

Minutes of a meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council (A&TPC) held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9th December 2020, remotely via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Charles Barter (Vice-Chair)*, Graham Lightfoot, Lizzie Guinn, Stuart Chorley, Andrew Monro and Emily Hall.

Chair: Cllr Sue Jones

Clerk: Anna Bendall

Also in Attendance: Three members of the public, Dorset Council Officers Rachel Baker and Rachel Howarth and Dorset Cllr Peter Wharf.

Minute Number **Comments**

20/103 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Trevor Poole.

20/104 **Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested**

Cllr Chorley declared an interest in both items relating to the Briantspuddle Village Shop along with his intention not to vote on any decision relating to these items (20/110 and 20/111 below).

Cllr Monro declared an interest in the Purbeck Local Plan along with his intention not to vote or participate in any discussions relating to this (20/114 below).

20/105 **Public Participation**

*Cllr Barter joined the meeting

Officers of Dorset Council shared a presentation on the voucher scheme available to support the installation of Full Fibre Broadband in eligible residences and businesses in Dorset. The scheme is a national one but Dorset Council are topping up the vouchers so that a total of £2500 is available per property and £6000 per businesses. Properties and businesses can come together and pool their vouchers in order to meet the total cost of installation for an area and this can, with enough support, result in the entire installation cost being covered by the vouchers.

Properties and businesses at Waddock and at Rogershill Farm have already taken advantage of the scheme. Dorset Council are targeting Affpuddle now as the village has some of the lowest broadband speeds in Dorset but the scheme is open to all of rural Dorset. Further details are available on a dedicated page on the Briantspuddle Village Website.

20/106 **Confirmation of minutes of the A&TPC meeting held 11th November 2020**

RESOLVED that the minutes for the A&TPC meeting held 11th November 2020 be approved. Due to social distancing measures in place as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, and the need to hold meetings remotely, minutes will be signed at the next physical meeting of the Parish Council or before the end of the financial year.

20/107 **Matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings**

Councillor Lightfoot as agreed, has sent comments to Dorset Council on behalf of the Parish Council in response to the consultation on their Climate Strategy.

Briantspuddle Village Shop are keen to participate in a working group to discuss the future of the amenity complex. The Parish Council will discuss the full scope of these meetings in January.

20/108 **Dorset Councillor's report**

The Dorset Councillor's report was received and discussed.

Cllr Wharf confirmed that responses to the consultation on the Dorset Council Climate Strategy are being collated into a report which would be discussed at a full Council meeting in the New Year.

Dorset Council are now preparing their budget for the coming financial year. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the finances of the Local Authority.

Dorset Council are currently considering their approach to setting 20mph limits and zones. The Parish Council is hopeful that such limits may be suitable for Affpuddle and Briantspuddle. 20mph limits are being proposed for Rye Hill in Bere Regis as well as part of Winfrith. This could have an impact on traffic in nearby villages and so Cllr Wharf agreed to share information about these proposals as the plans progress.

Dorset Council are making enquiries with Parish and Town Councils to see if there are any DC assets which local communities would like to adopt. Councillors were interested to hear of any financial incentive or support available and Cllr Wharf stated that he would support the provision of a suitable "dowry" upon adoption.

The full Dorset Councillor's report is available on the Briantspuddle Community website. For residents who do not have internet access, a copy can be obtained from the Clerk.

The Dorset Council Website continues to be updated regularly, with the latest information and guidance about Covid-19, as does the Briantspuddle Community Website, www.briantspuddle.info.

20/109 **Planning and other applications**

Temporary road closures during December in Moreton and Bovington were noted.

The following tree works application was considered and it was agreed that no comments would be submitted:

TWA/2020/134 (Tree works in a conservation area)

Description: T1 and T2 Beeches - Crown lift to 5m from ground level to nearest foliage (see photos for branches to be removed)

Location: Shop Farm House, Briantspuddle, DT2 7HY

20/110 **Briantspuddle Village Shop Lease**

Councillors considered the lease agreement with the Village Shop. This states that the shop association must keep the premises both internally and externally in reasonable condition save for fair and tear which suggests that the Parish Council has a significant responsibility still for the building. Councillors agreed that the cost of insuring the building (independently from the rest of the insurance premium) should be established and considered when reviewing the rent.

Action: Clerk

Councillors have agreed that an insurance valuation should be commissioned for the Old Granary and agreed that this presented a good opportunity for the Village Hall and Social Club to also have valuations carried out as the cost is likely to be less per property if they are all valued at the same time. Cllr Jones will make initial enquiries with a company after

which the Village Hall and Club can be approached to see if they would like to take advantage of any deal available.

