

## NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024

**PRESENT:** Cllr Richard King (Chair); Cllr Robert Bowditch; Cllr Mark Rogers; Cllr Peter Bailey; Cllr Clare Handford; Cllr Luke Larder and Cllr Neil Eysenck.

**ATTENDANCE:** Jessica Teasdale (Clerk)

**1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Chris David and were approved by the council.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one member of the public present. The parishioner raised that he may be interested in standing as a councillor.

**4. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

The minutes of 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 had been completed or were in hand.

Item 5. Netherbury Charity are due to discuss a parish council representative, as a charity trustee, at their next meeting and the Clerk will report back to the council.

**6. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER REPORT**

The PSCO report had provided information on door to door selling, with the advice to call the police if sellers become pushy or aggressive. There had been a theft of a motorcycle in the Netherbury/Waytown area. The reference number for the theft is 55240097153. Anyone with information relating to the theft are asked to contact the police.

**7. UPDATE ON NETHERBURY VILLAGE HALL OPEN MEETING AND ROOF REPAIR**

Work to repair the roof at the village hall has been delayed. This is due to the hall being used as a polling station for the general election and waiting for work to be carried out on electrical cables. Cllr Bowditch reported that, further to the parish council meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> March, the Clerk had sought advice regarding funding the project and claiming VAT. This will not be possible as the council is not incurring the cost for itself. Councillors discussed the possibility of donating to the Village Hall Committee towards the work if a formal request was received. Cllr Bowditch reported that the new committee is working well, and the hall is being used for a variety of events.

**8. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE CO-OPTION POLICY**

Councillors reviewed the Co-option Policy and Procedure. Cllr King voted in favour of adopting the policy. Seconded by Cllr Handford, approved by a show of hands.

**9. TO DISCUSS CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

Following the May local elections there are two vacancies on the parish council. Councillors discussed the need for co-opting councillors that could represent the areas of Waytown / Oxbridge, and Salway Ash as these areas are not directly covered by existing councillors. Councillors can approach individuals to suggest they may wish to consider putting their names forward for co-option. Councillors agreed to advertise the vacancies across the parish through the website, notice boards and social media. This will take place ahead of the next meeting in September.

## **10. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Chair and Clerk had met to review the new model NALC Financial Regulations. The proposed document was reviewed and discussed by councillors.

Under paragraph 3.7, councillors agreed to appoint Focus (HS) Limited as their internal auditor. Financial values/spends were agreed across the document. Under paragraph 7.1, councillors agreed that the bank mandate include the Chair and Vice Chair, plus those already in a position to approve the signing of cheques. Paragraphs 7.8, 7.9 and 7.10 were approved by the council. With the points above, Cllr King proposed adoption of the policy, seconded by Cllr Bowditch, agreed by a show of hands.

## **11. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE COMPLAINTS POLICY**

Councillors reviewed the complaints policy and agreed it was fit for purpose. Cllr King proposed adoption of the policy, seconded by Cllr Handford, agreed by a show of hands.

Cllr Eysenck joined the meeting (8.00pm)

## **12. WARD COUNCILLOR NEIL EYSENCK REPORT**

Cllr King welcomed Cllr Eysenck to the meeting and congratulated him on his successful election. Cllr Eysenck informed councillors that he has attended numerous training courses through Dorset Council to support him in his new role. It has been a busy first few months with the local elections swiftly followed the general election. Cllr Eysenck spoke of his education and work background. Cllr Eysenck has been selected to sit on the Southwest Planning Committee, Resources and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee.

The Full Council are due to approve a change to the Scheme of Delegation for Planning. This would give more power to parish councils in requesting that applications go to planning committee for consideration. It is recognised that planning decisions should reflect the voice of local communities. Planning Officers work within the planning framework and concerns have been raised about potential inconsistencies with decisions made within planning policy.

Councillors voiced their concern around the backlog of planning applications and how this would be impacted if more applications go to committee for consideration. This was noted by Cllr Eysenck, and he is aware of capacity constraints.

Dorset Council are due to declare a Nature Emergency at the Full Council meeting this week. Following the motion a consultation will take place.

Councillors raised an issue with the lack of hedge cutting in rural lanes and asked why Dorset Council have not been maintaining the hedges.

