

SUTTON WALDRON VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 22nd July 2020 held via ZOOM

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman:	David Smith
Councillors:	John Ellis, Claire Aartsen, Sandy Millard, Iain McNeil
Dorset Councillor:	Jane Somper
Clerk:	Marianne Wheatley
Residents:	Ian Pinder, Rod Swift, David Kolb and Alan Malsher.

22/07/01 Apologies for absence – There were no apologies for absence.

22/07/02 Election of Chairman and Acceptance of Office – Cllr. Smith stepped down as Chairman. Cllr. Millard then nominated Cllr. Smith as Chairman. This nomination was seconded by Cllr. Ellis. Cllr. Smith having agreed to act was duly elected as the Chairman of the Parish Council for 2020/21. The Chairman confirm he would sign the acceptance of office form at the end of the meeting.

22/07/03 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

22/07/04 Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2020 were unanimously approved and following the meeting signed by the Chairman.

22/07/05 Matters Arising

a. Highways – The Chairman confirmed that following the last meeting the Clerk had raised various matters with Highways:

- The drains and gullies along The Street to Vale Farm – The Clerk was informed that Cllr. Somper and Roger Bell from Highways were reviewing. Roger Bell the Community Highway Officer had recently confirmed that he was waiting for Wessex Water to confirm the source of the water on The Street towards Broadway Farm i.e. whether it is a leak or a spring. Cllr. Somper confirmed that when she had met with Roger Bell they had identified that the water seemed to be coming from a water trough that was connected to Wessex Water.
- Potholes on Sutton Hill – the potholes at the bottom of the hill have recently been re-done. A re-surfacing programme has been sent round by Highways but this does not include Sutton Hill accordingly the Clerk had asked Cllr. Somper to chase to see if Sutton Hill can be included in the works scheduled for the area. Highways had confirmed they were continuing to monitor Sutton Hill for carriageway defects. Cllr. Somper confirmed that she was pushing hard for this work to be listed but it was only the top and the bottom of Sutton Hill that needed doing. Cllr. McNeil commented that cold filling the potholes did not seem to be working and asked why this was. Cllr. Somper suggested that the Parish Council should invite Roger Bell to attend the next meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should invite Roger Bell to the next meeting.
- The edges of the road from Vale Farm to Farrington - the crumbling edges were repaired but there is a spring or a leak which is causing wash out at the bottom of the hill.
- Napiers Way – Highways have advised that they are looking to schedule the work hopefully in August. Ian Pinder thanked Cllr. Somper and Roger Bell for their assistance in this regard. He commented that Roger Bell had said that Highways would be putting a camera down the hole in the back garden in Napiers Way but this had not been done as yet. Cllr. Somper confirmed she would ask Roger Bell about this but thought that a survey would in any event be done before the commencement of the works.

b. Stile on the Lynchets – It was confirmed that this stile had been repaired and was much better..

c. Dog barking – The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk had obtained the email address for the Environmental team but during the lockdown she had been informed that the problem was not so bad. It was agreed that if the problem arose again the Clerk would be informed and she would follow this up.

The Chairman confirmed that the defibrillator group had not met recently but hoped to do so in the autumn. He confirmed that the planning application to convert a barn into a dwelling in Bedchester had been refused as there was not a sufficient economic case for this.

22/07/06 Correspondence/Other Parish Matters

a. Report from Dorset Councillor - The Dorset Councillor has circulated a report for May 2020 which will be available on the website. There were no matters arising.

b. Inspection of The Spinney, Bus Shelter and Telephone Box – In accordance with the Risk

Management Policy the Chairman had inspected The Spinney, the Bus Shelter and the Telephone Box and they were all in good order. The Chairman thanked Cllr. and Jane McNeil for all of their work in keeping The Spinney in order.

