

Minutes of a Meeting of Hilton Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd February 2015 in the Club Room of The Old Brewery Hall, Ansty at 7.00pm

PRESENT Stephen Sanders (Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman) (SS)
Edward Bridle (EB)
Rodney Northover (RN)
Marion Walbridge (MW)

IN ATTENDANCE Shulla Jaques (Clerk), Ms C Eastment and 10 members of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Parker (District), Cllr Somper (District) and Mrs C Langham. Mr W Earp was not present.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6th JANUARY 2015

The Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. There being no amendments 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.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Further to 4.3 of the previous Minutes Mr Sanders reported that Highways would be repairing the collapsed drain in Melcombe Bingham within the next two to three months.

4.2 The resident that had been concerned about speeding in Melcombe Bingham was not able to volunteer to look into this matter further.

4.3 There had been no objection to point 7.4 (tree notice 2/2014/1587/CATREE, Hilton House, Hilton. G1 Cypress, fell).

4.4 Information about dementia awareness sessions had been put on the website.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Somper was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report.

5.1 The Appointment Committee of NDDC met to interview Matt Prosser for the post of Chief Executive of the Council. Mr Prosser is currently Chief Executive of West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council. The appointment committee will make a recommendation to council that Mr Prosser should be appointed to the post and the council will make a decision on the recommendation at its next meeting on Thursday 19th February. Should this be approved by members he will become the Chief Executive for all three councils.

5.2 The wind turbine application on Winterborne Whitechurch does not yet have a fixed date to go before committee.

5.3 If you are considering standing for election as a local councillor in North Dorset in May, NDDC is holding an information session at the council offices in Blandford on Wednesday 18th February between 4.00pm and 7.00pm. I, along with other councillors will be on hand to answer any questions and explain more fully the role.

6. OPEN FORUM

Mr Sanders brought Agenda item 12 forward and invited Ms Eastment to talk about the proposal for the whole of Melcombe Bingham to form its own Parish Council. A summary, written by Ms Eastment had been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting (appended to the written Minutes).

6.1 Ms Eastment requested the views of Hilton Parish Council on the proposal. As there is a district boundary issue Ms Eastment has been advised that she needs to collate opinions from the

North and West District Councils and from Hilton Parish Council, which will be forwarded to The Boundary Commission. Hilton Parish Council recognized that with more emphasis on localism Melcombe Bingham being within a Parish Council, as opposed to a Parish Meeting, would allow business to be managed more effectively and mean that it did not need to apply for special powers every time it wanted to do something. However, having discussed the matter at the previous meeting and consulted with Cllr Somper there had been resistance to the idea. The general feeling from Hilton was that it could see no benefit in losing Melcombe Bingham from its parish, thinking instead that it would be more beneficial for the whole of Melcombe Bingham to join with Hilton Parish rather than dividing into two very small parish councils. Hilton recognized that Ms Eastment was responding to advice and a potential need, it was concerned that a lot of time, effort and money was going into looking into this. It would also be expensive for North Dorset District Council to pursue. Whilst Hilton would not stand in the way of the proposal, as the majority of residents in Melcombe Bingham appeared to support the idea, there was no level of enthusiasm from Hilton for the project. When opened to other members of the public present at the meeting there was no support for the formation of two small parish councils. The point was made that a reduction in the number of electors in Hilton Parish would almost certainly lead to an increase in the cost of the precept to remaining householders. On the other hand members of the public thought that it would make more sense, the district boundary issue aside, if Hilton Parish was extended to include the whole of Melcombe Bingham. Mr Sanders thanked Ms Eastment, who left the meeting (7.20pm).

6.2 A member of the public enquired about the implication of 7.4 of the Minutes from the meeting held on 4th November 2014 ('The main points to come from the course were that the Parish Council can only object to a planning application taking into account 'material planning considerations', ...). Mr Sanders explained that Parish Councils have only ever been able to proffer opinions about planning applications based on material planning considerations, this was not new and did not represent an erosion of existing powers.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

