

Minutes of a Meeting of Hilton Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st July 2015 in the Club Room of The Old Brewery Hall, Ansty at 7.00pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE Shulla Jaques (Clerk), Mr A Earp and one member of the public. Mr E Hiscock attended from 7.30pm in response to an invitation from the Hilton Parish Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ms J Somper (District), Ms E Parker (District) and Mr A Wyld.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 9th JUNE 2015

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting had been circulated. There being no corrections the Minutes were approved unanimously as being a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest, however all Councillors acknowledged that they knew Mr W Earp whose planning application (2/2015/0817/FUL) is being considered at the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Points 4.4 Ms McGuinness reported that the visit to the Environment Agency's incident room at the Blandford Office had been postponed. Ms McGuinness will notify the Parish Council of the rescheduled date.

4.2 Regarding point 4.7 and speeding of contractors' vehicles through the villages it was reported that of the three drivers the older driver had been responsive to Councillors' and residents' requests to drive with more care. The two younger drivers had been less sensitive. However there was general agreement that the driving had improved. It was agreed that poor driving could be reported direct to the contractor.

4.3 Points 7.3 and 12.2 had been actioned.

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

The report from District Councillors had been circulated by email. Copied herewith.

We attended full council on Friday 26th June where the following nominations were considered for honorary alderman, all having served lengthy time as Councillors at NDDC; Mrs Su Hunt, Mervyn Jeffery, Geoffrey Millar, Richard Moyle (posthumously) and Lt Col Michael Oliver.

Also at full council a report was presented to members outlining the Planning Inspectors modifications to the Local Plan. These changes were given unanimous support by all members. These modifications will go out to consultation later in July and will run until September for eight weeks. This is longer than the six week period to take in to account summer holidays.

NDDC will be able to use some parts of the Local Plan immediately when considering planning applications. The inspector and the council wished to have the thoughts of the wider community listened to before the plan will proceed on the main modifications, which relate to the remaining policies, which for this village and ward are the section relating to the removal of village boundaries.

In our last report we stated that Emma would be the representative on the Spectrum community forum. Unfortunately due to Spectrum rules tenants are not permitted to sit on the forum as a councillor.

Jane continues her work on the Stour Valley & Poole Partnership and has a meeting to run through the setting of agendas with officers of NDDC shortly.

Jane attended a workshop with elected members from West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Councils as part of the tri-partnership partnership. It was held in Dorchester and over 60 councillors attended. Some very useful points came up at this meeting with suggestions coming from councillors from all 3 councils.

Jane Somper & Emma Parker.

6. OPEN FORUM

None (see Agenda item 10)

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

7.1 2/2015/0817/FUL Aller Farm, Ansty. Erect agricultural livestock building and lean-to storage building (demolish existing timber building). There were no objections to this application. Proposed Mrs Langham, seconded Mr Bridle. Mr A Earp left the meeting.

7.2 No planning decisions to date.

7.3 Applications received after agenda published: None

8. FINANCE

8.1 Approval of accounts and signing of cheques.

Accounts and cheques were approved for signature and cheques were signed.

Accounts					
Current account at 30.06.15		£2156.57	Benefit account at 30.06.15		£5029.47
Cheques for signature	Ref	Amount	Cheques for signature	Ref	Amount
Clerk's salary (June 15)	330	£170.65	DAPTC Inv No 15/105 new councilors course x2	333	£60.00
PAYE	331	£42.60	DAPTC Inv No 15/136 new councilors course x1	334	£30.00
DAPTC subscription 15/16	332	£148.95			

Retrospective approval for BACS payment of £59.40 for the situation vacant advertisement in the *Blackmore Vale Magazine* Invoice No 60282479 paid 15.06.15 was given unanimously.

8.2 Signatories for both accounts: formalising the paperwork for the removal and addition of new signatories for both accounts would be postponed until the new Clerk was in place so that all details can be changed at the same time.

ACTION Clerk

9. HIGHWAYS

9.1 Ms McGuinness had looked at the potholes in The Knapp together with Mr Bridle and reported that the road is in very poor condition in several places. After short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would upload a 'mend my road' (or similar) Application and report the potholes.

ACTION Clerk

9.2 Mr Rowe raised the possibility of improving the direction signs for Ansty. Drivers looking for Ansty, Rawlsbury Farm or the Brewery Farm Shop from the direction of Hazelbury Bryan often sought direction from residents in Higher Ansty. The Clerk would provide Mr Rowe contact details to raise the issue with DCC Highways. Mrs Langham would look into the possibility of providing a sign for Rawlsbury Farm. Ms McGuinness would approach the Fox Inn and enquire whether the owners have any plans to put up any more signs. The Parish Council was clear that it is up to individual businesses to arrange for their own signage and that it could not promote a single business, therefore any new direction signs would be for specific places such as 'Lower Ansty' and

not a business. Mrs Langham reminded the meeting that there was some money left from the fingerpost budget which the Parish Council could consider using to meet the cost of any new sign.

ACTION Clerk, RR, CL, JM

10. RIGHTS OF WAY

Mr E Hiscock arrived at 7.30.

10.1 Mrs Langham informed Mr Hiscock that the manner in which contractors had been driving through the villages had been raised again. Mr Hiscock explained that he had spoken to the contractors the day after he had been notified by the Parish Council of poor driving. Mr Rowe remarked that he had noticed an improvement when he had met two of the contractors on the highway whilst exercising his horses the contractors had stopped to allow him to pass safely. Ms McGuinness commented that at the last meeting a resident had expressed the opinion that the contractors were not going slowly but Mr Hiscock explained that at that point he had not made a specific point to ask contractors to drive carefully through the villages. He has now however requested that they drive with care and would expect the contractors to heed his request. The problems had arisen when silage, slurry and stone were being moved at the same time. This has now finished. Mr Hiscock confirmed that the work being undertaken this week to move silage should be completed the following day.

