

Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 31 July 2019

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Phillips (CHAIR), Potts, Abbott, Lock, Fear, Habgood, Howard, Sherwood, Latimer, Cox, Murray.

Democratic Period

i) Dorset Councillor update

Dorset Cllr Haynes gave an update on Dorset Council including the following;

- The Council's restructuring is continuing with the second tranche now in consultation.
- Local Plan – a new Dorset-wide Local Plan for the new Dorset Council needs to be progressed and the aim is to have this complete by early 2024. The Dorset Council cabinet has agreed to stop progressing work on the Local Plan Reviews of the former District Councils, although information and evidence gathered as part of those reviews would be used for the new review. There are implications to this regarding National Parks within the AONB and the Emergency Climate bill. The existing Local Plan will remain in place until the new plan has been formed.
- Budgets are struggling in certain areas as expected and this means that some of the reserves will be required.

ii) Police/home watch update

PCSO Donnison was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report;

Crimes Reported 26-06-19 – 26-07-19

28/6/19	Theft from vehicle (wing mirror)	Alton Pancras
03/07/19	Theft of wheelie bins	Alton Pancras
03/07/19	Theft of Generators & Tools	Plush
4/7/19	Burglary	Dorchester
8/7/19	Theft from tractor (GPS screens)	Alton Pancras

Other Information:

There is a Firearms Surrender Campaign running between 20th July and 4th August. More information and where to surrender firearms and ammunition can be found on:

www.dorset.police.uk/firearms-surrender

During the surrender period people will not be prosecuted for possession and can remain anonymous. All live firearms will be examined for evidence of prior criminality

The Piddle Valley Community Speed Watch Team was supported by the No Excuse team recently. This was posted on the Dorset No Excuse Facebook Page and shared with the Dorchester Police Facebook Page. (An insert below)

"Last night we teamed up with the community speed watch team in Piddletrenthide. In the past we have received several complaints about speeding vehicles in the village. The community speed watch are volunteers who carry out speed checks with an approved device. They do a fantastic job in assisting us with reducing speeding vehicles in Piddletrenthide and making the road safer. A few vehicles were stopped by No Excuse officers and given words of advice."

There have been two reports of Quad bikes – one from the Buckland Newton area and one from the Maiden Newton area.

iii) Other matters raised

A resident who has recently moved to Piddletrenthide attended the meeting and expressed concern with the speed of traffic and feels that a 20mph limit would be better.

The Chairman of the Piddlehinton Gym attended the meeting to remind the Council of its existence and gave a brief history of how the business came about.

- The gym has 2 badminton courts.
- The gym is heated.
- The toilets are going to be updated/refurbished along with the disabled toilets.
- Jade Aden are looking to refurbish the roof of the building, along with other developments in the park.
- Various clubs take place at the gym including, badminton/archery/junior tennis club.
- The floor is sprung wood so could accommodate a dance class.
- The facilities are available for evening hire.
- The hire costs are £8.50 per hour during the summer period and £10 per hour during the winter period.

Cllr Sherwood advised that the disabled access should be made clearer as it isn't at present.

104/2019 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fear declared an interest in item 6v) Lime Cottage

Cllr Abbott declared an interest in item 6i) Over the Hills

Cllr Habgood declared an interest in item 12a) SID

105/2019 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on 25 June 2019

It was proposed by Cllr Latimer and seconded by Cllr Fear that these minutes with the following amendments should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All agreed.

Page 1, Democratic Period, first sentence remove Several and replace with, A significant number of....

106/2019 Matters arising from last minutes – action sheet

The outstanding items on the action sheet were updated.

