

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Hilton Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 in the Club Room of The Old Brewery Hall, Ansty at 7.00pm

PRESENT Mr A Wyld (AW) (Chairman)
Mrs C Langham (CL) (Vice-Chair)
Mr E Bridle (EB)
Ms J McGuinness
Mr R Northover (RN)
Mr R Rowe (RR)
Mrs M Walbridge (MW)

IN ATTENDANCE Cllr J Somper (District), Mrs S Jaques (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr H Cox (County) and Cllr E Parker (District)

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7th April 2015

The Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. The last sentence of paragraph 5.2 on page 499 was changed to, 'The Development Management Committee had refused...'. There being no further corrections the Minutes were approved unanimously as being a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1 Cllr Langham expressed the wish to stand down as Chairman. Mr Wyld was proposed as Chairman by Mrs Langham and seconded by Mr Rowe and agreed unanimously. Mr Wyld accepted the role of Chairman and signed the acceptance of office as Chairman.

Vice Chairman: Mrs Langham, proposed Mr Wyld, seconded Mr Rowe. Mrs Langham agreed to undertake the role of Vice-Chairman to be reviewed after a few months when the new parish councilors had settled into their role and she had an understanding of her commitments as a District Councillor.

Transport: Mrs Walbridge proposed Ms McGuinness, seconded Mrs Langham

Trees: Mr Northover proposed Mr Rowe, seconded Ms McGuinness

Village Hall: Mrs Walbridge proposed Ms McGuinness, seconded Mrs Langham

Ancient Monuments: Mr Morgan in absentia, the Clerk to liaise with Mr Morgan to ask whether he wishes to retain the role.

Rights of Way: Mr Rowe, proposed Mrs Walbridge, seconded Mr Bridle

Emergency and flood: Mrs McGuinness, Mrs Walbridge proposed Mr Northover, seconded Mr Rowe.

All agreed unanimously.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None

The Chairman brought agenda items 8 and 9 forward as Mr Northover had requested to leave early to attend another meeting.

6. INSURANCE RENEWAL (agenda item 8)

6.1 Insurance comparisons had been sought last year and none had met the amount offered by Came & Co for comparable cover. It was resolved therefore to accept the quote from Came & Co this year and to seek quotes before next year's insurance renewal. Proposed Mrs Walbridge, seconded Ms McGuinness.

7. FINANCE (agenda item 9)

7.1 Presentation, approval and signing of accounts for audit for year ending 31 March 2015.

The statements in section 1 (Accounting statements 2014/15) for Hilton Parish Council (Dorchester) were read and approved unanimously by the council, proposed Mr Northover and seconded Ms McGuinness. Section 1 was signed by the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer and the Chairman. Section 2 (Annual governance statement 2014/15) statements 1-9 were presented to the Parish Council and approved unanimously, proposed Mrs Langham, seconded Mrs Walbridge. Section 2 was signed by the Chairman

7.2 Balance of accounts at 31.04.14, Current account £2831.28. Benefit account £5029.47. Balance of fingerpost budget £248.10 (held as ring-fenced reserves in benefit account). Receipts, £2498 (precept). Cheques were presented and approved for signature.

Payee	Ref	Amount	Payee	Ref	Amount
Clerk's salary (April 2015)	323	£170.65	Post Office Ltd (PAYE) month 1	325	£42.60
Old Brewery Hall room hire May / June / July. Invoice G006	324	£15.00	Insurance 2015/16, Came & Co 'Broker Network Ltd'	326	£159.00

8. OPEN FORUM (agenda item 6)

None.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS (agenda item 7)

7.1 No applications received. Decisions:

2/2015/0010/FUL Moonfleet Farm, Access To Track From Coniger Knap, Higher Ansty, Dorset. Change of use of agricultural land to a mixed use of agriculture and camp site with games area, and form grassed earth bund. (Extension of existing 14 No. pitch camp site to a 27 No. pitch camp site). REFUSED.

