

SUTTON WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 11th March 2020
MINUTES

Present: Chairman: David Smith
Councillors: John Ellis, Claire Aartsen, Sandy Millard
Dorset Councillor: Jane Somper
Clerk: Marianne Wheatley

Residents: Jane McNeill, Ian Pinder, Yvonne Pinder, Dick Hood, Walter Steward, Dora Sherringham, Mark Van Eijck, Rod Swift, Michael Asher, Barbara Asher, Tony Asher, Anne England.

11/03/01 Apologies – There were apologies for absence from Iain McNeil

11/03/02 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

11/03/03 Minutes of Previous Meeting - The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4th December 2019 were read and approved and following the meeting signed by the Chairman.

11/03/04 Matters Arising

a. Drains on The Street – Various gardens in Napiers Close were recently flooded again. Last year work was undertaken to resolve this problem but unfortunately it does not seem to have worked. Iain Pinder confirmed he had reported the matter and Roger Bell from Highways had come out the same day. He came into Napiers Way and whilst the rain had stopped by the time he got there he could see where the water was coming through the gardens. He wrote an email on the spot and hopefully Highways are going to undertake a survey of the storm drains with a camera. Highways still do not know where the storm drains are and indeed there may be two sets of storm drains. Nor do Highways know where the access points to the storm drains are. Iain Pinder confirmed he thought the drains were blocked or broken and hopefully the camera would show where any blockage or breakage was. In one of the gardens water was bubbling up through the ground and as well as putting the camera down the drains hopefully Highways would dig up the ground at this point to see what was happening. Hopefully this would happen within the next 28 days. The funds needed to come from revenue expenditure rather than capital expenditure and Roger Hill had applied for this. The Street by the telephone box had also flooded again. The water however drains away once the rain has stopped and it has been concluded that this is because the drains in The Street do not have sufficient capacity to deal with the very heavy rain experienced recently. The Parish Council would keep a watching brief on this situation. The drains on part of The Street were cleared recently but the drains and gullies further along towards Vale Farm still need to be done and it was agreed the Clerk would contact Highways in this regard.

b. Hedge at the top of Sutton Hill. This has been cut back but visibility of traffic coming from Blandford is still poor.

c. Defibrillator. The working group has met and will meet again shortly. It was decided to proceed with initially obtaining one defibrillator for the village to be sited (subject to agreement) at either the village hall or phone box. The preferred source for the defibrillator was the South West Ambulance Trust who would then be responsible for a four years period for servicing, replacement parts and awareness training. Installation will be our responsibility. The initial cost will be in the region of £2000. It was hoped to fund the defibrillator by way of voluntary donations from the village hopefully structured in such a way that Gift Aid can be obtained. Other possible sources of funds will be also be investigated. There needs to be an ongoing organisation to be responsible for the defibrillator once installed and it was thought that the best organisation to do this would be the Parish Council. The Parish Council confirmed it would be responsible for the defibrillator once it had been installed and that future budgets would include a small amount to cover any costs. A list would be drawn up of people in the village who have had CPR training and also those people who would be willing to be contacted in an emergency to fetch the defibrillator.

d. Website Accessibility Statement – The website has been updated appropriately in order to comply with the disability accessibility requirements and there was an accessibility statement on the website.

11/03/05 Correspondence/Other Parish Matters

a. Report from Dorset Councillor – The Dorset Councillor confirmed she had been dealing with Roger Bell from Highways who was the Community Highways Officer. She had always found him to be very helpful and had recently sent an email to the Chief Executive regarding his work. He dealt with things efficiently and if he couldn't resolve any issues he would point you in the right direction. The

Dorset Councillor then read out her report which is attached hereto. A resident asked whether the Unitary Authority had made the significant savings promised. Cllr. Somper confirmed that £17million worth of savings had already been made and it would hope that others would be made. It was hoped that the governance review would assist with this and one of the things the Council were looking at was the demand lead services. One of the other residents asked about the potholes on Sutton Hill. They had been filled again recently but they deteriorated again within a week. Cllr. Somper said she would ask Roger Bell about this. Another resident commented that the edges of the road from Vale Farm to Farrington were crumbling. Cllr. Somper confirmed she would also speak to Roger Bell about this.

b. Inspection of The Spinney, Bus Shelter and Telephone Box – In accordance with the Risk Management Policy the Spinney, the Bus Shelter and the Telephone Box had been inspected.

