

## NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

**PRESENT:** Cllr Richard King (Chair); Cllr Robert Bowditch; Cllr Mark Rogers; Cllr Peter Bailey; Cllr Chris David, Cllr Luke Larder; Cllr Ryan Strong; Cllr Mark Roberts and Cllr Neil Eysenck.

**ATTENDANCE:** Jessica Teasdale (Clerk)

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr Clare Handford; Cllr Yvonne Dyke and Cllr Kevin Goodfellow and were approved by the council.

#### 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were members of the public present.

#### 4. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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)

The Clerk reported that the footbridge in Waytown to Oxbridge has been repaired. Comesworth Lane, Waytown, is being considered for resurfacing work this year. Councillors continue to have concerns about the condition of the lane, with numerous potholes and Cllr Rogers reporting that a cap stone has fallen in on a drain, meaning water is not able to drain away and is going across the road.

**Action:** The Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Highways Officer and Cllrs David and Bailey to discuss the above and a long-standing issue with water drainage at the Waytown end of the lane.

Cllrs King, Bailey and the Clerk met with Hastoe Housing and Dorset Home Choice to discuss the allocation of Hastoe Housing within Salway Ash, in line with the Section 102 Agreement. The lettings process was clarified as follows:

Hastoe Housing write to the parish council clerk when receiving notification from a tenant that they will be vacating a property. This is done ahead of an advert being prepared and released in conjunction with Dorset Council Home Choice. Per the Section 106 Agreement, priority is given to those residing within the parish. In general, it is important that, when appropriate, parishioners are on the Housing Register and that applications include information relating to their local connection.

The Clerk reported that the parish council had recently written to Magna Housing supporting a local connection bid for a family. The family had been successful in their bid.

Cllr King informed councillors that the council had been approached by a parishioner with concerns about the condition of a Magna House which was vacant pending new tenants. The Clerk had written to Magna asking for information on what works are planned to ensure the property is in a good condition before new tenants move in. A response from Magna Housing is pending.

Cllr Roberts has requested exact costs and arrangements for placing an order for a bench with the West Bay Harbour Master Office and is waiting a reply.

**Action:** Cllr Roberts to follow this up with the West Bay Harbour Master Office and copy in the Clerk.

All other actions had been completed.

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

Cllr Eysenck has followed up gritting routes for Salway Ash Primary School and Beaminster School with Dorset Council (DC). Cllr Eysenck continues to wait for an answer from DC and will report back to the parish council.

The Clerk reported that DC are not able to provide a timeline for the road repair by Neddy's Close in Netherbury. The job is with DC Engineers / Asset Management Team. Significant repairs and funding are needed.

Cllr Eysenck has spoken to the landowner and DC regarding the footpath by the weir in Netherbury (DC reference number 62857). DC have reported that it is for the landowner to carry out repairs. Councillors raised that previously DC has always made repairs to Rights of Way. Councillors questioned again if the Environment Agency should take responsibility as the damage has been caused by the river. It was noted that there are levels of erosion caused by the river near to the weir.

**Action:** Cllr Eysenck to liaise with the Environment Agency to ensure that the work is carried out.

Cllr Eysenck provided a devolution update. DC have applied to be in the first tranche of councils being considered for becoming Mayoral Strategic Authorities. This would include Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset and BCP. If the application is successful, Mayoral Elections would take place in May 2026. Councillors expressed concerns about budget implications for council services. Cllr Eysenck reported that several central government grants are ceasing, including the Rural Support Grant.

## **7. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER REPORT**

The PSCO report had provided information on several break-ins in the Netherbury and Bowood area. Residents are urged to review their security and report any suspicious activity to the police.

The Melplash Community Speed Watch Team are seeking volunteers. Should anyone wish to find out more about what is involved they should contact the local Police Community Support Officer.

