

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 November 2019 at Briantspuddle Village Hall

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

Also Present: Louise Dowell (Parish Clerk) and Anna Bendall (incoming Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Trevor Poole and Dorset Councillor Peter Wharf

2019/111 **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest

2019/112 **Public Participation**

A parishioner addressed the Parish Councillor raising concerns about persistent dog fouling on the public footpath at the top of Bladen Valley. The Parish Council's help was requested to highlight the issue and to resolve it.

Councillors understood the problem, which had been raised before, and options for tackling this and how others approached the problem were discussed. All agreed that it was best to take a pragmatic approach in the first instance. An article, pointing out the anti-social aspects of this behaviour and the health issues, will be added to the Parish Magazine and placed on the Community Website. Notices will also be placed on Briantspuddle noticeboards. The situation will be monitored and further action taken if necessary.

2019/113 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 October 2019 were approved and signed.

2019/114 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a) Councillor Chorley reported that he had not been able to find out any more information from the Conservation Area Appraisal, on the heritage aspects of the, now removed, Post Box. The Parish Council appreciated that investigating and pursuing this could create a lot of work. There seemed to be alternative sites for it within the village but the Royal Mail appeared to have made a decision not to replace the Box. It was agreed that Councillor Chorley would approach the owner of the property where the Post Box had been sited to clarify if he was willing to have it reinstated, if the Royal Mail was agreeable. If this was not the case, the Parish Council would contact the Royal Mail to see if an alternative, acceptable site could be found.
- b) Councillor Lightfoot reported that the meeting regarding the watermeadows, with the Dorset Council (DC) officer with responsibility for Article 4 Directives and Conservation Areas, would take place on 14 November 2019.

2019/115 **Planning Applications**

a) 6/2019/0550 – Nightjar Cottage, 2 The Hollow, Briantspuddle, Dorchester DT2 7HX

The Parish Council voted unanimously to approve the application.

b) 6/2019/0605 – 19 Bladen Valley, Briantspuddle, Dorchester DT2 7HP

The Parish Council noted the application.

c) 6/2019/0595 – the Dairy House, Turnerspuddle, Dorchester DT2 7JA

The Parish Council voted unanimously to approve the application.

2019/116 Consultation Period for Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered the letter sent from Langton Matravers Parish Council to DC requesting that the 28 day consultation period for planning applications be restored. This letter was wholeheartedly supported and examples of the difficulties the Parish Council had experienced, as a result of the reduction to 21 days consultation, were detailed. It was noted that at DAPTC's recent AGM, the motion from Langton Matravers Parish Council, that DAPTC lobby DC on this point was approved.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agree to support the letter sent from Langton Matravers Parish Council to DC requesting that the 28 day consultation period for planning applications be restored

2019/117 Tree Works Applications

a) TWA/2019/211 – The Architect's House, 27 Briantspuddle, DT2 7HS

The Parish Council noted the application.

b) TWA/2019/217 – 5 The Hollow, Briantspuddle, DT2 7HX

The Parish Council noted the application.

2019/118 Dorset County (DC) Councillor's Report

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

2019/119 Financial Report and Authorisation of Payments

a) The following payments were unanimously approved:

Cheque No: 100715 – DAPTC (Cllr Training Course) £40.00

Cheque No: 100716 – L Dowell (Clerk's Payment October) £457.84

Cheque No: 100717 - HMRC (PAYE October) £105.80

b) It was noted that the bank balance was £21,702.01 as at 31 October 2019 and that the balance of the NSI Investment Account remained at £6,758.82.

c) The Parish Council discussed the use of the donation to maintain the site around the Jubilee Tree. It was suggested that the name of the gentleman who planted the tree be added to the information plaque and that the ash tree now growing within the oak tree be removed. It was agreed to defer this item until Councillor Poole was present.

d) The Parish Council considered the purchase of salt/grit for the winter season 2019/20 and noted that Councillor Poole was proposing to purchase smaller bags this year, to make transportation and distribution easier. The point was made that current distribution arrangements were not effective for all and this needed reviewing to ensure the most benefit for the most people. Councillors agreed with this and that the current strategy and arrangements should be reviewed by the Parish Council in September 2020.

Resolved

That salt/grit be purchased for the Parish for the winter season 2019/20 at an approximate cost of £300.00.

