

NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 26th MARCH 2024

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

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Teasdale (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Cllr Richard King; Cllr Chris David; Cllr Anthony Alford; Cllr Donna Bentley and Cllr Bob Huxter. This was approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present for the first part of the meeting. The parishioner raised concerns about the difficulties with visibility when exiting from Denziloe on to St James Road due to an overgrown hedge. It was not known who the land belonged to. Councillors agreed that they would see if they could establish who owned the land.

The parishioner asked if the 30mph speed signs in Netherbury, that are covered by vegetation, could be cleared.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Bailey and the lengthsman to arrange cutting back of vegetation.

The parishioner raised an issue with access to an allotment. There are no allotments in the parish. As he was out of catchment, he had been informed that he would not be able to take on an allotment in Bridport or Beaminster. Councillors knew of a few people within Netherbury who have previously allowed residents to use a patch within their garden to grow fruit and vegetables.

Action: The Clerk to follow this up, on behalf of the Netherbury resident, with a local councillor who may be able to let them have access to a patch of land to use as an allotment.

A parishioner had raised concerns with Cllr Bowditch, outside of the meeting, that when there is heavy rain, the volume of water means that a drain in Netherbury cannot cope with the volume of water and is leaking sewage. The parishioner is taking this up directly with Wessex Water.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, 23RD JANUARY 2024

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)

All actions have been completed or were in hand.

6. UPDATE ON APPROVED PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 26/09/23

The Clerk requested the following change of wording to the public record for the minutes dated 26th September 2023 to include the following, in bold, under item 5 of the meeting:

In relation to item 12, Cllr Alford and the Clerk had contacted Dorset Council Enforcement **regarding a dwelling on Ash Lane, Salway Ash**. The team were aware of the situation, a case has been raised and Dorset Council Enforcement were following up the position with the owner.

This change was passed as a resolution of the council.

7. TO DISCUSS DORSET RURAL HOUSING ENABLING (RHE) SERVICE

Dorset Rural Housing Enabling (RHE) Service has been established to help parishes in developing affordable housing. Working alongside Dorset Council's Enabling Team they aim to increase the supply of new rural affordable housing through a service that supports landowners and communities in identifying rural exception sites. The information on RHE has been shared with councillors and with parties involved with the sale of the land at Melplash Village Hall.

8. TO NOTE RIVER BRIT NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Information has been shared with councillors on the River Brit Natural Flood Management Project. Dorset National Landscape have secured funding in principle for a project across the Brit catchment that aims to reduce flood risk in Beaminster, Netherbury and Bridport. Proposals include creating dams up stream to slow the flow of water. Dorset National Landscape have until September 2024 to produce details of the project and a business case.

9. TO DISCUSS RIGHT OF WAY, MELPLASH

Cllr David had met with an officer from Dorset Council to look at concerns around the access and condition of a right of way in Melplash. Ploughing of the adjacent field has meant that there is now a ditch along the right of way. The path is the correct width. The officer had no concerns about this stretch of path.

10. TO DISCUSS ROOF REPAIR, NETHERBURY VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Bowditch discussed costs to the hall for the repair work to the leaking roof. The hall is owned by the parish council and the running and management of the hall is carried out by the trustees and committee. Councillors discussed funding the project with a donation from the village hall for the net cost of the work. The parish council will claim the VAT. The Clerk asked councillors to note that it would mean that the parish council would not be able to declare itself as exempt from a limited insurance review in 2024/25 as the income and expenditure would be over £25,000. The council would incur a cost for the review.

Cllr Handford proposed that the parish council pay for the work as detailed above, seconded by Cllr Bailey. Agreed by a show of hands.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with the hall secretary regarding invoices for the work.

11. ELECTION 2024 UPDATE

Local elections will take place on 2nd May. Nomination forms are available through Dorset Council and the Electoral Commission. The notice of election was published on 11th March and nominations can now be received by Dorset Council. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 5th April at 4.00pm. The publication of statement of persons nominated is on the 8th April. Councils will know how many candidates have come forward. If uncontested (the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of seats) then all candidates are declared elected to the council. The Term of Office does not begin until the 4th day after polling day. If contested (the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats) matters will proceed to a poll on 2nd May. The election has been promoted through the parish council website, Facebook, through discussions at parish council meetings and on village noticeboards. The 2nd May elections has been in local and national press.

12. TO DISCUSS PARISH COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA

Councillors discussed the use of social media to promote council meetings and matters of interest to the local community. The parish council covers the 3 main villages in the parish: Netherbury, Salway Ash and Melplash and neighbouring hamlets of: Atrim; Oxbridge; North and South Bowood; Wooth; Silkhay; Mangerton; Whitecross; Filford; Dottery; Hincknowle and Loscombe.

The council website includes minutes of meetings, financial information and register of interest information for councillors. Councillors agreed that the council Facebook page would continue to be used for promoting meetings and sharing information relevant to the parish. The Team News can also be used to convey information.

13. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the finance report for 2023/24

Councillors noted the balance of £18,423. This includes an Election Reserve fund of £1,400 and Community Infrastructure Levy income of £2,485.59. There were no questions relating to the report.

b. To approve payment of £506 + VAT for SID Post and Installation (Dorset Council)

Cllr Rogers proposed payment of £506 + VAT for the SID Post, seconded by Cllr Bailey. Approved by a show of hands.

c. To note payment to CB Reid of £115.20 (Payroll Services)

d. To note payment to The Community Heartbeat Trust of £210 (Community Defibrillator Training)

e. To note payment to Netherbury Village Hall of £15.00 (Reading Room Hire January)

f. To note payment to the clerk of £49.73 (Expenses)

Councillors noted the payment of items 13 c, d, e and f. The Defibrillator training is taking place in Netherbury Village Hall on the 19th April and is open to parishioners. Booking is required.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. To discuss application P/FUL/2023/07162 referral to Dorset Council Planning Committee

Councillors have previously submitted comments in support of the application in Melplash. The application is due to be presented at the Western and Southern Planning Committee on the 18th April. Councillors agreed for Cllr Rogers to submit a statement of support, on behalf of the parish council, to the committee or attend in person to deliver the statement.

Action: Cllr Rogers to share the statement with councillors for comments and approval.

b. P/HOU/2024/00366, Highfield House Bridge Street Netherbury Dorset DT6 5LS, Attach cladding to rear extension previously built as Permitted Development (Comments ended 15/02/24)

c. P/FUL/2024/00314, Old Bidlake Farm Campsite Access To Bidlake Farm Broadoak DT6 5PY, Proposed additional camping pitches and 2 shepherds huts (Comments ended 21/02/24)

d. P/HOU/2024/01119, Tower View Slape Hill Waytown Dorset DT6 5LG, Addition of dormer windows to existing roof structure, enclosing side porch to form boot room (Comments end 29/03/24)

The council have submitted their support to applications 14b, c and d.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 14TH May 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.