

Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 25 June 2019

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

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

Apologies received: Cllr Potts & Clerk S.Paulley

Democratic Period

A significant number of

Several residents from Piddletrenthide attended the meeting and voiced opinions on the planning application to demolish and replace the Bridge in Church Lane, Piddletrenthide (WD/D/19/001278)

A resident read from a prepared document, as to the disruption that would be caused by the proposed works and that the surface of Church Lane was maintained by the occupants of the bridle way (Kiddles Lane). There are no passing places and the residents should be taken into account.

Cllr Cox enquired whether the bed of the river could be dredged

A parishioner enquired what was the need for the work, and asked what houses will benefit. It was stated that in the last flood occasion there was a wall of water 300mm deep that was gone in about an hour, and would not have been prevented by the proposed works

A parishioner thought that replacing the bridge was a waste of money and that it should be spent elsewhere, it would also disrupt pupils getting the school buses

A resident of Smiths Lane referred to the Neighbourhood Plan Appendix B regarding the Green Space off Church lane with views from the B3143, and said that the work would go against this policy.

A resident stated that 50 years ago residents used to be able to pass under the bridge and questioned why dredging the river bed would not solve any problem causing the flooding.

Cllr Latimer responded that dredging would have to be done along a long length of the river to produce an appropriate gradient for water flow and this would require the removal of 1000 tonnes of spoil and access to the river to remove it, causing a similar degree of inconvenience to the residents.

It was also commented that the bridge engineers had indicated that the bridge foundations were shallow and would need under pinning, adding expense and time to the work. However, it wasn't clear if this was a full structural survey or was the result of an exploratory look.

A resident of Church Lane asked if there could be a diverting pipeline around the bridge to take away flood water. Regarding traffic control the resident reported that her husband had counted vehicles passing their house between 7am and 7pm on Nov 30th and Dec 3rd 2018 and recorded 191 and 151 vehicles respectively.

A resident asked if it has to be done can we insist that it be done in the time scale

County Councillor Jill Haynes reported her understanding of the current situation. She said that in an informal conversation with John Burrige, Structures engineer, he had stated that he was reluctant to withdraw or postpone the application, despite the traffic control difficulties.

Is the design appropriate? It was explained that the design was limited due to the constraints of the access to houses either side of the bridge. It was proposed to start the work in April 2020 and should last for 3 months. The source of the funding for the work was unclear but a percentage of the funds is coming from the Environmental Agency. The priority for the work was also unclear and if the planning application was delayed this might complicate funding. If the Parish Council refuses the application it may be referred to the planning committee.

It was stated that April -August was a busy harvest time and large agricultural vehicles would be using the route increasing difficulties of traffic control and increasing potential hazards.

It was stated it would be dangerous for pupils catching the school buses

Cllr Fear stated that according to the planning application the bridge does need some remedial work though structurally it is sound. What degree of inconvenience this would produce for the local residents was uncertain.

Cllr Abbott stated it would alter the view of Church Lane and detrimentally change the Conservation Area.

Police/Home watch update

The Police Community Support Officer had agreed to provide a written update, but it was not received before the meeting. Cllr Phillips is in communication with her to arrange a regular report.

Dorset Councillor Update

Cllr Haynes stated there was not a lot to report as the structure and committees are still finding their feet.

88/2019 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fear declared an interest in Lime Cottage.

89/2019 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on 28th May 2019

It was proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Cox that these minutes should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All agreed.

90/2019 Matters arising from last minutes – action sheet

Cllr Murray requested that completed actions be clearly indicated. Outstanding actions had been completed.

91/2019 Clerks Update

No update was presented as the Clerk is on annual leave.

92/2019 Planning matters

i) Responses to Planning consultations

WD/D/19/001278 Church Lane Piddletrenthide Demolish existing and replace with a bridge having a larger aperture.

This application was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Latimer and seconded by Cllr Abbott that the application should be refused as it would detrimentally change the character within the conservation area, and would affect the green space identified as L8 in policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan which rules out development in green spaces.

The proposal to refuse was unanimously accepted.

The Parish Council would also wish to comment that the proposed traffic management plan appears to be completely unworkable and there has not been adequate consultation with the local residents. More information from the council would be appreciated on the reasons for demolition of the bridge as opposed to dredging the river bed or providing an overflow drain, and the effectiveness of the new design in terms of flood control. It was recognised that flood control measures should be considered to prevent flooding of the houses that prompted the planning application.

