

**MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN FROME VALLEY FIRST SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007 AT 7PM**

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

Also Present: District Councillor Teresa Seall and District Councillor Peter Read

Also Present: Members of the public.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS** There were no public announcements.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

a. Mr John Chubb spoke about the meeting he had attended with Kris Hallett and others to speak about the green at the end of Yalbury Lane. Mr Chubb said all those present were in agreement that this area of green was unsuitable for ball games as it is bound on three sides by roads therefore presenting a danger to children. Mr Chubb suggested placing a skate park at the further end of the sports field away from public view was unacceptable, not safe. Mr Chubb asked that the Council proceed with its plans for a MUGA. Cllr Smy asked Kris Hallett to liaise with the Council on these matters. It was noted that the plans for the combined MUGA and Skate park are at the early stages and Kris Hallett agreed to report back to the Council on these matters as soon as possible.

**ACTION: KRIS HALLETT**

b. Mr Tizzard stated that he thought Cllr Bache was not a suitable person to represent the Village as she uses strong language.

Mr Tizzard asked why Maiden Newton had a MUGA and to date Crossways has not and asked the Parish Council to work on this

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER** CPSO Vickie Hedges apologised for her absence as previous meeting stating that she had been on compassionate leave. Vickie informed those present that she had been advising residents in Crossways Court on crime prevention matters particularly bogus auctioneers/valuers. Vickie also advised those present that she had been liaising with young people reminding them of Section 59 a part of legislation that allows the police to confiscate motor bikes, notably the smaller type, if driven in an antisocial manner causing a noise nuisance. Vickie said she was continuing to work with Kris Hallett in a hope to get better facilities for the younger element of the Village and talking to parents of young people acting out socially unacceptable behaviour. Vickie asked on behalf of Inspector Fry for a member of the Council to represent the Council on the Dorchester Crime Prevention Panel. Cllr Terrie Connor offered to take this seat in due course.

**REPORTS BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** Apologies were received from County Councillor Crowhurst.

a. District Cllr Peter Read Cllr Read's report is attached at Annex A is attached to the main and library copy of these minutes.

b. District Cllr Teresa Seall Cllr Seall's report is attached at Annex b to the main and library copy of these minutes.

**REPORTS BY SCHOOL GOVERNORS** There were no school governors present. Cllr Smy advised that Helen Boyce, Head Teacher of Frome Valley First School.

**REPORT BY KRIS HALLETT COMMUNITY WORKER** Kris apologised for having to leave the meeting early. Kris informed those present that she had, with Vickie Hedges met with residents of Yalbury Lane to discuss the playing of football on the green. Kris's report will be considered at the next Committee meeting (September).

**REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER – TONY SMITH** Tony Smith was not present. No environmental issues to report.

**THE MEETING**

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** There were no apologies for absence.

**ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

**ITEM 4 TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007)** The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**ITEM 5 MATTERS ARISING** Cllr Brewer questioned the statement made by Cllr Bache at a previous meeting that "WI meeting dates are stated in law" using this information as the reason for the Council to move their Committee meeting dates from Monday to Wednesday. Cllr Brewer informed the meeting that he had checked this information and has been informed by the WI (Women's Institute) Head Office that this was not the case, the meeting dates are not set in law. Cllr Brewer stated that because of this mis-information the reasons given to move the date of committee meeting was based on misinformation. Cllr Smy stated that if the Council had been misled this was not acceptable. Cllr Bache replied that she thought the information she gave was correct.

**ITEM 6 TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING DATED 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007** The minutes of this extra ordinary meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT To include report B3390 meeting and update Sports Pavilion**

a. B3390 Cllr Smy reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Assistant Chief Constable Whiting and members of Parish Councils abutting the B3390. Matters discussed were Waddock Cross, Hurst Bridges, Warmwell Village and weight restrictions being put in place along the B3390. Cllr Smy informed the meeting that the Clerk took minutes of this meeting. Cllr Smy speaking on Crossways issues spoke about the crossroads, five cross, and concerns of the increased traffic emanating from the new Church development. Cllr Smy also raised concerns about the exit/entrance visibility at Oaklands Park, and the speed limit through Crossways. The meeting ended with a site visit to areas of concern.