107/2019 Planning matters

i) Responses to Planning consultations

WD/D/19/001547 Over the Hills, Rock Pits Farm, Park Farm, Plush

This application was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Sherwood that this application should be refused with the following objections. All agreed with one abstention;

The Council objects to this application as it represents a further loss to agricultural housing. We would withdraw our objection if the applicant enters into a bi-lateral agreement not to apply for consent for further agricultural dwellings.

ii) Decision Notices

WD/D/18/002045 Enterprise Park, Piddlehinton - Erection of warehouse/storage building (B1/B8) with associated access & parking – APPROVED

WD/D/19/001187 Piddlehinton Camp, Church Hill, Piddlehinton - Installation of Six new pitches comprising 2 No. Double units and 2 No. Single units – APPROVED

iii) Muston Manor tree response

Cllr Phillips contacted the Planning Consultant for Muston Manor as agreed at the June meeting in reference to a resident who raised the matter of tree felling at Muston which they considered might be inappropriate. A response has been received which stated the following;

The management team has reported that they have not felled any trees on the farm since the end of February when they took down 6 saplings and one dead tree in the yard. These works are entirely appropriate so I doubt whether the parishioner is referring to these.

They did note that one of their neighbours was doing some chain sawing a couple of weeks ago, and wonder if this is what the parishioner is referring to.

The felling of trees at Muston has always been dealt with correctly. When our clients purchased the farm in 2014 one of the first reports they commissioned was a comprehensive tree survey by a qualified arboriculturalist. The report identified over 80 trees that required felling as the farm had been largely neglected for 30 years. The report was sent to the Council and the trees were felled.

The management of trees remains an important part of the overall management and regeneration of the farm and it is likely that further tree works may be required in the future. However these works are always carried out in compliance with regulations.

I don't think therefore there is any need to meet on site to discuss this matter, however, I would like to meet with you at some point to show you around as our clients are continuing to implement the various planning permissions and the 30 acres of vineyard are also growing away well.

I would also like to try and "mend fences" with the PC as the relationship appears to have deteriorated. I was disappointed with the reaction of the PC to the last application relating to the pump house which was approved by committee despite an objection from the PC. My main disappointment was the PC's refusal to let me address the committee to explain the rationale for the application, this was contrary to the good relations we had previously enjoyed.

Cllr Phillips responded thanking him for providing details of what has been carried out on the farm and for the reassurance that any tree felling will be carried out in full agreement with regulations. This will be passed back to the resident and trust they will be reassured and pleased that you have taken the time and replied so quickly.

Cllr Phillips also addressed the comments regarding the Parish Council refusing to let the consultant address the committee and explained that the parish council meets every month and has a democratic period when residents or their representatives can raise matters of interest (positive and negative). It may have been that the deadline for responding to the planning application had passed, so that any presentation given could not have been considered before the decision of the Parish Council. Cllr Phillips confirmed that he is welcome to attend and speak to the PC during the democratic period and if he can advise us when this will happen we can include it on the Agenda so any interested residents can also attend if they wish.

Regarding the possibility of deterioration in the relationship between the Parish Council and Muston, Cllr Phillips made it clear that *"there cannot be any relationship beyond a professional association. The Parish Council represents the residents of the Piddle Valley and has legal obligations as well as standing orders on how to carry out its duties. These include giving opinions on planning applications taking the PV Neighbourhood Plan, local plans, etc, into account. There should be no subjective or personal side to the PC's actions, and we look at each planning application on its merits. We had approved the Pump Station when it was originally submitted as the conversion of an agricultural building, keeping its exterior design. We did object to the unapproved changes that were taking place and we were surprised that an experienced company would assume that this was permissible. However, retrospective approval was achieved and we look forward to seeing the completed work, despite our concern that a visible architectural link with the World War II history of the region will have been lost"*.

iv) Enforcement Matters

No update received from Enforcement. Clerk to chase a full update prior to the August meeting.

Action – Clerk to contact Planning Enforcement

108/2019 Community Car scheme working group

Cllr Cox gave an update including the following;

- 22 trips were made during May/June covering 243 miles
- Currently there are 26 clients utilising the scheme

109/2019 DAPTC meeting update

- i) Polling Arrangements review

The polling arrangements review information recently received was discussed and it was agreed that the facilities currently being used for any elections are adequate despite a low turn-out at Piddlehinton Village Hall in comparison to other polling stations.

110/2019 Website update

The Clerk informed the meeting that although the first newsletter was created and sent to subscribers with no problems, a fault in the system has prevented any further newsletters being sent. The Clerk will continue to try and resolve the issue and if needs be will contact the website provider to sort the problems out.