- c. **Speed Limit through Village** – The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council has been asked to see if they could get the 30mph speed limits signs on The Street coming in from Vale Farm moved back. The Parish Council had asked Highways if the signs could be moved ideally back to the junction at Vale Farm but if not at least back to the village name signs. The Parish Council were waiting to hear from Highways in this regard. In the interim the issue of having a 20mph speed limit through the village has been raised again. The Chairman commented that until 3 years ago the speed limit through the village was 60mph. When the 30mph signs were erected Highways had advised that they should not be start at the village name sign on the road from Vale Farm as it would be better to put them further into the built up area of the village. At the time there was no argument to counter this. David Kolb commented that he had asked for the signs to be moved because the majority of The Street from Vale Farm was 60mph and cars and vans took advantage of this. There were quite a few houses on The Street and there were more people using the road. This was an accident waiting to happen. The traffic was heavier and cars were better and most of the traffic probably did not realise this was a residential area. The Chairman commented that if the village wanted a 20mph speed limit the village would need to initiate this and it would take a great deal of time and money to get the appropriate approval. Most people drove at 20mph through the more densely populated area of the village in any event. If the village wanted a 20mph speed limit then the Chairman suggested that a sub-committee should be formed. The attendees then listed various examples of incidents that had happened recently: 1. A resident driving to the village along The Street was passed by a van coming in the opposite direction. This was on a very narrow part of The Street. The van did not slow down and the only way it could pass the oncoming car was to mount the bank which it did at a very precarious angle. 2. A delivery driver coming out of one of the houses on The Street caused another van driving down The Street to brake heavily. The van drivers had words. 3. The Street is very narrow in places and there is no safe place for pedestrians or horses to get out of the way of oncoming traffic. Various incidents of people having to jump into the hedge were reported. There was then a discussion as to the best means of getting the hedges along the narrow part of The Street cut. Cllr. Somper suggested that maybe the way forward was to have a site meeting with Highways to include the person responsible for speed limits. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange the site visit and once the Parish Council had Highways views as to how far the hedges needed cutting back they could then write to the residents concerned. Cllr. Millard commented that the number and size of the vehicles had increased since Vale Farm had become more industrialised.
- d. **Cycle path** – The Parish Council have been asked whether it is possible for a cycle/pedestrian path to be put in from the village to Iwerne Minster. The Clerk confirmed that she had asked Fontmell Magna Parish Council to consider having a path along the A350 as part of the new development on South Street. Fontmell Magna Parish Council had decided not to pursue this with the developer. The Chairman confirmed that there had been a previous plan for a cycleway from Iwerne Minster which had been supported by Sustrans. He had contacted them again to see if this plan could be revived but he suspected that this would only happen if it was part of a larger scheme. Rod Swift confirmed that the national cycle route 25 was diverted by Fontmell Magna and there was a gap in the national cycle routes in this area. The Chairman confirmed he had also spoken to the developers of the proposed development in Fontmell Magna and they were not supportive of a route down the A350 joining the villages. It was agreed that the Chairman would continue to follow this up with Sustrans. Cllr. Somper commented that at present people had to drive to get to facilities if there was a footpath the village would become more sustainable. Dorset Council were in support of such schemes and she continued to lobby the relevant stakeholder in this regard.

22/07/07

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

- **2/2020/0815/CATREE**- T1 - Birch - Fell. T2 - Birch - Fell. Orchard Cottage 10 Church Lane Sutton Waldron Dorset DT11 8PA
- **2/2020/0715/CATREE** - T1 sycamore - reduce crown on garden side by reducing branches a maximum in length as per annotated photo. T2 - Spruce - Lift crown to a maximum of 4 m above telephone wire as shown in agents photo received 18/06/2020 Church House, church Lane, Sutton Waldron DT11 8PB
- **2/2020/0551/CATREE** - T1 - Birch - Fell. T2 - Birch - Reduce by 3.5m and reshape as per photograph. Hill House Church Lane Sutton Waldron Dorset DT11 8PB

The Parish Council is no longer formally consulted on applications for Tree Works but the Clerk does try to keep an eye on the Dorset Council website and notifies the Parish Council and the residents in the Village

Group email of any she finds. Sometimes the applications do not appear on the Dorset Council website in a timely fashion so if anyone sees any notices that have been put up and wishes to make a comment about any tree works they should let the Clerk know asap. In addition the Parish Council had received an application for Planning Permission as follows: **2/2020/0873/HOUSE** - Erect garage (demolish existing garage). Yew Tree Cottage The Street Sutton Waldron DT11 8NZ. The Parish Council confirmed they had no objection to this application.