b. Donation Sports Pavilion Cllr Smy spoke about the normal depreciation and vandalism cost to the rate payers of keeping the Pavilion in good order and that he had been offered a donation of £1000.00 towards the cost of these repairs. This offer had come from Mr Barry Crook. Cllr Smy asked Councillors their thoughts on accepting this offer. Cllr Brewer suggested the Council take advice from DAPTC (Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils) on accepting such an offer. Cllr Brewer welcomed this donation as Mr Crook's business does impact on the Village.

c. Trees Cllr Smy informed the meeting that following earlier consultations on the matter of tree protection in Crossways it has been agreed that Stuart Murgatroyd would carry out an assessment of trees in the Village including those on Magna land. Cllr Connor agreed and the Council offered a vote of gratitude to Mr Murgatroyd. It was proposed that should Mr Murgatroyd need further expertise this would be sought.

Proposed Cllr Stenning, Seconded Cllr Connor                      Agreed by 9                      Cllr Bache abstained.

d. Development 'Hippy Field' Cllr Smy advised the meeting that Pegasus Planning the agents for the developer putting in an application to develop the land known as the Hippy Field have agreed to hold a public exhibition on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September in the School. Following the Friday's exhibition Councillors will meet with the developer and agent for discussions. Cllr Smy said he was disappointed that the agents had not agreed to a public open meeting. Cllr Smy advised members of the public to visit the exhibition and let the Council know their thoughts. Cllr Brewer questioned whether the Council should agree to meet with the agent and developer regarding their stance on the public meeting. Cllr Stenning said she would prefer the Council to meet. Cllr Scard said she thought the Council should meet but it has to be on the Parish Council's terms. Cllr Smy reminded Councillors that they could not force a public meeting on the developer; and the Parish Council could decide not to meet if they wished. Cllr Smith said he felt the agent and developer had made the wrong approach from the beginning and regretted they are not prepared to engage with Villagers at a public meeting. Cllr Rhodes said the Parish Council should have their say on the planning applications. Cllr Smy reminded the meeting that residents will have an opportunity to view plans at the exhibition. Cllr Smy suggested a meeting at 6pm not in camera but without public consultation.

Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Rhodes

AGREED

e. Cllr Smy advised Councillors that Mr Roy Dean on behalf of the PPC (Parochial Church Council) for a donation of £75.00 towards the Church Fete to be held at the school. Councillors were asked to consider:

Cllr Brewer suggested it will set a precedent  
 Cllr Stenning against supporting this request.  
 Cllr Connor against supporting this request  
 Cllr Scard stated she needed more time to consider  
 Cllr Bache against supporting this request  
 Cllr Rhodes agreed with this request  
 Cllr (Mrs) Smith said the need more time to consider  
 Cllr Smith said he needed more time to consider  
 Cllr Northcote had nothing to add  
 Cllr Round said as the Parish Council does not hold a fete she felt the council could support this request  
 Cllr Smy agreed that more time should be given to consider this application.

The Clerk was requested to bring this matter to the next Committee meetings in September.

ACTION: CLERK

f. Woodsford Fields Cllr Smy informed Councillors that the agent for Woodsford Fields, Broadway Malyan had approached the Council for further discussions regarding development in Crossways. Cllr Scard questioned the background to this. Cllr Brewer explained that Broadway Malyan are looking for the Parish Council's support for future development in Crossways. Cllr Smy advised that a meeting will take place and suggested September. It was agreed that the Council would meet with Broadway Malyan.

ACTION: CLERK

g. Cllr Smy advised the Council that he and Cllr Rhodes had attended the annual meeting of the DAPTC and heard an interesting talk on transport plans.

h. Cllr Smy advised Councillors that he had been approached by Revd Jacque Birdseye for a cheque in the sum of £250.00 as previously agreed by the Council to purchase the first, golden tile, of the new Church.

ACTION: CLERK

i. Meetings the Chairman advised that he had attended the School Musical, a reception at Winfrith, celebrating 50 years, and a meeting with the Clerk and Cllr (Mrs) Smith, Chairman of Finance and Administration to discuss Section 106 funds held.

Finally the Chair thanked school pupils who assisted in putting away chairs following the last Council meeting.

**ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMA FUND** It was noted that there were no current plans requiring a grant from this fund. The skate park/MUGA is moving forward but not yet ready for funding applications.

