

Draft Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 27 February 2024

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Ebdon (Chair), Lock, Abbot, Latimer, Cox, Murray, Sherwood, Howard, Fox and Dorset Cllr Haynes

Democratic Period:

Dorset Cllr Haynes attended the meeting and gave an update on the following:

- Council tax on second homes - For those properties classified as Long-Term Empty and Unoccupied a 100% premium will, from 1 April 2024, this will be applied after one year rather than the existing 2 years.
The introduction of the 100% council tax premium on second homes will come into effect on 1 April 2025, making a total council tax charge of 200%. Unlike empty dwellings, there is no requirement for a property to have been used as a second home for a fixed period of time before the premium can apply so it becomes chargeable from day one that a property is considered a second home (or dwelling periodically occupied).
Where exceptions are provided for in law and once final regulations have been provided, Dorset Council will adopt and apply such exceptions. The council website will be updated as soon as this information is available.
The additional funding will be distributed to all precepting authorities and Dorset Council are looking to spend a percentage of the new monies on affordable homes.
- Concern with surface water getting into the sewer system and then being pumped into the rivers.
Cllr Ebdon asked if there is any information on the upgrade to the sewer in the Piddle Valley? Dorset Cllr Haynes advised that the portfolio holder for highways has been discussing the issue at MP level. The sewer lining works which have been carried out hasn't resolved any of the issues as the pipes are too old and are cracked.
- A site visit to the traveller site has been arranged. Concerns with allocation of plots and how they will be allocated. A communal space should be allowed for.
Cllr Latimer expressed concern with Willow Bank Farm offering Easter Egg Hunts for sale but the access is not suitable for vehicles.

Action – Clerk to report to enforcement

Cllr Latimer informed the meeting that he has been approached about the changing rooms on the playing field being used.
Fly tipping at Waterston near the showground and outside Hill Dairy on Rectory Road was reported.

Action – Clerk to report to Dorset Council

It was reported that Princes Farm is being lived in. Thorncombe Farm is also being lived in and the address being used as a residential property.

Action – Clerk to report to Enforcement

Cllr Cox advised of the path behind The Piddle is slippery and requested some gravel is purchased to put down. It was agreed that this should be reported to Rights of Way in the first instance.

Action – Clerk to report to Rights of Way

015/2024 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

016/2024 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on 30 January 2024

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

017/2024 Action points from last minutes

- a) 11/01/2023 – Cllr Cox awaiting response from school/PTA re. Pavilion on playing field – NEXT AGENDA
b) 7/9/2023 – Quotes for repairs to fencing at Playing field – Cllrs Cox/Howard/Fox – NEXT AGENDA
c) 14/01/2023 c) – Clerk/Cllr Cox – Savings account – Agenda item
d) January Democratic period – Footbridge adjacent to Lackington Mill removed – Clerk to report to Countryside – COMPLETE
e) January Democratic period – Clerk to report suspected breach of planning condition – Carters Barn – COMPLETE
f) January Democratic period – Clerk to report bonfire concern to Environmental Health – COMPLETE
g) 004/2024 – Clerk to contact Dorset Cllr Haynes regarding lack of response to request for Rectory Road to be gritted – COMPLETE – response received
h) 13/2024 – Clerk to contact Wessex Water & Environment Agency to request an update on the current issues with sewage in the valley and plans for a long-term solution to the annual problem. This could include a meeting to address the concerns which the Parish Council would be happy to facilitate. – COMPLETE

018/2024 Planning Matters

a) Planning Consultations

P/HOU/2023/07240 – Egypt Cottage, Egypt, Piddletrethide - Erect single storey rear extension (demolish existing glazed conservatory)

Cllr Sherwood presented this application and Cllr Cox advised that he sees the proposals as an improvement. Cllr Abbott confirmed that the neighbours don't have any concerns with it. It was proposed by Cllr Sherwood and seconded by Cllr Abbott that there are no objections to this application. All agreed.

c) Decision Notices

P/HOU/2023/05636 & 5637 - The Old Rectory Main Road Alton Pancras - Conversion and renovation of Coach House to form ancillary accommodation. Reconfiguration of the external terrace
Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 26/01/2024

P/TRD/2024/00560 - Brook House Main Street Piddletrenthide - T1 Weeping Ash - Remove Under Regulation 14 (S198) - Decision: Tree Works - Reg 14 - Does not require consent
Decision Date: 09/02/2024