For information the Parish Council had been made aware from weekly lists provided by NDDC that an enforcement notice had been raised: **ENF/2015/0063** Lower Hilton Farm, Hilton, Village Road (Hilton) via Milton Abbey to Pond Head, road part in Milton Abbas, Hilton. Alleged formation of tracks. Mrs Langham reported that she and the Clerk had met on site with Mr Hiscock who had explained that the tracks would have a light brown cattle-friendly covering, the tracks are at present laid with the chalk rubble from the earthworks for the slurry pit. It had been decided to use the chalk on site rather than transport it offsite which would have increased the traffic and potential debris on the road. The Parish Council did not know who had complained about the tracks but was confident that measures were in place for the complaint to be resolved satisfactorily.

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice: use of the Hilton to Milton Abbas road will be temporarily restricted between 18th June 2015 – 26th June 2015 to enable DCC to carry out surface dressing to the road safely. There will be rolling road closures weather permitting and a signed local diversion put up to enable traffic to travel around the closed section with gatemen posted at points of closure to address any queries. The closure will be in place between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00 hours. The road will be open at night and on weekends. The Clerk will put notices on boards and website.

ACTION Clerk

11. RIGHTS OF WAY

11.1 Mr Rowe reported his correspondence since 30 October 2014 with the Ranger, Mr Stanley and Mr Hiscock about the difficulties with the bridleway in Hilton affected by the ground works for the dairy farm. Mr Rowe was upset by the 'substantial' replacement bridge which, in his opinion, was an unnecessary expense, and by what he considers to be the unresolved landscaping of the ditch. As a horse rider he could not persuade his horses to cross the new bridge even when dismounted although some manage this. The new gate, in the fence around the area, shuts so rapidly that it is difficult to get through before it slams shut on the horse's flank. The ditch can be negotiated now as Mr Rowe has removed slabs of concrete from the top of the bank, however it is

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not inviting for horses. In his conversations with Mr Stanley he had been of the understanding that the ditch would be made good using a method such as a French drain. Unfortunately this has not appeared to have happened. Members of the hunt and other horse riders from Hilton had complained to Mr Rowe and one rider will not use the bridleway at present because their horse will not go over the bridge because of the gate. Mr Rowe has suggested removing the lower hinge to lessen the rapid shut of the gate. Mr Rowe was also upset that he was not kept informed about what was going on and expressed the wish to be included in meetings between Mr Stanley and Mr Hiscock. In response to an email from the Clerk Mr Stanley had replied that it was his opinion that all the works should have been completed now. He had asked for the banks to be graded to be a shallow decent into the ditch and apologised that this had not happened. He agreed to speak again to Mr Hiscock and to take a look when he was next in the area. The Chairman expressed concern that the ditch could be considered a health and safety risk and a solution was required. He suggested taking photographs, however Mr Rowe had tried this and it was difficult to record the problem satisfactorily using photography. The Chairman explained that the expense of the bridge was not Hilton Parish Council's issue and that it needed to narrow the debate to what it could do in order to help the situation. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Mr Stanley expressing the Parish Council's concern.

ACTION Clerk

11.2 Mr Rowe reported that the stile on right of way route 22 was impassable as a high fence has been put up to stop cattle entering the field, there is barbed wire and it is also impossible for dogs to get through. The Parish Council thought that a kissing gate might be an appropriate solution. The Clerk was asked to include the matter in the letter to Mr Stanley. If a site meeting is required Mr Rowe would like to be present.

ACTION Clerk

11.3 The stone slab at the turn towards Ansty at the Chapel junction has fallen into the road again. Mr Northover would put this back in place.

ACTION RN

12. GRASS CUTTING AT MEMORIAL SEAT

12.1 Mr Stevens has kindly undertaken cutting the grass at the memorial seat at Cuckoo Lane junction. He has expressed the wish to stop doing this now. Mr Richard Saunders, who maintains the gardens at the Fox has offered to undertake the task and to cut the patch of grass near Ansty Chapple. The Parish Council thanked Mr Stevens for his commitment to keeping the memorial seat area so well maintained. The Parish Council welcomed Mr Saunder's offer and agreed to ask him to cut the grass at the memorial seat and Ansty Chapel. The Parish Council agreed that the sum of £50 could be offered towards his expenses.

