

## ***Draft Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council***

***Tuesday 27 April 2021***

***On-line Meeting 7.30pm***

**Present:** Cllrs Phillips (Chair), Potts, Murray, Fox, Sherwood, Latimer, Tesniere, Cox, Abbott, Ward, Figueiredo & Dorset Cllr Haynes

**Apologies received:** Cllrs Lock and Howard

### **Democratic Period:**

Cllr Cox informed the meeting of a request from a parishioner requesting the use of the playing field to hold a car boot sale to raise funds for a local charity. Cllr Cox will discuss with the school.

A parishioner attended the meeting to inform the council of recent communications held with the new owner of the Piddle Inn regarding the comments received from parishioners about the future of the pub.

It was reported that on the 18 April, people were staying in the downstairs bar area. It was requested that the council report this as a breach of Covid law. The parishioner advised that it had been reported to the enforcement team at Dorset Council.

A discussion followed concerning the reporting of a breach of Covid regulations and Dorset Cllr Haynes advised that individuals should report these instances as they happen as it is hard to prove otherwise.

Cllr Phillips felt there was insufficient evidence to do anything other than follow up with the enforcement matter.

Cllr Phillips on behalf of Cllr Lock confirmed that the Post Office service has returned to Piddlehinton Village Hall on Thursday each week with the operating hours of 10am – 12 noon, although these may be temporary hours.

### **i) Dorset Councillor Update**

Dorset Cllr Haynes gave an update on the following;

- Good news regarding children in care, recent work has reduced the number of children currently in care in Dorset.
- An exempt cabinet paper regarding St Marys School in North Dorset/Wiltshire has been submitted.  
This will enable children to stay in Dorset to be cared for rather than being sent miles away.
- Customer front desk – the Dorset Council's default way of working will be digital but it has been acknowledged that there will be situations where this won't be possible and options of face to face opportunities are being discussed.

Cllr Sherwood expressed concern to Dorset Cllr Haynes regarding the planning system's website, with it not being updated. Dorset Cllr Haynes responded that this a county wide

problem and an element of it is due to the merge of systems. Please send any specific examples send to Dorset Cllr Haynes.

ii) Police/Home Watch update

No update received from the Police, Clerk to chase.

**Action – Clerk to request update prior to next meeting**

**60/2021 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Phillips declared an interest in item 6a

**61/2021 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 30 March 2021**

It was proposed by Cllr Potts and seconded by Cllr Tesniere that these minutes with the following amendments, should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All agreed with 1 abstention.

Page 2, 38/2021, remove Cllr Murray and replace with Cllr Abbott.

**62/2021 Action points from last meeting**

- a) 42/2021 Amend Standing Orders to reflect agreed change to 3e – Clerk to amend, circulate and update website version - **Complete**
- b) 43/2021 Cllr Phillips to contact Dorset Cllr Haynes regarding the response received from planning concerning planning application WD/D/20/002271 – **Action for Cllr Phillips – Next agenda**
- c) 43/2021 ci) Cllr Phillips to contact enforcement confirming that the parish council cannot act as a single point of contact for Piddle Inn enforcement matters - **Complete**
- d) 43/2021 ci) Cllr Phillips to submit additional information received regarding the Piddle Inn - **Complete**
- e) 43/2021 cii) Clerk to request update from enforcement regarding Units A – C Enterprise Park – **Action for Clerk – Next agenda**
- f) 44/2021 b) – Cllr Phillips to submit nomination form - **Complete**
- g) 49/2021 Clerk to contact Community Heartbeat Trust requesting copy invoice of defibrillator cabinet for insurance claim and get quote for replacement cabinet and defibrillator – **Action for Cllr Phillips to contact Community Heartbeat Trust to discuss**
- h) 51/2021 b) Clerk to contact Highways regarding the response received confirming the railings had been repaired. – **Clerk has received an update from Highways who apologised as the job had been closed in error, the materials are on order.**

**63/2021 Planning Matters**

a) Responses to Planning consultations

P/FUL/2021/00567 - Unit 51 Enterprise Park Piddlehinton -  
Change of use of land, ground works and formation of a level yard for open storage including topsoil, aggregates, timber and fencing materials, with associated access road, fencing and landscaping and two containers for covered storage. - Cllr Phillips presented the application and it was proposed by Cllr Potts and seconded by Cllr Ward that this application should be approved. Ten agreed with one abstention, proposal approved.

P/NOTP/2021/01061 - West Dorset - Removal of 3 public phone boxes. - Cllr Sherwood presented the application and proposed to object to the proposal to remove the box at Plush as the community would like to purchase it. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips. All agreed.

P/HOU/2021/00340 - Folly Lane from Brace of Pheasants Public House Plush -Erection of part two storey, part single storey side/rear extension. - Cllr Sherwood presented this application and proposed to accept it, this was seconded by Cllr Abbott. All agreed.

- b) Committee outcome of the temporary gypsy and traveller transit site for 3 years for 25 caravans to start 1st April 2020 and end 31st August 2023 inclusive for five months a year – Cllr Phillips advised that he has contacted Planning requesting for the decision notice to be made public but had not received a response. The Clerk confirmed that a response had been received from Dorset Council just before the meeting stating that the document has now been uploaded. Clerk to circulate to all.

