

Draft Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 26 March 2024

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Ebdon (Chair), Lock, Abbott, Cox, Howard, Fox

Apologies: Cllr Sherwood, Murray, Latimer and Dorset Cllr Haynes

Democratic Period:

Representatives from the Piddle Valley First School's PTA attended the meeting regarding the pavilion on the playing field, enquiring what the status of it is and what is happening to it.

Cllr Cox has spoken with the head teacher who has agreed to contact the Academy.

Cllr Ebdon advised that the ownership of it needs to be established before any agreements/actions can be made. If nobody takes ownership of it, it could be registered as a community asset.

Cllr Howard advised it is owned by the school and it was leased to the football club.

Cllr Lock suggested that the Salisbury diocese is contacted to establish if it is theirs.

Cllr Cox agreed to meet with the new head teacher to discuss.

Action: Cllr Cox to meet with school head teacher

Cllr Ebdon gave an update on the Community Speed Watch scheme which included the following:

- Team re-invigorated after new recruits joining and in 2023 conducted 15 sessions, monitored >2,700 vehicles with 68 offences reported (2.5%).
- On Wednesday 20th March Dorset Police organised a 'Day of Action' to promote road safety. 46 Speed watch Teams were active, monitored >14,000 vehicle movements resulting in 282 letters being issued. In addition, Police Officers were also out with teams issuing tickets for speeding and other motoring offences.
- The Piddle Valley Community Speed Watch was delayed due to the unscheduled road closure at South View, but they did get out and contribute, monitoring 139 vehicles with 7 reported for speeding. Given that the percentage of speeding on the B3143 is quite a bit higher than the average during the day of action across Dorset, Cllr Ebdon will attempt to get some more sessions arranged so drivers get used to the group being out there again.

030/2024 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

031/2024 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 2024

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

032/2024 Action points from last minutes

- a) 110/2023 – Cllr Cox awaiting response from school/PTA re. Pavilion on playing field – NEXT AGENDA
- b) 79/2023 – Quotes for repairs to fencing at Playing field – Cllrs Cox/Howard/Fox – NEXT AGENDA
- c) Democratic Period – Clerk to report to Enforcement – Easter events at Willow Bank Farm – COMPLETE – Response has been received advising the following: Temporary change of use of land does encompass many uses, provided the event does not exceed 28 days then permission would not be required.
- d) Democratic Period – Clerk to report fly tipping on Rectory Road – COMPLETE
- e) Democratic Period – Clerk to report residential living at Princes Farm & Thorncombe Farm – COMPLETE – Response has been received regarding Princes Farm, advising the following: The team investigated this site in 2022 where the case was closed as it could not be established that residential use was taking place. Could you please provide some more information as to the alleged residential use.
- f) Democratic period – Clerk to report slippery path next to The Piddle to Countryside – COMPLETE
- g) 026/24 – Clerk to complete Local Plan survey – COMPLETE

033/2024 Planning Matters

- a) Enforcement
- i) Temporary building at Ashley Wood – green tent

It was reported that a tiled roof was being built and that previous reports to Dorset Council should be re-submitted.

Action: Clerk to report

- b) Tree works

P/TRC/2024/01104 - The Vicarage Church Lane Piddletrenthide - T1 Ash - Remove to ground level - T2 Sycamore - Remove to ground level - Information only

- c) Decision Notices

P/TRC/2024/00757 - Willowbeck Egypt Piddletrenthide - T1, T3, T4 & T5 Ash - Fell T2 Unknown Species - Thin by 30% T6 Cherry - Crown reduce by 2.5m overall, crown raise to 3m & thin by 10% - Decision: Tree Works - CA - No Objection - Decision Date: 15/03/2024

P/HOU/2023/07240 - Egypt Cottage Egypt Piddletrenthide - Erect single storey rear extension (demolish existing glazed conservatory) - Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 06/03/2024

P/LBC/2023/06236 - 2 The Terrace Main Road Alton Pancras - Replace Existing Timber Windows with new timber windows. - Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 26/02/2024

034/2024 DAPTC meeting & training update

Cllr Lock attended the Councillor Networking conference and informed the meeting that it was very interesting and that other councils are experiencing the same concerns as Piddle Valley do regarding Dorset Council's Planning team.

The planning benefits of Dorset becoming a National Park were discussed at the conference but this status is yet to be determined.

035/2024 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Ebdon confirmed that the two training sessions have been agreed, 23 May 2024 & 3 June 2024.

036/2024 Financial Matters

a) Bills for payment

Clerk's expenses – March	£27.40
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Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall	£27.50
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DAPTC – Cllr Networking event (Cllr Lock)	£79.00
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Churchyard payments 2022/23 & 2023/24

Alton Pancras	£200.00
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Piddletrenthide	£400.00
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Piddlehinton	£400.00
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It was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Lock that these payments are approved. All agreed.

037/2024 Highway Matters

a) Review of gritting policy

Cllr Ebdon has reviewed this document and made the following comments;

- Nothing specific about gritting School bus routes but the precautionary salting network does include :
 - o Routes to all urban schools with >500 pupils and
 - o Routes to all rural schools with >350 pupils
- B3143 is part of the Precautionary Salting Network, but Rectory Road or Cerne Hill are not and are excluded from the Community Links Network

It was agreed that highways are asked to clarify how they define their routes for school transport.

