

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY 2008

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

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS There were no public information announcements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

- a. Doreen Kendrick thanked the Council for putting Combe Way on the agenda explaining that it had been on the agenda in 1999 and 2003. Mrs Kendrick spoke about the problems caused by the flooding in Combe Way during wet weather and asked if Section 106 money could be utilised to alleviate the perceived flooding problems in Combe Way. Cllr Smy advised Mrs Kendrick that the matter will be on the agenda in February and thanked her for her comments. Mrs Kendrick questioned further Section 106 money and was advised by District Councillor Seall that Sect 106 monies are now held by West Dorset District Council and not the Parish Council.
- b. Mr Fox spoke about Item 12 on the agenda, the matter of the Alder Tree abutting his and his neighbours' property. Mr Fox thanked the Clerk and the Chairman for their site visit. Stuart Murgatroyd reminded Councillors of the problems with this tree; as advised in his letter attached to the meeting agenda. Cllr Smy advised Councillors that Mr Fox and his neighbours are willing to fund 50% of the cost of felling the tree and to supply a new tree to be planted subject to Mr Murgatroyd's recommendations.
- c. Mrs Platt asked the Council to get in touch with Magna to try get improvement to the muddy paths, construction vehicles blocking pavements and general untidiness of the area of Hope Close, Empool Close and lower Combe Way. Mrs Platt also told the Council of vehicles blocking the pavement, a 4 wheel drive and a horse box. The Chair advised Mrs Platt that the Clerk would write to Magna regarding her concerns. Cllr Smy asked if parking on pavements was a Police issue, PC Dale said it was if it caused an obstruction. The Clerk was asked to copy correspondence to Magna to Mrs Platt and PC Dale.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER PC Dale offered PSCO Hedges's apology as she could not attend and wished everybody a Happy New Year. PC Dale said he did not have a lot to report but there is a general increase in theft from vehicles, including diesel fuel. PC Dale spoke of a recent burglary in the Village stating that the offender had been caught helped by information from the Community. PC Dale expressed the importance of neighbour watch scheme.

DORSET DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL Cllr Terrie Connor the Parish Council's representative on the DCCP advised the Council that she had recently attended a meeting and advised the meeting of an increase in thefts from mobility scooters. Cllr Connor informed those present that the DDCPP had recently opened a web site at: www.ddcpp.co.uk. In conclusion Cllr Connor advised members that the panel was anxious to invite younger members to join, one from Crossways and one from Owermoigne. Cllr Smy thanked Cllr Connor and PC Dale for their input.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR Cllr Crowhurst was not present.

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Cllr Seall advised the meeting that Cllr Read sent his apologies as he was absent on compassionate family business. Cllr Seall's report is attached to main and library copy of minutes.

REPORT BY KRIS HALLETT COMMUNITY CAPACITY WORKER A copy of Kris Hallett's report is attached at Annex B to the main and library copy of these Minutes. Cllr Smy thanked Kris and especially the young people for their continued hard work on preparing and carrying out the public consultation for the MUGA. Cllr Smy advised those present that the question of the MUGA and its preferred option will be discussed at the February meeting of the full council. Cllr Smy advised the meeting that a site visit of two skate parks; one in Bournemouth and another in Three Legged Cross had been arranged. Kris Hallett asked that for a copy of any correspondence regarding the Quarry Land. Cllr Smy asked if any other Councillor had seen a copy of this letter pertaining to Option 4; Cllr Northcote said he has the letter and will report on it later. Kris Hallett advised that the site visit will take place on Saturday 16th February.

THE MEETING

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

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Brewer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 19 stating that he was the Group Scout Leader of Crossways Scout Group who had an interest in the adjoining land to the Redbridge Landfill site. Cllr Brewer declared that he would leave the room when this item was discussed.

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

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 29TH NOVEMBER 2007 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted at a true record and duly signed.