**Action – Clerk to circulate email from Planning**

- c) Static caravans at Mulletts and Muston Farm

Cllr Sherwood expressed concern regarding the static caravans that have appeared at Mulletts and Muston Farm.

An email has been received from the planning consultant at Mulletts explaining the reasons for the caravan. It was agreed that Cllr Sherwood will contact Planning and the owners to determine if there are any planning requirements to these sitings and to report at the next meeting.

**Action – Cllr Sherwood to update at next meeting**

- d) Piddletrenthide BT box removed, adoption of BT phone box in Rectory Rd, Piddlehinton

Cllr Phillips confirmed that the BT box at Piddlehinton has now been adopted.

**64/2021 Community Asset**

The Brace of Pheasants at Plush and the shop at Piddletrenthide were put forward as nominations as Assets of Community importance. It was agreed that a motion is put forward for the next meeting.

**Action – Cllr Sherwood & Cox to submit motion for next meeting**

**65/2021 Community Car Scheme Working Group - update**

It was reported that the Working Group have agreed that they will pick up any journeys Nordcat are unable to do. There is currently minimal cover and demand.

**66/2021 DAPTC meeting & training update**

- a) Virtual meetings – May face to face meeting

The Clerk suggested that the Cllrs consider the suspension of the May meeting as it may not be possible to safely hold the meeting in the hall due to limited space.

The Clerk asked how many Cllrs would be comfortable to meet prior to 21 June when all restrictions are expected to be lifted and 7 are willing to return to face to face meetings.

It was proposed by Cllr Sherwood and seconded by Cllr Potts that the May meeting is suspended, if it cannot be held on line. The proposal was approved with 8 in favour and 3 against.

b) Suggestion of a Scheme of Delegation/Update to Standing Orders.

The Parish Council recognises that urgent decisions may arise between scheduled meetings and therefore have defined this policy to ensure that the Parish Council is managed effectively.

This policy applies to Parish Councillors and the Clerk.

While the Parish Council creates, implements, monitors and reviews this policy, the Clerk is also responsible for implementing its requirements. Records - Minutes of decisions will be retained in line with the Data Retention Policy

The Parish Council agrees to arrangements being established to deal with any urgent, time-sensitive, business arising between meetings where one or more of the following apply:

- It could not be foreseen at the preceding meeting,
- It arises out of request for further information,
- it is outside the general or specific authority delegated to the Clerk

Any decision will require at least three members to be consulted, including the Chair. Decisions that may be taken outside of Parish Council Meetings will not require a deviation from policy decisions taken by the Parish Council and should not place any aspect of the Parish Council at considerable risk. The Clerk and Chair (or Vice-Chair if the Chair is not available) will firstly discuss the matter. The Clerk will then consult with a minimum of two other Parish Councillors, the selection being based on their relevance to the matter in question. A consensus or majority decision will be determined which will be actioned by the Clerk. The Clerk will inform the Parish Council of the outcome, and the decision must be reported to the Parish Council at their next meeting and formally ratified.

This was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Potts that the above should be accepted. All agreed.

### **67/2021 Website update**

No update

### **68/2021 Defibrillator Working Group - update**

i) Enterprise Park defibrillator vandalism and insurance claim update

Clerk contacted Community Heartbeat trust to request a copy of the original costs relating to the rugby club defibrillator cabinet and this has been received. An estimate of the replacement costs for a defibrillator and cabinet was also requested which resulted in them leaving a phone message to discuss. Cllr Phillips will contact them as detailed in Actions update.

## **69/2021 Financial Matters**

### a) Bills for payment – April

Clerks expenses	£32.80
DAPTC – New Cllr Induction – Cllr Fox	£35.00

It was proposed by Cllr Sherwood and seconded by Cllr Potts that these payments are approved. All agreed.

### b) Annual Audit

The Clerk requested the exemption process is followed again this year as the annual expenditure/income has not exceeded £25,000.00. This was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Potts that this process is followed. All agreed.

## **70/2021 Highway Matters**

### a) Road safety update

Cllr Phillips confirmed what was discussed at a meeting with Dorset Cllr Haynes and Chris Loder MP regarding the issues in Piddle Valley with traffic and a response from Chris Loder has been received where he expressed his thanks for speaking to him and for appraising him of the difficulties being faced with heavy goods vehicles in Piddlehinton.

He is now going to make contact with Google to see whether anything can be done to change their satnav instructions and will let the council know when he has received a response.

Cllr Potts advised that some road safety measures are being implemented at Alton Pancras and these consist of yellow countdown markings, SLOW's and other signing/lining measures.

Cllr Ward expressed concerns that since the letters were distributed to the businesses at the Enterprise Park, the traffic issues seem to have increased on the High Street at Piddlehinton.

### b) Traffic issues, Rectory Road – Cllr Tesniere

Cllr Tesniere circulated concerns prior to the meeting in response to Dorset Council's Road Safety team's comments which did not support pinch points and reduced speed limits in Rectory Road, Piddlehinton. Cllr Phillips suggested Cllr Tesniere joins the Road Safety Working Group where these matters will be discussed.

