

SUTTON WALDRON VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 2nd September 2020 held via ZOOM

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman:	David Smith
Councillors:	John Ellis, Sandy Millard, Iain McNeil
Dorset Councillor:	Jane Somper
Clerk:	Marianne Wheatley
Community Highways Officer:	Roger Bell
Residents:	Ian Pinder, Alan Malsher and Jane O'Neil.

02/09/01 **Apologies for absence** - Apologise for absence had been received from Cllr. Aartsen

02/09/02 **Declarations of Interest** - There were no declarations of interest.

02/09/03 **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd July 2020 were unanimously approved and following the meeting signed by the Chairman.

02/09/04 **Matters Arising**

a. Highways – The Chairman thanked Roger Bell from Highways for attending

- Napiers Way – It was confirmed that Highways were working on the drains and had put a camera through them. They had already identified one blockage in Napiers Way which was the result of tree roots. In the recent rain there had again been flooding. Roger Bell from Highways commented that he was pleased that it was just the roots. They had however also found that in the drain leading from the post box a large pipe fed into a smaller pipe and this caused surges. The water backed up and flooded The Street. Highways would be there until Friday doing camera work to find out whether there are any other blockages. They would not be repairing the pipes but would be replacing them. In this regard some of the pipes had been put in the wrong way around which left gaps and were therefore doomed from the start.
- The drains and gullies along The Street to Vale Farm – At the last meeting it was confirmed that Roger Bell was waiting to hear from Wessex Water regarding the source of the water on the Street towards Broadway Farm i.e. whether it is a leak or a spring. Roger Bell confirmed that it was not Wessex Water's water. He had spoken to one of the farmers who had confirmed that they had filled in a pond in the vicinity some time ago. Further along there was bamboo which had broken the land drains in the bank. It was confirmed that there might be a cesspit by the bamboo. Roger Bell had applied for a road closure order to try and sort this problem by putting in a gully to deal with the water from the pond. He was not sure what the solution was with regard to the problem near the bamboo. He suggested that it might be worthwhile contacting the owner to sort their drains. Cllr. McNeil confirmed he would try and obtain the name of the owner who owned the bamboo. Cllr. Somper confirmed she would try and move this along.
- Potholes on Sutton Hill – the potholes at the bottom of the hill have earlier this year been once again been re-done. A re-surfacing programme has been sent round by Highways but this did not include Sutton Hill. Roger Bell confirmed that what needed to be done was a proper patch or re-surfacing. Unfortunately because of budget restraints re-surfacing was not going to happen. The cheapest way of filling the potholes was Velocity but this did not work on hills where there was water running down. What was needed was a proper patch which Roger Bell would try to organise. A comment was made that the back streets in Child Okeford were being done.
- The edges of the road from Vale Farm to Farringdon. Roger Bell confirmed that they needed the farmers to do a good cut back this winter. The roads had narrowed where the banks had come down. Highways also needed to do some side verging where the verges were cut back to the edge of where the tarmac is. The hedges through the village needed cutting. Roger Bell suggested that the Parish Council should speak to the people who needed to cut back their hedges. If necessary he could write a letter to them asking them to cut the hedges back. He had asked for the verges to be done through the village in the winter months.
- Speed Limits through the Village – there was a 30mph limit through the village. The speed limit signs started where the majority of the houses were however the residents further along The Street had asked for the signs to be moved back to where the village sign was or better still to the junction by Vale Farm. Roger Bell confirmed that there was not much paper work with regard to why the signs were put where they were.

What was needed was an explanation as to why the signs were put where they were. Cllr. McNeil confirmed the signs were placed there as part of the works on the A350 and he recollected that they were placed where they were because there was a bend and he thought Andrew Brown from Highways had suggested that this was the best place for them. It was agreed that Roger Bell and the Clerk would try and see if they could find the relevant traffic regulation order. If the traffic regulation order stipulated that the signs should be put where they were then they could not be moved. If the positioning of the signs was arbitrary then the signs could be moved. Roger Bell asked whether the gates on the A350 belonged to the Parish Council. The Chairman confirmed that they were Highways responsibility.