7.1 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. (Extension of existing 14 No. pitch camp site to a 27 No. pitch camp site). Mr Sanders sought the views of Parish Councillors. Several points of concern were raised. Mr Northover expressed the opinion that the site has been the cause of noise disturbance to a neighbour and that it would make sense to wait for a year before allowing the site to be extended so that noise levels could be monitored by the environmental health officer. Mr Waterworth expressed concern at the scale of the proposed development. Whilst he agreed in principle to an increase in the number of pitches and recognised the need in order to meet the costs of putting noise reduction measures in place he was concerned that the increase was too large and unsure whether the proposed bund would be large enough. The discussion was opened to the public. Miss Hundley asked how many tents would be on each pitch and expressed concern that the increase in people, which could be upward of 160 people, will create additional noise which is a matter of great annoyance to her and some of her clients, who have commented that they come to the area for peace and quiet but are disturbed by the noise of raised voices from the camp site and in particular the swing in the tree. Mr Jones expressed reluctance to move the swing, the earth bund is being put in place to help reduce noise levels. Mr Jones expressed the opinion that except for Bank Holidays it is unusual for the site to be at full capacity. The Parish Council made the point that in theory however the site when at capacity would be in the region of 160 people. Mr Jones stated that he is prepared to build the earth bund as high as necessary and would not have a problem making the bund bigger if required. It is Miss Hundley's opinion that the noise from the site is affecting her business. There was support for the application from the Fox Public House and Brewery Farm shop expressed at the meeting. There was also support expressed for the benefits of the campsite for handicapped visitors. The Parish Council expressed sympathy with the concerns raised and expressed the possibility of an increase in traffic. The Parish Council felt it has a duty to be satisfied that the proposal will not cause unacceptable noise levels, there being an ongoing issue with this. In principle the application is good news for the village increasing tourism to the area. It was suggested that Miss Hundley should write to NDDC expressing her concerns. Having had a full discussion it was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council did not object in principle to the application. However, it would

appreciate the Planning Department taking into account that there is an ongoing issue with unacceptable noise levels from the site (in particular the swing in the tree, during the tourist season), and to satisfying itself that the method and construction of the earth bund proposed to reduce the noise carrying to Miss Hundley's property will be sufficient to reduce the noise to an acceptable level.

2/2015/0141/HOUSE Flintcomb Cottage, Hilton. Erect Garden Office. No objections.

7.2 Planning decisions: **2/2014/1313/FUL** Change of use of land to station mobile home and form 2 parking spaces, Lower Farm, Hilton, GRANTED. **2/2014/0791/FUL** Installation of telecommunication equipment All Saints Church, Hilton, GRANTED. **2/2014/0768/PAEIA** Wind turbines, Winterborne Whitechurch, PENDING.

7.3 No planning applications had been received after the agenda had been published.

8. FINANCE

8.1 The accounts and cheques were approved and the cheques signed.

Accounts		Cheques for signature	Ref	Amount
Current account at 30. 01.15	£1863.43	Clerk's salary (January)	309	£53.55
Benefit account at 30.01.15	£5171.14	PAYE	310	£41.20
Fingerpost balance 31.01.15	£453.70	P.S. George (Blastech)	100109	£135.00

9. HIGHWAYS

Nothing to report.

10. RIGHTS OF WAY

10.1 Mrs A Davies had emailed the Parish Council requesting that, the footpath which runs off to the left of Brick Lane just before it meets the Ice Drove be cleared as it is not clear where the public footpath is (from either end) because of a growing crop. Mrs Davies also reported that a stile on the far side of the Ice Drove (a continuation of the public footpath) is in need of repair. It was also noted that the Bridleway at Cuckoo Lane was overgrown. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Justin Langham.

ACTION Clerk

10.2 Mrs Davies had also raised the point about the 'dump' which lies to the right of the entrance to the Dorset Wildlife Trust Greenhill Down Nature Reserve. It has been there for many years and as it is not something 'volunteers' could tackle Mrs Davies asked if the Parish Council could arrange for its removal.

ACTION Clerk

10.3 Mr R Rowe, present at the meeting was asked to provide background to progress on restoring the bridleway (E10/5) in Hilton. Mr Rowe has spoken to Graham Stanley, Senior Ranger DCC and it has been agreed not to install a bridge but to make good the ford across the stream. Mr Stanley will meet with Mr Hiscock to discuss this proposal. The conclusion would be reported at the next Parish Council meeting.

ACTION Clerk

Mr Sanders thanked Mr Northover for his work on Rights of Way.

11. FINGERPOSTS

11.1 The £200 kindly donated by Cllr Cox from the division allowance had been received.

11.2 the final fingerpost will be finished in the next 3-4 weeks.

12. PARISH BOUNDARY POTENTIAL CHANGES

This had been discussed at agenda item 6.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Available on the table.

13.1 Mr Sanders summarised the email from Rev John Simmons Rural Dean of Milton & Blandford Deanery with update on Milton Abbey Project.

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

14.1 Cheque to Normtec

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3rd March 2015, 7.00pm, Old Brewery Hall.

There being no further business the Acting Chairman thanked all those who attended and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

DRAFT