

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council held on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at Briantspuddle Village Hall

Present: Councillors Stuart Chorley, Sue Jones (Chair), Graham Lightfoot, Sarah Lowman and Trevor Poole
Also Present: Louise Dowell (Parish Clerk) and Dorset Councillor Peter Wharf

2019/77 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Charles Barter (Vice Chair) and Lizzie Guinn.

2019/78 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2019/79 Public Participation

Campbell de Burgh advised that he had been asked to rejuvenate the front page of the village website which he had started on by moving events on to a tab on this page. He was now waiting for more information from the Village Hall Committee and the Community Group. The Chairman thanked Campbell for his ongoing commitment to the website.

2019/80 Minutes and Matters Arising

In relation to Minute 2019/61, the Chairman read out the following statement:

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.

Subject to this addition, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 August 2019 were approved.

In view of the large number of items on the agenda it was agreed to defer agenda items 12, 13 and 14 to the meeting on 9 October 2019.

2019/81 Minute Update Report

a) Minute 2019/73 – Water Meadows

The Parish Clerk explained the democratic process that the Planning Authority would use for implementing an Article 4 directive that would include committee consideration.

Councillor Wharf offered to follow up the email sent to Dorset Council concerning the Parish Council's request in this regard.

b) Minute 2019/75 – Speed Indicating Device (SID)

Councillors had been sent detailed information about the process of requesting a SID and in view of the costs involved, it was agreed to consider this as a separate agenda item at the 9 October 2019 meeting.

2019/82 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. Councillor Lightfoot took the Chair for the item, he reminded

Councillors of their discussion at their last meeting and asked Councillor Poole to provide an update.

Councillor Poole provided a thorough summary of the discussions he had held with Dorset Council's Senior Ranger and the applicant during a site meeting. He was able to clarify the proposal to be for two gates to be installed at the position marked at the boundary of the landholding in Gulley Lane. One will be a 12-14 foot gate which will be locked and an adjacent one of 5'6 (the minimum allowable for a bridleway). This gate will remain open, but could be closed briefly during the movement of stock and then immediately reopened. It is understood that this stated intention will be written into any consent as a requirement.

The Parish Council considered Councillor Poole's update thoroughly and discussed individual aspects of what was being proposed and the reasoning for it. It welcomed the agreement by the applicant to maintain the surface of Gulley Lane in accordance with Section 59 of the Highways Act 1980. Councillors will also request that the surface of the bridleway be maintained with material appropriate for use by pedestrians, ridden horses and those with mobility issues to a standard appropriate for these amenity uses.

Resolved

- a) That the Clerk write to the Dorset Council's Senior Ranger confirming the points made and agreed above and to thank her for consulting the Parish Council about the matter;
- b) That the Parish Council requests being kept up to date on progress of the application and for a copy of the final Section 59 agreement.

2019/83 Co-Option of Parish Councillor

Andrew Monro declared his interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and he gave an overview of his experience and interests in support of his application.

The Chairman explained in detail issues relating to Declarations of Interest which could be particularly pertinent to Mr Monro in view of his business interests and the wide ranging work of his employer. It was pointed out that it is an individual Councillor's responsibility to assess if they have an interest and to make the relevant declaration with the support of the Parish Clerk and, if necessary, the Monitoring Officer. All Councillors agreed that a key issue to be taken into account was the public's perception of a Councillor's interests. Mr Monro accepted this situation and understood that he might need to take advice on these issues. He then left the room while the Parish Council considered his application.

A proposal was made to co-opt Andrew Monro as a Parish Councillor and this was unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That Andrew Monro be co-opted to the Parish Council.

Andrew Monro rejoined the meeting and the Chairman welcomed him to the Parish Council. He then signed his Declaration of Acceptance and Register of Interests Forms. He took part in the meeting from Minute 2019/85.

2019/84 Planning Applications

6/2019/0426 – Culpepper Cottage, Throop Heath Road, Briantspuddle DT2 7HZ

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **approve** this application. It was noted that a two

years post monitoring bat survey was required by Natural England as part of the application and the Parish Council asked to be sent a copy of this once available.

6/2019/0306 – Throop Hollow Farm, Throop Hollow, Throop, Dorchester DT2 7JD

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **approve** this application. However, it was agreed to ask the Planning Authority for more information about the constraints and limits of extending buildings with an agricultural tie for future decision making.

2019/85 Tree Work Application

The Parish Council noted tree works application TWA/2019/172 – Land to north-east of Briantspuddle village.