Action: Cllr Jones

20/111 **Improvements to Shop steps**

The Shop Association have asked if they can cover the steps to the shop with a non-slip covering to improve safety and accessibility particularly in cold and wet weather. Cllr Jones has confirmed with the Planning Authority that an application for consent would not be necessary in this case. Councillors discussed the possibility of funding this or providing a contribution towards the cost as the community is relying so much on the Shop and Post Office while Coronavirus restrictions remain in place. At least part of this money is likely to be able to come from the grant that the Parish Council obtained to support the community during the pandemic.

RESOLVED to fund the full cost of non-slip coverings for the steps to the shop (estimated cost £121.83).

20/112 **Fingerposts adoption**

An estimate of just over £77 per year was considered for insuring the fingerposts in the parish. To have them insured, the Parish Council would have to adopt them from Dorset Council. Before a decision is made, it was agreed that Cllr Jones would make enquiries about any financial contribution that Dorset Council may be willing to provide upon adoption as the cost of repairing and replacing the posts is significant and several are in need of refurbishment.

Action: Cllr Jones

20/113 **Roads and Transport**

An initial draft Road Strategy prepared by Cllr Barter was discussed. It was agreed that it be altered to include the roads that the Parish Council would like considered for 20mph limits. Cllr Barter will edit accordingly.

Action: Cllr Barter

20/114 **Dorset Council consultations**

RESOLVED to make no comment in response to the consultations on the modifications to the Purbeck Local Plan or Community Infrastructure levy.

20/115 **Payments and accounts**

It was noted that on the 30th November 2020 the Barclays Account balance was £24,460.56 and the NS&I account balance was £6,812.89.

A large amount of gritting salt remains in store from last year so no more will need to be purchased this year.

An S133/137 grant application from Affpuddle PCC was considered. The application was to maintain two lawnmowers and purchase other grounds maintenance equipment. £200 remained in the budget for grant applications and the Parish Council agreed to award this full amount to the PCC.

RESOLVED to approve the following payments totalling £573.50:

- Cheque No: 100766 – Affpuddle PCC (grant) £200
- Cheque No: 100767 – Sue Jones (reimbursement for wreath) £20
- Cheque No: 100768 – A Bendall (Clerk's salary & expenses) £323.50
- Cheque No: 100769 – DAPTC (Councillor training) £30

20/116 **Correspondence received**

- A report was received from the Purbeck Transport Action Group – no comments.
- A letter was received advising of the merger of Citizens Advice Bureaus – no comments.
- A letter was received from SSE inviting Councillors to participate in a virtual meeting about areas experiencing regular power outages. Councillors agreed that this was not a regular problem in the Parish and therefore there would be little to gain from attending.
- A letter was received from a resident concerning the condition of the track leading from the Hollow to several properties. The track is owned by the Erica Trust. Councillors agreed that as the track is privately owned and not an adopted highway, neither the Parish Council or Dorset Council has any authority over the track except so far as ensuring it's suitability as a bridleway. Councillors did however, raise concerns about rainwater washing silt and gravel from the track onto the highway and into drains. This creates safety issues on the highway and can cause blocked drains which are expensive for the Local Authority to clear, repair or replace as they are not properly maintained. **RESOLVED** to respond to the letter clarifying the Parish Council's position that it has no power to enforce standards on privately owned roads and tracks. **RESOLVED** to write to the Highways Authority to make clear the danger that the washed-up silt and gravel is causing to road users and request that they urgently clear the gully and work on more long-term solutions with the landowner.

20/117 **Date of next meeting and items for the agenda**

Wednesday 13th January 2021, 7.00 pm. This meeting is also likely to be held remotely using Zoom. Members of the public will be able to participate and details of how to access the meeting will be included on the agenda which will be on the website.

20/118 **Exclusion of members of the press and public**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 members of the press and public were asked to leave the meeting to enable the discussion of confidential employment matters.

20/119 **Review of Clerk's Salary**

Councillors were advised that the Chair had conducted a performance review with the Clerk and that objectives had been set for the coming year. A confidential record of the review will be shared with members once completed. A technical difficulty led to Cllr Jones leaving the meeting and it was agreed that Cllr Jones would review the Clerk's salary and make a recommendation to the Council at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

SIGNED ON ORIGINAL

.....Chair

Date:

Sue Jones