c. Village Climate Action Group – Cllr. Aartsen confirmed that the Group had met last week. This had been an informal session and they discussed vegetable and wildlife gardening. One of the things they had done was produce a chart of all the wildlife that had been seen in the Village. There were 53 types of birds and 23 types of animals excluding insects. Cllr. Aartsen thanked Fiona Severn for all of her good work with the recycling bins which she had placed around the village which she then took away. Cllr. Aartsen commented that they were looking for suggestions on how to move forward and asked Cllr. Somper whether she could forward any suggestions received by Dorset Council. Cllr. Somper confirmed that most of the ideas received by Dorset Council were of a fairly large scale e.g. putting canopies with solar panels across car parks but she would see if she could forward the suggestions to Cllr. Aartsen.

d. A350 Community Group – Cllr. Millard confirmed she had attended the meeting of the A350 Community Group in January. They had not achieved as much as last year but had various meetings coming up. They were also looking to raise funds. Cllr. Somper confirmed she was due to meet the A350 Community Group with the other local Councillors in the near future. At the moment the Group seemed to be concentrating on getting the Sturminster Marshall end of the A350 more involved. It seemed that the haulage companies preferred not to use the A350 as it was so windy and therefore more expensive to use. Cllr. Aartsen commented that there did not seem to be as many HGVs on the A350 at the moment. Cllr. Somper confirmed that data was still being compiled. The main question was funding and if anything was going to be done this would have to be funded by central government. Cllr. Somper commented that improving the road would be a huge task because of the topography, planning implications and the landowners. There was also the question of whether people actually wanted a major road through the area. The Parish Council agreed to give a grant to the A350 Community Group in the sum of £100.00 out of this year's funds.

e. Dorset Council Local Plan – The Chair confirmed that he had recently attended a meeting on the Dorset Local Plan which would form the planning policy for Dorset Council. The consultation would commence in mid 2021 with a view to completing the Local Plan in 2023. The main part of the Plan will deal with providing the housing required by the government. The Plan would allocate those houses required in North Dorset between the market towns and the villages with more than 500 residents and other amenities for example a shop, village hall etc. Some smaller villages might want housing and the way to do this would be to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan. This was different to the Plan done by the village some time ago and effectively specified where and what type of houses they wanted. Community Land Trusts had also been discussed. These relied on landowners making land available, the village would then form a trust to build affordable homes for local people. Cllr. Somper confirmed that if Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council were not able to fill their housing quota Dorset Council might have to take on some of their quota. It was agreed that the Parish Council would keep a watching brief and wait to see if any landowners came forward with any land.

11/03/06

Planning Applications – the Parish Council had considered the following applications since the last meeting:

a. 2/2019/1625/HOUSE - Yew Tree Cottage, The Street, Sutton Waldron, Dorset, DT11 8NZ - Erect 1 No. two storey side extension; erect 1 No. two storey rear extension; erect 1 No. single storey rear extension. The Parish Council had no objection to this application. This application had been approved by the Dorset Council.

b. 2/2019/1709/HOUSE Rushbrook , The Street, Sutton Waldron, DT11 8NZ Remove single storey lean-to and erect two storey rear extension. The Parish Council had no objection to this application. Some of the residents did have comments which were posted on the Dorset for you website. This application had been approved by the Dorset Council.

c. 2/2019/1780/FUL Land At E 385170 N 116885, Penn Hill, Bedchester, Dorset, Erect 1 No dwelling and form 2 No parking spaces. The Parish Council commented on this application saying that The proposed development is on an elevated site and will be visible for some distance. This will not protect or reinforce the local landscape character of open fields. This application was still undecided.

11/03/07

Finance

a. **Bank and Cash Balance** – The reconciled bank and cash balance as at 7th March 2020 was £4222.27

b. **Bills paid since the last meeting:**

- £54.00 Vision ICT – accessibility statement

Bills to be paid

- £321.30 – Clerk's salary January to March 2020

As above it was also agreed that the Parish Council would pay a grant of £100.00 to the A350 Community Group.