**ITEM 9 TO CONSIDER WAY AHEAD METHODIST CHAPEL REDBRIDGE LANE** Cllr Smy informed Councillors that Mr Crook had acquired the former Methodist Chapel on Redbridge Road and the Methodist Church has no further interest in it. Mr Crook has asked the Council what they would like him to do with it. Cllr Brewer advised Councillors that the Chapel is not a listed building. Cllr Northcote said this building was unique as there were only 4 remaining in Britain and there were only six of the congregation remaining. Cllr Northcote suggested the best way ahead would be to put the building in the Memorial Park. Cllr Northcote suggested the Chapel is put facing the road and converted to a garage which could be let out as a garage bringing in income of approximately £750.00 per annum. Cllr Brewer advised the Council that he knows one of the remaining congregation and they are happy to let it go. Cllr Brewer reminded Councillors that the Memorial Park has covenants on it which prevent the erection of any building. Cllr Brewer suggested that an application could be put in to have the Chapel listed but this would be an expensive process. Cllr Smy asked Councillors how they felt about the proposal to place the Chapel on the Memorial Park for use as a garage. Cllr Stenning said this was not the way ahead; Cllr Connor said no to the Memorial Park and wondered whether room could be found for it in the new Church grounds. Cllrs Scard, Bache and Rhodes were of the same opinion. Cllr (Mrs) Smith suggested asking residents their thoughts. Cllr Smith suggested that the Chapel could be used as a youth meeting place perhaps asking for advice from Kris Hallett and Vickie Hedges. It was agreed that the Clerk ask the residents, through the Bridge, for their opinion.

**ITEM 10 TO CONSIDER AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSULTATION DOCUMENT; MEMORANDUM DATED 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY WITH ATTACHMENT REFERS – CLLR SMITH TO LEAD** Cllr Smith informed Councillors that all members had received notification of this document and to date no response had been received. Councillors were advised that the deadline for any response was 17<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Smy urged colleagues to comment and send in their comments. Cllr Smy asked Cllr Smith if he had any points to make on the document. Cllr Smith suggested a formal discussion. Cllr Smy asked for his opinion as Chairman Planning; Cllr Smith said he needed assistance with this document and he is not getting any feedback from Councillors. Cllr Smy suggested Councillors; if they have any feedback to forward it to Cllr Smith.

ACTION: CHAIR PLANNING/COUNCILLORS

**ITEM 11 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES JULY 9TH 2007 AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES:**

- a. AMENITIES – Pages 373-376 Cllr Bache presented the minutes. Cllr Scard questioned Item 6 of the Minutes stating that her response to a question from Cllr Brewer had not been entered. Cllr Scard asked that her response is added to the minutes. The Clerk has asked Cllr Scard for her addition to the minutes to be put in writing for consideration. Cllr Smy asked if Councillors heard her response. Cllr Smy reminded Cllr Scard of the necessity to make sure she has the mandate of the Council before contacting outside agencies
- b. PLANNING – Pages 239-240 Cllr Smith presented the minutes which were accepted. Cllr Smith advised the Council of the planning application for Woodsford Fields to change one house into two semi-detached and said that the Council has recommended refusal. WDDC had approved. Cllr Smith also advised members that the Planning application 15 Warmwell Road had been approved and read the conditions of approval.
- c. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION- Pages 157-158 Cllr (Mrs) Smith presented the minutes. Cllr Brewer asked Cllr (Mrs) Smith if the questions requested following the Finance & Administration Agenda, Item 5 had been received by the Clerk. Cllr (Mrs) Smith replied that a meeting she attended following this meeting helped her understand some of the points she initially raised. Cllr Brewer reiterated that she must ask the questions she made reference to and allow proper closure of this matter. Cllr (Mrs) Smith agreed to supply the Clerk with the account queries for response and recording in minutes.

ACTION: CLLR (MRS) SMITH

**ITEM 12 TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

The following income and expenditure was approved for the month June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup>. Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Northcote:

	EXPENDITURE £	INCOME £	BUDGET
Fireline Extinguishers	59.08		Amenities
Grass Cutting 31 <sup>st</sup> May/15 <sup>th</sup> June	964.00		Amenities
British Gas	73.58		Amenities
Litter Collector (3 months)	321.00		Amenities
Salary Clerk (July)	816.20		F & A
Inland Revenue (PAYE)	440.70		F & A
Century 21 (Photocopier)	105.75		F & A
Southern Electric	31.71		Amenities
WDDC Rates Pavilion	32.00		Amenities
Salary Clerk (August)	816.20		F & A
Inland Revenue	220.94		F & A
Village Hall Rent	24.00		F & A
Petty Cash Top Up	199.33		Amenities/F&A
Grass Cutting (29th June)	482.00		Amenities
Viking Direct	70.37		F & A
Grass Cutting (16 <sup>th</sup> July)	482.00		Amenities

**ITEM 13 REPORT AND CONFIRM DATE OF MEETING/VENUE WITH SID (SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE) SENIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICER, MR ROB CAMP.** The meeting was confirmed at Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 10.00am.

