement investigation now.

#### **Resolved**

- a) That Councillor Lightfoot would contact the Environment Agency for their advice on potential flooding issues.
- b) That the local planning authority should be asked to initiate a planning enforcement investigation, in relation to a change of use, regarding the horses being kept and ridden on the watermeadows. (Subsequent to the meeting it was decided not to report this matter at this stage to the planning authority.)

### **2019/45 Minutes and Matters Arising**

Minute 2019/36 – Councillor Lowman reported that the bus shelter had been stained in the original colour as there was stock in hand.

Minute 2019/41 – Councillor Lightfoot was considering comments to be put into the Parish Magazine regarding the burning of plastic in the Parish.

Subject to the addition of the words ‘as part of a wider climate emergency’ to paragraph one of Minute 2019/41, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 June 2019 were approved.

## **2019/46 Planning Application**

### **6/2019/0336 – 22 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle, Dorchester DT2 7HP**

Councillor Lightfoot raised a number of concerns he had about this application including the significant amount of development already on the site, noise, light pollution created by the velux windows of the proposed extension and the impact, such as flooding, of run off from the large roof area proposed. Councillors considered these concerns thoroughly and made particular note of the potential light pollution issue.

#### **Resolved:**

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

Councillors had the following comments to make which they asked Officers to take into account when considering the application.

The extension to the garage would have a substantial roof area and there was insufficient detail in the plans about the way in which the run off would be dealt with. This information was considered important because the adjacent property is lower than the proposed development and there has been surface water run-off in the past from existing structures.

The provision of the velux windows in the roof on the north west side of the proposed extension could be unnecessary taking into account the large amount of glazing and other velux windows on the south west side. Councillors considered that these could lead to light pollution at night resulting in a negative impact and loss of amenity to close neighbours. If Officers were minded to approve the installation of these velux windows, Councillors requested light mitigating measures (such as black out blinds) be put in place, via planning conditions, to prevent night time light pollution.

## **2019/47 Consultee Process for Planning Applications – 21 Day Deadline**

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the instruction given by the planning authority that the deadline for responding to planning applications had now been standardised across the new Dorset Council to 21 days. Until recently, the Parish Council had been granted extensions to this deadline which had allowed planning applications to be published with the Council agenda and therefore easily publically available. This system would not be continuing and the Parish Council needed to decide how it would deal with this, such as calling additional Parish Council meetings to deal with late planning applications.

Councillors considered that process of publicising all planning applications through its agenda was important to maintain and having considered various options, all Councillors agreed that, if necessary, the Parish Council would call these additional meetings.

Councillor Wharf recommended that the Parish Council continued to seek an extension to the deadline if needed and to keep him and Councillor Miller advised of such requests. Also Dorset Council would have an annual review of systems such as this and he suggested the Parish Council write to the planning authority with their views on the changes to the consultation deadline.

#### **Resolved:**

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would hold additional meetings to deal with consultation deadlines falling between meetings, if this becomes necessary. This is to ensure that all planning applications are published in Parish Council's Agendas

## **2019/48 Tree Work Applications**

There were no tree applications to note.

#### **2019/49 Dorset County Councillor's Report**

Councillor Wharf reported on a number of new appointments at Dorset Council and he explained how, politically and practically, the Council membership would operate on a collegiate basis, including the establishment of several Executive Advisory Panels. Councillor Lightfoot asked a question about improving and increasing sustainable planned development, along the lines of the first draft of the Local Plan, and Councillor Wharf replied that although Dorset Council would aim to encourage such development, it often came down to cost and all development had to comply with the existing Local Plan, which was due to be reviewed cross county.

#### **2019/50 Roads and Highways/Affpuddle Traffic Lights**

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the useful update she had circulated from Stephen Mepham regarding the traffic lights and she hoped that this situation would be satisfactorily concluded as soon as possible. She also considered that the Parish Council needed to maintain a good, co-operative working relationship with Stephen Mepham over the working of the new Slurry Farm Liaison Committee. Councillor Wharf supported her comments and suggested that the Parish Council should keep the pressure on in a positive way.