22/07/08

Finance

- a. **Bank and Cash Balance** – The Clerk confirmed that the reconciled bank and cash balance as at 19th July 2020 was £4434.40
- b. **Bills paid since the last meeting:**
- DM Payroll Services £73.00
 - Dorset Council – emptying dog bin £132.60
 - Vision ICT Ltd – website £150.00
 - Society of Local Council Clerks £18.92
 - Community First – Insurance £209.65 (inc. £5 bank charge)
- Bills to be paid**
- £342.12 - Clerk's salary and Zoom payment. A 2% pay rise was included in the budget for 2020/21 which equated to an additional £2.14 per month. Assuming this is backdated to April 2020 this would be £327.73 for April, May & June instead of £321.30. In addition the Clerk had signed the Parish Council up to Zoom which she was doing through her bank account. The charge is £11.99 plus VAT per month (£14.39 per month). The Parish Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk's salary should be increased by 2%.
 - Dorset Association of Parish and Town Clerks renewal £82.81
 - Dorset Association of Parish and Town Clerks – Zoom Training £2.70. The Chairman confirmed he would check to see if he had paid this personally.
- c. **End of Year Accounts, audit and Approval of the exemption, S1 & S2 of the Audit Statement.** Martin Jelbart has undertaken the end of year Audit and had confirmed there was nothing adverse to report. The Clerk had circulated the end of year accounts and asked for the accounts to be approved. The Parish Council unanimously approved the end of year accounts for the year ending 31st March 2020. The Clerk had also circulated the Audit Statement. The Clerk went through the S1 statement question by question and the Councillors confirmed they were happy that matters have been dealt with appropriately throughout the year. Having approved the S1 statement the Parish Council approved the S2 statement. S1 & 2 having been approved it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should sign these statements and the exemption certificate for the Clerk to submit to the External Auditors. The Parish Council thanked Martin Jelbart for undertaking the internal audit.

22/07/09

Any Other Business - The Clerk confirmed that she was planning to go travelling in 2021 and would therefore be leaving the Parish Council she suggested that her leaving date should be 28th February 2021. The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for her work and it was agreed that the Chairman would start to look for a new Clerk. The Chairman confirmed that he had been approached by one of the residents concerning bonfires being left to smoulder overnight. The Parish Council agreed there was nothing they could usefully do about this.

22/07/010

Reports

- a. **Church** – Ian Pinder had circulated a written report from the Church prior to the meeting. This report will be available on the website. There were no matters arising.
- b. **Village Hall** – The plant sale which had been held over a week instead of on just one day had been very successful and had raised over £200.00.
- c. **Footpaths** – There was nothing to report.

22/07/011

Date of next meetings – The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 2nd September 2020. 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 8.39pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

Dorset Council Report

Beacon Ward

Cllr Jane Somper

May 2020

Virtual Council Meetings

It is heartening to see so many parishes holding their meetings virtually and so seamlessly, it is so important for residents to feel reassured that parish business is still being carried out. I've enjoyed zoom and google hangout meetings with many of you and although there has been the odd teething issue, I think these have been ironed out.

Dorset Council is holding all its meetings virtually to, using Microsoft Teams, but there has been discussion from some members around other platforms, personally I am happy using Teams.

DC has held a number of meetings, including Cabinet, Audit & Governance, EAP's, Planning and Scrutiny and on June 11th DC will be holding its first virtual Full Council meeting. A new web page has been set up with details all the meetings being held, below is a link to the page which lists the agenda and has a link to access the meeting live or you can view a recording. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/committees/virtual-committee-meetings.aspx>

Visitors to Dorset Beaches and Beauty Spots

We will all have seen the awful photographs and some videos of the many visitors who descended upon Durdle Door. DC is continuing with the message across all platforms available to people thinking of visiting our beaches and beauty spots to "Think again".