Note: After the Parish Council meeting was held the following information was received from Cllr Jill Haynes in an email sent to her on 27 June 2019 from Jack Wiltshire, Network Operation Services Manager, Dorset Highways:

Dear Jill,

Thank you for your phone call yesterday. Since then I have spoken with John Burridge and Becky Brookman to understand some more of the details.

To answer two of your specific questions:

- 1. The replacement structure will be entirely funded by Dorset Council through the LTP allocation.*
- 2. Other than a minor issue with the parapet, the bridge is structurally sound.*

We commissioned an independent report into the likelihood of the bridge affecting property flooding. This suggests that there is currently a 1 in 5 year probability of nearby properties flooding. The report calculates that the proposed structure would have an associated risk of 1 in 30 years. Becky informs me that the works are supported by 3 residents (subject to the temporary traffic management issues being resolved).

With the evidence that Dorset Council could significantly reduce the likelihood of property flooding by replacing the bridge, we could face liability under nuisance law if we do not proceed. I agree that it is therefore necessary to progress with a solution to replace the bridge.

Without comment through the planning system, the design of the bridge cannot be progressed as any conditions are unknown. John has said that if the parish need more time to consider the application before commenting they can request this from the planning authority. They can make it clear that the

applicant is aware that the request may be made and is happy for the consultation period to be extended. Although the proposed replacement date may seem a while off, the bridge will require a bespoke design. The drawings produced for planning are the start of the process, the structural calculations, detailed construction drawings and materials schedules are yet to be produced.

As we discussed, the most difficult issue is likely to be the traffic management arrangements needed to access the properties that would be cut off during the construction phase. John's view is that he should get his statutory consents (planning and Environment Agency environmental permits) first as this involves only engineers time. Negotiating access across private unadopted highway will require additional input from estates and legal teams, paying cost incurred by residents and many hours of consultation, which may be abortive if ultimately the consents are not granted.

I am in complete agreement that it would be preferable to have the backing of the parish. However, I can't see how we can achieve this with certainty and not risk missing the next construction window. For this reason I am in support of John's current approach but need to make it clear that we will try to work to a happy compromise in terms of the temporary access arrangements.

If it would be helpful to discuss any of this in person, I'd be happy to meet up.

Best regards,

Jack

Jack Wiltshire, Network Operations Service Manger (Interim), Dorset Highways

WD/D/19/001187 Piddlehinton Camp – Installation of six new pitches comprising of 2 double units and 2 single pitches

This application was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Habgood and seconded by Cllr Howard that this application should be approved.

The proposal to approve was accepted by a majority vote - 8 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr Lock raised a query from a resident in Lower Waterson that a number of trees have been felled in the Muston complex. It was agreed that this should be taken further and Cllr Phillips will raise the matter with the owners.

Action - Cllr Phillips to investigate with owner or manager of Muston Farm

ii) Enforcement matters update received following meeting

None reported

93/2019 Community Car scheme working group

Cllr Fear gave an update including the following:

The scheme is continuing to gain momentum, public liability insurance is now in place. There is now collaboration between the Piddle Valley and the Cerne Abbas groups. This has resulted in giving clients who have paid both registration fees the option of either being refunded one registration fee or donating it to Nordcat. All agreed to donate to Nordcat.

Cllr Cox mentioned that he would be asking for the quarterly return from the drivers at the end month so could give more information next month

94/2019 DAPTC meeting update

There has been no meeting

95/2019 Website update

The Chairman informed the meeting that the News Letter is now live. Cllr Phillips asked if the newsletter was necessary as the information was on the website, but it was said that residents had appreciated getting the newsletter, so it will be continued.

96/2019 Defibrillator Working Group update

No meeting as yet to resolve outstanding issues. Cllr Sherwood to arrange. Cllr Cox stated that the sum of £53.67 has been received from Lynn Mailer from the collection boxes; Cllr Sherwood now has the boxes.

Action Cllr Sherwood to arrange meeting

97/2019 Financial Matters

a) Bills for Payment – June

Village Hall hire costs	£ 20.00
Nordcat Donation Dual Registration Fees	£ 25.00
Cllr Cox – Community car expenses	£ 28.95
Al Mailer -Community car expenses	£ 31.49

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

b) Income

Contribution to Defibrillator	£ 53.67
Registration fees Community Cars	£15.00

- c) Cllr Phillips reported that the audit Exemption Certificate has been received and it was agreed that this should be completed and the same process followed as last year. All agreed.

