

NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18TH JULY 2023

PRESENT: Cllr Robert Bowditch; Cllr Richard King; Cllr Peter Bailey; Cllr Bob Huxter; Cllr Clare Handford and Cllr Alford.

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Teasdale (Clerk)

At the start of the meeting, Cllr Bowditch asked councillors to join together to reflect on the passing of Cllr Hawkins. Cllr Hawkins had been a valuable member of the council and community.

1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Rogers, Cllr Caroline Pearce, Cllr Chris David and Cllr Yvonne Dyke.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS 30TH MAY 2023

A copy of the minutes from the meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record by the Council and were signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS UPDATE (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

The Clerk updated councillors on matters arising and actions from the previous meeting. The application to the Caravan and Motorhome Club from Springbank Farm for a five-pitch site in Netherbury is not proceeding. The pavilion survey from Netherbury Football Club has been delivered to households in the village, with a deadline for returns of the 31st August. The Clerk and Cllr Alford had contacted Dorset Council regarding the resurfacing in Salway Ash. Dorset Council contractors have since laid a top dressing, which has provided a smoother finish. In relation to electric cables running across pavements to charge vehicles, the Clerk informed councillors that the current law does not give residents an unrestricted right to charge vehicles which are parked on the street outside of a property.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Item 6 was discussed with Cllr Alford on joining the meeting at 8.20. Cllr Bailey asked Cllr Alford about Dorset Council's vision of ensuring residents have access to affordable housing. Cllr Alford recognised that there is not enough affordable housing stock. Dorset Council and developers need to find a way forward that works for both parties, to ensure that the need for affordable housing stock is addressed. Cllr Bailey asked about the cost of recruitment and training of 950 'digital champions'. Cllr Alford informed the council that the 'digital champions' are volunteers.

7. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER REPORT

There had been a report of a possible theft of copper piping in Salway Ash, but no report had been received to confirm if any crime had taken place.

8. TO DISCUSS CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Councillors discussed the co-opted vacancy and agreed to consider a member of the parish who could represent the area around Netherbury and Waytown. The Clerk reminded councillors of council elections in May 2024.

9. TO DISCUSS HASTOE HOUSING TENANCY ALLOCATION WITHIN THE PARISH

The parish council have been made aware of concerns regarding a tenant in Salway Ash. The council have previously written to Hastoe Housing regarding the allocation of tenants and to reinforce the need for the parish council to be contacted when a vacancy arises.

Action: The Clerk to write to Hastoe Housing to make them aware of the concerns that have been made.

10. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

Grant request letter from Bridport & District Citizens Advice.

Councillors discussed the data dashboard that had been received by the council in relation to the number of people living within the parish who had received a service from Citizens Advice. During the financial year of 2022/23, 51 people had sought support and advice relating to 254 separate issues. Cllr Handford proposed a donation of £400, seconded by Cllr King. Agreed by a show of hands.

11. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the finance report for 2023/24

Councillors noted the current balance, which included proposed spends outlined below of £18,000. There were no questions relating to the report.

b. To approve payment of £29.34 Peter Bailey (Repair to parish council notice board)

Cllr Bowditch proposed payment, seconded by Cllr Handford, agreed by a show of hands.

c. To approve payment of £260 + VAT Bowditch Countryside Management

The Clerk had sought 2 quotes to carry out work to the hedge in the playing fields in Netherbury. The quotes had previously been shared with councillors, who had agreed to proceed with the quote from Bowditch Countryside Management, based on value for money. Cllr Hanford proposed payment, seconded by Cllr Huxter, agreed by a show of hands.

d. To note invoice and cheque payment to Heavers of £3162.25 + VAT (SWA Village Hall)

Councillors noted receipt and cheque payment of the invoice for the donation to Salway Ash Village Hall Committee for a new patio door.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The following planning applications had been received and reviewed by Councillors:

a. P/HOU/2023/03032, 10 Twinways Lane Melplash DT6 3UQ (Comments ended 22/06/23)

Councillors had no objections to the application.

b. P/CLE/2023/02602, Ashfield Farm B3162 From Furleigh Cross to Junction Whithay Lane Salwayash (Comments ended 18/07/23)

Councillors discussed the proposed Certificate of Lawfulness at Ashfield Farm.

Action: The Clerk to write to Dorset Council Planning Department to raise concerns about the proposal and to ask that the Planning Department liaise with Dorset Council Enforcement regarding the proposal.

A councillor had recently been contacted by a parishioner about concerns of the use of barns as possible dwellings on Ash Lane, Salway Ash. The councillor has passed on the information, including photographs, to Cllr Alford and requested that he follow this up with Dorset Council Enforcement.

Action: Cllr Alford to report any updates to the council at the next meeting.

AOB

Concerns have been raised by a parishioner about the speed of traffic on the approach to Salway Ash from the direction of Bridport. The Clerk has previously met with the Highways Officer to look at the positioning of the 30mph sign. The officer reported that the council are unable to move the speed limit signs as they have been assessed and placed in the correct location.

Action: The Clerk to contact the parishioner regarding their recent communication.

Cllr Bowditch informed the council that an extraordinary Netherbury Village Hall Committee Meeting was taking place, tomorrow, Wednesday 19th. Current committee members and trustees are proposing to resign, and new trustees will need to be appointed and a new committee sought. The parish council own the hall, Reading Room and land. As Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Bowditch will chair the meeting, which was supported by the council.

The next meeting will be held on the 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.