

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 October 2019 at Briantspuddle Village Hall

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

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

2019/94 Declarations of Interest - Councillors Chorley and Monro declared a personal interest in planning application 6/2019/0505 – Symmonds Barn.

2019/95 Public Participation - A local resident commented that she was pleased to see that the Parish Council was pursuing strengthening protection of the water meadows with Dorset Council but she still had concerns about works being undertaken in that area.

2019/96 Water Meadows

The Chairman read out the response from Dorset Council to the Parish Councils request for additional Article 4 Directives to protect the open nature of the watermeadows. The advice was that the ideal time to have looked at making and justifying an Article 4 Directive would have been as part of the Conservation Area Appraisal process and that, at present with the Council restructure, the Council did not have the staffing or structural resources to prepare a supporting case to justify the Article 4 Direction. However, once the restructure was complete, there was the possibility of the request being given further consideration.

Councillor Lightfoot mentioned the involvement of the Environment Agency and the works still being carried out on the water meadows.

Councillors were disappointed at the response and were particularly concerned about the cumulative impact of works on the watermeadows that could increase with additional sales of parcels of land across the watermeadows. It was agreed that the Parish Council still wanted to pursue their request. Councillor Wharf offered to meet with the relevant officers and a Parish Council representative to try to progress the matter.

Resolved

a) That Councillor Wharf be requested to arrange a meeting between relevant Dorset Council officers and a Parish Council representative to explain the full background to the issues relating to the water meadows and to press for an Article 4 Directive.

2019/97 Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 September 2019 were approved.

a) Minute 2019/82 – Bridleway SE4/11

The Parish Clerk reported that Dorset Council's Senior Ranger would send copies of all the relevant documents when completed.

b) The Chairman reported that she had received advice that the Parish Council could have a private, separate meeting to discuss any sensitive commercial issues provided that there was a formal published agenda.

2019/98 Planning Applications

a) 6/2019/0505 – Symmonds Barn, Affpuddle, Dorchester DT2 7HH

The Parish Council voted unanimously to approve the application.

b) 6/2019/0529 + 6/2019/0517 – cob Cottage, 3 The Hollow, Briantspuddle, Dorchester DT2 7HX

The Parish Council voted unanimously to approve the application.

2019/99 Dorset County (DC) Councillor's Report

Councillor Wharf presented his report, the main items were:

- There had been a site visit, with a DC Highways officer and Councillor Poole, to discuss the width of roads in the Parish and overgrown signs plus other highways issues. Potential improvements had been discussed and the officer was now considering options and proposals that might be planned in for action. Due to tight budget restrictions it was unlikely that significant works and improvements would be carried out. A suggestion was made about having additional signage to advise traffic of lane width restrictions in the Parish and Councillor Wharf said he would support a reasoned case, with evidence, for this. It was agreed that Councillors should look at the various sites involved before requesting any additional signage. Councillors mentioned Puddletown Parish Council's draft Rural Roads Strategy which they thought had great potential and it was agreed that this would be discussed at the November Parish Council meeting.
- Dorset Council would be hosting a Climate Emergency Change Advice Workshop on 19 November 2019 and Low Carbon Dorset would be available to offer advice to Parish Councils on how they might respond to the Climate Emergency.
- The Dorset Council Plan had now been agreed and Councillor Wharf was intending to give a presentation on this to the Parish Councils in his ward.
- A Peer Review had been carried out at Dorset Council that would be followed up with a detailed report and any suggestions for improvement.
- The Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel meeting minutes were not published but Councillor Wharf would send a summary of its conclusions.

Councillors considered issues around establishing a cycleway between Affpuddle and Briantspuddle which was another item that the DC Highways Officer was looking into. They noted some of the apparent difficulties including existing highways usage, funding and land ownership. It was suggested that consideration should be given to other options and it was decided to add a wider agenda item to the November meeting, giving Councillors time to consider matters further and with a view to creating a strategic plan for the Parish.

Councillor Wharf agreed to pass on the Parish Councillors concerns to DC about the ongoing problems with the traffic lights in Affpuddle and he was asked to get an update on when the works to Peony Cottage would be complete and the lights removed.

