

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.00pm  
in the Old Brewery Hall, Ansty**

**PRESENT** Mrs Catherine Langham (Chair) (CL)  
Mr Edward Bridle (EB) Mr Richard Rowe (RR)  
Ms Justine McGuinness Mrs Marion Walbridge (MW)  
Mr Rodney Northover (RN) Mr Anthony Wyld (AW)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Shulla Jaques (Clerk), Cllr Jane Somper (District) and one member of the public. The meeting opened at 7.05pm.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Catherine Langham was elected Chairman for the Annual Parish meeting, Proposed: Justine McGuinness, seconded: Marion Walbridge.

**2. APOLOGIES**

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

**3. SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF NEWLY ELECTED PARISH COUNCILLORS**

3.1 The Chairman welcomed all those attending and newly elected councillors. Acceptance of Office forms had been circulated, they were signed and collected by the Clerk.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM Catherine Langham**

Firstly I would like to welcome our new Councillors, Justine McGuinness from Melcombe Bingham, and Richard Rowe and Anthony Wyld from Higher Ansty.

The past year has been one of great achievement in Hilton Parish, with the renewal of all the fingerposts being completed within the year. This project was coordinated by Stephen Sanders who raised funds from local people and organised the renovation. The majority of the renovation work was carried out by Ian Bryan of Melcombe Bingham who gave over 200 hours of meticulous work, removing old letters, painting the new wood and attaching the letters with literally thousands of screws. Dorset AONB partnership provided an initial donation of £500 which enabled the project to get started and they also gave invaluable information about the process. The overall result is superb and we should all be proud to be leaders of this project in North Dorset with immaculate yet historically accurate signposts. There is to be a celebratory drinks party at Warren Farm in Thursday at 6.30pm where all those involved in the project will be thanked and it is hoped that as many Councillors as possible will attend.

With regard to Planning over the last twelve months the major applications have been as follows.

Firstly, the new owners of Lower Farm Hilton made multiple applications for extension to farm buildings, slurry lagoon and the siting of a mobile home. These were all approved but the resulting work has caused some consternation within Hilton because the earthworks and excavations within the field adjacent to the farm have been very extensive. On 24<sup>th</sup> April Shulla Jaques and I were given a tour of the farm by the owner, Ed Hiscock. He explained the majority of the work should be completed by 8<sup>th</sup> July when the first cows will be milked and that the landscape will be restored and trees planted to screen the slurry lagoon.

Secondly the owners of Moonfleet Farm Campsite applied to increase the number of pitches to 24. This was supported by the Brewery Farm shop and Fox Inn, but the application has been refused due to problems with the access on to the highway. The existing campsite has

been a cause for concern for a local resident who has been affected by noise in peak periods.

Brewery Farm submitted an application to erect four log cabins to be used as holiday accommodation and also to erect a barn to be used for agricultural purposes. These were both approved.

An application to build a low cost dwelling on the site of the old bus garage in the Knapp at Hilton was not approved by the District Council.

Finally Hilton Parish Council objected to an application to place four 100m wind turbines on land near to Winterborne Whitechurch because it was felt that their presence would have a detrimental effect on the views from the ANOB. This application was considered by North Dorset Development Control Committee at a meeting in Winterborne Whitechurch on 17<sup>th</sup> March and approval was denied.

In January Hilton Parish Council was informed that Melcombe Parish Meeting was seeking approval to become a Parish Council but that in order to do so, the Parish Boundary would have to move from its current position by the house named Greygles, in Melcombe Bingham to the village signpost by the telephone box opposite the lane leading to Melcombe Park Farm. This would have resulted in a reduced electorate within Hilton Parish and therefore the precept would have to be raised to maintain income as it would be unlikely that expenses would alter. The matter was decided when it emerged that a boundary change across the District and Constituency boundary would be unlikely to be considered at present.

Finally we would like to thank Councillors Earp, Sanders and Waterworth, who all retired at the time of the Election on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Willy Earp and Jim Waterworth had both served the Council for many years (possibly 28 in Mr Earp's case) and whilst Stephen Sanders was a relative newcomer to Hilton Parish Council, he was extremely active not least as Flood Warden and coordinator of the fingerpost project. Thanks must also be given to our ever patient Clerk, Shulla Jaques, who is an invaluable asset to the Council and greatly appreciated.

A Vote of Thanks was proposed by Mrs Langham, seconded by Ms McGuinness and given unanimously and warmly to Mr Earp, Mr Sanders and Mr Waterworth.