Action: Clerk to respond to Highways

038/2024 Elections

Cllr Ebdon reminded the Cllrs of the timeline for elections:

- Deadline for delivery of Nomination Papers 4pm on 5 April
- Election day 2 May
- Parish Council vote count 4 May
- 7 May Existing councillors retire from office and newly elected / uncontested councillors take office
- 7-10 May Councillors to have signed their Declarations of acceptance in the presence of the Clerk ahead of the ACM
- 13-23 May ACM/AGM held – means we need to bring the May meeting forward by a week

039/2024 Cllr Ebdon meeting with Jan Britton, Dorset Council

Cllr Ebdon met with Jan Britton on 5 March. Jan is the Interim Lead for Place reporting directly to the Chief Executive Matt Prosser.

As well as Planning, Jan's responsibilities include Highways, Libraries, Travel, Environment, waste operations, assets & property.

At the meeting Cllr Ebdon ran through the Parish Council's concerns with Planning using a number of examples:

- Hazel Barn as a case study of decision making, communication and enforcement issues
- Planning decisions on the Enterprise Park specifically Units 36 ,40 & 45 and the process at Planning Committee
- Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan
- Lackington Mill Solar Array with respect to development in Gap 2

Summary

- Piddle Valley Parish Council has concerns over the processes followed by Planning, including the scheme of delegation for decision making.
- The Parish Council believes that the Planning Department have failed to acknowledge or seek to regularise the breach with the applicant at Hazel Barn to the satisfaction of the neighbour and Parish Council.
- The planning department have approved plans which are incorrect and made conditions based on these plans. They have refused to accept that the garage has not been built according to plans despite one of its officers indicating that it couldn't be.
- Other residents had very strict restrictions on their applications to converts former farm buildings and are concerned that the council will not be consistent with the application and enforcement of planning policies.
- Frustration in the Council's interpretation of the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan and advice given to it regarding its weight – specifically on the Enterprise Park and with respect to Gap G2
- In the past if the Council had a different view to the Parish Council, applications would go to Committee. It is now very difficult to get anything to Committee since the introduction of the Unitary Authority.
- Experience has shown that officers are not always presenting all of the information to Councillors at Committee

- There is frustration with Enforcement or lack of it.

Jan acknowledged the issues raised and understood that Piddle Valley Parish Council has lost confidence in Planning and asked what needed to be done to rebuild trust.

Cllr Ebdon suggested facilitating a site meeting should we feel necessary for any contentious applications in the future which Jan agreed to do. He said he will also see what he can do about resolving or at least acknowledging the boundary issue described between Hazel Barn and Sunnydale.

040/2024 Old laptop

The Clerk asked the Cllrs what should be done with the old Parish Council laptop and it was proposed by Cllr Ebdon and seconded by Cllr Fox that it should be wiped of all records and donated to the school. All agreed.

Cllr Fox agreed to remove all records. Clerk will drop the laptop over to Cllr Fox.

041/2024 External Communications

a) Community Response Plan

An email has been received with details regarding setting up plans for local communities, which provides advice & support on how to go about it and what is needed etc. It was agreed that the Clerk will invite the Dorset Council officer to the June meeting.

b) Stinsford PC

Cllr Ebdon advised the Council of discussions with Stinsford Parish Council:

- The idea of cooperation over planning issues where both councils have an interest was warmly welcomed.
- Stinsford Parish Council oppose the North Dorchester proposals, they recognise that this would cause much more traffic on an already over-burdened highways network and if it ever does progress this will involve important planning applications that they can feed through to Piddle Valley Parish Council.
- At present main concerns are the Piddlehinton Enterprise Park and inappropriate residential development where it is likely to add significantly more traffic to the network and especially Slyers Lane and London Road.
- They have no immediate concerns with Planning at present.

c) Planning Application P/FUL/2024/00163 1 year retention of Gypsy & Traveller transit site.

Cllr Ebdon spoke with Dorset Cllr Haynes prior to the meeting and discussed the Notification of application going to Northern Area Committee on 9 April 2024.

The application has already been reviewed by Piddle Valley Parish Council and comments submitted:

Piddle Valley Parish Council have no objections to this application however would request the following is included;

- Conditions in the 2014 Management Plan as stated in the Design and Access statement at that time should be applied
- Security should be required permanently when there are a minimum of 2 transits on site.

The possibility of the Parish Council being represented at Committee to reiterate our concern that conditions are applied, was discussed. Cllr Ebdon agreed to review the committee submissions and apply to represent PVPC if necessary.

042/2024 Playing field & Playground

Cllr Cox advised that he has received 2 quotes for the fencing repairs, both coming in around the £3000 mark. Neither of the contractors are able to carry out the works until May/June time. To be discussed at next meeting.

043/2024 Items for next agenda

Plush Churchyard payments
Fencing quotes
Anaerobic Digester alterations

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:44 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Monday 29 April 2024, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.