

# SUTTON WALDRON VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 held via ZOOM

### MINUTES

**Present:** Chairman: David Smith  
Councillors: John Ellis, Sandy Millard, Iain McNeil, Claire Aartsen  
Dorset Councillor: Jane Somper  
Clerk: Sam Smith  
Residents: Ian Pinder, Dick Hood and Jane McNeil

**10/03/01 Apologies for absence:** No apologies for absence had been received.

**10/03/02 Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

**10/03/03 New Clerk:** The Chairman welcomed the PCs new Clerk, Sam Smith. Sam has taken over from Marianne Wheatley. Sam is also currently the PC Clerk at 3 other parishes, Winterborne Houghton, Winterborne Stickland & Fontmell Magna.

**10/03/04 Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 were unanimously approved.

#### **10/03/05 Matters Arising:**

- a. **Highways** – Roger Bell has been promoted to another role within DC and is no longer our Highways Community Officer. Enrico Dimarino has now taken on the Sutton Waldron patch. Since the last PC meeting, Cllr Somper has organised a Ward zoom meeting with Enrico and PC Cllrs. The Chairman attended and found the meeting highly informative. Enrico can be contacted via the ‘Dorset for you’ website.  
**Napier’s Way** – although there are no problems at present, we are still waiting for DC Highways to flush out the drains. The Clerk will chase this up with Enrico.  
**Potholes on Sutton Hill** – The potholes have deteriorated again and still need re-doing. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Highways and request that some re patching is done.  
**Hedges and Verges** – The hedges through the village have generally been cut back however the verges are creeping out over the tarmac. Highways have confirmed that they can visit and scrape back the vegetation to widen the road. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase Highway for a date for this work to be done.
- b. **Community Speed Watch** – Extending the 30 mile limit in the village will be costly, and is likely to be in the region of £3,500. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council did not have the funds for this and therefore were unable to proceed at this time. No further progress can be made with the Community Speed Watch group until the current Covid restrictions are lifted so that the Police can give advice and training can take place.

#### **10/03/06 Correspondence/Other Parish Matters:**

- a. **Report from Dorset Councillor** – Cllr Somper has circulated a report to Cllrs by email for March 2021. Cllr Somper had arranged a Ward meeting with Graham Stanley, the Ranger at Dorset Countryside. The Chairman attended this and found it informative. The Chairman had received some leaflets from Dorset Countryside with regards to the legal rights of landowners.
- b. The Dorset Recycle Centres are currently under great strain due to people have lockdown clear ups, the advice is only to visit if necessary and to think about storing rubbish at home for a while. Dorset Council has been awarded 19 million pounds by central Government to be put towards reducing its carbon footprint.
- c. The future of the St Marys School site is currently going through the consultation process. The proposal is that it will be used as a children’s home for looked after children with special needs schooling on site.
- d. **Inspection of The Spinney, Bus Shelter & Telephone Box** - in accordance with the Risk Management Policy the Chairman confirmed The Spinney, the Bus Shelter and the Telephone Box had been inspected.

**10/03/07 Planning Applications:** The Dorset Council Local Plan is currently in its consultation period, this finishes on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. The Plan outlines the policies that will apply to development in Dorset until 2038. Hard copies of draft plan are available from local libraries. The A350 Community Group had asked member parishes if they thought that they should object to the 600 houses proposed on Blandford bypass. SWPC did object to the plans but not all parishes along the A350 agreed. For this reason an objection was not submitted to Dorset Council by the Group. The A350 CG have invited Cllrs to a Zoom meeting in March to discuss a 'sensitive development' It was agreed that the Chairman & Cllr Millard would attend. The PC has not received any planning applications to comment on since the last PC meeting in December.

**10/03/08 Finance:**

- a. **Bank and Cash Balance** – The reconciled bank and cash balance as of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 was **£3,534.07**
- b. **Bills to be paid** – It was agreed that the following should be paid:  
M Wheatley - **£323.70** (Jan/Feb salary, expenses & holiday pay)  
S Smith – **£218.68** (Feb & March salary)

**10/03/09 AOB:** Dorset Council will commence a 'Community Governance Review' in July 2021. This happens every 10-15 years and enables parishes to request a change in a parish boundary, increase or decrease the number of Cllrs or abolish a PC, etc.

**10/03/10 Reports:**

- a. **Church** – Cllr Millard confirmed that due to lockdown there had not been any church services. Shroton has been the only church open in lockdown. It was indicated that there is a possibility of churches re opening in time for Palm Sunday, but this would obviously depend on the Covid situation & the current guidelines at the time.  
The fabric of the decoration in the church needs refurbishment, grant funding is being sought as the cost will be considerable. A lack of fund raising and congregation over the past 12 months has been hard for the church.
- b. **Village Hall** – Cllr McNeil confirmed that the work to stabilise the bank has nearly finished, shingle is now needed, and it was hoped that volunteers would come forward to help complete the laying of the shingle. The handrails are now in place.
- c. **Footpaths** – Dick Hood stated that the paths are very wet and muddy at present. On the Bridlepath at the top of the track to Cowleaze a footpath signpost has fallen over. Cllr Millard agreed to ask her husband to take a look. The Chairman agreed to pass some 'footpath markers' on to Dick Hood. An increase in litter on the village Footpaths had been noticed.  
Cllr Millard has been trying to ascertain the owner of an unofficial footpath in the village. The path has been used for approx 100 years. Cllr Millard suggested getting it logged with G Stanley as a historical right of way.

**10/03/11 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The current advice is still not to have a physical meeting so this meeting will be held via Zoom, if the advice changes the Clerk will let everyone know.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman .....Date.....