ACTION Clerk

13. FLOOD SIGNS FOR PARISHES

13.1 After a short discussion it was agreed that flood signs would be best kept at separate locations across the parish where most needed. It was agreed therefore to request three sets of warning signs, one to be kept by Mr Bridle for Hilton, one to be kept by Mr Northover for Marsh Water and one to be kept by Ms McGuinness for Lower Ansty/Melcombe Bingham. The Clerk would contact DCC.

ACTION Clerk

Mr Northover left the meeting at 8:16pm.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available on the table.

14.1 The letter from Patsy Grace, former Treasurer of Dewlish Youth Club, was read out. Ms Grace explained that the Youth Club has been disbanded and as it served Dewlish, Cheselbourne and Ansty the Club Committee had agreed to divide the money remaining in its bank account between the three villages. The Parish Council had been sent a cheque for the sum of £355.30. The Parish Council expressed its gratitude in accepting the cheque. Unfortunately the cheque had been written out to 'Ansty Parish Council' and so the Clerk was asked to write to Ms Grace thanking her for the kind gesture but pointing out that it was unable to bank the cheque because of the error in the payee name.

14.2 The Parish Council nominated the Clerk as its contact for correspondence from The Pensions Regulator. It was explained that Hilton Parish Council would have to have a pension scheme in place for its employee by 1 May 2017, which is its 'staging date'. It is likely that as the employee will earn below a certain threshold the Parish Council will not have to make contributions towards a pension. However the law requires all employees to be automatically enrolled into a pension scheme, an employer is not allowed to suggest that an employee does not join as it is the employee's responsibility and choice to opt-out if they so wish.

ACTION Clerk

14.3 It was agreed that Mr Bridle, Ms McGuinness, Mr Rowe and Mr Wyld would attend the relevant DAPTC training course(s). They would let the Clerk know of their preferred course date(s) and the Clerk would book on their behalf.

ACTION Cllrs and Clerk

14.4 The email regarding the North Dorset Local Plan, Note on Progress was read out. Cllr Somper explained that the changes to the Local Plan would affect larger villages because they suggest changes (removal) of village boundaries, which will have an affect on planning. The changes will affect villages such as Milborne St Andrew, Winterborne Kingston and Winterborne Whitechurch and relate to infilling and further housing development outside of individual towns. It is significant in terms of local planning and is likely to affect those villages that have or are undertaking neighbourhood plans

14.5 The email from Mr Clive to the Clerk was read out. Mr Clive reported overladen trailers being drawn by large tractors at speed from Lower Farm through Hilton and Higher Ansty. Large boulders were falling off the trailers and the banks of the road being eroded away particularly at Hilton Church. Mr Bridle also reported that several villagers had made similar complaints to him. The Parish Council resolved unanimously to write a letter of complaint to DCC Highways. For a more immediate affect however it was also agreed that Mrs Langham would text Mr Hiscock after the meeting to notify him of the Parish Council's concern.

ACTION CL and Clerk

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

13.1 Memorial tea party. The Chairman asked what this would involve. Ms McGuinness explained that Parliament has been participating in the celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. One of the activities is an afternoon tea party on Sunday 14 June. There do not seem to be any 'Libertea' parties planned for North Dorset and Ms McGuinness wondered if the Parish Council might be able to discuss this. There would be little time between the date of the next meeting and 14 June to set anything up and whilst there was general consensus that it would be a great idea the Parish Council was probably not the right forum to bring this suggestion at this point. It was suggested that Ms McGuinness might set up a tea party herself.

13.2 Signatories for bank accounts.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 A number of councilors were unable to attend on 2 June. The date of the next meeting was therefore changed to Tuesday 9th June 2015, 7.00pm, Old Brewery Hall.

14.2 The Clerk and a number of Councillors were unable to attend a meeting on 7 July. It was agreed to change the date of the meeting to 21 July. As this was so close to the end of July it was agreed that there would not be a meeting in August, unless an EGM was required.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all those attending and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.