

NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 26th MARCH 2019 at 7.30PM THE READING ROOM, NETHERBURY

PRESENT: Cllr. Robert Bowditch; Cllr. Richard King; Cllr. Graham Hawkins; Cllr Bob Huxter; Cllr. Clare Handford; Cllr. Caroline Pearce; District Cllr. Mark Roberts; Cllr. Peter Bailey; Cllr Mark Rogers and Cllr. Chris David.

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Teasdale (Clerk) Mr Brake, Mrs Butcher, Mrs Bishop and Mrs Brown. There were no other members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Yvonne Dyke, Cllr. Rebecca Knox, PSCO Alex Bishop and Cllr. Kevin Goodfellow. This was approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. DORSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Knox had not provided a report, however an update on Dorset Council was presented by Cllr Roberts under item 4.

4. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Roberts updated councillors on the new Dorset Council. A balanced budget has been approved. Spending has increased in Children Services by £5.8 million as this is a growing area of need and an extra £1.5 million has been given to Adult Care. The budget for foster children has increased by £0.9 million and waste partnership has increased by £1.4 million. Charges for services, including planning and council tax have been harmonised across the councils. West Dorset will see an increase in council tax charges. Councillors are concerned that the parish will not be as well represented as it was previously, given that there will be one ward councillor covering a larger ward area.

5. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) REPORT

PSCO Alex Bishop was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report which gave information on possible poaching in the area and reports about livestock worrying.

6. MELPLASH VILLAGE HALL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Mr Williams, Committee Chair, had previously provided a report. Cllr David, as village hall committee member, informed Councillors that 2018 had been a successful year with total income increasing from just under £3,000 in 2017 to over £10,000 in 2018. A meeting with Sir Oliver Letwin is due to take place to look at funding options for the redevelopment of the village hall.

7. SALWAY ASH SCHOOL REPORT

Cllr Handford had previously provided a report to Councillors. The number of children on roll currently stands at 112. The school continues to offer a variety of clubs and now has a school dog which has provided a relaxing and calming atmosphere in the school. The school is part of West Dorset Schools Collaboration along with 8 other local schools.

8. SALWAY ASH VILLAGE HALL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Mrs Brown, Committee Secretary, had previously provided the report and accounts for Councillors. The hall continues to do well and events help to bring the community together. The committee are keen to encourage younger members of the community to join the committee. 2018/19 expenditure was higher than income; however the year end budget was in a positive financial position.

9. NETHERBURY VILLAGE HALL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Cllr Hawkins, committee chairman, had previously provided the report and accounts for the hall. The committee treasurer who was in attendance at the meeting informed councillors that there had been no large spends on maintenance during the year. The end of year balance was in a positive financial position.

10. NETHERBURY PLAYING FIELDS REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Mr Brake, committee vice chair and Mrs Butcher, committee member, had previously provided the report and accounts. Mr Brake had provided draft terms of reference for the council's consideration. Cllr King agreed to look at the terms of reference. They would be included on the agenda for the next parish meeting. The committee are currently raising funds towards play equipment.

11. NETHERBURY CHARITIES AND ACCOUNTS

Mrs Brown, Chair, had previously provided the report and tabled the accounts. Netherbury Charities are concerned that they may not be sustainable as they receive little interest or income. Mrs Brown asked that the parish council nominate a parish council representative to sit on the committee.

Action: The clerk to include council nominations at the AGM in May.

12. CLOSE

The Chair thanked those who had attended to present their reports and to Cllr Roberts for his support and input during his time as district councillor representative. The meeting closed at 8.40.