

**MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Andrew Brewer (Chairman), Cllr Terrie Connor (Vice Chairman), Cllr Elaine Stenning (Vice Chairman (Finance)), Cllr Dave Harris (Chairman Sports Field Management Committee), Cllr Daphne Bearman, Cllr Barry Thomas and Cllr Ron Arnold.

Also present: Cllr David Crowhurst, Dorset County Council, Cllr Teresa Seall, West Dorset District Council and 45(approximate) members of the public.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Vogt Solar on the proposed installation of a Solar Farm on Redbridge Lane.

Cllr Brewer introduced Mr David Hardy and his team who gave a 20 minute presentation on the proposed Solar Farm and invited questions. Questions were asked regarding the height of screening, durability, security, health implications and the collection and distribution on the electricity. Cllr Brewer thanked the team for their presentation and advised those present that the Solar Farm would be subject to planning permission giving an opportunity for all to interested parties to send any objections to the Council and planners at West Dorset District Council and for the Parish Council to be consulted.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

a. PLANNING APPLICATION 1/D/10/1001961 LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF THE B3390 AND THE LINK ROAD (HIPPIY FIELD). Mr Clarke referred to the planning application to be discussed by the Council (Item 10) asking Councillors to have regard to the concerns of the residents of Oaklands Park. Councillors were provided with a copy of Mr Clarke's objections and concerns with their agenda for this meeting.

b. CROSSWAYS LIBRARY PROPOSED CLOSURE Cllr Brewer introduced Mrs Liz Callister who has agreed to be the Library Chairman to campaign against the proposed closure. Cllr Rowley will be the Parish Council's representative on this group. Cllr Brewer thanked Liz for her excellent work on this project. Mrs Callister's report is attached at Annex A to these minutes.

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER** Apologies were received from the Community Officers.

**REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

a. Cllr Crowhurst 's report has been previously distributed to Councillors and placed on the Parish Council web site. Cllr Crowhurst gave the Clerk a copy of the DCC Community Overview Committee/Cabinet Report on the Draft Dorset Library Services Offer.

**REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** Cllr Seall reported the merger of some services/departments of WDDC and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council which will mean a saving of £8.5 million over the next five years advising that David Clarke is the new CEO. Both Councils will continue to operate as separate authorities. Cllr Seall advised that further savings are being sought with IT improvement saving £190,000. Cllr Seall expressed her concern regarding Library closures and directed those present to the Owermoigne Web Site for further information.

**THE MEETING**

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Kathy Foster, Cllr Valerie Bache, and Cllr Ted Rowley.

AGREED

**ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Stenning declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 10 declaring she would leave the room whilst this item was discussed.

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

**ITEM 4 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**  
The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Connor

AGREED

**ITEM 5 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010** The minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Stenning

AGREED

**ITEM 6 MATTERS ARISING**

a. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010. No matters arising AGREED

b. MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010 No matters arising. AGREED

**ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT to include proposed Library closure update.**

When concluding the last full Council meeting and wishing all a Happy Christmas I had no idea that within seven days it would be necessary to request Councillors attendance again to revisit the Council's precept and make an alteration. This was as a consequence of the County Council's decision to change the arrangements regarding the grass cutting of their land. It illustrates the consequences to the Parish of the policy of our colleagues in County Hall. The underlying principle seems to be to pass responsibilities to this Council without any of the accompanying finance from the Council tax. In effect as Council tax payers we shall be paying the more or the same for less in return. Whilst the library is in the spotlight at present my fear and foreboding is it will be followed by the Youth Centre, the pieces of County Council land in the village, the First School, nursery funding and care for the elderly. It is our responsibility and duty as the first tier of local Government to make representations and canvass opinion from our electorate.

