

Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 29 September 2020

On-line Meeting 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Phillips (Chair), Abbott, Howard, Murray, Lock, Fear, Fox, Tesniere, Sherwood, Cox & Dorset Cllr Haynes (Democratic Period)

Apologies Received: Cllrs Latimer and Potts

Democratic Period

A parishioner attended the meeting to ask about the all-weather surface track stated in the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan. Dorset Council have been awarded active fund monies, has any of this been awarded to complete this track?

Cllr Cox responded by explaining the proposals put forward for this track between Piddlehinton and Piddletrenthide were met with some opposition and therefore this project never came to fruition. The idea of the track was to get children to walk to school but there were objections from some landowners and residents.

The parishioner would like to get this track made and has spoken to the school and one of the pubs along with some parents who are in support of this.

Dorset Cllr Haynes confirmed that the active fund monies has now all been allocated but will find out more to see what is going on.

Dorset Cllr Haynes also confirmed that the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside the Planning Policy of Dorset Council and will continue to be associated with the Local Plan. Funds are severely restricted with Dorset Council and it is unlikely there will be any funding available.

Dorset Cllr Haynes advised that if permissions from all relevant landowners are given this project should then be taken forward as a community initiative.

The applicant of the planning application for Southcombe Farm attended the meeting to inform the council of the reasons for the application. A vegetable patch project which started within lockdown has been so beneficial they would like to continue.

i) Dorset Councillor Update

Dorset Councillor Haynes sent a monthly report prior to the meeting;

- The council is currently working on the budget for 2021/22 and there is a considerable shortfall at the moment of potentially 45M. Some of this (£15M) we knew was going to be needed in savings. The remainder however are costs relating to Covid. Loss of income from the likes of car parks and leisure centres as well as people not paying business rates and council tax makes up much of the sort fall. The cost to the council of providing additional services and safety features like the one-way barriers in towns also contributed to the sum. We are

required to fill in a very complicated spread sheet for the government requesting compensation for these activities and are still unsure how much or how little we will receive.

- As we became a unitary authority there was a large amount of property and assets merged into the new council. Things like all the District council offices, locality offices, leisure centres, car parks even hotels. There has been a review of all these properties during the last year to try and understand all that we now own and also if we need it! Some will be sold, some may be better used and developed to support the revenue funding of the council. For example, by creating them into social housing or supported living. It is a massive piece of work and the first high level report will come to the November cabinet.
- The council has a big waiting list for accommodation, over 5000 at the moment and many are single people. During covid we were required to try to get all rough sleepers off the streets and into accommodation as well. There are currently a considerable number of people in B&B accommodation; this is very expensive for the council. In particular it is just not right for families and not how we should treat our children. At the September Cabinet it was agreed to spend £3.13M of capital funding to purchasing further accommodation. This would include some 20 one bed flats. We are also looking at more appropriate temporary accommodation for families to replace B&B. A bid has also gone in to the MHCLG "Next Steps" programme for just under £1M to continue to support what were our rough sleepers.
- Going to Cabinet on 6th October which, if agreed, will change the way the council funds the voluntary and community sector. Currently organisations receive an annual grant, however the paper sets out a commissioning approach which will guarantee funding for five years and require closer joint working and will have set outcomes required. This will give stability to many organisations and is an acknowledgement of the great work that has happened during lockdown.
- Also going to Cabinet on 6th October is the revised public space protection order. This is about where and when you can take your dog and if it has to be on a lead or can be free. The new order makes the regulations consistent across the council area as previously there were six different orders covering the district areas. Most of the restrictions in this area stay the same, perhaps one to note is that on the Rodway trail in Weymouth dogs will now be required to be on a lead of two meters.
- You will soon see stickers going onto your waste bins trying to help people decide what can be recycled, what should go in the waste bin and trying to stop food waste going into anything but the caddy. Some households will be given a trial "not sure" box in which they can put items they don't know if it can be recycled. Staff will then mark those which can and those which need to go in the black bin. If the council can get less food waste in the recycling and less items which are not recyclable in the green bin, there are savings to be made of over £1M a year.

ii) Police/Home watch update

The following report was received from PCSO Donnison after the meeting;

Crimes Reported 25-08-2020 - 23-09-2020

07/09/2020. Attempted theft from motor vehicles	Enterprise Park, Piddlehinton
20/09/2020. Public Disorder	Enterprise Park, Piddlehinton
22/09/2020. Theft of Copper Cylinder	Waterston

Alerts issued/Notices/Campaigns:

General alert regarding thefts at beauty spots
Nottingham Knockers/Rogue Traders
Do You Know Where Your Children Are?
Scams – Amazon, HMRC

Dorset Police has introduced an initiative in a commitment to better connect with local communities. To view the neighbourhood engagement minimum standards please visit www.dorset.police.uk/NPT

Please continue to report any incidents or suspicious circumstances by either calling 101 or reporting online via the Dorset Police website on the “Contact Us” section.