Proposed Cllr Stenning, seconded Cllr D Smith

AGREED

ITEM 5 MATTERS ARISING Cllr Brewer referred to Page 1012, Item 9 of the previous minutes where it is stated that Cllr Bache requested that the lights fitted at the Pavilion needed to be on a timer. Mrs Bearman advised that this was incorrect. It was noted for the record that Mr Philip Bearman dealt with the lights as requested.

ITEM 6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(a) Cllr Smy confirmed that the site meeting to visit a skate bowl would take place on Saturday 16th February. This visit would include a visit to a skate bowl in Bournemouth and Three Legged Cross. Cllr Smith questioned whether these venues were bowls or parks. Kris Hallett confirmed one was a bowl and she was not sure of the other.

(b) Cllr Smy stated that he had spoken to Beverley Knowlden regarding the proposed Doctors/Dentists on the planning application for the land at the junction of the B3390 and the Link Road, (hippy field), and she advised him that there was no threat to the surgery as it is at present. She advised that it is the wish of the surgery to expand but there is no funding for this. The PCT (Primary Care Trust) and the NHS acknowledged the scheme if funding could be found. Cllr Smy advised Councillors there was a benefactor willing to discuss funding and a meeting has been arranged to meet with a Mr John Bowles in the sports pavilion at 7pm on Thursday 31st January. Cllr Smy invited all Councillors to attend.

POST MEETING NOTE: This meeting did not take place.

(c) Cllr Smy advised the meeting that a public meeting, followed by a full council meeting would be held at 7pm in the Frome Valley First School Hall on Monday 4th February. preceding this meeting plans will be on show in the School on Friday 1st February between the hours of 3.30pm and on Monday 4th February between the hours of 2pm and 6.45pm. The Clerk will be present. Cllr Stenning asked if consideration had been given to the replanting of the trees as a condition of planning. This matter will be addressed.

(d) Cllr Scard asked the Chairman to read out a letter from the Standard Board for England. A copy of this letter is attached to the main and library copy of these minutes.

(e) The Chair advised Councillors of a Planning Seminar to be held on Wednesday 19th March at Dorchester and requested that any members who wish to attend advise the Clerk. The Clerk was requested to copy details to all Councillors.

ACTION: CLERK

(f) **Councillors Mediation** Cllr Smy advised the meeting that Councillors had met with representatives of WDDC for full and frank discussion. Cllr Smy acknowledged that there was a hope that Councillors would move forward with respect for each other and in a constructive way. Cllr Smy had agreed to attend training of charring meetings and he would be meeting with David Clarke CEO WDDC. Cllr Smy expressed a wish that he hoped all Councillors found the mediation beneficial and would move forward. Cllr Dave Smith stated that he felt nothing had been resolved and the problems are still ongoing.

(g) **B3390 Action Group** Cllr Smy advised the pressure group consisting of members from Warmwell, Moreton, Crossways and Alfpuddle meet regularly to discuss issues on the B3390. Subjects under discussion were HGV traffic, problems at Hurst Bridges and Waddock Cross, speed limits through all villages. A meeting has been arranged with Mr Ackerman from Dorset County Council; the Clerk will take the minutes. Cllr Northcote asked for a copy of these minutes.

(h) Cllr Smy advised members that the Bus Shelter on Dick o' th' Banks Road had been damaged, a glazed panel having been broken. The Chair said that the damage at first was thought to be a case of vandalism but now known to have been caused by the wing mirrors of a bus. The Clerk explained that the bus company could not be held responsible as the bus shelter stands within 50mm of the kerb. This makes the company not liable. The Clerk was asked to write to the bus company to ask for a contribution to the cost of the repair.

ACTION: CLERK

Concluding his report the Chairman asked members if they had any questions.

ITEM 7 TO HEAR DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED 56 Mount Skippet Way-withdrawn, 15 Redbridge Road – approved, Redbridge Rd Industrial Estate – approved, 19 Dick o' th' Banks – approved.