A note of thanks had been received for funding the grass cutting in Piddlehinton Churchyard.

98/2019 Highway Matters

Speed Indicator device

Following the outcome of the recent speed surveys Cllr Phillips gave an update regarding the costs of installing a SID in Piddletrenthide and optimising the siting and running of the SID in Piddlehinton:

- 1) Moving and providing new SID poles: a) the costs for moving the SID post on Church Hill, Piddlehinton, to a site closer to the start of the 30mph zone, would be £250. There is no need to remove the existing post as it is a 30mph reminder pole, b) the cost of moving the SID pole on Rectory Rd would be £250 plus £60 to remove the old pole, c) £250 to place a pole near Brick House on the South side of Piddletrenthide, d) £250 to place a pole near Church Lane on the East side of the main road near the farm/field gate to face traffic entering Piddletrenthide from the North. He asked that we check with the owner of the land that this is OK, to avoid any complaints once the post is erected. This has been confirmed by Cllr's Abbot and Cox. The above should cost around **£1060**
- 2) New SID: the cost of a SID that is the same as in Charlton Down (flashes "Thankyou" to cars that aren't speeding) would cost **£2,500**.
- 3) Solar power: the new SID will come solar ready, and they will convert the existing Piddlehinton SID at no charge. Placing solar panels on the SID posts will cost £175 per post as it is not convenient to move them from post to post when the SID is moved. **Total cost £700**. This is recommended to minimise maintenance (changing batteries and charging them via the mains) and to prolong battery life. The total costs to buy another SID, use solar power, site 4 SID poles and remove one existing would be **£4,260** excluding VAT.

The siting of the posts will be finalised with Rod Camp as Cllrs Howard and Abbott considered that some of the proposed sites could be easily obscured with summer growth, or would not have a clear site line for approaching traffic. The Council would take over the responsibility of the Piddlehinton SID and provide public indemnity insurance. The final costs will be confirmed by Dorset Council Works department after visiting the sites. These costs will need to be confirmed by the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Sherwood and seconded by Cllr Fear that this proposal to fund the work should be approved. The proposal to approve was accepted by a majority vote - 9 in favour, and 1 abstention.

Action - Cllr Phillips to contact Rod Camp to finalise SID post siting and initiate purchase of the equipment.

98/2019 Piddlehinton Phone box

Cllr Habgood stated that the phone box is in very poor condition and he has been in discussion with BT to get it renovated. BT say they are proposing to decommission the box, but as yet the necessary 90 day consultation period notice has not been initiated. Piddlehinton residents are willing to maintain the box, and to purchase it if possible.

Action – Cllr Habgood to chase BT

99/2019 Community Land Trust

Cllr Abbott considered that this was a worthwhile proposal and should be pursued. He will ask all councillors to ask people for expressions of interest in setting up a scheme and report back on progress.

Action – Cllr Abbott

100/2019 VE Celebrations 2020

Does the Parish council want to be involved with the 75th anniversary of VE day on 8 -10 May 2020? The Clerk will put details about the celebrations on the website

Action Clerk

101/2019 News & Views/Website

No items this month

102/2019 Playing field & Playground

Cllr Cox confirmed that a draft response had been made by Cllr Howard to the inspection report, Cllrs Cox & Howard to discuss and report back at the next meeting.
Cllr Lock reported that the vegetation on the west side of the playground needs cutting back.

Action - Cllr Cox to email the school

Cllr Sherwood gave out the plaques for the centenary of the end of WW1 Trees

Action - Cllr Cox to fix Plaque on playing field

Cllr Lock asked about the painting of the equipment Cllr Cox admitted that this had been overlooked and would produce a schedule of work

Action - Cllr Cox to produce schedule of work

103/2019 Items for next agenda

Playground Inspection
River Clearance
Piddlehinton phone box
Community Land Trust
External Communication, for example Clinical Commissioning Group emails and other messages received by the Clerk which may be of interest to Councillors and residents: this will be an agenda item to see if highlighting these messages is worthwhile..

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th July 2019 at 7.30pm, Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