P/TRC/2024/00281 - Southcombe Farm B3143 From Junction Church Lane To The Poachers Inn Public House Junction Smiths Piddletrenthide - Proposal: G1 Alder x 19 - Repollard back to previous points (approx 20ft) G1 Poplar - Repollard back to previous points (approx 20ft)
Decision: Tree Works - CA - No Objection - Decision Date: 13/02/2024

P/PAEL/2023/07428 - Land at South Farm Piddletrenthide - Installation of 3no. antennas, ancillary apparatus & supporting steelwork. The removal of 3no. antennas & supporting steel work & all other associated ancillary apparatus & development thereto
Decision: Prior Approval Granted - Decision Date: 31/01/2024

P/HOU/2023/06959 - Penmarric Main Street Piddletrenthide - Erect single storey extension and porch to South West elevation. Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 31/01/2024

019/2024 DAPTC meeting & training update

There is a Councillor Networking conference in March and it was agreed that Cllr Lock would attend.

020/2024 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Sherwood advised that there will be two training sessions potentially on 23 May and 3 June. One will be on how to use the defibrillator and the other is how to give CPR.
The main issue at the moment is that lack of people on the VETS system (VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM) All Cllrs to encourage parishioners to be on the list.
An order for fridge magnets and fobs needs to be arranged.

021/2024 Financial Matters

a) Bills for payment

Clerk's expenses – February £18.30

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall £27.50

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

b) Savings Account

The Clerk advised that the account is now open and requested a decision to how much should be moved into the account.

It was proposed by Cllr Sherwood that £30,000 should be moved.

All agreed.

022/2024 Highway Matters

a) Gritting request

A response has now been received from highways which advises the following:

I'm confident that we are adhering to the winter service policy and a means of access and egress along treated roads is available for the main villages along the Piddle Valley. Rectory Road does not meet the criteria within the policy for gritting. To provide the level of service set out in the policy we need 22 lorries and around 100 drivers. It would not be reasonably practicable to widen the policy to include C roads like Rectory Road.

b) Defects reported

Alton Pancras straight – flooding & potholes
Alton Pancras 50 yards north of village – potholes
Name plate request for High Street & Church Hill, Piddlehinton
Visibility mirror at Piddlehinton Cross needs cleaning

23/2024 Elections

A reminder that the elections will take place on Thursday 2 May 2024. Relevant notices will be advertised on 11 March 2024 with the deadline for nomination papers to be submitted by 5 April.

The Clerk advised that one person can take all papers into Dorset Council meaning only one appointment will need to be made.

24/2024 Reminder to riparian owners and landowners

It was agreed that information will be placed on the website reminding riparian owners and landowners of their responsibilities.

25/2024 Meeting with Wessex Water update

Cllrs Lock and Ebdon attended the meeting which was arranged by Stinsford Parish Council concerning the north of Dorchester Garden Community proposals. The following information was shared:

- A presentation by Paul Stanfield from Wessex Water was given.
- Responsible for water supply and waste water management
- If approved Wessex water would have a statutory duty to supply services and cannot object, only highlight the risks and comment on the risk management plan presented by the developers

- Most concern about managing the risk to the water quality at the Eagle Lodge Borehole which supports water supply to Dorchester. Changing a rural catchment area to an urban one.
 - Responsibility lies with the Environment Agency to protect groundwater sources which supply drinking water from pollution
 - The development would require a new sewer to Lounds Mill treatment works
- Members of Stinsford Parish Council also asked to speak to Cllrs Lock and Ebdon regarding concerns over traffic volumes and lorries related to the expansion of businesses at Piddlehinton Camp. They would like to be informed of planning applications in order that they can comment and support us.

026/2024 External Communications

It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the Dorset Local Plan 4 consultation, in particular the lack of bus service for the community.

Action: Clerk to complete survey

Cllr Ebdon received an email from Jan Britton, Interim Executive Lead for Place Dorset Council. Jan has picked up some comments about concerns regarding planning and he would like to understand better what the issues were.

027/2024 News & Information

Alton Pancras notice to be placed on website.

028/2024 Playing field & Playground

It was reported that due to the wet weather there is moss on the pads.

The bonfire still hasn't been cleared, it's approaching 4 months which is unacceptable.

029/2024 Items for next agenda

Elections
Churchyard payments
Temporary building at Ashley Wood – green tent
Old laptop
Cllr Ebdon meeting with Jan Britton update

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:03 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 March 2024, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.

26/3/24