Information and advice is also regularly posted on the Dorchester Police Facebook page.

83/2020 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

84/2020 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on 25 August 2020

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

85/2020 Matters arising from last minutes (August 2020)

- a) August Democratic Period i): Cllr Lock to discuss bollards with Highways – **deferred to next agenda**
- b) August 2020 Democratic Period ii): Clerk to request update from Police for next meeting - **Complete**
- c) 63/2020: Clerk to amend enquiry submitted to Highways (Amend Snowdrop Corner to Saddlers) - **Complete**
- d) July 2020 Democratic Period i (c) Cllr Cox to contact School re items left on playing field bank – Deferred to September agenda as school has been closed for the summer break - **Complete**
- e) Code of Conduct 66/2020 d): Clerk to add comments received to document and recirculate -

Complete

- f) June 34/2020 e: Cllr Sherwood to arrange defibrillator meeting, Date TBC – **Meeting arranged for 8 October 2020 at 6.30pm - Complete**
- g) August 66/2020 h): Cllr Phillips to send out Company Letters when list of companies compiled (Transport letters) – **Ongoing – deferred to next agenda**
- h) 66/2020 i): agreed Clerk to continue to chase Dorset Waste Partnership & also to contact Cllr Haynes to ask if she can also chase (Dog waste signs) – **Clerk advised still no response received and will continue to chase**
- i) 66/2020 j): Contact details for those wishing to take over the BT phone boxes Clerk will follow this up with Planning – **Clerk to contact Planning – deferred to next agenda**
- j) 66/2020 k): Clerk to confirm it is the bigger horse lorries, and to ask if all traffic could access the livery via Enterprise Park and they change their policy (Carters Barn Livery) - **Complete**
- k) 66/2020 l) Clerk to chase at the beginning of September. (Blackhill Crossroads) – **Clerk advised that Highways have been in touch to confirm that this location has been flagged as a cluster site and some new signing and road markings will be placed and the site will continue to be monitored.**
- l) 70/2020: Clerk to remove Alton Pancras information from website (Covid-19) - **Complete**
- m) 73/2020: Cllr Phillips to write to Dorset Council regarding funding for the return of a bus service in Piddle Valley – **Deferred to next agenda**
- n) 81/2020: All Councillors to read and feedback at September meeting on Government's Planning Proposal (including CPRE email, DASP and NALC comments) - **Complete**

86/2020 Planning matters

- i) Responses to Planning consultations

WD/D/20/001728 – The Old Grain Store, Folly Lane, Plush - Erection of garage/workshop;

Cllr Sherwood presented this application and proposed to accept it, this was seconded by Cllr Abbott. All agreed with one abstention.

WD/D/20/001709 Hillside farm, Drakes lane, Piddletrenthide - Demolition of existing dwelling & erection of replacement dwelling & garage;

Cllr Sherwood presented this application and a discussion followed with questions asked to the applicant;

Cllr Phillips asked if 80% increase in footprint is correct? It is currently a single storey building and will be modest sized for the land. Cllr Sherwood informed the meeting that she understood the increase in size was due to the replacement being a two storey building.

Cllr Cox thought from the plans it looks like a substantial build, however has no objections as the build will be an improvement to what is currently there.

Cllr Lock agreed that anything will be an improvement from what is there but would like it to be in keeping with its surroundings.

Cllr Sherwood proposed the application should be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Fear. All agreed with one abstention.

WD/D/20/001704 - New Barn Farm, Drakes Lane, Piddletrenthide - Change of use from agricultural land to a caravan site for the stationing of 2no. built luxury shepherd huts with associated works & providing drainage & vehicle parking;

Cllr Sherwood presented this application and a discussion followed with questions asked to the applicant;

Cllr Abbott confirmed that a highway runs through the site and also asked about the Change of Use to make it a caravan park? This shouldn't be part of the planning application. The applicant confirmed that this was the only way to process it following the planning officer's advice.

Cllr Murray asked how many months of the year will the huts be in use? The applicant confirmed most of the year.

Cllr Abbott asked if the application is approved can a condition be included to restrict the use to 10 months of the year to avoid permanent residency.