**ITEM 14 CONFIRM DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING** It was agreed to retain the August recess. Proposed Cllr Smy, seconded Cllr Connor

AGREED

**ITEM 15 UPDATE LIBRARY POST CABINET MEETING 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY AND CONSIDER THE WAY AHEAD – CLLR NORTHCOTE (CCA); (REPORTS/NOTES AS SUPPLIED AT COMMITTEE MEETING)**

Cllr Smy passed around a report for consideration. (Copy attached) Cllr Northcote stated that the Option 1 was ambiguous in that we have 15 hours now and DCC are offering 9 therefore Crossways Parish Council will need to fund 6 hrs. Cllr Brewer said that fundamentally the library closure issues have been unpalatable all through. The problem would be the rise in the precept to keep the Library, not just staff costs, but maintenance, public liability, insurance etc. Cllr Brewer asked how the Library staff themselves feel about these proposals. Cllr Smy said the staff do not want volunteers and are concerned for their colleagues facing redundancies. Cllr Smy related to the costing of accepting Option 3 particularly the cost of conveyancing and costs to set up a Friends of the Library network. Cllrs Stenning and Connor expressed their disgust that the Library issue had come to this. Cllr Scard asked that the Parish Council consult with residents. Cllr Bache stated that DCC are lacking in funds and doesn't think the Parish Council can afford to run the Library and she does not agree with using volunteers. Cllr Rhodes said all this is a sad situation and doesn't believe the majority of residents would be willing to see a considerable increase in their precept. Cllr Rhodes said she felt that within 5 years Library will merge. Cllr Rhodes said that in a time when children are being encouraged to read more and encouraged to use the Internet the Library service is being downgraded. Cllr (Mrs) Smith had nothing to add. Cllr Smith asked if usage figures are available. Cllr Smith expressed regret at losing librarians. Cllr Northcote said that the hours proposed by DCC relate to the usage of the Library and if the Library could show greater usage the Library would have longer hours. Cllr Northcote would welcome a consolidated effort to increase library usage. Cllr Smy asked if Councillors were willing to meet during August to consider the way ahead on Library issues. This was agreed.

ACTION: CLERK

**ITEM 16 REPORT VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT – CLLR NORTHCOTE**

A copy of Cllr Northcote's statement to the Council is attached. Cllr Smy stated that these proposal posed some fundamental questions and he felt he could not vote on this matter without further consultation. Cllr Brewer agreed. Cllr Stenning also agreed that further consultation is needed and perhaps further consultation with the people of Crossways to ask how they would like their Village to grow. Cllr Connor stated that she does not want the Village to grow necessarily but would like to see more facilities. Cllr Scard said the Council needs to consult the residents. Cllr Northcote drew the Councils attention to the Core Strategy document. Cllr Bache asked why Councillors had not seen this document. Cllr Northcote advised that it was available at WDDC. Cllr Bache asked for a copy. Cllr Rhodes said that the concept of a Village Design Statement is an opportunity to ask residents what they would like to see in their Village. Cllr Smith confirmed that he too would like more time to consider Cllr Northcote's presentation and commended Cllr Northcote for the time and effort he has already put into the VDS.

**ITEM 17 ANY LATE URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr Scard said that she had been approached by a lady in the Village and informed that Cllr Brewer had given a radio interview on library issues; Cllr Scard asked if Cllr Brewer had obtained permission from the Chairman, and informed the Clerk of this interview. . Cllr Smy asked Cllr Scard for the name of the person asking the question. Cllr Scard was unable to give a name. Cllr Smy questioned the point of this question and again requested the name of the person making this statement. Cllr Scard was unable to give a name. Cllr Smy informed Cllr Scard that Cllr Brewer had in fact spoken to him prior to the proposed interview and also informed the Clerk. The Chairman ruled out any further discussion on this matter.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Signed ..... (Chairman) ..... 2007