**Action:** Cllr Eysenck to raise this with DC. Clarity around whose responsibility to cut the hedges would also be sought as there was a question whether it is the responsibility of the landowner.

Maintenance of footpaths was discussed. There are two rights of way / footpaths in the parish that need repair. These have been reported to DC, but repairs have yet to be carried out due to funding and conversations with a landowner.

**Action:** Cllr Eysenck to follow this up with DC.

Cllr Bailey raised concerns about the condition of the road from Dottery to Broadoak. The Clerk reported that this has been raised with Highways.

**Action:** The Clerk to follow this up to establish when the work will be carried out.

### **13. PLANNING TRAINING UPDATE**

Cllr Larder had attended training. Key areas to note were: considering the impact on the area and environmental issues; planning is policy led; material and non-material considerations and information on permitted development.

**Action:** Cllr Larder to share the handout from the session with councillors via the Clerk.

### **14. CORRESPONDANCE AND NOTICES**

#### **a) Request to replace notice board – Brandon Plot Netherbury**

A resident has requested financial support with the funding of a new notice board in the Brandon Plot, Netherbury. Councillors requested that further information on the size and cost of a board be provided by the parishioner and submitted to the council for consideration.

**Action:** Cllr King to liaise with the parishioner to request the information. Councillors noted that the Netherbury Nature Group are maintaining the plot and are grateful for their work.

#### **b) Request from Salway Ash Village Hall to support with waste bin payments**

On behalf of the VH Committee, the Secretary had written to the parish council to request financial support in funding a larger bin. The bin is used by the local community, users of the hall and local dog walkers. Councillors discussed that should this be approved by the council, this would be done on the understanding that the two waste bins on the field be removed as these are currently being emptied into the larger waste bin by a volunteer and this was unsustainable. Signs would need to be installed around the field asking owners to take responsibility to clear up after their dog and to take their waste home.

Cllr King proposed funding towards a larger waste bin, seconded by Cllr Rogers, agreed by a majority show of hands.

**Action:** The Clerk to liaise with the Secretary regarding the above.

### **15. ACCOUNTS**

#### **a. To receive the finance report for 2024/25**

Councillors noted the report. Currently the council have £2,485.59 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income. This needs to be spent by April 2028.

**Action:** The Clerk to share the CIL criteria for how the funds can be spent.

#### **b. To note payment of £394.30 to Community First (Annual Insurance)**

#### **c. To note payment of £18.00 to Netherbury Village Hall (May Meeting)**

#### **d. To note payment of £360 to Dorset Council (Solar panel & bracket)**

#### **e. To note payment of £30.00 to DAPTC (Planning training)**

Items 15 b to e were noted by councillors.

#### **f. To approve payment of £607.20 to Dorset Council (Supply and Install SID Post)**

Cllr King proposed payment to Dorset Council, seconded by Cllr Rogers, agreed by a show of hands.

Cllr Rogers reported that he felt that the third instalment of the pole for the SID was having a positive impact.

#### **g. To approve payment of £235.20 to Lengthsman**

Cllr King proposed payment to the Lengthsman, seconded by Cllr Bowditch, approved by a show of hands.

### **16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

#### **a. P/STA/2024/02508, Lower Mount Barn Melplash DT6 3TX, Addition of third conductor.**

Upgrade transformer to 200kVa. Upgrade to 3 core cabling. Replace poles (Comments ended 29/05/24)

#### **b. P/RES/2024/02292, Land Adjacent Killick Cottage Dottery Road Salwayash Bridport DT6 5HU, Erection of 1no. dwelling and detached garage (reserved matters application to determine access, appearance and landscaping, layout and scale following the grant of Outline Planning permission number P/OUT/2021/01785) (Comments ended 31/05/24)**

- c. P/LBC/2024/02596 & P/HOU/2024/02434, St James Cottage St James Road Netherbury DT6 5LW, External alterations to gable wall render (Comments ended 16/07/24)

The council had submitted their support for the applications.

Cllr Bailey raised concerns about the allocation of Hastoe Housing within Salway Ash and that priority should be to persons who are currently residing in the Parish of Netherbury.

**Action:** Cllrs King and Bailey to consider the position and liaise with Hastoe Housing and Dorset Home Choice.

The next meeting will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.