Thanks to the residents here in Dorset who have carefully followed the guidance we have the third lowest infection rate in the country. Dorset does have a large older population and many people with health conditions which make them more vulnerable and we want to continue to protect them and each other and our priority absolutely remains the with well- being of residents.

Due to the easing of some rules some car parks and public lavatories have re-opened. DC is encouraging contactless payment through smartphone apps in order to minimise risks when touching machines, but in response to public requests, and lobbying by my self and other councillors, cash and card payments can now be accepted. Caution still needs to be exercised and it is advisable to wear gloves when handling the machines if you are needing to touch them.

Planning

You will know that planning applications are continuing to come in to DC across the Ward. DC Planning Officers are working remotely from home in what can be challenging conditions with technology. Nevertheless planning applications are progressing through the system and decisions are being made in line with the exact same protocols and policies as were in place before.

Any Neighbourhood Plans cannot go to referendum until DC are able to make arrangements to carry these out but the Planning Inspectorate has agreed to assign it greater planning weight until that time.

Returning to Work

DC are now starting to plan how the office buildings are managed as the lockdown restrictions begin to be relaxed. There is of course a need to comply with social distancing requirements and so the numbers of desks available will be much reduced from what we would normally have for use. Officers will have to allocate specific desks to named individuals in the first instance. There will be a guidance document available for all staff affected in the next few weeks.

Supporting Rough Sleepers and Homeless People

During the COVID19 outbreak, our housing team has done great work getting rough sleepers and other people presenting as homeless into B&B and hotel accommodation. However, this is not a long-term solution. Plans are now being developed to support people into more settled accommodation, and to provide wrap-around support for issues like mental health and drug addiction. The number of people finding themselves homeless during COVID19 has more than doubled in the Dorset Council area, as people found themselves no longer able to sofa surf or as relationships broke down. The Housing Team housing team have shown great dedication and for their hard work in this important area. We will be developing the action from this and this will be shared with our partners in local town and parish councils and the public as discussion and policy progresses.

Update from Children's Services

Children's services have reached a milestone with Blueprint for Change: Children's services will now be moving into the implementation phase of the new model, aiming to have it up and running fully by 1 September. It has not been easy progressing this during the Covid outbreak, but it's great to see that new ways of working can now start to be implemented for the benefit of our local children, young people and families.

Staff from Children's services also shared some further items of good news:

- Ofsted and the Department for Education have confirmed that they are pleased with progress being made by Dorset Council and are reducing the frequency of their check-ins with us.
- Social worker recruitment is going well, with a number of new social workers due to join the service over the coming months.
- Following the publicity and call for more foster carers, Dorset Council has had an increase in foster carer enquiries, showing the recruitment activity seems to be working well.

Returning to School

Some schools are open during the May half term for key worker children and many will open for the newly identified year groups from June 1st more and indeed all are planning to be open for those year groups from June 8th

Face-to-face contact with young people in years 10 and 12 is also being planned for the summer-term, with schools making direct contact with applicable families with details.

Children of critical workers, and those deemed vulnerable (of all year groups) will continue to be prioritised within school provision.

The majority of early years settings will be open from the 1st June. From initial estimates, they anticipate that just under half of their roll of children will return at the beginning of the summer term.

Support for Dorset Business

Dorset Council has been responsible for administering the national Government schemes to support businesses in the crisis. Dorset Council had the largest fund of business grants in the country to administer and to date have paid out £92.3m to 7,830 companies. All this work has been done by Council staff, so it is pleasing to report that Dorset was in the top 2% nationally in getting these grants out the door to our Dorset businesses.

A number of businesses do not qualify for business continuation grants nor for the business rates relief schemes so, following lobbying from Dorset among others, a further Discretionary Grant Scheme, with £6m to distribute, was introduced recently. I have been in touch with several businesses who fell through the gap to ensure they are aware of the scheme and don't miss out.