11/03/08

Any Other Business – Ian Pinder and the Chair had attended a presentation about the proposed Dorset National Park at Fontmell Magna on Monday. At present the proposal was to follow the line of the current Dorset AONB which does not include Sutton Waldron. However Sturminster Newton is looking to be included in the National Park and other areas may well also ask to be included. Whilst Sutton Waldron is not at present included in the proposed National Park it was suggested that the Parish could benefit from being close to the National Park as the government wants National Parks to work beyond their boundaries. The South Downs National Park was used as an example. They had been given a grant of £10 million. It was also suggested that one of the other benefits could be that Dorset could regain control of its planning as the need for housing would be based on local need as opposed to the general need for housing. The Chair confirmed he was not sure that Dorset Council were in favour of this proposal. Cllr. Somper suggested that there should only be one planning authority. As it was the AONB had some influence on planning applications. If any of the residents wanted any further information they could visit the website: www.dorsetnationalpark.com. In the meantime it was agreed that the Parish Council would monitor developments.

The Chair confirmed that the village had also been invited to enter the Village in Bloom and the Best Kept Village competitions. It was agreed that for the time being the village would not enter these competitions. The Parish Council had also received information about the Great British Spring Clean. Whilst the village did not have anything organised people did go around the village and pick up litter. The major problem was on the A350.

The Chair confirmed that there was a meeting on Thursday 19th March 2020 which had been organised by Wessex Internet. They would like to install fibre broadband in the village but to do this require approximately 30 residents need to agree and apply for vouchers issued by the government. These would cover the cost of installation. There would be no installation charge to the resident.

It was confirmed that there was a problem in the village with people leaving their dogs at home who then barked all day. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Environmental Health Team and see what they suggested could be done.

11/03/09

Reports

a. **Church** – Ian Pinder confirmed that the Associate Priest had retired but would be remaining in the village until the end of May. A curate had recently been appointed to the Benefice. The larch tree by the porch had been lost in the recent storm. The old architect having retired a new architect had been appointed to carry out the 5 yearly inspection of the church. The inspection was due to take place next year. The Breakfast Service was continuing to be a success and took place on the second Sunday each month. One of the unique features of the church were the Owen Jones wall paintings. Ian Pinder thanked the friends of St. Bartholomew's for funding a report into their condition. The PCC AGM was due to take place on 24th March 2020.

b. **Village Hall** – Jane McNeil reported that the Sutton Hill Walk was due to take place on 19th April 2020.

c. **Footpaths** – Dick Hood confirmed there was nothing to report save that the footpaths were very wet. A resident commented that there was an electric fence across the field on the footpath to Fontmell Magna and it was very difficult to get through this fence. It was also noted that the stile on the lynchets in Fontmell Magna was still broken. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the footpaths officer at Fontmell Magna Parish Council about these two matters.

11/03/10

Date of next meetings – The next meeting will be on 13th May 2020. This meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for all of the societies and clubs within the Parish to meet and update the residents on what has been happening within the Village. So if any clubs and societies wish to attend please let the Clerk know. As per last year the Clerk would email the contacts she had for the clubs and societies in the village. At the Annual Parish Council meeting the Chairman for the following year will be elected. In addition

the end of year accounts and annual return will be considered. As there will be two meetings the meetings will commence at 7pm.

Dorset Council Report

Beacon Ward

Cllr Jane Somper

March 2020

Dorset Council will mark its first anniversary on 1st of April. For elected members these first months have sometimes felt like wading through treacle, while for some staff it must have felt like a relentless tsunami of change, but it is fair to say that enormous progress has been made. A new Senior Management Team now leads a new staffing structure, with newly appointed Heads of Service across the board. New committees are hard at work, advised by new cross-party panels looking at every aspect of the Council's work. Teams are reviewing assets, contracts, policies and relationships with the community. The budget for 2020/21 sets tough efficiency challenges to all departments.

But we are still only in the foothills of the mountain of change which we will have to scale if we are to achieve the full potential of reorganisation. Investment will be needed in IT, staff training and much more. And we can only guess what investment our declared Climate and Ecological Emergency might require in future years.

Yet, despite the challenges, I remain optimistic that Dorset Council can become an excellent authority, living within its means, before too long.

Coronavirus

Dorset Council is aware of the possible issues for local services should the coronavirus spread to Dorset in significant numbers. At the moment the level of risk is set at low to moderate. For the time being it is business as usual and the Council is advising service providers to follow the advice issued by Public Health England and the NHS. Anyone with health concerns should call 111 rather than attending their GP surgery or hospital.