Action – Clerk to resolve issues prior to August meeting

110/2019 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Sherwood advised the meeting that the defibrillators reports have not been submitted and requested that those responsible for this must submit their reports. The next working group meeting has been arranged for 21 August 2019.

111/2019 Financial Matters

- a) Bills for Payment – July

Village Hall hire costs	£ 20.00
Clerks expenses - June	£ 16.20
Clerks expenses – July	£ 36.00
Insurance renewal	£671.15
Nordcat	£ 26.25
Cllr Phillips – Community car leaflet printing expenses	£ 10.00
Cllr Fear – reimbursement of Community Car insurance	£ 81.95

It was proposed by Cllr Abbott and seconded by Cllr Potts that these payments should be made. All agreed.

- b) Income

Nordcat Community Car scheme	
June income & contribution	£ 26.25
Alton Pancras Trust contribution to defibrillator	£100.00

112/2019 Highway Matters

- a) Speed Indicator device

Cllr Phillips has met with Dorset Council regarding the locations of the new SID's. Cllr Abbott also attended at the Church Lane site. The agreed outcome is that the Church Hill post will be moved closer to the start of the 30mph zone, the Brick House SID pole will be placed at the bend in the road about 50 metres North of Brick House, the Church Lane SID pole will be placed on the South side of the field gate. All are marked at the verge with white paint. The proposed Rectory Rd pole position is on the Paynes Close side of the road and compared to the others this is quite a prominent position, on the pavement, and will need to be over 6ft tall. It could be that the Parish Council decide not to have a SID at this position and to rely on the narrowing of the road and the parked cars to slow the traffic down. Dorset Council considered that there isn't an alternative site. Cllrs Lock and Habgood have also been asked for their opinions as the Parish Councillors for the village.

Cllr Habgood agrees that the Rectory Road SID should not be positioned at the location close to Paynes Close. A Rectory Rd resident had collected opinions against putting the SID in the proposed position, asking that the SID be placed higher up the hill.

It was agreed that Cllr Phillips will respond to Dorset Council to discuss alternative location areas for Rectory Road and to also give the go ahead for the other sites and costings. All agreed.

Cllr Potts expressed concerns with speed of traffic in Alton Pancras. Following discussions with one of the local farmers, the contractors had been using farm tracks but now they all appear to be using the highway again.

The Council agreed that the only authority who can deal with the matter of speeding traffic is the Police and all incidents should be reported.

113/2019 River clearance

This year's river clearance has been agreed to take place on Saturday 19 October 2019.

114/2019 Piddlehinton Phone Box

Cllr Habgood has received a response from BT who has confirmed that only one call has been made during the last 24 months. BT consider it should be removed from service and are proposing a consultation to this effect, with the outcome of removal or purchase for £1 by a local group. Cllr Lock expressed interest for Piddlehinton Village Hall to buy the box and will therefore take this to them and this will no longer be a Parish Council matter. All agreed.

115/2019 Community Land Trust

Cllr Abbott has discussed this matter with a previous District Councillor regarding the process and a meeting will be arranged with parishioners to gauge interest.

It was proposed by Cllr Potts and seconded by Cllr Cox that the Parish Council will fund the advertising materials for this event to a maximum of £150. All agreed.

116/2019 News & Views items

It was agreed that the Community Cars update should be included.

117/2019 Playing Field & Playground

Cllrs Cox and Howard have studied the recent Playground equipment Inspection report, have produced a list of what is required, and some remedial action has been taken. There was discussion where the ROSPA comment recommended replacement of items when they appeared serviceable. This was discussed and there were some concerns about responsibility if we didn't accept the ROSPA recommendation. No vote was taken on action.

Cllr Sherwood suggested that consideration should be given to replacing the equipment as although there were no immediate requirements to do anything urgent to any of the equipment in the report, she thought it was looking tired and very old. There was concern that this could be a significant cost. No vote was taken on action.

118/2019 Items for next agenda

Playground Inspection

SID costs/update

Agricultural ties to properties – advice from Dorset Cllr Haynes

Ironman

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:50 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 August 2019 at 7.30pm, Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.

