

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 2008

Present: Cllr Daniel Smy (Chairman), Cllr Joyce Rhodes, (Vice Chairman), Cllr Andrew Brewer (Vice Chairman (Finance)) Cllr Elaine Stenning, Cllr Terrie Connor, Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Thelma Smith, Cllr David Smith, Cllr Geoffrey Northcote and Cllr Abi Scard

Also present: District Councillor Peter Read.

Cllr Smy introduced himself, the Clerk, the Vice Chairman (Cllr Rhodes), Vice Chairman (Finance) (Cllr Brewer) and the Councillors.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Parish Meeting Mr Rob Westrell from Bardon Aggregates will be speaking at the annual Parish Meeting on April 24th about the future plans for quarrying in Warmwell.
- b. Library Opening Hours The meeting was advised of the proposed new opening hours for the Library noting that opening hours are being reduced from 15 to 9 hours. The Clerk was requested to put the new opening hours on the notice boards and web site.

Action: Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

- a. Mr Vic Myers spoke of the three items on the agenda of interest to him; the donation to the Bridge Magazine, the sports field and the Methodist chapel. Mr Myers asked the Council to support the initiative for the Methodist Chapel to be moved to Brownjohns Copse for use by the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers of Crossways. Mr Myers stated that this initiative would also be preserving the Chapel as an historic building. Mr Myers noted the Council's refusal to support the cubs and beavers use of the sports field free of charge and asked that the Council would consider favourably the Church request (Item 14). Mr Myers also expressed an interest in the item regarding the donation towards the Bridge Magazine stating that the Bridge is a very important magazine to the Village offering important information; Mr Myers asked the Council to support this motion.
- b. Mr Graham Walker referred to the notice in the Echo regarding Councillor Smiths's Standards Board case and asked for the findings to be read out. Cllr Smy informed the meeting that he had decided that there would be no discussion of Standards Board matters. Mr Walker also spoke regarding the proposal for a Youth Shelter and questioned if a need had been confirmed.
- c. Mrs Daphne Bearman spoke in support of the Bridge donation stating that the magazine had been going for many years and had previously been collated at various locations including her own home before being moved to the Village Hall. Daphne spoke of the many volunteers who type, edit, print and distribute the Bridge some 1500 copies.
- d. Mrs Linda Crowe asked if the Council was willing to name the Councillors who voted against allowing beavers and cubs to hold an event free of charge and asked why some Councillors seem to be bent on stopping children playing. Mrs Crowe asked that the Council support children Cllr Smy said it was not appropriate to name Councillors if it was not a recorded vote but invited Councillors to give their reasons for their objections. Cllr Scard said that if Scouts and Cubs had free use then all organisations should be given free use. Cllr (Mrs) Smith said it is a question of cost.
- e. Mr Rice referred to incidences at the basket ball square when his son and others were playing ; Cllr Smith arrived and asked the children to leave as the ball was causing his house to vibrate. Further to Cllr Smith's intervention Cllr Peter Read also asked the children to leave and told them if they played more than two hours a night past 8pm they would be given an ASBO (Anti Social Behaviour Order). Mr Rice stated that he was very disturbed by these events and was particularly concerned that Cllr Smith and Cllr Read advised the children that they were being watched and logged. Mr Rice asked for confirmation as to who had authorised this logging of the play and were the Police aware. Mr Rice questioned Cllr Smith's actions stating his manner was not helping children's freedom to play and Cllr Smith was turning the children against the Parish Council. Mr Rice asked for Cllr Smith's resignation reminding the Council that children are the future. The Chairman advised Mr Rice that he had taken advice from the Monitoring Officer at WDDC and the Police and asked that no further discussion takes place as this matter may go the Standards Board.
- f. Mrs Maidment informed the meeting that she was at the council meeting in February when the Council returned a majority vote against the Cubs and Beavers holding their tournament free of charge. Mrs Maidment advised the meeting that her offer to pay for the tournament was not a decision against the Councils democratic process but a token to assist the Cubs and Beavers.

- g. Mr Tizzard said he felt the Council has not moved forward from the events of last July stressing that the sports field must be kept. Mr Tizzard questioned the voting of Cllr & Mrs Smith on matters pertaining to the field and the lights at the Pavilion. Mr Tizzard called for Cllr Smith's resignation.
- h. Mrs Mary Brewer informed the meeting that her husband was on the Council when the sports field was fought for and stated that it was very sad that people are not pulling together for the rights of the children to play. Mrs Brewer asked that the Council work together for the benefit of the children of the Village.
- i. Mrs Webb stated as a concerned parent of two teenage boys that when her son goes to play on the sports field the police are called. Mrs Webb asked how many times the police will be called to the sports field because the children are playing?

Cllr Smy restated that the sports field and the basket ball area are to be used. Cllr Smy stated that the sports field is a very important open space area and has covenants on it preventing other use. Cllr Smy asked that children and adults continue to use the area.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER Community Police Officers were not available. Cllr Terrie Connor, the Council's representative on the Dorchester District Crime Prevention Panel gave her report. Cllr Connor reported that Police Inspector Fry raised the point that there has been an increase in handbag and purse theft. The Panel also discussed the increase in underage drinking and the dangers involved noting the steps being taken to address this issue. Cllr Connor will liaise with CPSO Vickie Hedges and Kris Hallett who both work closely with young people in Crossways.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR Apologies were received from County Councillor who advised that his report will be available on the web site.

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Cllr Peter Read gave the apologies of District Councillor Teresa Seall. Cllr Read advised the meeting of the Charles Street development consultation which was now at Stage 3. Cllr Read presented the Chairman with the consultation document. This document will be placed in the Library. Cllr Read reported that the planning application for 5 Dick o' the' Banks had been refused on the grounds of design. Cllr Read advised the meeting that he had attended the Standards Committee hearing dealing with the events of the Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting on July 5th 2007. Cllr Read out the report of this Committee in the matter of the complaint against Cllr Dave Smith advising members that Cllr Smith was cleared and exonerated. Cllr Read read out the decision of the Committee advising those present that the full account could be found on the WDDC web site. Cllr Read concluded his report by advising those present that a more colourful and interesting case involving a Parish Councillor would shortly be heard by WDDC Standards Committee.

AGENDA

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Caroline Round.

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. Cllr Brewer declared a personal interest in Item 11 stating that he would remain in the room, not enter into discussion and not vote.
- b. Cllr Brewer declared a personal interest in Item 12 stating that he would remain in the room, not enter into discussion and not vote.
- c. Cllr (Mrs) Thelma Smith declared a personal interest in Items 9,14,15 and 19 declaring she would not vote on these items.
- d. Cllr David Smith declared a personal interest in Items 9,14,15, and 19 stating that he will take part in the discussions and will vote.
- e. Cllr Joyce Rhodes declared a personal interest in Item 19 stating that she would vote.

ITEM 3 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION There were no Declarations of Predetermination.

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 28TH FEBRUARY 2008 The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Smith agreed as a true record and duly signed.

Cllr Stenning suggested that as these minutes, written in a shorter format by the deputising Clerk, were not disputed then this style of minutes is adopted by the Council.

AGREED

ITEM 5 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

ITEM 6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Village Design Statement Cllr Smy advised the meeting that he had met with Cllr Northcote and had constructive discussions on the matter of the Village Design Statement. It was agreed that there would be no further discussion on the Village Design Statement until it is brought to the Parish Council for adoption.

b. Bus Shelters Cllr Smy thanked Cllr Crowhurst for forwarding details of bus shelter funding to the Council. Cllr Smy advised that the Mount Skippet Way shelter does not need replacing at this stage but the one in Dick o' Banks does. Quotes have been received in the region of £3500 - £4000 and a grant for £1000 from the County Council is available. A letter has been written from the Council requesting sponsorship from Bardon Aggregates. Cllr Smy noted that if the Council is unable to secure funding they must then consider the way ahead.

c. Tree Protection Orders Cllr Smy advised members that, to date, no response had been received from WDDC and he will speak to the Chief Executive WDDC to chase a response.

d. Trees Magna Land It was noted that Magna Housing had not, to date, replanted trees as promised in the area of Combe Way. It was agreed the Council would write to Magna on this matter.

ACTION: CLERK

e. Chairman's Visits Cllr Smy advised members that he had visited the school, on Maundy Thursday and residents of 5 Dick o' th' Banks with Bishop Tim. Cllr Smy said both visits were very constructive and good visits.

f. Quarry Liaison Meetings Any developments will be outlined at the April full council meeting.

g. B3390 Cllr Smy advised that a meeting of the B3390 Action Group had taken place in the Sports Pavilion where positive news had been received on the instatement of the weight and width restrictions limiting some HGV movement. Other issues raised were the Hurst Bridge, 30 mph speed limits, Warmwell Village and Waddock Cross.

i. Wreaths Cllr Smy advised the meeting that the Scouts had re-laid their Remembrance Day wreath at the Memorial in the Memorial Park. Cllr Smy stated that all remaining wreaths will be removed at the end of April.

j. Crossways Football Club Cllr Smy attended the Crossways Football Club semi- final; this is reported in the Dorset Echo Community news written by Cllr Brewer.

k. Clerks Annual Appraisal It was reported that the Clerk's annual appraisal had been undertaken by an independent panel, Rev Birdseye and Helen Boyce. The Clerk's contract has been updated to include the 2004 review of contracts as agreed by the SLLC (Society of Local Council Clerks) and the NALC (National Associated of Local Councils). The Chairman advised that the Clerk's contract is not for publication and asked any Councillor wishing to view the Contract to contact him.

l. Future Ideas The Chairman distributed a spreadsheet for Councillors to complete and return detailing their ideas for the future. The Chairman advised the public that copies are available to them on request.

m. Library Opening Times Councillors were advised on the proposed revised opening times. Cllr Smy advised that Cllr Joyce Rhodes was a former Deputy County Librarian and would be setting up a Committee to ensure proper usage of the reduced Library hours stating that if these hours are not used to the full the Village may ultimately lose the Library. Cllr Rhodes said that interested people need to get together to produce a flyer to encourage residents to use and not lose the Library.

n. Notice Boards Woodsford Fields Estate The Clerk reported that there had been no response from the question asked of Woodsford Fields residents as to where they would like a notice board sited. It was agreed that Cllr Smy and Cllr Scard would visit the area and report their proposals to the Council.

ACTION: CLLR SMY/CLLR SCARD

o. MUGA Sites Cllr Smy advised members that he had spoken to a representative of Hanson Aggregates in the matter of the Option 4 site for the proposed MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and has been advised that this option is not viable as the site will be in use until the end of 2009 and then will not come into public use. Cllr Smy advised therefore only Options 1, 2 and 3 are to be considered. Cllr Smy advised Councillors and members of the public they could contact the Clerk who would put them in touch with Hanson Aggregates if required.

At the stage of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Connor that all votes are recorded.

ITEM 7 COMBE WAY – REPORT CLLR SMY Cllr Smy informed the meeting that he and the Clerk had visited the Land Registry to confirm the status of the area of Combe Way in question. Cllr Smy confirmed that Parish Council only has a cautionary title on this land. Cllr Northcote stated that everybody uses this area and it is at times full of water and mud and it is in the best interest to peruse ownership. Cllr Brewer noted that this procedure could be very expensive and the expenditure of obtaining ownership and maintaining prohibitive and moved no further action; this was seconded by

Cllr Connor. It was proposed by Cllr Rhodes, seconded by Cllr Northcote that the question of ownership is pursued and possible landowners approached.

ACTION: CLERK

ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES OF CARS PARKING ON GREEN LANE NEAR THE DICK O' TH' BANKS JUNCTION – CLLR BACHE TO LEAD It was noted that the vehicles in question are taxed and legally parked. It was agreed to discuss this matter with Ian Madgwick. Cllr Smy asked for a volunteer to address this problem. Cllr Brewer suggested Cllr Bache and Cllr Smy take this matter forward.

AGREED /ACTION CLLR SMY & CLLR BACHE

ITEM 9 TO FURTHER CONSIDER QUOTES, IF RECEIVED, TO CHANGE ALL LIGHTS AT THE SPORTS PAVILION TO SENSOR LIGHTS It was discussed whether the cost of changing these lights would outweigh the cost of running. Cllr Brewer proposed no further action, seconded by Cllr Conner; the vote was recorded:

For the proposal no further action: Cllr Smy, Cllr Rhodes, Cllr Brewer, Cllr Connor, Cllr Northcote, Cllr Stenning

Against the proposal for no further action: None

Abstained: Cllr Bache, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Scard

Declared: Cllr (Mrs) T Smith

AGREED

ITEM 10 TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND – THIS DOCUMENT WAS PLACED IN THE LIBRARY ON 25TH JANUARY AND ADVISED ON 23RD JANUARY The Clerk confirmed no members responded.

ITEM 11 TO CONSIDER SPONSORING THE LOCAL SCOUT GROUP IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RESITE THE METHODIST CHAPEL BY AGREEING TO COVER THE COST OF ANY PLANNING APPLICATION REQUIRED IN THE SUM OF £132.50 (£165.00 WEF 6TH APRIL) (DEFERRED FROM FEBRUARY MEETING FOR COSTINGS) The Chairman advised that if the Council agree to support the application then a 50% reduction in cost applies. Cllr Conner proposed that this is agreed, Cllr Rhodes seconded this proposal. Cllr Scard stated that Mr Barry Crooke should pay and questioned how the Council could vote on the application if they were the applicants. Cllr Scard declared that she would abstain on any vote of the Council involving Scouts or Beavers as she claimed she had been misquoted in the local press following February's meeting. Cllr Smy asked that the community is considered especially the former Methodist congregation. The vote was taken as follows:

For the proposal: Cllr Smy, Cllr Rhodes, Cllr Connor, Cllr Northcote, Cllr Stenning

Against the proposal: None

Abstained: Cllr Bache, Cllr D Smith, Cllr (Mrs) Smith, Cllr Scard

Declared: Cllr Brewer

AGREED/ACTION CLLR BREWER

ITEM 12 CONSIDER ANNUAL DONATION TO BRIDGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE IN THE SUM OF £300.00 The Council discussed this issue. Cllr Scard asked if this is agreed would any magazine be allowed to apply for a donation. It was agreed that each case is discussed on its merits. It was proposed by Cllr Connor, seconded by Cllr Rhodes and voted as follows:

For the proposal: Cllr Smy, Cllr Rhodes, Cllr Bache, Cllr Connor, Cllr Stenning, Cllr (Mrs) Smith, Cllr Scard

Against the proposal: None

Abstained: Cllr Northcote, Cllr D Smith

Declared: Cllr Brewer

AGREED

ITEM 13 TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM STUART MURGATROYD REGARDING TREES PAULS WAY The Chair read out Mr Murgatroyd's letter and his opinion that the trees should be removed from the green at Pauls Way and not replanted at present. Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr D Smith.

AGREED

ITEM 14 TO AGREE TO ALLOW THE CHURCH FETE COMMITTEE TO USE THE SPORTS FIELD FOR PUBLIC PARKING ON SUN 14TH SEPTEMBER FREE OF CHARGE Cllr Connor regretting that a precedent had been set advised the Council that they must charge for this use. The Chair advised that the Fete organisers would not be using the Pavilion so the charge would be reduced by £9.00 to £18.00. Cllr Scard advised the members that she had been misquoted

in the local press and if the Council charged the Church would pay the charge herself. It was proposed by Cllr Rhodes, seconded by Cllr Smy that the Church Fete Committee use the field free of charge the vote was taken:

For the proposal: Cllr Smy, Cllr Rhodes, Cllr Bache

Against the proposal: Cllr Brewer, Cllr Connor, Cllr Northcote, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Stenning

Abstained: Cllr Scard

Declared: Cllr (Mrs) T Smith

The Church Fete Committee will be charged for this use. Cllr Scard once again repeated her earlier offer to pay this fee.

ITEM 15 TO FORMALLY ACCEPT A GRANT OF £2000.00 FROM THE WEST DORSET PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PROVISION OF A YOUTH SHELTER ON THE SPORTSFIELD. Cllr Smy advised the meeting that a grant of £2000.00 had been secured for the provision of a youth shelter on the sports field. It was proposed by Cllr Brewer, Seconded by Cllr Smy that the grant is accepted in principle for the shelter. Cllr Dave Smith asked if this money could be used for other things for example the Bus Shelter? Cllr Smy advised that this grant was only for a Youth Shelter.

For the proposal: Cllr Smy, Cllr Rhodes, Cllr Brewer, Cllr Connor, Cllr Northcote, Cllr Stenning

Against the proposal: None

Abstained: Cllr Bache, Cllr D Smith

Declared: Cllr (Mrs) T Smith

Absent: Cllr Scard

AGREED/ACTION CLERK/KRIS HALLETT

ITEM 16 TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR A DIGITAL RECORDER TO BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN AGREED PROTOCOL; THE PARISH COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR RECORDING MEETINGS. THIS PROTOCOL WILL BE APPENDED TO STANDING ORDERS - THIS ITEM IS DEFERRED FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING (PROTOCOL PREVIOUSLY SENT) Councillors were provided with quotes. Cllr Brewer suggested that this expenditure should not come from this financial year and recommended a vote against. Cllr Smith expressed concern re costs. Cllr Rhodes stated that the Council had previously agreed to record meetings and therefore must now do this. Cllr Scard said there was no precedent. Cllr Smith advised that he had sought the opinions of other Councils and said a lot of Councils now use recorders.

Proposed Cllr Rhodes, seconded Cllr Scard to agree a purchase and expenditure £240 - £280. The Council voted:

For the proposal: Cllr Smy, Cllr Rhodes, Cllr Bache, Cllr Connor, Cllr (Mrs) T Smith, Cllr Scard

Against the proposal: Cllr Brewer, Cllr D Smith, Cllr Stenning

Abstained: Cllr Northcote

ITEM 17 TO AGREE TO AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE FOR A VERTIDRAIN TREATMENT ON THE SPORTS FIELD AT CROSSWAYS (THREE PITCHES) (£595.00 plus VAT) AS PART OF AN AGREED MAINTENANCE TREATMENT Cllr Smy recommended this treatment. Cllr Brewer gave the history of the field and the works on it acknowledging that this treatment was recommended as part of an ongoing maintenance programme. Cllr Thelma Smith asked if it was feasible to only do the treatment to one pitch.

The Council suspended to hear from Mr Arnold. Mr Arnold said that it would not be correct to drain one part of the field only and recommended full treatment.

The Council reconvened

It was proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Conner and voted:

For the proposal: Cllr Smy, Cllr Rhodes, Cllr Bache, Cllr Brewer, Cllr Bache, Cllr Connor, Cllr D Smith, Cllr (Mrs) T Smith, Cllr Stenning, Cllr Scard

Against the proposal: None

Abstained: None

AGREED

ITEM 18 CONSIDER THE STATEMENT PLACED BEFORE THE COUNCIL BY CLLR GEOFFREY NORTHCOTE AND CLLR DAVID SMITH

“RECENT PRESS STATEMENTS, BY PARISH COUNCILLORS, COULD BE INTERPRETED BY MANY VILLAGERS AS VEHICLES FOR ‘SELF ADVANCEMENT’ OR ‘GAINING POLITICAL ADVANTAGE’ RATHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL’S RIGHT TO ‘FREEDOM OF THE PRESS’

Cllr Smy advised Councillors that they all need to be very careful when they speak in public and they will be accountable for their words and it is important to remember this. The Local Press is free to quote comments that are said in public and therefore in the public arena. Cllr Smy stated that the Council or any member of the Council cannot censure the press. The Council has a collective obligation to report the Council’s corporate views or decisions; this is normally undertaken by the Chairman or the Clerk.. Cllr Smy advised Councillors if they issue a report/statement to the press it must be declared that it is their personal view; not the corporate view of the Council. Cllr Smy stated that to deny any one person from making a statement would be denying them their freedom of speech.. Cllr Smy asked that the Councillors engage in mutual respect for each other and respect the right to free speech. Cllr Scard asked if a Councillor is going to be quoted. Cllr Smy replied that all statements made in public are in the public domain and may be reported and be attributable to that Councillor. Cllr Smy agreed to advise Councillors in advance if a press release is to be published. Cllr Smy ended this debate by stating that all individuals can give their view.

ITEM 19 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. 1/D/08/000350 OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR ERECTION OF A DETACHED DWELLING – LAND ABUTTING 26 EGDON GLEN

Cllr Smy advised the Councillors that this is an outline planning and showed no detail and that Councillors were giving their opinion only on outline planning.

It was proposed by Cllr Smy seconded by Cllr Brewer that the Council agree that “there is concern for development on this site and it is not in keeping with the cartilage and open plan vista of Egdon Glen”.

For the proposal: Cllr Smy, Cllr Bache, Cllr Brewer, Cllr Connor, Cllr Northcote, Cllr Stenning, Cllr Scard

Against the proposal: None

Abstained: None

Declared: Cllr D Smith, Cllr (Mrs) Smith, Cllr J Rhodes

AGREED

Cllr Rhodes expressed concern about a tree in the area of the proposed plan. The Clerk was requested to speak to Stuart Murgatroyd.

ACTION: CLERK

ITEM 20 TO HEAR DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED/REFUSED

1/D/07/001903 – 5 Dick o’ th’ Banks Road - Refused

ITEM 21 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 28th FEBRUARY – 27TH MARCH 2008

The following items of income and expenditure were noted and agreed:

	Income £	Expenditure £
Sports Field Booking (11 th May)	27.00	
Fund raising MUGA	72.00	
50% Payment tree felling	140.00	
Grass Cutting Agency DCC	1313.21	
Expenses Clerk, Home as Office		100.00
Expenses Clerk (Mileage)		153.60
Salary Clerk		872.52
Inland Revenue		162.63
Hire Village Hall (3 months)		24.00
Wessex Water		100.44
British Gas		266.15
Southern Electric		28.56
F C Bearman & Sons		25.00
Nildram Broadband		23.42
Clerks Gratuity (Transfer)		435.17

S Manuel	532.00
R Hansford (Litter Collector)	550.30
J Pierson Vertidrain	699.13
Bridge Donation	300.00
S Manuel Tree & Shrub Maintenance	500.00

Expenditure Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Rhodes

AGREED

ITEM 22 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORT - VICE CHAIRMAN (FINANCE) Councillors were supplied with an end of financial year budget report. A copy of this report is attached to the main and library copy of these minutes. Councillor Brewer advised that savings would be sought on administrative items, telephone, stationery, fax and postage. There was no discussion on this report.

ITEM 23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – APRIL 24th 2008. THIS MEETING WILL BE PRECEDED BY THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Noted

ITEM 24 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION The Chairman advised that no late items had been requested and brought the meeting to an end.

Signed Chairman 2008