##### **5. FINANCIAL REPORT 2014–2015 From Shulla Jaques, Clerk and RFO**

Hilton Parish Council began the financial year with £5300, the total of both accounts current and savings combined.

The Parish Council was only able to keep the precept unchanged in the previous financial year with the help of a small grant from North Dorset District Council and by using some of its reserves. North Dorset District Council did not offer a grant towards the annual precept for the 2014/15 financial year and it was agreed that to keep using Parish Council reserves would not be sustainable for future years. Therefore the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept from £4000 to £4996.

The bulk of its spending for the year was on its Clerk's salary. The final figure being £16.00 over budget because of a government approved one-off adjustment payment of £16.00. In order to adapt to North Dorset District Council sending planning applications electronically and to ensure that planning applications are seen by all councillors a second-hand projector was purchased for the amount of £100. The cost was absorbed by the stationery and training budget. Planning documents must be viewed through the Dorsetforyou website and printed out for councillors without computer access at the Parish Council's expense. The cost of training courses for councillors and clerk increased unexpectedly this year. The budget was sufficient for one councillor to attend one course *Planning Training for Town and*

*Parish Councillors* run by Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) which cost £50. The surplus £20 from the budget was reallocated to purchasing the projector. The 2014–2015 financial year saw the completion of the restoration of six of the parish's fingerposts. The cost of this project was paid for from the generous donations of businesses and individuals of the parish, together with a grant of £500 from Dorset AONB (the highest amount it could award to one parish) and £200 from the Divisional budget kindly given by County Councillor Cox. The Parish Council put £300 towards the project, ring-fenced from reserves. All amounts were paid into and from the Benefit Account. What cannot be reported on is a figure for the labour which was executed to a very high level of craftsmanship by Mr Bryan for no cost. Councillor Sanders also provided considerable time and assistance to the project. The figures for the fingerpost budget are as follows:

<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Donations	£1,646.00	paint	£246.58
Grants	£700.00	timber	£318.52
Parish Council	£300.00	fixings	£140.00
payments in kind	£240.00	letters	£1,244.20
		surface treatment	£335.00
		roundel	£288.00
		travel	£65.60
<b>TOTAL in</b>	<b>£2,886.00</b>	<b>TOTAL out</b>	<b>£2,637.90</b>
 AMOUNT remaining	 £248.10		

The Parish Council's insurance cover remained at £159. There was a slight increase in the subscription for DAPTC subscription to £163. Because no expense had been incurred for noticeboards and wastebins it was agreed to use the budget from these assets to purchase a grit bin for the Milton Abbas end of Hilton Village (£152).

Hilton Parish Council gave the following donations during the year, amounting to £1,175: Air Ambulance £100, Samaritans £100, Citizens Advice Bureau £100, Dorset Wildlife Trust £25, Hilton PCC, £450 (Nov inc £50 for clock & Mar), Old Brewery Hall £400 (Nov & Mar) The Parish Council ends the 2014/2015 financial year with £5523 (£314 of this is earmarked for the fingerpost project). The budget for 2015–2016 has been set at £4996, which means there will be no further increase in the precept for the next financial year.

## **6. WINTERBORNE DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT 2014–2015, Councillor Hilary Cox**

sent by email 21 April 2015

Dear All

This last year has flown by and been far less stressful for me at DCC. No longer having Cabinet responsibilities has enabled me to get out and about a lot more although meetings do still take up a fair amount of time.

County Farms, Archives, everything Environmental (Jurassic Coast, Local nature Partnership, AONB and the Environment Overview) as well as Division work gives me a far better work/life balance.

Within the Division the Finger Post project has gone well, Hilton and Ansty having completed all their posts, which look splendid. Others are hopefully in progress. There will be a similar sum available to spend this coming year so at the next Division meeting on 22nd April we can discuss what projects appeal to you all. As long as the Community supports a project and the benefits which follow, I am open to suggestions.

Speeding traffic still causes many villages distress and the new guidelines for both Community Speed checking and how to progress 20mph limits will again be explained at the next Division meeting along with the changes brought about in Adult Care.

The problems faced by the Waste Partnership in recent months have been well reported and the recovery plans accepted. It was fortunate that North Dorset was in tranche 2 of the roll out of the new system and we had very few problems during implementation. The vehicles needed for our lanes were an indicator of the problems ahead however. It is my one regret that it was not possible to resolve this whilst I was so closely involved.

At County Hall there have been changes in Leadership both within the ranks of Councillors and senior officers. The Council is moving forward to becoming a much sleeker and responsive organisation. Last year's massive public consultation Ask Dorset has been taken on board. There has been another consultation about how we can best support Dorset's Economic potential. As a county we need to provide opportunities for our young to stay and prosper; being a retirement haven is not enough.