Cllr Howard advised caution with the 10 month usage and should state which 2 months they won't be in use. Cllr Fox asked if the 10 month period can be moved each year? It is believed it can be.

Cllr Cox stressed that permanent residency is what needs to be avoided. The applicant confirmed that they have no intention of anyone staying permanently as it is a business.

It was proposed by Cllr Sherwood and seconded by Cllr Murray that this application should be accepted but with a condition that the huts can only be used for 10 months in every 12 month period. All agreed with one abstention.

WD/D/20/001764 – Southcombe Farm, Piddletrenthide - Siting of a polytunnel & erection of two garden sheds;

Cllr Sherwood presented this application and confirmed that no change of use is required.

Cllr Abbott expressed concern that change of use should form part of the planning application as it is not agricultural. Having a polytunnel within a conservation area doesn't seem right.

Cllr Tesniere advised that as the land is being used for vegetables this could be deemed as agricultural.

Cllr Sherwood proposed this application is accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Fox. All agreed.

WD/D/20/001780 & 1781 – 16 High Street, Piddlehinton - Remodelling of rear garage building to create additional bedroom above and new garden room below;

Cllr Phillips presented this application and proposed to accept and this was seconded by Cllr Sherwood. The majority agreed with one against and one abstention.

ii) Decision Notices

WD/D/20/001486 Vidine, Smiths lane, Piddletrenthide – REFUSED

WD/D/20/001255 The Granary, Piddletrenthide – APPROVED

iii) Enforcement

Princes Farm, Piddletrenthide

The Clerk advised the meeting of a response from the enforcement officer at Dorset Council which stated;

The position remains fairly much the same as it did back in March, as cases come in sometimes the priorities of our caseload have to change, often daily. We remain understaffed as the permanent full time post that was vacated last year has now been deleted from the structure. I regularly review my caseload with my managers who set the priorities.

I will let you know when there is any change on the status of these cases

iv) Traveller and Gypsy Camp at Piddlehinton - Letter to Dorset Council CEO

Cllr Phillips advised the meeting of a response received from Giles Nicholson who is the Greenspace Manger for Dorset council which included the following comments;

Unfortunately there has been a delay in preparing the local plan policies relating to travellers. The predecessor councils were jointly working on a Development Plan Document (DPD) to sit alongside their local plans and would include policy allocations for traveller sites. Work on this joint DPD stopped following local government re-organisation last year. Instead, the council's new local plan will include a strategy for meeting the needs of travellers. This strategy will identify those sites which have been selected to meet the area's needs and any site specific requirements. (These sites, and any requirements, will be presented in planning policies). There is a need for pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, plots for Travelling Show people and a transit site for travellers. Due to the delay in this process it seemed reasonable to continue to use the current transit site at Piddlehinton between April and August. You are correct the planning permission expired in 2019 however legal and planning advice suggested that the site could still be lawfully used, however this has caused some understandable irritation and therefore a new temporary planning permission for three years has been applied for and if the application is successful it will be in place ready for April next year.

The letter to the Dorset Council CEO and the response from Dorset Council are available to read on the Piddle Valley Parish Council website.

87/2020 Clerks update

a) Meeting duration

The Clerk reminded the council of the Standing Orders where it states meetings should not take longer than 2 hours.

b) Update of Standing Orders

These have been circulated to all councillors and the Clerk had previously asked all councillors to pay particular attention to the Motions item. The Clerk requested that this process is used with immediate effect for any agenda items being requested; Councillors

requesting items with an outcome to be added to the agenda should put these in writing explaining why they are requesting the item and the outcome/action they are hoping to have agreed. This was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Fox, all agreed.

c) Update of Co-option Policy

The Clerk circulated this prior to the meeting and advised the changes made now align to the template produced by the National Association of Local Councils. This was proposed by Cox and seconded by Cllr Lock. All agreed.

d) Adoption of Code of Conduct for Public Participation at Parish Council meetings

The Clerk circulated this prior to the meeting but further comments were made so this will be circulated as amended prior to the October meeting.

Action: 87/2020 d) Clerk to amend and circulate prior to October meeting for adoption

88/2020 Community Car scheme working group

Cllr Fear advised;

- all volunteer drivers have been consulted regarding current availability and as a result a current revised list of available drivers has been produced.
- The volunteers are carrying out trips that cannot be satisfied by NORDCAT
- A COVID protocol for drivers will be sent to all current drivers.
- Using Government, Local Authority and Volunteer Transport Scheme guidance, the group have established a Driver and Customer pre trip COVID checklist to be completed at the time of booking the trip and again on the day of the trip.
- Asked all customers to provide a contact name and number in case of emergency.