- b. **Cycle Path** –The Chairman confirmed that it had been suggested that a footpath should be put in between Iwerne Minster and Fontmell Magna. This would enable the residents of Sutton Waldron to use the facilities in Iwerne Minster and Fontmell Magna without having to use their cars. The Chairman confirmed he had been looking into this and had contacted Sustrans. Roger Bell confirmed that Sustrans were the people who would have the funds to do this. A while ago there had been some discussion about putting a cycle way in from Shaftesbury to Blandford but this had failed because of problems with land ownership. It had been suggested that the way forward was to get a community group together to work on this; to do a feasibility study and make a preliminary approach to the landowners. Roger Bell confirmed that the way forward might be to get some for the footpaths upgraded to bridleways. The Dorset Rangers would be able to assist with this. Once a route was identified you could then apply to Sustrans to turn this into a cycle route. Alan Malsher confirmed he would be happy to head up the village group. The first step would be to look at the OS map and see what footpaths could be upgraded. With regard to a footpath along the A350 to Fontmell Magna this had been discussed in the context of the proposed new development in Fontmell Magna but Fontmell Magna Parish Council had decided they had other priorities. The Chairman confirmed he would let Mr Malsher have the information he had. The Chairman thanked Roger Bell for attending and Roger Bell left the meeting.

02/09/05

Correspondence/Other Parish Matters

- a. **Report from Dorset Councillor.** The Dorset Councillor has circulated a report for September 2020. There were no matters arising. Cllr. Somper confirmed that there was to be a digital version of the Blackmore Vale Magazine which was good news because there was no other paper that served North Dorset. She also commented that the Government were proposing a new planning scheme. Both short term and long term changes were being proposed. Dorset Council would be putting in a robust response. She commented that it would also be good if the local councils could respond. She noted that Dorset Council would not be returning to their offices until 31st March 2021. There was a full Council meeting the next day.
- b. **Inspection of The Spinney, Bus Shelter and Telephone Box** – in accordance with the Risk Management Policy the Chairman confirmed he had inspected The Spinney, the Bus Shelter and the Telephone Box.
- c. **Maintenance of the Spinney** – The Chairman confirmed that Cllr. McNeil had mentioned to him that the Spinney had become overgrown with holly, other invasive species and small saplings.. They had obtained a quote for the work in the sum of £420.00. The Clerk confirmed that she had done an up to date Budget v Spend and there was a maintenance budget that had not been completely spent, the contingency had not been used and there were other savings elsewhere. In any event there were sufficient reserves. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should undertake this work.

02/09/06

Planning Applications – There had been one application since the last meeting that had come in that afternoon namely 2/2020/1078/FUL – Land at E385690 N116235 The Street, Sutton Waldron. This was an application to erect a barn. It was agreed that the Councillors would meet on site during the course of the following week.

02/09/07

Finance

- a. **Bank and Cash Balance** – The reconciled bank and cash balance as at 31st August 2020 was £4009.47
- b. **Bills to be paid** – It was agreed that the following should be paid:
- M Wheatley - £342.12 - Clerks salary for July to September £327.73 plus £14.39 Zoom payment for August

02/09/08

Review of Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, code of Conduct and other policies. The policies were all reviewed in full last year. The Clerk had recently reviewed the current briefings from DAPTC and SLCC and at present she had not identified any changes that need to be made to the documents that were adopted last year. A new Code of Conduct will be published shortly

and the Clerk will review the current Code of Conduct and amend as appropriate for approval by the Parish Council as and when the new Code of Conduct is published.

02/09/09

Any Other Business – The Chairman had spoken to the Chairman of Fontmell Magna Parish Council regarding finding a new Clerk. The Chairman of Fontmell Magna Parish Council had drafted a job specification and an advert. He also had the name of other neighbouring Clerks who he was going to contact. He was going to place the advert with a view to interviewing October.

02/09/010

Reports

- a. **Church** – Ian Pinder had sent through a church report which is attached hereto. There were no matters arising. Ian Pinder confirmed that the report on the Owen Jones wall paintings had been received the day before. It was a very good report. It was a good document for the archive and useful with regard to the ongoing maintenance of the paintings. Ian Pinder also confirmed that he was leaving and that the other church warden did not wish to continue on her own. He was therefore looking for a replacement. Ian Pinder commented that there was a harvest festival scheduled but they did not know as yet what form this would take.
- b. **Village Hall** – Jane McNeil confirmed that the Village Hall need some work doing on the bank where the soil was coming down. The proposal was for some sleepers to be put in. Some of planking also needed to be repaired.
- c. **Footpaths** – Jane McNeil commented that the footpath by Cowleaze needed to be cleared. It was agreed this would be done.