## **71/2021 Councillor Vacancy – Alton Pancras**

Cllr Phillips informed the meeting that Andy Fear has had to step down from his position on the council for personal reasons but applauded Andy for his work with the council.

The Clerk advised that the notice of vacancy is on the website.

The Clerk confirmed that the Piddlehinton Vacancy did not result in a call for election so this position can be co-opted.

## **72/2021 Piddle Path**

It was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Potts that the council should support the improvement plan which supports the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Tesniere informed the meeting that she has discussed this with some parishioners and the feedback is why bother with the path and not do something about Rectory Road. Also, she didn't think that Dorset Council would have the money to invest in the path.

Cllr Sherwood believes this should be supported in principle.

Cllr Figueiredo advised the council that the path would alleviate some of the concerns on Rectory Road as it will be removing pedestrians/horses/cyclists.

Cllr Phillips advised of the potential health benefits of the path by encouraging walking and cycling, improved pedestrian safety, and perhaps reducing flooding by improved drainage.

Cllr Cox reminded the council of the overwhelming support from the Valley during the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Following the proposal from Cllr Phillips which was seconded by Cllr Potts it was agreed to support the plan with 9 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

## **73/2021 Covid-19**

From Dorset Council: Local 7-day case rates have remained stable over the past few weeks, at around 10-20 cases per 100,000 of the population in both the Dorset and BCP Council areas. In England the figure is in the low 20's per 100,000 people. Data shows that COVID-related hospitalisations and deaths have also remained low (in single figures) in recent weeks.

In the last two weeks we've seen restrictions eased further, with more shops and businesses able to reopen and the return of outdoor hospitality. It will take a few weeks before we can see the impact of this step on our cases, so we do need everyone to play their part in keeping cases low. If you're meeting others, please remember you still need to maintain a safe distance and follow the guidance on hands, face, space and fresh air.

Regular rapid testing is now available to all adults in England as well as secondary school and college pupils. Please take part in this if you can do so using <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

454,510 people in Dorset have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. 604,137 doses given in total as of 18/4/21.

## **74/2021 News and Views**

No matters requested.

## **75/2021 Playing Field and Playground**

Cllr Cox advised of an issue with the picnic table which has now been fixed and will also continue with the inspections.

## 76/2021 External Communications

### a) Dorset National Park

The National Park would take over as the planning authority and it would not be controlled by national housing policies, but would instead work with the community for “appropriate development”. It would also be responsible for matters relating to heritage, environment and recreation, with the new Dorset Council still responsible for essential services such as education and social care. Fifty per cent of the National Park authority would be made up of members of the new Dorset Council, 25 per cent would be from town and parish councils and 25 per cent would be residents who put themselves forward and would be selected by the Secretary of State.

#### Points Against:

WEST Dorset MP Chris Loder has expressed concerns that a proposed Dorset National Park will decimate the economy, threaten local democracy and fuel mass housing development outside of the park area.

Mr Loder has spoken at several online meetings about the Dorset Local Plan in recent weeks. He has warned that proposals for a National Park are influencing the plan’s reliance on mass developments outside of the proposed park area, including the development of the hundreds of acres for 4,000 houses to the north of Dorchester.

He commented: “It is becoming clearer to me that a vanity project proposing a National Park in Dorset is fuelling plans for mass development in Dorchester. These towns are being burdened with housing quota for the sole reason as they are not included in a future park. “This strengthens my view that we should not have a National Park in Dorset. The creation of a National Park would be a historic mistake.

“Proponents of the National Park appear fixed on obtaining a brand to the detriment of our local communities, with serious implications for local democracy.

“Such a move would encumber Dorset with another level of bureaucracy – not two years after we got rid of half of it when we need dynamism in our recovery from the pandemic.

“This blind crusade must be opposed, and our beautiful natural environment must be protected in a way that fully supports the people of Dorset.”

Lyme Regis town councillors have also raised concerns about the proposal in the past, particularly over restrictive planning policies within National Parks and how decisions were made.

#### In Favour:

Those campaigning in favour of a park say it will help to “secure a better future for local communities, environment and economy”.

They say the aims of the park are to:

Promote our area to international as well as UK tourists

Attract investment and supporting jobs and rural services

Encourage the building of more truly affordable homes for local people

Help farmers access more agri-environment funding

It was proposed by Cllr Sherwood and seconded by Cllr Potts that the council should not support a National Park for Dorset. Approved - 9 agreed with 2 abstentions.

**Action – Clerk to respond to Chris Loder MP’s email**

All Agendas & Minutes can be viewed at [www.piddlevalley-pc.org.uk](http://www.piddlevalley-pc.org.uk)

### **77/2021 Items for next agenda**

Nomination of Assets of Community Value listed in the Neighbourhood Plan, Policy 4 – Cllrs Sherwood & Cox

Static caravans at Mullets and Muston Farm – Cllr Sherwood

Enforcement - update on building frame behind Ashley Wood, Units A-C Enterprise Park - Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:35pm with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 June 2021 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.