ITEM 8 RECONSIDER QUOTES RECEIVED FOR SOFFITS – SPORTS PAVILION AND TO CONSIDER A MOTION BY CLLR SCARD THAT MONIES HELD ON DEPOSIT AT WEST DORSET IS USED FOR THIS PURPOSE Cllr Brewer advised Councillors about the affordability of this request stating that the money held at West Dorset District Council was deposited to allow the interest to be used for maintenance of open spaces. Cllr Smy stated that his recommendation was not to proceed with the replacement of the soffits in this financial year. Cllr Brewer suggested that this spend could be considered in the 09/10 Council budget. Cllr Scard advised that Upvc soffits would come with a 10 year guarantee thus incurring this one expense rather than ongoing repairs. Cllr Scard stated she understood prudent housekeeping but did not agree with stock-piling money which she feels should be spent on the Village for Villagers. Cllr D Smith endorsed Cllr Scard's statement stating that there appears to be a lack of maintenance; money should be spent on maintenance and uplift of buildings. Cllr Stenning told members that there is a lot of open space under the Parish Council's ownership, and money has to be spent on maintaining these areas and grass cutting. Cllr Stenning continued stating that the monies held on deposit at West Dorset keep the precept low; and therefore residents Council Tax; further expenditure would add to the residents Council Tax for next year. Cllr Stenning advised that this matter should be addressed in the 09/10 budget setting process. Cllr Brewer stated that the Council had not been stockpiling money advising costs must and should be captured over the annual budget setting process. The Council should also be aware that Section 106 money has been allotted for the MUGA and the Council may need to make a contribution to this. Cllr Brewer explained that as a contribution from developers open space land is given with a financial contribution to its upkeep, this is the money held on deposit at West Dorset. Cllr Brewer also reminded members that the grass cutting contract is due for renewal in 2009 and this will necessarily be an increase on the present contract. Cllr Brewer reminded members that it is unwise to spend reserves. Cllr Smy reiterated that it is good practice to keep a healthy budget, if this expenditure is not carefully controlled then capital can drip away thus incurring a large percentage rise on the precept. Cllr Smith referred to the keeping of money for the MUGA when the MUGA had not yet been decided. Cllr Smy reminded Cllr Smith that the MUGA has been on the Council's agenda for a long time and planning was previously granted. Cllr Smy advised that good financial planning must allow for the possibility of the MUGA. Cllr Scard read the quotes for the soffit. Cllr Brewer stated that the Pavilion is not unusable with the soffits as they are. Cllr Bache questioned again the money held on deposit; Cllr Smy reiterated how these monies are acquired and that the interest is used, in perpetuity for open space maintenance. Cllr Smy stated that stockpiling is an emotive word; the Parish Council is not stockpiling. This money needs to be maintained for future use.

Cllr Brewer proposed an amendment to the motion that the work is not undertaken this financial year but put into the budget proposal for next year. This was seconded by Cllr Stenning. The was taken 5 for, 4 against. Cllr Northcote abstained.

CARRIED

Cllr Rhodes requested a thorough look at proposed expenditure for the Pavilion. Cllr Brewer suggested an assessment would be done.

ITEM 9 TO CONSIDER PLACING A NOTICE BOARD IN SCHOOL DRIVE OR A SUITABLE LOCATION WITHIN THE NEW WOODSFORD FIELDS DEVELOPMENT Cllr Smy thanked Cllr Scard for this proposal. Cllr Scard reported that the residents on the new development at Woodsford Fields are out on a limb and do not have access to a Parish Council notice board. The Clerk advised that the previous Council had a board in storage for this new development and had received an estimate of £50.00 to fit the board in place. It was agreed to consult with residents; through the Bridge Magazine, as to where they would like these boards placed. A question was put as to the whereabouts of the Dick o' th' Banks notice board. The Clerk advised that this notice board had been removed due to the constant vandalism; it was becoming not financially viable due to these costs. It was agreed to

place the matter of the Dick o' th' Banks board on the February agenda. Proposed Cllr Scard, seconded Cllr Stenning
AGREED

