

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 7pm The Club Room of The Old Brewery Hall, Ansty

PRESENT: Cllrs C Langham (CL - Vice Chairman) M Walbridge (MW), R Northover (RN)
R Rowe (RR) A Wylid (AW) & E Bridle (EB)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Smith (Clerk) and 2 members of the general public.

- 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** District Cllrs Jane Somper, Emma Parker & Councillor J McGuinness (JM - Chairman) were absent from the meeting. This meeting was chaired by Cllr Langham (Vice Chairman)
- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th September 2016 had been circulated and were approved unanimously as being a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman (CL).
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Langham informed the PC that she had a personal interest in the planning application relating to the Malthouse Business Units and stated that she would leave the room when the application was discussed on the agenda.
- 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST PC MEETING/CLERKS REPORT:** At the last PC meeting Cllr RR had agreed to have a chat with Mr Hiscock (Lower Farm, Hilton) and to ask if any work to improve the drainage at the gates was planned. Cllr Rowe had met with Mr Hiscock and discussed the flooding problems. DCC Highways has visited the farm and inspected the drainage. The main issue seems to be that a manhole/drain is not taking the water away quickly enough to keep the road water free during heavy rain. DCC Highways have agreed to return to the farm at a later date and to improve the drainage. The pipework carrying the water seems to be sufficient for the job the water just needs to flow into the drain more efficiently. The Clerk has drafted a complaint letter to be sent to DCC regarding the proposed Highways cuts. The draft is at present with Cllr McGuinness waiting for approval to be sent out. The Clerk has visited Lloyds Bank in Blandford with her ID, once the paperwork has been completed the Clerk will have access to the PC bank account. The Clerk highlighted to the PC that at present only 2 Cllrs are signatories on the PC bank account. To cover sickness or meeting absence further signatories should be added to enable cheques to always be signed at each PC meeting. Once the Clerk has access to the PC bank account this action can be taken forward. The Clerk has spoken to Vision ICT Ltd (website) and over the next few weeks will hopefully be able to make a start on bringing the PC website up to date.
- 5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:** District Councillor Jane Somper had sent an email in advance of the meeting drawing Cllrs attention to the current NDDC Budget Options consultation and encouraging them to go online and complete the survey.
- 6. OPEN FORUM:** A resident highlighted an issue with road subsidence in Pleck Lane. Apparently the problem has been reported to DCC Highways before but no maintenance work has taken place to date. The Clerk agreed to contact Highways again and request that they survey the road again. Overgrown hedges/trees impeding tractors/trailer etc on the narrow rural lanes was discussed. Property owners have a legal obligation to keep the overgrowth trimmed but this does not always happen or the hedges are not cut back satisfactorily. A specific area in the Parish was mentioned but the exact area and owners address was not confirmed. Cllr Walbridge agreed to investigate and come back to the Clerk with the property owners contact details etc. RR agreed to refurbish the PC noticeboard at Higher Ansty. RR has made and placed 3 road signs directing traffic to Lower Ansty on the road junctions. Poor village signage issues to be discussed at the next PC meeting.

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RR informed the PC that this year there will be no bird scarers to protect crops in the area of Ice Drove & Bulbarrow Farm bridleways. RR would like to thank Justin Langham on behalf of all horse riders for this and they are extremely grateful.

- 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS: 2/2016/1259/FUL** – Malthouse Business Units, Ansty Lane DT2 7PN, change of use from 3 B1 business units to 2 dwelling houses. Cllr Langham left the room. Justin Langham gave a short presentation on his plans for the business units. The units have not been occupied for the past 3 yrs and demand for these type of units seems to be limited. These units will be converted into small dwellings for single or older residents. Cllr Northover mentioned that the site was historically a landfill site and it was agreed that this issue would be one for NDDC to investigate. All Cllrs agreed that converting the unusable units into residential dwelling was an application the PC would support. All Cllrs agreed to support this application. **2/2016/1367/FUL** – Brewery Farm, Ansty Lane DT2 7PN, erect building to provide toilet & washing facilities for existing caravan site. The Clerk will contact NDDC and request that the comment date on this application is extended until the November meeting. This should give all Cllrs enough time to review the application. **2/2016/1366/CATREE** – Lower Farm House, Village Road, Hilton DT11 0DQ, crown Willow & reduce Hazel hedge. All Cllrs agreed to support.
- 8. FINANCIAL REPORT:** The following payments were authorized (cheques signed) – **£225.18** (S Smith) Clerks wages for September 2016. The PC annual return has been received back from BDO to the Clerk. The Completed Return was presented to Cllrs and was approved and accepted by the PC.
- 9. MATTERS ARISING:**
 - 9.1 PC RESPONSE TO LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSULTATION** The current Local Government Reorganization Consultation was discussed. The proposal is to change the 9 Dorset councils including Bournemouth & Poole, to 2 unitary authorities. Each councillor had a different view on the proposals so it was agreed that a response could not be submitted as a whole on behalf of the Parish Council. All Councillors agreed to go online and submit their views individually as residents.
 - 9.2 BUS SERVICES:** Cllr Wyld had completed a count of the number of local residents using the 311 local bus service. Normally there is approx 5 people using the service at any one time. Obviously this is not cost effective and the 311 service will be axed in the future. Other transport schemes are being set up in the surrounding areas. Neighbour Car already runs (based in Milton Abbas) this volunteer car driver service mainly takes customers to hospital and doctors appointments but can also be used for shopping & days out etc.
 - 9.3 DCC HIGHWAYS CUTS:** The Clerk has drafted a complaint letter to be forwarded to Dorset County Council. The letter is currently with JM (Chairman) awaiting authorization to be sent out. The letter states Hilton PC dissatisfaction and anger with the proposed DCC Highways cuts. Rolly Skeats (DCC Highways) has agreed to meet with Cllrs and walk the villages and discuss the cuts. Hopefully Cllrs will be able to get a better understanding of the extra responsibilities that the PC are expected to take on, thus enabling them to complete a spending budget for 2017/2018.
 - 9.4 ARCHIVING PC RECORDS, DISPOSAL OF OLD LAPTOP, PC LAPTOP BACK UP:** The Clerk has contacted the Dorset History Centre and will visit them with the PCs historical handwritten minute books. The DHC will archive these on behalf of the PC. The PC gave the Clerk permission to dispose of old PC laptop as it has no monetary value. It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase an external hard drive to allow the new PC laptop to be backed up at regular intervals and also for the storage of PC data. A spend of approx £50.00 was agreed for this item.
- 10. CORRESPONDANCE:** There is a Winterborne Division meeting (Hilary Cox) 22nd November @ 7pm, Milton Abbas, Reading Rooms. NDDC has a 'Call for Sites Consultation' currently on going, an opportunity for land owners to offer parcels of land to

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NDDC for consideration when they are planning future housing development. NDDC 'Budget Options Consultation' – currently on going, complete online at Dorset for You. A 'Council Tax Referendum Principles Consultation' is taking place the government is planning to bring in new rules forcing local councils to hold costly referendums over increases to parish precepts. Grit and salt bins will soon be refilled by Dorset Highways; it was confirmed by the PC that all bins are in place ready for re filling if needed.

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA: Boundary/constituency changes, village road signs/fingerposts

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 1st November 2016, 7.00pm, Old Brewery Hall, Ansty

End of ordinary business 8.10pm

Signed(Chairman) Date