

NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 28th MARCH 2032 at 7.30PM

PRESENT: Cllr. Robert Bowditch; Cllr. Yvonne Dyke; Cllr. Kevin Goodfellow; Cllr. Mark Rogers Cllr. Clare Handford; Cllr. Caroline Pearce; Cllr. Peter Bailey; Cllr. Chris David and Cllr. Anthony Alford.

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Teasdale (Clerk). There were a number of members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Richard King; Cllr. Graham Hawkins and Cllr. Bob Huxter. This was approved by the Council. Apologies had also been received from PSCO Alex Bishop and Mr Stanton, Chair of Governors Salway Ash School.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. Alford had provided a report to councillors. Dorset Council has set aside £2m from reserves to help with the cost of living crisis. Support from Dorset Council includes working with the Citizens Advice Bureau, Job Centre Plus and the NHS. Dorset Council is currently providing climate change questionnaires to those submitting planning applications with the aim that applicants reflect on what their plans are and their knowledge of issues around climate change. Climate Change will be included within the Local Plan in 2024. Dorset Council's budget of £384m for 2023/24 was approved by councillors at Full Council in February. No significant cuts have been made to front line services.

Councillors raised concerns about the quality of the recent road resurfacing in Salway Ash.

Action: The Clerk and Cllr. Alford to write to Highways to request that the work be redone.

4. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) REPORT

PSCO Alex Bishop had previously provided a report which included information about a theft of cooking oil in Melplash; information on fraud and various reports regarding concerns of dogs' behaviour worrying livestock.

5. SALWAY ASH SCHOOL REPORT

The Clerk read out the school report. Year 6 children had performed well in their Key Stage Two assessments in 2022, with children exceeding outcomes against the National and Dorset average. At the start of the Autumn Term stakeholders had refreshed the school's vision and values. Governors are monitoring progress against priorities within the School Development Plan, providing support and challenge. Current pupil numbers stand at 112.

6. SALWAY ASH VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mrs Brown, Committee Secretary, had previously provided a report. There has been a slowing of bookings which may be due to cost of living expenses. All fluorescent lighting in the main hall has been replaced with LED lighting. Bridport Youth Football Teams continue to use the field for training and matches. The hall windows and doors need replacing at a cost of £25,000. A few individuals and companies have donated to the funds needed, including sponsoring a window or door. Cllr. Bowditch encouraged Mrs Brown to request a donation from the parish council if needed.

7. NETHERBURY CHARITIES REPORT

Mrs Brown, Chair, had previously provided a report. The charity was gifted a legacy from a local resident. Trustees are seeking financial advice to ensure financial security for the charity. Trustees are reviewing the structure of the charity and how funds are allocated. It is hoped that financial support will be able to be provided for generations to come.

8. NETHERBURY VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mrs Bishop, Committee Treasurer, had previously provided a report and accounts for the hall. Bookings are below pre-pandemic levels. The Reading Room is being used more, including for the twice monthly café, which is well attended. Running costs are high due to the rise in energy bills. The hall ran a deficit of just under £3,000. It is essential that additional bookings are secured to avoid running a persistent structural deficit.

9. NETHERBURY PLAYING FIELD REPORT

Netherbury Playing Field Trustees had provided a report to councillors. The 2022 annual return to the Charity Commission has been completed. Approximate running costs for the year are £1,600. A meeting to discuss funding events is due to take place on the 17th April and local residents are encouraged to attend. Without the funds raised from events, the upkeep and running of the playing field would need to be carried out by the parish council.

10. CLOSE

On behalf of the parish council, Cllr. Bowditch thanked those who had provided a report for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.