Other Councillors remained exasperated by the whole situation and were very disappointed by Dorset Council's and Sun Traffic's management of and response to the situation. They expressed their frustration about the lack of consideration for residents and how problems with the traffic light set up had not been addressed. Note was made of damaged, dangerous road signs and of the erosion of the verges around the traffic lights. Councillor Wharf advised that plastic signs were available and these could be requested. After some considerable discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to press for early completion of works at Peony Cottage, for Sun Traffic to continue to check their equipment, for Dorset Council to carry out an assessment of verge damage and that the damaged road signs be replaced with plastic ones.

#### **Resolved:**

That the Chairman writes to Dorset Council to request that the items, as minuted above, be carried out.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was being consulted on an adaptation to Bridleway SE4/11 and that this would be considered at the next Council meeting.

Councillor Lowman reported a recent road incident with a silage lorry near Gulley Lane and she considered that warning signs should be put up when silage works were being carried out. Councillors commented on similar incidents and other traffic issues throughout the Parish and overall agreed that drivers had to expect large vehicles on narrow country roads and drive accordingly. It was suggested that an item could be put in Parish Magazine to raise awareness of these issues and to encourage bad driving behaviour to be reported. Problems with existing road signs could be reported through DorsetForYou.

#### **2019/50 Financial Report and Authorisation of Payments**

The following payments were unanimously approved:

Cheque 100693 A W W Garden Services (June Maintenance) £119

Cheque 100694 Information Commissioner (2019/20 Data Protection Fee) £40

Cheque 100695 L Dowell (May and June Clerk's wages, mileage and expenses) £628.49

Cheque 100696 HMRC (PAYE) £140.80

It was noted that the bank balance was £19,780.96 as at 28 June 2019 and that the balance of the NSI Investment Account was £6,758.82.

**2019/51 Working Group – The Parish Council, Bladen Social Club (BSC) and Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee VHC)**

It was noted that Councillor Chorley was now Chairman of the VHC and that BSC's response about joining the Working Group had been received. Councillors considered the content and implications of BSC's response and while agreeing that anything that promoted good relations amongst the three parties involved was welcome, there were still some issues relating to the various agreements that needed to be resolved. Councillors were keen to see progress being made.

It was also agreed that it might take some time to progress discussions between the three parties and it was better to get it right rather than rush things. Further thought needed to be given to the terms of reference of the Working Group and this matter would be considered again in a future Council meeting.

**2019/54 Maintenance**

Councillor Lowman advised that the work on the Affpuddle Notice Board had been done. Councillor Chorley reported that a bridge needed remedial work and was advised to contact Councillor Poole with the details.

**2019/55 Noise Pollution**

Councillor Guinn commented on the apparent increase in noise pollution across the Parish that seemed to have been affected by the increasing number of south westerly winds and also local heath clearances. Councillors agreed that noise had increased over the years and they should monitor this situation.

**2019/56 Risk Assessment**

It was agreed that there were no matters to report.

**2019/57 Southover Farm Slurry Lagoon Liaison Committee**

There was no further update to report.

**2019/58 Correspondence and Information**

A letter had been received from a parishioner regarding energy efficiency issues in the Parish and the Council noted and discussed the comments and suggestions made. It was pointed out that the Parish Council had agreed that, in time, it would produce a fully considered and costed plan covering its response to the challenge of the climate change emergency issues that affect the Parish. Councillor Lightfoot would take the lead on this project, which would be wide ranging and need significant thought, time and research to produce. He would report back to the Parish Council as the project progressed and updates would be available in Parish Council Minutes and the Parish Magazine.

With regards to the Village Hall, Councillors expected that any related initiatives would be considered by the Village Hall Committee, although the Parish Council would be interested in any ideas that came forward following their deliberations.

**Resolved**

That the parishioner be advised of the Parish Council's comments as minuted above.

**2019/59 Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