ITEM 10 TO PUT A QUESTION TO CLLR CONNOR IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2007. ITEM 6(b) MINUTES FULL COUNCIL PAGE 1011 REFERS – CLLR SCARD Cllr Scard referred to the motion as agreed at the extra ordinary meeting on 14th November in the matter of the abolition of Committees requesting Cllr Connor to substantiate her statement regarding the growth rate of Crossways. Cllr Connor stated she had nothing further to add.

ITEM 11 TO FORMALLY RECEIVE A LETTER FROM MRS KENDRICK IN THE MATTER OF FLOODING COMBE WAY TO GO FORWARD TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING FOR FURTHER DEBATE The Chairman reminded Councillors that at this time they are only agreeing to receive this letter and no debate was required. Cllr Brewer reminded Councillors that the Council only had a caution registered on this land. The Clerk was asked to supply Councillors with details of the ownership prior to the February meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

ITEM 12 TO CONSIDER THE MATTER OF THE ALDER TREE IN THE MEMORIAL PARK COPY STUART MURGATROYD'S REPORT ATTACHED Cllr Smy referring to the statement made by Mr Fox, copy attached, stated that he, the Clerk, Mr Steve Manuel and Mr Murgatroyd had attended at site visit and referred Mr Murgatroyd's recommendations. The Chair confirmed that he felt the recommendation to fell the tree was a practical solution and referring to the quotes received recommended the lowest quote of £329.00 and asked Cllr Brewer for the 50% payment of £164.50 to be funded from the budget. It was noted that the residents affected by this tree had offered to pay 50% of the cost of felling. Cllr Brewer proposed that the Council fell this tree as recommended, this was seconded by Cllr Rhodes and agreed. Cllr Connor commended the residents for offering 50% of the expenditure. Cllr Scard asked if a replacement tree was to be planted. She was advised it was, at the expense of the residents concerned. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the residents and Stuart Murgatroyd regarding replacement.

AGREED/ACTION CLERK

ITEM 13 UPDATE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT – CLLR NORTHCOTE Cllr Northcote was requested to supply the Council with a copy of the Village Design Statement which had been supplied to Simon Thompson at the DCA (Dorset Community Action) and to Hilary Jordan and WDDC. The Chair asked for questions to Cllr Northcote in the matter of the VDS (Village Design Statement). Cllr Stenning asked that the Parish Council be given a copy of the VDS. Cllr Northcote replied that the Council would be given a copy at the end of the process stating that Ms Jordan at WDDC has advised him to keep the document confidential. Cllr Connor questioned this stating that the Council should be able to see the document and suggested a meeting at the Sports Pavilion to do this. Cllr Connor further stated that it was not right that the Council was not being given sight of the VDS. Cllr Smy asked Cllr Northcote when the Parish Council might see a draft of the VDS. Cllr Northcote said he could not forecast a date. Cllr Smy reminded Cllr Northcote that a grant application for the production of the VDS could not be dealt with without the Parish Council's agreement or knowledge of the document stating that Councillors were concerned that no intermediary meetings has been held with the Council to see a draft of the VDS. Cllr Smy questioned why the DCA and WDDC officers had seen the draft but not the Parish Council. Cllr Smy asked Cllr Northcote to liaise with the Clerk to arrange for the Councillors to have sight of the document. Cllr Smy asked if any other Councillor had seen the document. Cllr Northcote replied that Cllr Dave Smith had seen a copy as he was undertaking the photography associated with the document. Cllr Brewer asked if the proposed DCA funding was 100%; this was not confirmed; Cllr Brewer stated that the Parish Council could be called upon to agree some of the funding. Cllr Brewer further stated that he was uncomfortable that the Council had not seen a draft of the VDS stating that this was not a democratic process. Cllr Brewer proposed that Cllr Northcote make a copy of the draft VDS to the Council with immediate effect stating that the Parish Council commissioned the VDS using Council resources and as such the Council is the proper owner of the document. Cllr Northcote advised members that a copy of the document is on his computer should any member wish to view it. Cllr Connor reiterated that the Parish Council should have a copy asking Cllr Northcote if any member of the CCA (Crossways Community Association) had seen the document. Cllr Northcote said they had not. Cllr Brewer proposed the motion that a copy of the VDS should be made available to the Clerk with the permission of Ms Jordan, seconded by Cllr Connor.

A vote was taken 5 voted for, 5 against. The Chairman used is casting vote, voting in favour of the motion. Cllr Northcote was instructed to release a copy of the document to the Clerk. The Clerk was further instructed to liaise with Cllr Northcote to meet with the Council to discuss his proposals for the Village Hall within the VDS document.

AGREED/ACTION CLERK/CLLR NORTHCOTE

ITEM 14 TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE WHETHER CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INSTALLING SENSOR LIGHTS AT THE REAR OF THE SPORTS PAVILION – PAGE 1012 ITEM 9 MINUTES FULL COUNCIL 29TH NOVEMBER 2007 REFERS The Clerk advised the meeting of the quotations to convert the light at the rear of the pavilion to a sensor as requested by Mr Garrott. Cllr Brewer advised the meeting that the money for this could be found within budget. Cllr Smith stated that all lights at the pavilion were on all night. The Clerk reminded members that the quotation was for one light only as requested. Cllr Smy also stated that the quotations were for one light and now new issues were being raised. Cllr Scard stated that all lights were on all night. Cllr Smy disagreed. Cllr Scard stated that all lights should be operated by sensors. As new issues were being raised Cllr Brewer proposed deferring this item; Cllr D Smith seconded this proposal.

AGREED/ACTION CLERK

Cllr Northcote left the meeting.

ITEM 15 CONSIDER DCC PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2007 UNDER THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – MEMORANDUM WITH ATTACHMENTS SENT TO ALL COUNCILLOR 6TH JANUARY The Clerk advised Councillors that Cllr Scard had offered her resignation as the member delegated as Footpaths /By Ways Officer and therefore the document was sent to all Councillors for comment. No comments were received.

ITEM 16 TO CONSIDER REQUEST BY CLLR DAVE SMITH TO ALLOW HIM TO TAPE RECORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DECIDE ON A COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR TAPE RECORDING Cllr Smith advised the meeting that he had difficulty remembering all the detail of a Council meeting stating that the recording which he would record digitally would be for his own use only. Cllr Brewer objected stating that allowing one Councillor to record meetings was against the principle of how a Council should operate. Cllr Smith stated that from the 1st April it is possible that it would be permissible; and that it is used now by some Councils. Cllr Smy proposed that recordings are made and retained by the Clerk only and that he would be more comfortable with this arrangement. Cllr Smy stated that anybody can request to listen to the tapes but he would have concerns if tapes were kept by individual Councillors. Cllr Rhodes seconded Cllr Smy's proposal stating that recording could help with any disputes on the minutes. An amendment was requested asking that no tape or digital recordings are done. A vote was taken 3 for and 6 against the amendment. The amendment was not carried. It was agreed that digital recordings of meetings would be made and retained by the Clerk and deleted following acceptance of the minutes. The vote was 6 for recording, three against.

CARRIED/ACTION CLERK

ITEM 17 TO CONSIDER REMOVAL OF WREATHS FROM THE MEMORIAL PARK - CLLR BACHE Cllr Bache made the a statement "*May we look upon the Gardens of Remembrance as a garden which changes with the seasons. If wreathes and crosses were removed at an appropriate time or when they become tatty we could look forward to the colour of spring bulbs; summer flowers, and autumn foliage; before once again new poppy wreaths are laid in the winter. This shows change, interest and constant care of a village asset which has been refurbished with village money and hard work by Steve Manuel and other caring people. I contacted many interested parties – veterans' associations, British Legion, locally based and Headquarters London, Bovington Camp, Brian Puckett Veterans' Association, Dorchester Association etc. The consensus of opinion seems to be no set date except Bovington, 2nd February, and that discretion prevails*". Cllr Smy advised that he and Cllr Bache will remove wreaths as and when they become tatty. It was agreed that the wreaths would be removed at the Chairman's discretion.

ITEM 18 TO AGREE 50% FUNDING FOR THE CLERK TO ATTEND A SLCC (SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS) PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 29TH/ SATURDAY 1ST MARCH IN THE SUM OF £80.00 Cllr Stenning proposed that this expenditure be agreed, Cllr Rhodes seconded. Four Councillors voted to pay for this practitioners' conference. Cllrs Scard, Smith D, Smith T, Bache and Northcote abstained.

AGREED

Councillor Brewer left the meeting for Item 19 having declared an personal and prejudicial interest

ITEM 19 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. 1/E/2006/008 – Redbridge Road Landfill Site, Redbridge Road, Crossways, Dorchester, Dorset - Development of land without complying with Condition 2 of planning permission 1/E/2006/008 and the variation of Condition 2 to extend the date by which the development shall cease.

Cllr Scard stated that she had enjoyed the site visit put on by Mr Crooke and noted that there were two sides to this proposal one being that the area would benefit from the landscaping and Mr Crooke was a local employer and the other being that the previous Council had only agreed

to the previous licence extension subject to it not being renewed further. Cllr Smy reminded those present that the Council are only consultees. Cllr Smith said he would like to see the land restored to its previous condition thus reducing the amount of vehicle usage. Cllr Stenning questioned if the workings impacted on Brown Johns. She was advised it did not. Cllr Dave Smith proposed refusal and a request for immediate restoration of the land. Cllr Stenning advised members that the licence would need to be extended to allow for complete restoration of the landscape. It was proposed that the Council recommends refusal on the basis that this is the third extension request and refusal will mean that restoration will take place and this will ultimately mean a lessening of traffic movements. A vote was taken showing 5 for refusal, two against. The recommendation for refusal was carried.

ACTION/CLERK

Cllr Brewer returned to the meeting**ITEM 20 IN VIEW OF STRUCTURE CHANGES TO CONFIRM AND AGREE NEW SIGNATORIES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL CURRENT BANK ACCOUNT AND AGREE TO DELETE**

CURRENTSIGNATORIES It was proposed to add Cllr A Brewer and Cllr E Stenning to the signatories of the Parish bank accounts and to delete Cllr C Round. Seconded by Cllr D Smith

AGREED/ACTION CLERK

ITEM 21 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 29TH NOVEMBER 2007 24TH JANUARY 2008 (INC) Expenditure was agreed as follows:

	Income £	Expenditure £
Transfer	(1000.00)	
Cleaners Pavilion		70.00
Viking Direct (Stationery)		37.87
S Manuel – Grass Cutting		482.00
Century 21 Photocopier Hire		105.75
British Gas – Pavilion		106.53
DCC Grass Cutting Agency	1313.21	
Cleaners Pavilion		70.00
Nildram – Broadband		15.99
Nildram – Broadband		50.37
Salary Clerk		
Archers Rent		
Inland Revenue PAYE		221.13
Annual Membership SLCC		161.00
Information Commissioner DATA		
Protection		35.00
Southern Electric		34.39
Nildram Broadband		24.42

Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Connor

AGREED

ITEM 22 FINANCIAL REPORT VICE CHAIRMAN (FINANCE) Cllr Brewer agreed to bring a financial report to the February meeting. Cllr Brewer advised members that the 08/09 precept entered for the Parish Council represented an increase of 0.24 for Band D properties.

ITEM 23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 28TH 2008 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 28th February 2008

Signed (Chairman) February 2008