2019/100 Financial Report and Authorisation of Payments

a) The following payments were unanimously approved:

Cheque No: 100710 - M Gymer (Affpuddle Kiosk Light) £50.00

Cheque No: 100711 – L Dowell (Clerk's September Payment) £309.76

Cheque No: 100712 - HMRC PAYE (July, Aug & Sept) £211.20

Cheque No: 100713 – Royal British Legion (Remembrance Day Wreath) £19.25

Plus Cheque No: 100714 – Briantspuddle Hall Committee (September Hall Hire) £25.00

b) It was noted that the bank balance was £22,204.72 as at 30 September 2019 and that the balance of the NSI Investment Account was £6,758.82. The Parish Council received and noted the six month budget update forecast.

c) The Clerk had experienced a number of problems with the Parish laptop and had been advised that it required a new hard drive and additional memory at an approximate cost of £55 plus VAT. The Parish Council agreed to this purchase.

Resolved

That a new hard drive and additional memory is purchased for the Parish laptop.

2019/101 Speed Indicating Device (SID)

The Chairman reported that a Dorset Council Highways Officer, with responsibility for SIDs, was willing to visit the Parish to look at the areas of concern and to make suggestions for general improvements and it was agreed that this should be taken up. The Parish Council had a wider discussion to consider the practicalities of having a SID installed and the regulations and costs associated with it. It was agreed that a SID was unlikely to be a cost effective solution to the perceived issue of speed at Briantspuddle Crossroads.

2019/102 Width Restrictions on Highways in the Parish

Councillor Poole reported on a number of overgrown hedges in the Parish that were reducing the width of roads at certain points and this has also been raised by the operative carrying out the second cut of verges in the Parish. It was agreed that it would be useful for Councillors to make a direct informal approach to those concerned regarding cutting back such hedges as well as putting an article in the Parish magazine.

2019/103 Pedestrian Link between Affpuddle and Briantspuddle

This had been discussed under Minute 2019/99 and would be discussed again at the November meeting.

2019/104 Roads and Highways

The highways problems caused by the large vehicles harvesting the maize were noted and if appropriate these should be reported to Dorset Council.

2019/105 Maintenance - Councillor Lowman provided a brief maintenance update.

2019/106 Post Box at Bladen Valley

Councillor Lightfoot provided the background to the removal of the post box at Bladen Valley and reported that as the Royal Mail considered that an alternative box was provided within a suitable distance, a replacement would not be provided. Councillors were concerned that no consultation had been undertaken over the removal of the box but the Royal Mail had advised that as it was removed under health and safety grounds, such consultation was not required. The Parish Council agreed that the Royal Mail should be asked to replace the post box even if it had to be at another location. Councillors then discussed the status of the post box as a heritage feature within the Conservation Area and Councillor Chorley was asked to look into this further and to report back before the next meeting.

A point was made about the control of dogs in the Parish and while accepting that the Parish Council had no authority over this, a note would be placed in the Parish magazine.

2019/107 VE Day Events on 8 May 2020

The Parish Council noted the events planned by SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, to commemorate VE Day on 8 May 2020. Councillor Chorley, in his role of Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, said that he hoped the Committee would be involved in a range of

events, including possibly a street party, to benefit the whole community and the Parish Council's support would be welcomed.

2019/108 Risk Assessment - There were no matters to report.

2019/109 Correspondence and Information

The Parish Clerk reported the following correspondence

- Email from DAPTC re NALC Audit Consultation.
- Email from P Wharf re the Dorset Community Impact Fund Round 4 Applications
- Dorset Council Highways Monthly Update.
- 2 emails from Dorset Council Strategic Policy re Local Plan – Land Availability and Call for Sites.
- Email from DAPTC re Digital Champions.
- Email from P Wharf – October Monthly Report
- Email from Dorset Highways re 2019 Winter Season + grit bins.
- DAPTC Newsletter email – info re consultations re Audit (see 1.) and Litter Free Dorset's first annual report.
- Email from Dorset Council re survey re proposal to establish a Community Lottery
- Email from Dorset Highways re Councillors Satisfaction Survey
- Email from Puddletown Parish Council asking neighbouring PCs to share information about larger planning developments + draft Rural Roads Strategy

Additional items of correspondence, received since publication of the agenda, were reported:

- Email from Bladen Social Club re Annual Skittles evening on 19 October 2019. A number of Councillors had previous commitments but Councillor Chorley offered to try to get a team together.
- Email from a local resident regarding problems caused by bonfires and the burning of inappropriate material. The Parish Council did not have any authority over this, it was for individuals to make the necessary reports to Dorset Council. A note would be added to the Parish magazine.
- The Chairman had received a cheque for £100 from a relative of the man who planted the Jubilee Tree requesting that this should be put towards maintaining the site around the tree. It was agreed that how to use this money should be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

2019/110 Urgent Items - There were no urgent items. The meeting closed at 8.50pm