10.2 The Parish Council had received a complaint from a resident in Hilton of an electric fence being put across the bridleway on Mr Hiscock's land at Duck Street. Mr Hiscock explained that he has used the same fencing solution as that he uses at his other farm. He has spoken to the Rights of Way Officer and he has been told that he is within his rights to put a wire across the bridleway, although the Rights of Way Officer would prefer that he found an alternative barrier. Mr Hiscock suggested he could make the wire 'dead' and made the point that the barrier will only be in place very occasionally and he or a worker would be around whilst it was in place. It was suggested that a flat tape rather than a wire could be used and that something could be hung across the wire/tape at the gate so that it would be more visible to horses and riders. Mr Hiscock agreed to these suggestions. He also suggested the fence could be parallel to the bridleway.

10.3 Another complaint had been brought to the Parish Council concerning bailer twine being put across and left across Brick Lane. This could be very dangerous to horses and riders. Mr Hiscock explained that a temporary barrier was required across the lane every now and then. He agreed that handles could be added so that the barrier could be opened easily. Mr Hiscock was anxious to do what he could. Mrs Langham expressed the thanks of the Parish Council and of the resident who had complained about the electric fence on the bridleway but who had been unable to attend the Parish Council meeting in person.

10.4 Mr Hiscock was asked about the progress of the farm and he informed the meeting that work at the farm had begun two weeks ago last Wednesday. Work was going well. There are 90 heifers. The milkers strip graze and come along the tracks twice a day. The ground work is almost complete (tomorrow) and will then be planted. The Parish Council commented that the site is looking much tidier. Mr Hiscock reported that 2500 tons of chalk had been moved, the rest of the chalk had been used to landscape the site and on the tracks. The tracks should begin to blend in and the track running up the hillside has had topsoil laid along its sides and will be planted with grass in the autumn; so the sides will look green and it will dull down. In the autumn there will be between 6–7 acres grassed down.

10.5 There had been a complaint to Highways about the flooding at the crossing and Mr Hiscock explained that there will be a soak away, a dry ditch to take away the water. There was general understanding that the drains along this stretch of road can get blocked especially after hedge cutting. Mr Hiscock would cut out a culvert in necessary. In normal rainfall the existing drainage can cope but tends to flood after a deluge. Mr Hiscock reported a similar problem at his other farm and so was familiar with the difficulties.

10.6 Mr Hiscock had received an anonymous complaint about the cattle crossing and both Mr Mepham and Mr Eastwood had met with Mr Hiscock at the site and Mr Hiscock circulated their email response. It had been agreed that Dorset Highways and Mr Hiscock would monitor the

entrance regularly and ensure that the entranceway is kept clear of debris and water flowing off the field. Mr Hiscock would take appropriate action. It was also agreed that having cows crossing at this particular point rather than from the main entrance to the farm and then walking them along the road, would reduce delays and inconvenience to road users. The reply also stated, 'The Highways Act 1980 prohibits the use of gates that open on the highway, however due to the nature of the usage here we will allow the use of these gates provided: 1 their use is kept to a minimum and closed and locked by a competent person immediately after the cows crossing has ceased. 2 at least one competent person remains supervising the gates while the cattle cross.' Mr Hiscock confirmed that someone will always be manning the gates, which can be undertaken by one person. At the moment cows for morning milking are staying overnight on the farm side so reducing the use of the crossing. It will take about five minutes for the full herd of cows to cross. It was agreed that it was less disruptive for the cows to cross at this point rather than walk along the lane.

10.7 There will be approximately 250 cows in the winter. There are currently 140 being milked.

10.8 Mr Hiscock was keen to provide an opportunity for residents to see the farm. He envisages this to take place within the next six to eight months. It is possible that it may be on Open Farm Sunday next year in June but he would prefer for it to be earlier than that. The Parish Council thought this was a very good idea and it was suggested that the month before the opening Mr Hiscock lets the Parish Council know if his intention so that it can be promoted to residents.

Mr Hiscock was thanked and he left the meeting at 7.55pm.

10.9 Mr Bridle reported that the wooden bridleway fingerpost at the bottom of The Knapp opposite the church was in disrepair. Mr Rowe would investigate.

ACTION RR

11. RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK

11.1 The Parish Council was encouraged that there had been three applications to date. An interview date of 7 August was mooted and would be confirmed with Mr Wyld on his return. The deadline was noon 24 July and the Clerk would forward any more applications.

ACTION AW, CL, JM, Clerk

12. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available on the table.

12.1 Councillors were asked to complete the Dorset County Council's Highway Service (Dorset Highways) survey individually. The Clerk would circulate by email and make paper copies for those councillors who do not use email.

ACTION Clerk

12.2 Notification of the changes to the mobile library service to be forwarded to Ms McGuinness. The Clerk also to make paper copy for mobile library users in Ansty.

ACTION Clerk

12.3 Notification from DT11 group of proposals to pedestrianize Blandford Market Place to be circulated by email. Mrs Langham suggested that parking from the Market Square could be removed rather than pedestrianizing the whole area.

ACTION Clerk

12.4 Bus2Go information forwarded to Mrs Walbridge.

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

13.1 Changes in health services (JM)

13.2 Emergency planning (JM)

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

No meeting in August unless there is urgent business. The next meeting will be 1 September at 7.00pm, Old Brewery Hall. Mrs Langham apologized that she will be unable to attend.

End of ordinary business 8.05pm.

DRAFT