Dorset Council has also been working closely with partner organisations and the Dorset MPs to lobby for support for local businesses, notably hospitality and dairy farming which is of great importance in the Beacon Ward.

Ward Activity

During the past few months important Highways works have been carried out while the roads were quieter and two important projects were scheduled, with one completed and another in Iwerne Minster where investigations in to ongoing drainage issues have resulted in a dig down required to finally, I hope, get to the bottom of what has caused the flooding outside the Talbot for so long from middle of June. I will be meeting with highways teams to discuss other ongoing issues around the ward that need addressing.

I have also taken the opportunity to make contact with the officers who run Dorset Council Estate and will be meeting with senior officers and visiting some county farms and other council owned land when we are all able to do so safely.

Of course at the beginning of lockdown we saw significant drops in the numbers of cars on the roads, and although there were some drops in HGV's that soon began to rise as goods and food was being transported, along with smaller vans that were delivering the food and medicines and other items that had been ordered online.

As lockdown is gradually eased and more shops begin to open again we will continue to see increased traffic activity. The government have told us that Local Authorities will take the lead in planning for recovery - in the economy, local services, community life and well-being. Life must eventually move forward but it is unlikely to return to exactly how it was before. Already, the Council has begun planning for the new normal and the impact of Covid is reflected in our recovery plans. Key to this will be the rebuilding of the Dorset economy, encouraging new business start-ups and reviving town centres. A Report on Economic Growth will go to Cabinet in the summer.

Sutton Waldron Parish Council Meeting - 22nd July 2020.

St.Bartholomew's Church Report.

1. Due to the Coronavirus COVID – 19 Pandemic, this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting has not taken place. The Church of England has currently extended the date by which this must take place to October 31st. The Parochial Church Council has however co-opted four new members. They are Sandy Millard, Barbara Asher , Maryan Milanese and Tony Asher. They join Stuart Asbury, Helen Dixie (treasurer) Amanda Ellis (secretary), Caroline Marsden (churchwarden), Ian Pinder (churchwarden), Yvonne Pinder, Rod Swift, Rev'd David John (vicar) and Rev'd Karen Wilson (curate) Jane McNeil attends PCC meetings as a representative from the Village Hall Committee.
2. Following the outbreak of the Coronavirus COVID – 19 Pandemic, the church was closed by order of the Government on 20th March 2020. It re-opened for individual prayer under Government and Church of England legislation and guidelines on 17th June and for services on 3rd July. The church is currently now open on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 3 pm and on Sundays for the service only. For services, under current legislation and guidelines, the church can house 16 people at any one time, as individuals, with more if a "bubble" of people attends. The pews allocated can accommodate three people. We have not had to turn people away!
3. During the time of the church's closure the vicar posted on-line services on the benefice's website. This is continuing alongside the church services now being held in all five parishes in the benefice.. Along with other information and other resources the services can be found on www.iwernevalleybenefice.org.uk
4. The P.C.C. has commissioned a "Condition Survey" of the Owen Jones design wall paintings. This is to be carried out by Opus Conservation of London. Dr Lizzie Woolley, who previously visited St. Bartholomew's in 2013 whilst carrying out some research on the work of Owen Jones, will, with a colleague conduct the survey. Their inspection will result in the presentation of a report recording the condition of all the wall paintings and recommendations for conservation planning. This survey has been financed in equal measure by a generous benefactor and "The Friends of St. Bartholomew's Society." When completed the village will then have a comprehensive record of the wall paintings and a way forward for it to preserve this unique and internationally recognised and prized feature of its church.
5. One of the two large coniferous trees on the church's South boundary fell foul of windy weather and snapped its main trunk earlier in the year. The P.C.C. together with the Council's tree officer had been monitoring it for some years. Its demise whilst sad in some ways has allowed the view down the valley from the newly installed church bench to be even more available and enjoyable!
6. Regrettably, because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Breakfast Church in the Village Hall has ceased for the time being. Instead, on the second Sunday of the month a service is held in the church.

Ian Pinder (Churchwarden) - 17/07/20