Flooding

At the time of writing there are a number of flood alerts live in the ward. And we are not done yet with the high winds. Local communities are very experienced at monitoring and managing local flood events and our Flood Warden's local knowledge is invaluable. However, Dorset Council is there to help in emergency. Fallen trees are the responsibility of the landowner who should arrange for the trees to be made safe. Blocked roads should be notified to the local police in the first instance. Once the

storms are over Parish Councils may want to inspect for damage to roads and notify the Community Highways Officer of work needed.

Council Budget 2020/21

Council Tax will increase by just under 4% in April to help fund the rising cost of Adult Social Care and Children's Services. Demand in both these service areas continues to rise across the country, and given Dorset's population profile, we expect this to continue into future years. We are determined not to cut other services, so it is essential to get the Council working more cost effectively.

Since its creation last year Dorset Council has achieved £17m of efficiency savings and further savings are due this year. All parts of the Council are focused on transforming how services are managed and delivered with the aim of providing improved services for less cost. These changes cannot all be achieved at once, some may involve changes to contracts or disposing of property, and we need to look at best practice in other councils, but the pressure will remain on to reduce costs while maintaining service.

As advocates for Dorset, we lobby government for fairer funding for rural counties and, as my report shows, we grab such extra funding as we can.

Dorset Council Plan 2020-2024

The new Dorset Council Plan sets out the priorities which will guide the work of the Council for the coming years. In particular, it informed the budget setting process for expenditure in 2020-21. The draft plan was widely discussed and represents the views of people and communities across Dorset. The published plan can be seen on the website.

Highways

Dorset Council will continue with its programme of planned road repairs using micro-surfacing, surface dressing, premium surface dressing and resurfacing methods, depending on the nature of the repair. Some roads are patched six months before, to prepare them for the permanent repair. Micro-surfacing is a cost-effective treatment for worn but structurally sound roads. It keeps road closures to a minimum, usually overnight.

Many roads are in need of repair across the county, and this very wet winter will have taken its toll, particularly on smaller roads. As always, priority will be given to the most heavily used roads and those with safety risks. The way to get your roads into the

repairs programme is through the Community Highways Officer, who will inspect the road and make a report.

In the meantime, a group of Members are working to lobby Cabinet for increased funding for Highways and the reintroduction of the old Parish Maintenance Units. Watch this space.

Climate and Ecological Emergency

Steady progress is being made by the Dorset Council Panel looking at how the Council should address the climate emergency. The Council's approach is to involve as many people as possible in this debate and to listen and learn before coming to a view. As part of this we issued a "Call for Ideas" to enable all residents and businesses to suggest what they would like to see the Council do and held an Inquiry Day to which people were invited to speak about their ideas on climate change. A report will be published shortly.

The Dorset Council Plan demonstrates the extent to which climate change will affect the way we operate and deliver services in the future.

Government Funding for 5G Dorset

A bid, led by Dorset Council, has secured funding of £4.335m to investigate how 5G mobile connectivity could help rural communities. The Dorset project is one of seven across the country designed to see if the next generation mobile connectivity can be rolled out differently to provide greater support to rural communities. The total cost of the Dorset project is £6.675m, with Dorset Council contributing £150,000 and the rest coming from government and industry.

Four trials will look at next generation connectivity in Agri-tech; for the Dorset Innovation Park at Winfrith; for improved safety for first responders along the coast and for tourism on the Lulworth Estate. The consortium includes local company Wessex Internet a great boost for North Dorset and the Beacon Ward.

This project will not immediately address the pockets of very poor 4G mobile coverage, which remain the responsibility of the mobile providers.

Government Funding for Vulnerable Residents

The Council has been awarded £500,000 of government funding to help reduce the number of rough sleepers across the county. Rough sleeping increased in North Dorset during 2019. The money will enable the Council's Housing Team to extend their work to help get people off the streets and into accommodation.

A further grant of £1m has been awarded to tackle domestic violence across Dorset and Hampshire. Dorset's share of the funding will fund the Dragonfly Project which helps keep people subject to domestic abuse safe.

Keeping in Touch

The next edition of the Council's newsletter, *Dorset Council News*, will be published shortly. With it will be a survey asking whether it is useful, to help us decide whether to continue to produce it.

The best way of contacting Dorset Council is the website, dorsetcouncil.gov.