The Library campaign is well underway and may I through the chair thank and congratulate Liz Callister and Cllr Rowley for their work. If I may be indulged for some personal thoughts from the chair:-

I feel any moves to sell the building to this Council or any other group is morally wrong. The Library was built for the community using funds received from the building of homes in the village. This Council was in the planning stage and then in its infancy when the development took place and it means that DCC are the owners of the site. Also in transferring the building and facility to us and making us responsible for the running costs we are in effect funding a service which serves a wider catchment area than our boundaries. Previous enquiries lead me to doubt that any of our neighbouring Councils will be willing or able to help us financially so we are left in a position where we take over the building or see it close. I also draw to your attention the plans to relocate the County Library in Dorchester and the previous monies the DCC has spent on feasibility studies, research and many documents on the library service as well as the capital costs of the automated book service equipment. I would everyone who is concerned to make their views known.

I do wonder if we as a community are best served by having three tiers of local Government. Noting the huge cost savings that West Dorset will make in merging with Weymouth & Portland surely there must be a case where duplication between District and County mean that the abolition of one will have merit. As a Parish Council we have made every effort and action to live within our means. Am I alone in wondering how the financial teams of accountants and book keepers have been able to face us with revised estimates which see redundancies rise from 500 estimated to 1,000 now. We are assured by Central Government that front line services should not be affected and yet that is precisely what is happening and will continue.

When the Library service was secured for Crossways after the last campaign I predicted that we needed to be vigilant and I am of course sorry that my words have been prophetic and true. All the arguments we used before must be restated and pressed with vigour.

As Chairman I met with John Loosemore of Betterment Properties a few days before Christmas on the land between Brewer and Blackwell Walk. It is fair to say that the 'grassy mound' has been causing concern and

distress to a number of the neighbouring properties. As Council is aware our contention was that the land was not in a fit state to be accepted by us and I restated this. Betterment have agreed verbally and confirmed in writing that the mound will be removed and the siting of the gate into the play area will be moved. Once completed we will then accept ownership. I am concerned however that this may not be enough to quell the reports of anti social behaviour in the area and I have asked the Community Beat officer and support to take a keen interest in this.

With the appalling weather in the run up to Christmas the Council was concerned about the lack of gritting to the main road to Dorchester and this was brought to their attention very quickly. We were advised that the route had not been allocated treatment. It is a matter of concern that there were a number of bad car accidents along the West Stafford bypass and through Lewell as a consequence. Whilst the Warmwell, Broadmayne route was passable the Dorchester road quickly became treacherous and was closed by the Police. I am pleased to note that DCC seem to have revisited this decision and although not in the first tranche to be cleared the route has been given an increased priority. During the cold weather there were many acts of kindness and consideration for others, particularly the elderly and housebound and may I, again on your behalf, pay tribute to the services that came out and helped members of our community to cope. Also once again Colin Saville at Tree Stores put up the very splendid lit Christmas tree on the Warmwell Road and this year also had a raffle and small event outside the shop which was very popular.

With so many items before us for consideration it is also worth mentioning that there is still a vacant seat on the Council and that all of our terms of office will finish in May. If sufficient candidates are nominated there will be an election to fill the 11 seats. If not then Councillors will be elected unopposed. If you wish to know more about the duties of a Parish Councillor then please ask Stella or any of us for more information.

**ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO DCC LETTER IN THE MATTER OF PART NIGHT STREET LIGHTING** The Council agreed to monitor and report on this matter. Cllr Thomas expressed the quality of the work on the street lights undertaken by SSE; it was noted that the standard of lighting promised by SSE in their presentation to the Council has not been delivered. The Council will request a site meeting with SSE to discuss this.

ACTION: CLERK

**ITEM 9 REPORT SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CLLR HARRIS** Cllr Harris advised that the January meeting of the Management Committee was cancelled. Cllr Harris further advised that he has now received three quotes for the Trim Trail and suggested a site visit of a trim trail at Lodmoor. On the matter of the football field Cllr Harris advised that a further ‘earth quake’ was needed and this expenditure has been budgeted. It was suggested that at the end of the season any dips in the field are filled with sand/soil and seeded. **YOUTH CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** The Chairman allowed Cllr Harris to report on his attendance as the Parish Council representative on this Committee. Cllr Harris reported that the Youth Club could be at risk in the present round of cost saving measures and expressed a need to promote the Youth Club. Grants were being sought for remedial work to the Youth Club building.

**ITEM 10 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION:**

1/D/10/001961 Land adjacent Oaklands Park, Warmwell Road – Approval of reserved matters of outline application 1/D/08/000638 – Develop land by the erection of office/light industrial units (Class B1) and associated access parking.

Cllr Stenning left the room.

The discrepancies perceived in the application were noted. The Council recommended refusal noting the discrepancies, the highway entrance/exit’s close proximity to the B3390 and Link Road junction and the close position of the units to the residential properties in Oaklands Park.

AGREED

**ITEM 11 REPORT PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED/REFUSED** The following applications were noted.

- a. 1/D/10/1000494 Tavern Social Club – AGREED
- b. 1/D/07/001838 Warmwell Caravan Park – AGREED

**ITEM 12 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 – 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

Expenditure and Income was noted as follows: All sums are inc VAT where applicable.

	Expenditure £	Income £
Maverick MUGA/Skatebowl (Final payment)	9652.68	
Bank Charge	10.00	
Inland Revenue (December)	276.45	
Viking Direct (Stationery)	80.86	
Stuart Palmer Plumbing (Boiler Pavilion)	293.75	
Litter Collector	354.10	
Salary Clerk	753.46	
Refund Rates		29.98
British Gas (Pavilion)	135.39	
Century 21 (Photocopier Hire)	105.75	
Information Commissioner (Data Protection)	35.00	
Loc Out (Annual Service Pavilion)	158.63	
Inland Revenue (January)	276.45	
Opal (Formerly Nildram) Tel/Internet (September – January)	96.54	
Works various (Pavilion)	87.60	
Viking Direct (Stationery)	49.99	

**ITEM 13 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S** None requested.

**ITEM 14 CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Signed ..... (Chairman) ..... 2011

### **Report to Crossways Parish Council 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – Liz Callister**

Councillor Brewer welcomed me to the meeting and explained that he had asked me to become the champion of Crossways Library to which I had agreed as I believe that Libraries are crucial to everyone in the community. I started my presentation with a few facts about the legislation regarding the provision of Libraries and explained that under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act County Councils have an onus to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient Library Service'. As reported by Councillor Brewer, Councillor Rowley had offered to be the PC liaison and the two of us are working closely on all aspects of the campaign. I reported that Crossways was forming its own Friends of the Library group and that we have joined the recently formed coalition of Friends of the Library – AdLib. As part of this group three of us had attended the Community Overview Committee Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and gave a resume of the presentations and decisions made at the Meeting. This included the information that this Committee had set up a Policy Development Panel at their 30 June 2010 meeting but to date there had only been two meetings of the Panel and that it was agreed that a further three elected members were co-opted onto this Panel. The planned dates for this Panel to meet were the 1<sup>st</sup> February, March and April 2011. I reported that Councillor David Crowhurst was the Chairman of that Panel.

I reported the timescale of decisions regarding the proposals were:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> February the Cabinet decision on the proposals agreed by the Community Overview Committee
2. 17<sup>th</sup> February the whole Council decision on budgets
3. March to May 2011 consultation with local communities about the proposals
4. June 2011 presentation of a report to Community Overview Committee on the results of this consultation
5. 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011 the final recommendation to the County Council Meeting.

I emphasised the impossible time constraints of the process and the fact that no public consultation had taken place to date. I also highlighted the unrealistic situation that were all 20 libraries affected to enter into a community agreement then it would be impossible to set up 20 contracts between July 2011 and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. I emphasised that the proposed consultation period from the vague late spring to May as totally insufficient time for communities to sensibly consider taking on a responsibility that they currently have no infrastructure to deal with.

I reported information was being circulated through the Crossways website and that it was important that as many letters of protest were sent to Dorset County Council as possible. The AdLib petition against the proposals had been sent to various village organisations, the school, Warmwell Parish Council and that Councillors of Osmington Parish Council had all signed and I invited Crossways Parish Councillors to do the same which they did.

I stated that in the light of the proposals it was important to have clarification regarding the ownership of the Crossways Library building and Councillor Crowhurst stated that the building and land around it belonged to Dorset County Council.