02/09/011

Date of next meetings – The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 9th December 2020. Although this may change depending on when the Christmas Lunch was going to be held. At the moment the advice is not to have a physical meeting so this meeting will be held via Zoom but if the advice changes the Clerk will let everyone know.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

Dorset Council Report

The Beacon Ward

Cllr Jane Somper

September 2020

Dorset Council Working Arrangements

The Senior Leadership team has announced to members that they will continue to work from home until at least March 2021. This will not make our lives any easier when we need to deal with some council departments.

Abolition of Public Health England – Impact on Dorset Council area

I'm sure you've all seen the coverage of the announcement that PHE is going to be replaced by a new National Institute for Health Protection that will combine NHS Test and Trace, PHE and the Joint Biosecurity Centre.

Despite these changes, the ongoing health protection work that the regional health protection team in Dorset has been undertaking working closely with Councils will continue. The SW team is very much focused on the job to be done and challenge of preparing for winter, and will continue to do everything to ensure that the disruption is as minimal as possible. The team are keen to ensure that as far as possible it will be business as usual..

As more detail becomes available I will continue to keep you posted, but thought it important to share the early assurance that I've been given that the regional team remains committed to supporting us fully as they go through this challenging time.

Dinahs Hollow

A report on highways works to the slopes will now be going to Dorset Council Cabinet October meeting.

Dorset School Transport

This year, in order to limit the interaction between pupils at different schools, each closed school service will only pick up children for one school, instead of several.

There will be no social distancing on closed school routes although Dorset Council are advising operators introduce a range of measures to improve safety on the bus, such as good ventilation, improved cleaning regimes, no face to face seating and orderly pick up and drop off regimes.

Face coverings for children age 11 and above are highly recommended but will not be compulsory. Dorset Council will also be recommending that pupils sit in the same seat each day, wherever possible. More information about these will be given to parents and schools.

Children using public transport to get to school will be subject to social distancing on transport and must wear a face covering, unless they are under 11 or medically exempt from doing so.

Continued Help For Vulnerable Residents

The council has asked volunteer 'befrienders' to help spot the signs that a person may have become more frail or likely to fall because of their reduced ability to exercise and keep active in the wake of COVID-19.

The volunteers, working on behalf of Age UK North, South & West Dorset are being asked to listen out for key words and phrases which describe the feelings of the person they help, such as:

- 'frail'
- 'weaker'
- 'less balanced'
- 'likely to fall'

as these indicate the person will benefit from help to get more active.

They will also ask the person they befriend if they have noticed changes in their mobility since the start of the coronavirus outbreak. And if they have been able to complete their usual day-to-day activities such as leisure activities or housework.

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, the befriender can ask the vulnerable person if they consent to being referred to the reablement service on offer from the council's care provider Tricuro.

There is no charge for this service and a wide variety of support is on offer. From information and guidance, to practical support such as equipment to improve independence and increase confidence at home.

Dorset Council Consultations

Dorset Council is currently holding two consultations; Licencing Policy Consultation, creating a single licensing policy for the Dorset Council area (currently each previous district had its own policy, so bringing the best practice from each council together) and the Gambling Policy. These both end on 27th September.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/consultations/find-a-consultation.aspx>

Sutton Waldron Parish Council Meeting - 2nd September 2020

St. Bartholomew's Church Report

There is very little to report.

1. Coronavirus COVID – 19 Pandemic - The church continues to remain open for individual prayer on Wednesdays and for church services on Sundays with a number restriction. The latter does not in practice restrict those who wish to come to church. Numbers at services are slightly down which does effect income
2. Dr Lizzie Woolley and a colleague from Opus Conservation, London have carried out the condition survey of the Owen Jones wall paintings in the church. We are awaiting the report. Verbal feedback was positive.
3. Church Services:- The pattern continues as previously reported with no Breakfast Church in the Village hall on the second Sunday of the month. Although church services have resumed in all five parishes in the benefice the vicar continues to post an on-line service for every Sunday as well.
4. Churchyard Maintenance ;- Pruning of trees and shrubs bordering the church path has taken place. Significant pruning of the laurel hedge on the church's northern boundary is planned for October. Discussions have been held with neighbours.
5. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM):- This is to be held on Tuesday 22nd September at 5 pm in the church. Churchwardens and committee members will be elected along with annual reports being presented. There will be a need for at least one new churchwarden. Despite efforts over the past twelve months no-one is currently coming forward.

Ian Pinder (Churchwarden) - 31/08/20