2019/120 Roads and Highways

a) Parish Council and Objectives

Councillor Lightfoot outlined his proposals for a highways plan for the Parish, the key to which was prioritising the quality of life for parishioners. He wanted DC to ensure regular maintenance operations at the appropriate times of year, weight and width restrictions to be introduced, walking and cycling routes to have a high priority and to maximise free verge areas. The Puddletown Area Parish's Rural Community Traffic Strategy was a considered to be a good document that it would be useful to endorse.

The Chairman raised the issue of the Local Plan and this led to discussion on wider highways issues such as working co-operatively with other Parish Councils, provision of new roads such as a southern by pass to Bere Regis, upgrading the Bovington road, having knowledge of DC's highways policies and the implications of expansion at Moreton and Crossways.

Overall it was agreed that the Parish Council's top priority for improving highways would be to press DC for a relevant, timely highways maintenance schedule followed by enhancing parish life by connecting the Affpuddle and Briantspuddle with a cycleway or footpath. Councillors discussed the practicalities of facilitating a footpath and it was suggested that DC be asked for their input and expertise. In the first instance, it was agreed that the Parish Council should look at potential footpath routes and a site visit was arranged for 16 November 2019 at 10am. This issue would be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting.

b) Update

Several Councillors reported that they had had complaints about the standard of driving and the speeding of Crook's lorries. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the owner of Crook's advising them of these complaints.

The condition of the bridleway in Gully Lane was mentioned and it was agreed to monitor this and, next month, to chase up DC's Senior Ranger for a copy of the signed agreement.

It was noted that the traffic lights outside of Peony Cottage had now been removed and it was agreed to remind DC about their agreement to reinstate the verges in that vicinity.

c) Fingerpost – Culpepper's Dish

A quote for the repair was not yet available so this would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

d) Briantspuddle Crossroads

Councillor Lightfoot had met, on site, with the DC officer responsible for Speed Indicating Devices (SID) who had advised that, in his opinion and from assessing the site, he did not think that it would satisfy the criteria to install a SID. The Parish Council decided to accept this advice and not to pursue the matter further.

2019/121 Maintenance - Councillor Lowman reported that water was getting into the notice board at Briantspuddle and it was agreed that she should get a quote for its repair. It was also agreed that bolts should be put on the notice board's doors, on trial, for ease of use.

2019/122 Risk Assessment - There were no further matters to report.

2019/123 Correspondence and Information

The Parish Clerk reported the following correspondence

- Email from DAPTC re letter sent to DC re setting of Council Tax base.
- Email from Mike Menzies re presentation by Scottish & Southern Energy Network – Priority Services for supporting vulnerable people particularly in regards to power cuts and fuel poverty.
- Email from DAPTC re NALC's 'call for evidence' into local government audit. Councils can submit evidence and/or complete a survey (mainly relevant to principal councils).

- Email from DAPTC re ensuring that Parish websites meet new Website Accessibility Regulations.
- Email from Cllr Peter Wharf – November monthly update.
- Email from Cllrs Laura Miller and Peter Wharf re West Purbeck Parish Councils' Liaison meeting on 28 November 2019. The Chairman offered to attend this event.
- Email from DC's Communications Team re inaccuracies in press reports about the projected overspend of DC this financial year. An update is available on DC's news website.
- Email from DC advising that the Planning Advisory Services Peer Review of DC will be deferred. It will now take place on 15 January 2020 from 2.00 to 3.30pm in Dorchester when Parish Councillors will be invited to give their views and ideas on shaping the planning service in Dorset in the future.

2019/124 **Agenda Items for next/future meeting(s)** – No additional items than previously discussed.

2019/125 **Parish Clerk**

The Parish Council noted that the current Clerk was leaving and she was thanked for her work. The new Clerk, Anna Bendall, who was attending the meeting, would take up her appointment on 18 November 2019.

2019/126 **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

The Parish Council resolved that in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters, the public and press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

2019/127 **Guidance on Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure**

The Parish Council noted the summary of the Guidance on Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure. The incoming Clerk had drawn up an action plan for another Parish Council and it was agreed to consider this, for adoption, at the next meeting.

2019/128 **Next Parish Council meeting** – Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 7pm in Briantspuddle Village Hall. Councillor Guinn presented her apologies for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm