

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2009

Present: Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Brewer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dave Harris, Cllr Barry Thomas, Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Abi Scard, Cllr Dave Smith, Cllr Thelma Smith, Cllr Ron Arnold and Cllr Terrie Connor

Also Present: Cllr David Crowhurst (DCC), Cllr Teresa Seall (WDDC), Cllr Peter Read (WDDC), Mrs Anne Jane (Chairman Allotment Society of Crossways) and Mrs Liz Callister (Secretary Allotment Society of Crossways)

Cllr Rhodes welcomed all to the meeting. Cllr Crowhurst gave his report at the opening of the meeting as he had another engagement at Dewlish. Cllr Crowhurst advised those present that DCC have been given a Beacon Award given as part of the Olympics 2012 as this award which will make money available to the Council. Cllr Crowhurst confirmed that the B3390 through Crossways does not come within the criteria for a SID (Speed Indicator Device as advised by the Parish Council earlier. The problem caused by parking in the area of the bus stop in Mount Skippet Way was discussed; possible solutions suggested were yellow lines or asking Magna to release land for off street parking. Cllr Rhodes thanked Cllr Crowhurst for his report and congratulated Dorset County Council on their Beacon Award.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS There were no public information announcements

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

a. Allotments Mrs Jane read a statement to the Council outlining the process leading to the signing of items 9 and 10. *“As the opportunity may not be permitted for the Allotment Society to answer questions during the closed session the meeting I would just like to point out one or two things that may assist with items 9 and 10. Since the middle of last year we have been working in partnership with the Parish Council to achieve the provision of Allotments. This we have done without prejudice and in the spirit of goodwill. We have found the Clerk to be helpful and assisted us fully; I would like to thank her for that. We have saved the Parish Council’s limited resources by taking on the job of finding, communicating and researching the necessary facts. We have not asked for reimbursement for postage, paper, ink or phone calls. If the Council are in agreement when the items arise we would be more than happy to answer any questions”* Cllr Arnold said that Councillors owe a duty of care to all Villagers and whilst he understood that the provision of Allotments was a statutory duty of the Council it must be done in a considerate manner and he felt it had not. Cllr Arnold expressed concerns about rent, rates and land taxes and provision for defaulters who fall behind on their rent. Cllr Arnold also questioned removal of sheds if an allotment holder defaults, the subject of bonfires requiring assurance that they would not become a nuisance, the vulnerability of the water pipes and the entrance/exit of the site, Cllr Arnold felt that this was a dangerous junction, and the Allotment Society having adequate insurance. Anne Jane advised that the Allotment Society would address issues regarding bonfire by policing members and posting notices regarding bonfires. Mrs Jane advised that all the concerns are or have been considered at length by the Allotment Society. Cllr Scard agreed with Cllr Arnold’s concerns adding that residents were concerned about security and asked that a natural security border could be planted. Anne Jane reminded Cllr Scard that a tree border is not allowed under the agreement with the land owners. Cllr Smith questioned the height of the fence to be installed and was advised it would be 3ft. Cllr Rhodes asked that the Council receive a plan of the plot layout when drawn. Hilary Marrett expressed concerns that the agenda items tonight have not been properly read. Anne Jane advised that preceding this agenda item all matters had been addressed and documentation supplied to all Councillors. Cllr Arnold asked for signing of Item 10 to be delayed to ensure proper consideration is given to all questions; Item 9 he felt was okay for signing but not Item 10. Mrs Jane said she felt that one week would make no difference to the document. Cllr Arnold said he was happy with Mrs Jane’s assurances.

b. Mrs Chitson raised questions about the sport field (item 8) asking for accountability; suggesting the Council should sue the contractor and questioned where the money came from to pay for the work undertaken. On the matter of the Bridge donation Mrs Chitson requested that that expenditure and editorial content should be accountable; every receipt, every stamp and every ounce of shoe leather. Referring to the former Chairman of the Council Mrs Chitson said his actions are disgraceful and asked that every decision taken by the Parish Council during his tenure be reconsidered and voted upon. Cllr Scard said there had been gossip and rumour regarding the previous Chairman’s involvement with the Council. Cllr Brewer advised the meeting that the accounts of the Council have been properly audited and if any resident had concerns they should be given in writing to the Council and they will be properly dealt with and noted that to date no such request has been received.

Post meeting note: Mrs Chitson was asked to put her questions regarding the Bridge, the Sports field and the former Chairman in writing to have them properly addressed. No request in writing has been received.

Cllr Rhodes closed the public participation period by thanking Mrs Walker to the gift of slide rules to assist the Council in planning matters.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER Vickie Hedges advised the meeting of jobbing gardeners who over charge for work targeting vulnerable people. Vickie informed the meeting that these gardeners were driving a white m reg transit and to be wary and ring the police if suspicious. Vickie reminded Councillors of the Community Pact event and

asked for members to attend. In conclusion Vickie reminded all that Inspector Les Fry was running the London Marathon for the Motor Neurone Society and Julia House and would welcome sponsorship.

REPORT BY KRIS HALLETT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER Apologies were received from Kris Hallett

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Apologies were received from Cllr Seall. **Cllr Peter Read** advised the meeting that the Skate Park at Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester was now open. Speaking of the Charles Street development Cllr Read confirmed that confidential information had been leaked and that WDDC were tightening their protocol. This development is now in the planning process and it is hoped that new offices for WDDC can be incorporated within the development. Cllr Read advised of a new system for allocating housing; applicants will now bid for houses; for further information the meeting was advised to contact him direct. Crossways Court – new disabled access is now in place and the fumes emitting from furniture in the lounge has been resolved. Cllr Read advised of the new Regional Spatial Strategy which will bring new development and possibly planning gains to the Village. Mrs Pat Roach questioned viability of the Woodsford Fields development because of flooding problems. Mrs Roach advised that her garden was frequently flooded. Cllr Rhodes advised Mrs Roach to write direct to Cllr Read. Cllr Rhodes, on behalf of Cllr Stenning, asked Cllr Read if he had made any progress in the matter of asking WDDC to get the land abutting Oakland Parks tidied up now that the owner had gone into liquidation. Cllr Read said he is continuing to research this problem. Cllr Arnold advised that this land is now under the ownership of Allied Irish Bank and suggested that the Council could suggest making the restoration of this land as a condition of planning.

THE MEETING

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Elaine Stenning.

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. Cllr Brewer, in his capacity as Editor of the Bridge, declared a personal interest in Item 13 and noting previous concerns regarding his presence in the room he will leave the room, take no part in the discussions and not vote.
- b. Cllr Barry Thomas declared a personal interest in Items 9 and 10 as he is a member of the ASC (Allotment Society of Crossways) stating he will remain in the room and discuss but not vote.
- b. Cllr Dave Harris declared a personal interest in Items 9 and 10 as he is a member of the ASC stating he will remain in the room and discuss but not vote.

ITEM 3 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION Cllr Arnold declared predetermination in Item 10, in the matter of the water supply pipes stating that this does not affect his overall judgement.

ITEM 4 CORRESPONDENCE None to report.

ITEM 5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 26th FEBRUARY 2009 The minutes were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Arnold, Seconded Cllr Harris

AGREED

ITEM 6 MATTERS ARISING Item 13 –Referring to the installation of the new bus shelter Cllr Arnold asked that a protocol is put in place to ensure any works are properly checked and that the work has been carried out to the Council's satisfaction prior to payment being made. It was agreed that this protocol would be put in place.

ACTION: CLERK

ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO INCLUDE REPORT ON MEETING WITH BROADWAY MALYAN AGENTS FOR WOODSFORD FARMS Cllr Rhodes gave her report as follows:

“This has been a busy month as noted on the agenda. I am sure you will agree that it is good to see some progress in village affairs for the good of many residents. On the last Saturday in February, the first Village Market was held in the Youth Centre and this was reasonably well supported for a 'first effort'. At the same time, young people in the village washed cars in the Library car park for a reasonable charge of £4.00 and shoes were also cleaned for a reasonable sum. Stella has the exact amount made from this fund raising but know it was over £100.00.

The Allotments Society has been very active this month since Mr Wyatt Paul has offered some land on the west side of Woodsford Nursery for possible development in this direction. I feel very pleased with this development as with houses being built with “postage stamp” sized gardens and the present need for people to grow their own vegetables both for interest and lower costs; I feel the necessity for a village location to have allotments. I realize there are going to be a few problems in preparing the land but I feel we must try to work together on this project and make a successful job of it.

Plans for the MUGA and Skatebowl are now well in hand and I hope this project will soon go forward for the enjoyment of the younger people in Crossways.

The new bus shelter in Dick o' th' Banks Road is now well established and looks very pleasant. The Contractors have now completed the final cementing of the main posts for the complete safety of those using it and for pedestrians walking by.

I hope in the coming months we can make some progress in improving the Memorial Garden. It is such a delightful piece of land in the centre of the village and I feel sure both residents and visitors could enjoy it if there were some seats and pleasant evergreen shrubs and plants in situ.

This is the time of year when we have to consider funds for the coming year and in the present financial situation I know we have to be prudent in organising our precept. However, I feel sure we can consider our expenditure very carefully and still make improvements in our village..

Cllr Read left the meeting,

Cllr Rhodes also read to the meeting the details of the Council's meeting with Broadway Maylan, land agents to Woodfords Farms to discuss proposed further development (subject to planning). This report is attached to these minutes at Annex A.

Cllr Rhodes asked for any questions. Cllr Scard asked for progress in placing a notice board in the new development at Woodsford Fields. The Clerk informed Cllr Scard that the first site proposed was objected to and a new site was being considered. Cllr Scard asked about the anonymous letter received by the Council as reported at the previous Council meeting and the Bridge and asked for a copy

ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO FORM A WORKING PARTY PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND OFFICIALS OF THE FOOTBALL CLUBS TO CONSIDER THE WAY AHEAD IN THE MATTER OF DRAINAGE PROBLEMS ON THE FIELD. THIS WORKING PARTY WILL REPORT ON AN AS AND WHEN BASIS TO THE FULL COUNCIL It was agreed that a working party would be formed and the Clerk was asked to get in touch with football team coaches/managers. From the Council Cllr Barry Thomas, Cllr Dave Harris, Cllr Dave Smith and Cllr Andrew Brewer volunteered to join this working party. Cllr Arnold stated that he was not interested in what has gone before but stressed the need to work on attending to the situation now. This working party request was agreed:

Proposed: Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Smith

AGREED

ITEM 9 TO AGREE THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL AND WYATT ANDREW PAUL AND JOHN MATTHEW PAUL IN THE MATTER OF THE ALLOTMENT LAND AT CROSSWAYS. Cllr Dave Smith proposed deferring this item. Cllr Thomas asked what problems were seen to suggest the need to defer. Cllr Brewer stated that the agreement had been well discussed and checks made prior to this signing request by both the Allotment Society and the Council; Cllr Brewer suggested that to prevent the loss of this amenity Item 9 is signed and Item 10 is deferred. Cllr Arnold stated he had no problems with Item 9 but requested a delay on Item 10 for further consultation, Cllr Brewer stated that the Council are under legal and statutory obligations to provide allotments expressing caution for delaying without sound reason. Cllr Brewer proposed signing of the agreement at Item 9, Cllr Smith said he still had issues but supported Cllr Brewer's proposal. Cllr Arnold asked for agreement to sign Item 9 with an Extraordinary Meeting convened to deal with Item 10. It was suggested it would be helpful if the Council could see the agreement between the ASC and its members prior to signing Item 10. This was agreed.

Proposed Cllr Brewer Sign agreement at Item 9, defer Item 10

Seconded: Cllr Arnold

AGREED

ITEM 10 TO AGREE TO THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL AND THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY OF CROSSWAYS This item covered under Item 9.

Post meeting note: The date for the Extraordinary Meeting was agreed as April 8th at 8pm.

ITEM 11 TO AGREE THE DONATION FOR THE YEAR 09/10 TO THE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE, THE BRIDGE Cllr Brewer left the room. Cllr Rhodes opened the debate by saying if the Parish wanted a Community Magazine then the Council must make this donation. Cllr Bache asked how much it cost to run the Bridge, how much money is taken through advertising and is there a waiting list for advertising. It was stated that Wool sell their magazine, Cllr Harris questioned how many residents purchase this magazine? Cllr Thomas stated that the Bridge Magazine is produced and distributed by volunteers and they raise fund by voluntary donations. Cllr Thomas reminded Councillors that these volunteers give their time freely and should be supported. Cllr Scard questioned who read the Bridge? Cllr Scard was informed the Bridge is delivered to every property in Crossways. Cllr Smith commended the volunteers who produce the Bridge and asked for a letters page and to see the price structure for advertising and the accounts further stating that it is a good basic magazine. Cllr Arnold suggested that he had spoken with Cllr Brewer regarding issues of finance, clarity of income and conflict of interest between Cllr Brewer being a Councillor and the Editor. Cllr Arnold said Cllr Brewer agreed accounts will be published and audited, Cllr Arnold further stated he does not wish to see the Magazine close as lots of people read it. Cllr Scard spoke in agreement stating that she is not against the Bridge but asked that other

organisations are considered for donations naming Crossways Court, School Breakfast Club, Youth Centre, Women’s Institute and the History Group. The Clerk stated that all requests would be considered on merit and their complicity with Section 137 of the Local Government. Cllr Scard asked if the donation has to be £300? What do we get from the Bridge? what are the running costs? What does the Bridge do with the revenue?

Proposed by Cllr Connor to agree this donation which equates to approximately 0.24p per household per annum.
 Seconded by Cllr Arnold

Voted 7 for 1 against and 1 abstention AGREED

ITEM 12 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MUGA/SKATEBOWL COMMITTEE DATED 9TH MARCH 2009

Proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Conner AGREED

ITEM 13 MATTERS ARISING FROM ITEM 12 There were no matters arising accepted.

ITEM 14 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SUB (FUND RAISING) COMMITTEE OF THE MUGA/SKATEBOWL COMMITTEE DATED 24TH JANUARY 2009 It was agreed that the fund raising committee was a working party, not a subcommittee therefore the notes were accepted.

ITEM 15 MATTERS ARISING FROM ITEM 14 Not applicable see Item 14

ITEM 16 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LIFE EDUCATION DORSET FOR A GRANT TOWARDS THEIR WORK TO DELIVER HEALTH AND DRUG PREVENTION EDUCATION

Cllr Arnold proposed donated £50.00 under Sect 137 of LGA 1972, seconded Cllr Harris AGREED

ITEM 17 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 29th FEBRUARY 2009 – 26th MARCH 2009 Expenditure was noted as below:

	Expenditure £	Income £
Investment Account		4000.00 (Transfer Bus Shelter)
Inland Revenue (PAYE)	302.20	
Planning Application MUGA/SKATEBOWL	40.00	
Salary Clerk (March)	730.65	
Inland Revenue (PAYE)	302.20	
Petty Cash	164.85	
Litter Collector	385.37	
Century 21 – Photocopier Hire	103.50	
Village Hall Rent	24.00	
Viking Direct Stationery	17.44	
British Gas (DD)	442.95	
DAPTC Training Partnership	15.00	
Clerk Expenses Motoring/Home as Office	215.20	
Bridge Donation	300.00*	
Jackson Solicitors Wyatt Paul	50.00*	
Life Education Dorset	50.00*	

* Additional cheques signed as agreed at full council

Proposed: Cllr Brewer, with additions as marked
 Seconded Cllr Harris AGREED

ITEM 18 TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION A COPY OF THE FINAL BUDGET REPORT FOR THE YEAR 08/09 Noted

ITEM 19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 23RD APRIL 2009. THIS MEETING WILL BE PRECEDED BY THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Noted

ITEM 20 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION Cllr Smith noted that this has been a long meeting but felt that Councillors are not given enough time to respond fully. The Clerk asked Cllr Smith if he had any concerns regarding tonight’s meeting; he responded he had not.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

ANNEX A TO CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES DATED 26TH MARCH 2009

FOR REPORT – CLLR RHODES FULL COUNCIL 26TH MARCH 2009

NOTES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN PARISH COUNCILLORS AND BROADWAY MALYAN (JOANNE CLARK AND RACHEL WHITE) TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE ASPIRATIONS OF PLANNING GAINS FOR CROSSWAYS IN VIEW OF PROPOSED FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON WOODSFORD FIELDS

Councillors met and discussed page by page the initial analysis plans produced by Broadway Malyan.

These covered:

- Land Use
- Facilities
- Public Transport
- Pedestrian Routes
- Public Open Spaces
- Residential Density
- Landmarks
- Constraints of Crossways
- Opportunities for Crossways
- Analysis of Woodsford Field Site
- Opportunities plan of Woodsford Field Site

Councillors made suggestions and amendments to this initial analysis which will be produced by Broadway Malyan as a 2nd draft.

Councillors discussed options and made the following ‘wish list’ of potential gains (all subject to planning and agreement and costing):

1. Community Hall (including indoor sports facilities). Location field at Youth Centre (subject to agreement) or a new site; as yet discussed.
2. Expanded Medical Centre/Surgery. Broadway Malyan is in preliminary discussions with the Practice Manager.
3. Sports Facilities – Outdoor Tennis Courts, cycle and running (trim trail) tracks
4. Improvements/Enhancements Combe Way
5. Improvements/Enhancements Memorial Park

I remind you all that these discussions are in the very early stages and full public consultation will be carried out. The Village Plan produced in 2006 and the Millennium Aid Document both produced as a result of full Village consultations were used as a guide in this process.