89/2020 DAPTC meeting update

The Clerk advised that Cllr Fear will be attending 3 x virtual planning training sessions.

90/2020 Website update

No update

91/2020 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Sherwood advised that the Plush defibrillator had been taken out but not used. The White Lackington defibrillator appears to have had a power outage.

92/2020 Financial Matters

a) Bills for Payment - September

Clerks expenses	£12.60
DAPTC 2020/21 subscription	£434.60

It was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Abbott that these payments are approved. All agreed.

93/2020 Highway Matters

a) Road safety matters including results of Rectory Road survey, virtual footway

Cllr Phillips note with results of the survey were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting;

There were replies from 30 Residents living in 20 Residences. A total of 28 Residences were surveyed by email or letter drop, meaning 29% of Residences did not give an opinion. The results are being sent to every house in Rectory Road. If anyone who hasn't replied would like to make a reply, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the questionnaire, but a quick response would be appreciated (email adp96@btinternet.com or drop a note with contact details in the letter box outside "The Beeches, Church Hill").

I will be sending the results to Dorset Council and will feed back any response from them

The results are expressed in terms of individual resident's responses, not households.

Q1. Would you welcome a pedestrian walkway?

Yes = 8 (27%) No = 11 (37%) Uncertain = 11 (37%)

Q2. Would you move your car? [Not Applicable = 16]

Yes = 2 (14%) No = 12 (86%)

Q3. Why do you park in the road?

14 residents responded, some gave more than one answer:

Lack of off street parking = 6. Convenience = 6. To slow down traffic = 6.

Q4. Other Comments (in brackets is the number of residents making the point):

- More important actions should be done first (12).
- o Examples given: 20 mph zone (9), HGV weight limit/unsuitable for HGV signage (7), pinch points (5), rumble strips/speed bumps (5), gateways into Village (3).
- A walkway wouldn't alter traffic volume, speed or noise (6)
- Parking on Rectory Road is necessary for deliveries, to compensate for the lack of off street parking, for visitors, and for Church/Village Hall activities (6)
- Parking on Rectory Rd by residents to slow traffic is not acceptable, local agricultural traffic find it difficult to negotiate the limited space available (4)
- A pedestrian pathway would detract from the beauty of the Village (4)
- Clearing Rectory Rd of parked cars may make it a more attractive route for HGV's (4)
- A pathway could increase risks as traffic speeds may rise due to the clear road (3)
- Use the grass verge and pathway on the South side of Rectory Rd to make a footpath (3)
- A ridiculous/unworkable suggestion (2)

- Necessary car parking on the North side of Rectory Rd would make it unworkable (2)
- Rectory Rd is already narrow, large HGV's would have to use the walkway (2)
- Effectiveness of walkways not proven (2)

b) Highway reports

It was reported that the land off of High Street layby has no vehicular access but is being used as one.

Action: 93/2020 b) Clerk to report to highways

94/2020 River Clearance

Cllr Cox confirmed 17 October 2020 at 10am is this year's river clearance date.

95/2020 Covid-19

A motion requested by Cllr Phillips was circulated prior to the meeting;

MOTION: In view of the increasing infection rate, the difficulty of fulfilling the requirements for face to face meetings, and the age of some of the councillors Cllr Phillips proposes that the Parish Council continue to hold zoom meetings until further notice (recent legislation allows up to May 2021).

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Howard. All agreed.

96/2020 Councillor Vacancies

The Clerk confirmed that the way recent co-options have been processed has been agreed with the Monitoring Officer's office and with the most recent vacancy for Piddlehinton, an official notice of vacancy has been received and will be placed on the website.

97/2020 News & Views items

No items

98/2020 Playing Field & Playground

Cllr Cox informed the meeting that he has been approached from an individual who would like to hold socially distanced aerobic classes on the playing field twice a week. It was agreed that further detail is required and Cllr Howard agreed to look at the legalities of this.

Action: 98/2020 Cllr Murray to obtain more detail and Cllr Howard to look at legalities

99/2020 External Communications

Cllr Phillips brought the following two communications to the attention of all Councillors;

Poor broadband coverage in West Dorset, letter from Chris Loder MP
Parish Council's Carbon Footprint Tool update

100/2020 Items for next agenda

Converting bridle path to all-weather track

Precept income

Tree works consultation

Parked cars at Piddlehinton

Road drains through Valley

Salt bins

Building in Dorset

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:40 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 October 2020 19.30, virtual via Zoom.