## **8. TO DISCUSS MOBILE NETWORK COVERAGE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AREA**

Cllrs King, Rogers and the Clerk had met with a Project Manager from the Place Team at DC and two representatives from the Atlas Tower Group. The meeting was to discuss mobile phone coverage across the parish and how this can be addressed. The Emergency Services network will use EE to communicate using 4G. Currently coverage is poor in some areas of the parish. The proposal is for a new tower to be installed in the parish, subject to securing a suitable site with a landowner. Councillors supported the initiative.

**Action:** The Clerk to request that DC progress the scheme by contacting landowners for viable site/s.

## **9. ACCOUNTS**

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

Councillors noted the finance report. To date the projected carry forward stands at £12,900. This does not include the CIL income and Election Reserve.

### **b. To consider domain change for the parish council website and email accounts and associated costs**

The DAPTC will shortly be no longer supporting DAPTC emails. The Clerk proposed that all councillors should have a '.gov.uk' email account and that the parish council website move to a .gov.uk address. The benefits include having a trusted and professional .gov.uk brand that people

will recognise and increased transparency and security compared to personal email accounts. VisionICT, who currently host the website, is an approved registrar.

The initial set up cost is £400, to include 12 email addresses, moving of website and migration of the Clerks emails.

Councillor King proposed payment, seconded by Cllr Bailey. Approved by a show of hands.

**c. To consider donation of £250 to Salway Ash PCC towards church yard maintenance**

Cllr Bailey proposed a donation of £250, seconded by Cllr Bowditch. Approved by a show of hands.

**d. To consider donation of £155 to Life Education Wessex towards Health and Wellbeing Education provision, Salway Ash Primary School**

Cllr King proposed a donation of £155, seconded by Cllr Bowditch. Approved by a show of hands.

**e. To approve invoice of £494.56 to P Bailey (Finger post refurbishment)**

Cllr King proposed a payment of £494.56, seconded by Cllr Bowditch. Approved by a show of hands. It was noted that the supplies purchased are being used by Cllr Bailey to restore several posts in the parish.

**f. To consider quotes for a handrail, Reading Room, Netherbury (Community Infrastructure Levy spend)**

Two quotes had been received to install a new handrail up the steps to the Reading Room.

Cllr King proposed Quote B (£650), Mr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Rogers. Approved by a show of hands. It was noted that the Village Hall are arranging for repair work to the steps.

**Action:** The Clerk to ask that Mr Harvey and Mr Strawbridge liaise over timings for carrying out the work.

**g. To consider SWA Village Hall donation request for accessibility ramp (Community Infrastructure Levy spend)**

Cllr Larder reported that the village hall has obtained quotes for access ramps from fire doors at the village hall.

**Action:** Cllr Larder to provide the quotes to the Clerk ahead of the meeting in March. Councillors would then consider a donation.

**h. To consider and approve the draft budget for 2025/26**

The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer had prepared a draft budget for councillor approval, standing at £11,203.

Cllr King proposed approval of the budget, seconded by Cllr Bailey. Approved by a show of hands.

**i. To consider and approve the precept for 2025/26**

The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer had prepared a precept of £10,900; an increase of 1.7% from last year.

Cllr King proposed approval of the precept, seconded by Cllr Bowditch. Approved by a show of hands.

**j. To note payment of £18 to Netherbury Village Hall (November Meeting)**

**k. To note payment of £40 to DAPTC (Cllr Strong training)**

**l. To note payment of £50 to Dorset Council (Election Recharge May 2024)**

**m. To note payment of £31.20 to CB Reid (Payroll Services)**

Items 9j to 9m were noted by councillors.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a. P/HOU/2024/07509, Jasmine Cottage St James Road Netherbury DT6 5LP, Demolish conservatory, erect single storey rear extension and loft conversion with three dormer windows and two rooflights. (Comments ended 28/01/25)

The council had submitted their support to DC for the application. It was noted that the planning application at Bingham, Melplash has been approved by DC.

The next meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm