

**Minutes of a Meeting of Hilton Parish Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 in the Club Room of The Old Brewery Hall, Ansty at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT** Catherine Langham (Chairman) (CL)  
 Stephen Sanders (Vice-Chairman) SS  
 Edward Bridle (EB)  
 William Earp (WE)  
 Marion Walbridge (MW)  
 Jim Waterworth (JW)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Cllr Jane Somper (District) and Shulla Jaques (Clerk).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Ms E Parker (District) and Mr R Northover.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

The Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. Mr J Waterworth's name was added to those present. The correction being made by hand the Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

**4.1** Further to 6.1 of the previous Minutes a report regarding Hilton's response to the initial consultation for the proposed community governance review requested by Melcombe Horsey Parish Meeting had been circulated before the meeting. The Chairman explained that Ms Eastment had notified the Parish Council that Melcombe Horsey Parish Meeting was not pursuing the boundary review. Cllr Somper expressed sympathy that the review was not possible at the present time as it would have been costly. Cllr Somper highlighted that it was not possible to have a parish council across two districts, though it had clearly been acceptable, bizarrely, in the past to split a village across two districts. Cllr Somper also made the point that reviews of a district boundary can be difficult unless both districts are reviewing their boundaries at the same time. There was unfortunately no appetite at North Dorset to have to deal with a district boundary review at the moment. The Chairman thanked Cllr Somper. The Clerk was thanked for responding to the correspondence and for the report. It was resolved and agreed unanimously to accept the report. The Clerk was asked to forward the report to Ms Eastment.

**ACTION Clerk**

**4.2** Mr Justin Langham will spray the footpath once the crop has established itself. The Clerk was asked to contact the Ranger with regards the repair of the stile.

**ACTION Clerk**

**4.3** The Clerk had yet to report the dump at the gate to the Green Hill Conservation area. This will be done at the same time as requesting the stile be repaired.

**ACTION Clerk**

**4.4** Regarding point 13.1 (and also at correspondence 1 of this Agenda) the Clerk had spoken to Mr J McQuiad, who is based in Bristol and has been employed by the Milton Abbey Project to complete the public engagement plan for 'The Great Stare', looking at ways to keep local people informed of plans for the Abbey and Parkland restoration and encourage their involvement in events at the Abbey once the project has been completed. He has been put in touch with *Village News* and informed of local groups. He is aware that Hilton residents in particular will want to be informed especially about any impact on traffic through the village. He was involved in the development of the Abbey and Monastery at Downside School in Wiltshire and so has some experience of and sensitivity to this type of setting.

## **5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

**5.1** Cllr Somper reported that at the last Full Committee meeting Members agreed that there would not be an increase this year in the Council Tax in North Dorset. North Dorset remains one of the lowest taxing authorities in the country, meaning that a Band D property owner will pay the same as last year, £111.96 for all those services delivered by NDDC. This figure is approximately £80.00 less than the average amount nationwide. It means that there is a budget of £5,560,350 for NDDC services. The Parish Council saw this as good news for residents, as long as local services can be maintained. Cllr Somper explained that the protection of local services was most important for her.

**5.2** At the Council meeting on 19 February, NDDC approved the agreement to establish the ground-breaking Tri-Council Partnership with West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and to appoint Matt Prosser as its next Chief Executive. The Chairman stated that this would presumably mean there would be some savings. Cllr Somper agreed that there would probably be a saving in salaries and accommodation (office) costs.

**5.3** There will be a Development Committee meeting on 17 March in Whitechurch Village Hall to discuss the proposal for giant windturbines (2/2014/0768/PAEIA). All members of the public are welcome to attend.

**5.4** It was unfortunate that Cllr Somper had to report that there had been some anonymous, unfounded and malicious, complaints within Abbey Ward that the Enforcement Officer and team have had to deal with. Because the Enforcement team is obliged to follow up any complaint within an AONB and Conservation Area it has meant that the Enforcement Officer has been taken away from legitimate concerns, which has therefore caused delay for genuine complaints. It has also been extremely distressing for the targeted householder(s). Cllr Somper explained that the enforcement team is now in the Planning Department. Cllr Somper also confirmed that all complaints are dealt with confidentially and no names are revealed, not even under the freedom of information act and so legitimate complainants should be reassured.

**5.5** Cllr Somper was asked by the Chairman about whether there were any financial difficulties in the Dorset Waste Partnership. As this is a county initiative Cllr Somper could not respond. However Cllr Somper explained that the District Council has been able to freeze the council tax for the next year because it can balance its books. As a District Councillor she sees the protection of local services as being most important. Cllr Somper sits on the Scrutiny Committee and reported that there are monitors in place so that the council is alerted if there is any overspend over 5% in a budget.

## **6. OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

## **7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS**

**7.1 2/2014/1643/FUL** Garage at Streamside, The Knapp, Hilton. Demolish existing bus galvanised/block work bus station and erect 1 No. dwelling. There was some discussion as to the suitability of the site as a dwelling. In particular that there is a stream in close proximity to the site, although the application states that there is no watercourse close by. There was confusion as to whether there would be enough off-road parking as it was difficult to see from the plans. The previous use of the land for storage of bus fuel was also noted and concern that the land be decontaminated. There was general agreement that the proposed building materials would not be in keeping to the area. A resolution not to object to the application was agreed unanimously. However the Parish Council asked that its concerns be forwarded to the Planning Department. The following statement was submitted:

Hilton Parish Council does not object to the application (2/2014/1643/FUL). The Parish Council noted that in section 12 of the 'application for planning permission' the applicant has answered 'no' to the question whether the proposal is within 20 m of a watercourse. The Parish Council believes that this is incorrect as there is a stream at the property. Whilst there is little/no flood risk the Parish

Council noted that there should be careful consideration taken of the presence of a stream when considering the method of dealing with foul sewage. It was brought to the Parish Council's attention that because of the nature of the previous use as a bus station there could be a fuel/oil underground storage tank and it would ask that any contamination is removed from the site. It would also ask that any residues are not allowed to contaminate the stream. The Parish Council also commented that the proposed building materials (Bradstone and concrete tiles) are not in keeping with the surroundings. Materials such as wooden cladding or brick and flint block and an appropriate roofing material such as slate covering would be more sympathetic to the conservation area. There was also some discussion about vehicle parking. The road is narrow and off-street parking would be necessary. The plans were not clear as to whether there is a garage or hard standing for the one parking space on the application.

**2/2015/0244/CATREE** Old Post Office, Hilton. T1 Beech, fell. No objections.

**7.2** Planning decisions: **2/2015/0010/FUL** Moonfleet Farm, Higher Ansty. Change of use of agricultural land to a mixed use of agriculture and camp site with games area, and form grassed earth bund, PENDING. **2/2015/0141/HOUSE** flincomb Cottage, Hilton. Erect Garden Office, PENDING. **2/2014/0768/PAEIA** Wind turbines, Winterborne Whitechurch, PENDING.

**7.3** Applications received after agenda published. **2/2015/0106/LBC** Repair or replace No. 6 timber windows and carry out associated internal and external alterations. 2 Aller Green, Aller Lane, Ansty DT2 7PX. There was a short discussion after which a resolution was passed unanimously for no objections.

## 8. FINANCE

**8.1** Approval of accounts and signing of cheques.

<b>Accounts</b>					
Current account at 28.02.15	£1768.68		Fingerpost balance (inc chq raised at Mar meeting)		£113.70
Benefit account at 28.02.15	£5036.14				
<b>Cheques for signature</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Cheques for signature</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clerk's salary (Feb 15)	311	£114.44	Samaritans	317	£100.00
PAYE	312	£41.00	Old Brewery Hall donation	318	£200.00
DCC (salt dumpy bag)	313	£66.00	Hilton PCC donation	319	£200.00
VisionICT Inv No. 4973	314	£120.00	Dorset Wildlife Trust	320	£25.00
Air Ambulance	315	£100.00	Normtec Inv No 219 (letters fingerposts) [Benefit Acc]	1001	£148.00
Citizens Advice Bureau	316	£100.00		10	

## 9. HIGHWAYS

**9.1** Progress has been made regarding locating the grit bin at the Lower Farm end of Hilton. The Clerk is in contact with Mr Hiscock to set the bin in the hedgeline that borders his land.

**9.2** Mr Sanders reported that the collapsed drain in Melcombe Bingham is being repaired. Highways is doing a good job and the replacement will be installed properly.

**9.3** A resident had approached the Parish Council to ask whether a direction sign indicating 'Ansty' could be installed at Ansty Chapel. A number of people looking for Lower Ansty approaching from Milborne St Andrew/Hilton end up 'lost' in Higher Ansty. It was not clear whether a village name sign could be sited at the left hand side of the fork at Ansty Chapel or where 'Lower Ansty' officially begins. A sign for the shop on the fingerpost was suggested. After discussion it was agreed that DCC Highways should be contacted in the first instance.

**ACTION Clerk**

**10. RIGHTS OF WAY**

Nothing to report.

**11. FINGERPOSTS**

**11.1** The last finger had split and needed repair. However the last post would be put in place within the next few weeks. The pole was already in place.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was available on the table.

**12.1** Email introduction from James McQuaid, who has been contracted to develop the public engagement plan for the Milton Abbey and Landscape project, 'The Great Stare'. He invites local people's involvement in the plans and is keen to hear their thoughts. The Clerk had spoken with him and given him a general summary of local groups.

**12.2** The Government has published the final version of the Transparency Code, which replaces the need for an external audit for local councils with turnover less than £25,000. The Code will require the online publication of information which the Government says will provide taxpayers with a clear picture of council activities, spending and governance, and will improve the ability of communities to hold local public bodies to account. This Code is issued initially as 'recommended practice' and Government are now commencing regulations with the intention of making the Code mandatory by the start of the 2015/16 financial year. Government are also in the process of developing a programme of support to offer to the sector to help smaller authorities become web-enabled and comply with the Code's requirements. The government's requirement that councils in England with turnover not exceeding £25,000 should publish the summons, agenda and **draft minutes** on a website. This differs from the current Parish Council practice whereby approved Minutes are published. Draft Minutes will therefore be published on the website.

**12.3** Electronic Meetings Summons: On 30 January 2015 it became legal to use electronic communications to summons members of both principal councils and parish councils to meetings of those Authorities. Members may only receive summonses electronically where they consent to it being transmitted by this method and they may at any time withdraw their consent. The Parish Council passed a resolution unanimously that all members who use electronic communication consent to receiving summons for meeting electronically.

**12.4** Request from Akiko Takeoka, an Associate Professor in Sapporo University in Japan, currently on sabbatical leave at Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) at the University of Birmingham. Request for Clerk to complete online survey. Survey results will be helpful to NALC and SLCC. Parish Council agreed that the Clerk could respond.

**ACTION Clerk**

**12.5** Request from Walkers are Welcome scheme. The Clerk was asked to contact HoDEG to see if it would respond as it would have good local knowledge of walking routes.

**ACTION Clerk**

**13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

No items raised.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 7.00pm, Old Brewery Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all those who attended and the meeting closed at 8.05pm.