2019/86 Dorset County Councillor's Report

Councillor Wharf presented his report, the main items were:

- Climate Change – the first meeting of the Executive Advisory Panel had taken place and it was evidence gathering and looking at ways to engage with Parish and Town Councils. The Panel Chairman is to arrange information sessions with local councillors shortly. The Council discussed climate change issues within the Parish and managing the public's expectations with limited resources. Councillor Wharf accepted this point and commented on ways the Parish Council might address some issues with minimal cost.
- Councillor Warf had recently sent out details of grants available from Dorset Community Impact Fund. Details had already been forwarded to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – a statement was being prepared for Bere Regis Parish Council and this would be shared with other parishes.
- Pedestrian Links between Affpuddle and Briantspuddle – Councillor Wharf offered to make some initial investigations at Dorset Council.
- Refuse Collection Issues (agenda item 18.) – he was pleased that the Parish Council had received a full and informative response from the Operations (North & Purbeck) & Commercial Services Manager following their complaints. He reported that Dorset Council was having difficulties in recruiting new drivers.
- Funding – The Secretary of State had granted Dorset Council £10m extra funding.
- Brexit – Dorset Council was preparing for a hard Brexit and Government funds had been given to support this.
- Highways – Councillor Wharf asked Parish Councillors to report any highways problems directly to Dorset Council. There was considerable discussion about this and Dorset Council's responsibilities for and management of highways issues and in conclusion Councillor Wharf asked to be copied into the receipt emails of issues logged to follow up if necessary.

2019/87 Financial Report and Authorisation of Payments

The following payments were unanimously approved:

Cheque No: 100704 S Jones (replacement for 100690) £59.99

Cheque No: 100705 A W W Garden Services (Bus Shelter Maint and Grass Cutting) £187.00

Cheque No: 100706 L Dowell (August Clerk's Payment) £308.07

Cheque No: 100707 Briantspuddle Hall Committee (August Hire) £25.00

Cheque No: 100708 Affpuddle with Turnerspuddle PCC (Grant) £200.00

Cheque No: 100709 Briantspuddle Hall Committee (Grant) £200.00

It was noted that the bank balance was £17,903.28 as at 30 August 2019 and that the balance of the NSI Investment Account was £6,758.82.

2019/88 Roads and Highways

Roads and Highways issues had been discussed under earlier agenda items.

2019/89 Maintenance

Councillor Lowman reported that the faulty light in the telephone box at Affpuddle had been replaced and that the noticeboard in Affpuddle needed repainting.

2019/90 Sustainability Issues

Councillor Lightfoot advised that he was considering wider environmental issues and all activities across the Parish particularly in respect to sustainability and he mentioned some of the United Nation's goals in this regard including biodiversity and climate change. He reported that Low Carbon Dorset had some grant funds available up until June 2020 and he had informed the VHC, BSC and the Shop about these. They also had good technical advisers who could provide advice and information free of charge and without obligation.

Councillor Lightfoot gave an update on the verge project with a 'cut and collect' system to reduce nitrate levels and increase the wildflower population. The trial had started in the Parish on 16 August 2019, with limited equipment, and it was hoped that soil nutrient levels would fall. A site was still needed locally for the arisings from the cuts.

Poole Borough Council had carried out a levels survey of the water meadows north of the River Piddle and had been in discussion with the Environment Agency.

Councillor Lightfoot agreed to write a sustainability article for the Parish magazine.

2019/91 Risk Assessment – There were no matters to report on.

2019/92 Correspondence and Information

The Parish Clerk reported the following correspondence:

- Email from P Talbot re Climate Change Emergency – response noting the correspondence agreed.
- Email from Dorset Waste Partnership re their work including how they recycle plastic – noted.
- Email from Ian Styring re works at woodland on Affpuddle Road – response advising of no information to report agreed.
- Email from S Chorley (as Chair of VHC) re addition of appendix to agreements re decision making – agreed as possible agenda item for future meeting.
- DAPTC emails re training courses – noted.
- Email from Cllr P Wharf re revised dates to the TRO for the road closure and restriction @ Roke Road/A35 Bere Regis off slip and Land End – noted.
- Email from I Brewer, Dorset Council re problems with waste collection in the Parish (emailed in full separately) – discussed under Minute 2019/86.
- Email from DAPTC re letter being sent to Dorset Council's Executive Director (Corporate Development S151) regarding the setting of the tax base for future years – noted.

2019/93 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items. The meeting closed at 9.20pm