I continue to enjoy working with all the Parishes within the Division and the NDDC Councillors who support us so well. It was a great sadness for Riversdale to lose Richard Moyle; we were together in March at the Spetisbury Annual meeting and have worked together for 16 years. I have several Annual Parish meetings in my diary and will attend if at all possible, otherwise I hope to see your representatives at the next Division meeting on 22nd April.

Finally, may I wish you all the best on May 7th and for the rest of the year.

Yours  
Hilary C

## **7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

### **7.1 From Jane Somper (Abbey Ward)**

It has been a busy year at North Dorset District Council with important undertakings and changes that will see a very different face to the council and to the district as we move forward with growth, partnership and improvements.

The most important of these has been the agreement of the Council to approve the ground breaking tri-partnership between North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland Borough Councils, and the appointment of Matt Prosser as Chief Executive of all three Councils, following the retirement of Liz Goodall from North Dorset District Council. This partnership will lead to cost savings for all three Councils as well as pooling valuable experience from each other enabling smarter working practice and improved services. There will be a period of adjustment and the detail is important. Our priority is to ensure that all residents in the Abbey Ward have the access they need to the services they want. There is a big shift towards residents accessing information online, and this is good when it works, but sometimes we want to speak to a real person, either on the telephone or face-to-face, so ensuring that this contact is still available to all of us is top of my list of assurances.

The Local Plan has featured strongly not only in the past year, but for all our time as your councillors here, and after years of work, debate and changes the Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspector for scrutiny. The plan outlines the strategy for all building in the District, both residential and commercial, along with the infrastructure needed to support the growth of the district. This process takes weeks and we will not know the final outcome for several months, and at this moment we are unable to report news of the outcome of further consultations.

We have had many planning applications to advise and discuss with residents over the course of the last year, but none more pressing and controversial than the wind farm in Winterborne Whitechurch. We are proud to say that North District Council officers dealt with this application swiftly, professionally and fairly. The document produced by officers and the presentation given at the Development Management meeting in March that put the application to the members for a final decision was commended by all that read it for its clear, uncomplicated and thorough language. Of course we all now know the outcome of the decision and the recommendation from officers, and the application was refused on four grounds. I spoke at the meeting stating the view of not only Winterborne Whitechurch, but also the wider area of the whole of Abbey Ward and that the feeling from the majority was that these industrial structures were unacceptable and would contribute enormous damage to the visual impact to the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural beauty and to listed buildings within Winterborne Whitechurch.

Of course at this stage we do not know if the applicant will appeal, but if they do you can rest assured that I will continue to speak out against the application.

No doubt there will be more applications for renewable energy installations on a large scale coming through, and these are needed and acceptable in the right locations. Location is the key word here and it is important that residents and this area of outstanding natural beauty are not negatively affected by the visual impacts of any application.

Work on Overview & Scrutiny and in particular on the Stour Valley and Poole Partnership has been varied and the panel has put in to place a mechanism that should SVPP exceed 5% over its agreed budget, the panel will be alerted and action can be taken to ascertain why and what can be done to reverse this. We felt this was important and prudent to avoid reaching overspend on budgets.

## **7.2 From Councillor Emma Parker (by email. Read to the meeting by the Chairman)**

This term in Council has seen a few changes from last year, one being the retirement of the Council's Chief Executive Liz Goodall, This position has been filled by Matt Prosser who will be Chief Executive of three councils being North Dorset, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, this is the start towards all three councils joining as a tri-partnership.

As most of the residents will have noticed is that North Dorset District Council voted to freeze council tax.

My Term within North Dorset has been very much the same, The committees that I sit on are Overview and Scrutiny, licensing and orders, and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee, I really enjoy being involved in the committees that I sit on it is all very interesting work from having a performance report from highways agency to deciding a licensing application, I do feel very privilege to be part of North Dorset District Council and to be working alongside all our parishes that we have within the ward,

One of the main things I have enjoyed over the last four years is being there for all residents and being able to help them or point them in the right direction and I have met some very interesting people along the way...

## **8. OPEN FORUM**

**8.1** The problem of potholes was raised. Although a number have been filled in Hilton Village there are several holes in The Knapp, opposite the road to Manor Farm that appear to have missed the repairs. These holes had been reported when the survey of road damage was undertaken at the end of last year. The Chairman suggested that the app 'mend my road'

was a useful tool for reporting such problems as well as reporting them on the Dorsetforyou website.

The Chairman thanked all those who attended and the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.24pm