

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JULY 2007 AT 7PM

Present: Cllr Daniel Smy (Chairman Parish Council), Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Vice Chairman Parish Council)
Cllr Valerie Bache (Chairman Amenities), Cllr A Brewer, Cllr Terrie Connor, Cllr Geoffrey Northcote,
Cllr Caroline Round, Cllr (Mrs) Thelma Smith (Chairman Finance & Administration), Cllr Dave Smith (Chairman Planning),
Cllr Elaine Stenning and Cllr Abi Scard.

Also Present: District Councillor Peter Read and members of the public.

PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION THE CLERK READ OUT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

“I have been requested by the Chairman to make the following statement. Following the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 5th July 2007 and the subsequent outcome Cllr David Smith’s conduct is likely to become a matter for the Standards Board for England to determine; therefore the Parish Council are unable to comment any further on this matter.

During the period of any investigation it is right and proper that the Parish Council refrain from making any further comment. The Council as a whole must now move on with its day to day work and wait for the decision following the Standards Board deliberations and investigations.

I would respectfully ask members of the public to respect the situation I am outlining, and refrain if at all possible from raising issues relating to Cllr David Smith’s alleged conduct.

The findings of the Standards Board will be reported in full when received”.

GENERAL AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Mr Tizzard referring to the full council meeting on the 17th May stated that an incomplete statement was made regarding the planning applications reported granted or withdrawn. Mr Tizzard said that mention was made of no 46 and 48 Dick o’ th’ Banks only. Cllr Smith advised Mr Tizzard that he was not on the Council during the consultation process of this application. The Clerk agreed to check the records and report.

ACTION: CLERK

b. Mr Tizzard referred to the sports field and the amount of money spent on refurbishing it and was surprised to see the field reported as ‘being one of the best in the County’. He does not agree with this comment referring to the lack of sufficient screening of the soil during the works on the field. Mr Tizzard asked what steps were taken to ensure the field work was properly undertaken. It was noted that the issues on the sports field had been discussed a length during the previous years. The Clerk was asked to place the sports field on the full council agenda. Richard Grygeil said he still feels that flints are coming through the field. The Clerk reported that she had not heard from the Football Club about any recent problems and they had made bookings for the coming season. Cllr Smith said he watched most of the football games and most referees complimented the field, he also stated that he had also heard that coaches had picked up stones. Cllr Smy offered to look into this matter. Cllr Brewer informed the meeting that the Council had a professional survey carried out and the recommendations from that were carried out.

c. Mrs Warshaw asked the Finance Committee of the Council to request the money back from WDDC; the extra 1p in the £1 that ratepayers had to pay for the field. Cllr Smy said he was not able to sanction the Clerk’s time to go back 30 years to find historical details of the original sports field agreements. Cllr Brewer informed the meeting that the Parish Council do not pay any money for the field and has not done so in recent memory. The field is in the ownership of the Parish Council. District Councillor Read spoke about the origins of the field stating that he had been informed by County Councillor Crowhurst that the area of land was a pond with was filled in by Dorset Council and transferred to the Parish Council. Mr Tizzard questioned Mr Read’s interpretation stating that the area was filled in from the residue of building works in Crossways in the 1950s. Mr Read stated that it should be possible to complete an audit trail of documents and suggested the checking at the Land Registry.

d. Mr Keeping, a resident at Beech Tree Barn spoke about the planning application to be discussed by the Council, the nine proposed units on the Hybris Business Park. Mr Keeping asked the Council to consider the residential properties close to the Business Park and to ensure that the uses agreed stay at B1 and not agree with any application to change the use to B2.

e. Mr Turtle asked the Council if they had made any progress with installing a running track on the sports field. The Clerk

reminded Mr Turtle that the Council discussed this and agreed to ask the Youth Club if they could provide this facility.

ACTION: CLERK

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

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. Cllr Stenning declared a prejudicial and personal interest in Item 4 the planning agenda and declared that she would remain in the room for this item, discuss but not take part in any vote.
- b. Cllr Smith declared a prejudicial and personal interest in Item 7 of the amenities agenda and declared that he would remain in the room for this item, discuss but not take part in any vote.
- b. Cllr (Mrs) Smith declared a prejudicial and personal interest in Item 7 of the amenities agenda and declared that she would remain in the room for this item, discuss but not take part in any vote

ITEM 3 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – to be confirmed at the full council meeting on 26th July

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr V Bache

ITEM 1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

ITEM 2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman had nothing to report not covered by the agenda.

ITEM 4 REPORT LIBRARY MEETING JULY 2ND AT DCC – CLLR NORTHCOTE TO REPORT

Cllr Northcote reported that he had attended the meeting with Paul Leivers and David Crowhurst at County Hall on the 2nd of July where an update was given on the proposal that will be put to the Cabinet on the 11th July. The proposal is for the Parish Council to take over the premises on terms agreed for continuing its use as a Library but allowing other community uses. The book stock would be provided and managed by the County Council. Communities will be encouraged to get involved.

A copy of the letter outlining these proposals is Attached at Annex A to these

The Parish Council considered what other uses the Library could be put to; committee rooms, coffee mornings etc. It was confirmed that the Parish Council could request replacement books of their choice. It was noted that a reduction in opening hours would be expected. Cllr Northcote advised that the Cabinet at DCC would be meeting on the 11th July to agree these proposals. Cllr Northcote suggested that a working party would need to be formed to deal with the many issues. Cllr Smy thanked Cllr Northcote for attending the meeting and for his report saying this was a serious matter for the Parish Council to consider and suggested that there would be no prolonged discussion but suggested taking the matter forward to full council. Cllr Smy felt that that a working party was not the way ahead as this important development should be discussed by all Councillors; stating that these were significant proposals; taking ownership of the Library would be an expensive item. Cllr Northcote asked for a decision as soon as possible. It was agreed that this matter need full and frank discussion. Cllr Brewer expressed his disappointment that things have turned out this way and what Crossways wanted has been ignored. Cllr Rhodes said it is disgraceful that this is happening especially in this day and age of promoting learning and that the technology in the Library needed qualified staff and asked members to think very carefully about the way ahead. Concern was noted about the eventual outcome and just how many hours the Library would be open.

ITEM 5 TO CONSIDER CLEANING AND PAINTING SPORT PAVILION – CLLR BACHE

Cllr Bache informed members that she felt the Pavilion was in need of some tlc noting the following items that she felt needed attention:

- a. Soffit fascia broken
- b. Roller Door loose.
- c. The lock on the roller door difficult to turn.
- d. Window seals rotted in the window facing Dick o' th' Banks Road.
- e. Garage light needs attention.
- f. Cleaning required.

Cllr Bache said she would like to remove all black painting and that all outside surfaces need painting. There is rubbish in the garage which needs to be cleared out. Cllr Bache asked if it was the Committee's wish that the Clerk gets quotes for these works. This was proposed by Cllr Stenning, seconded by Cllr Round and agreed.

It was further agreed that the inside could be painted at a later date. Cllr Brewer suggested these works should be a consideration when setting the Parish Council precept for the forthcoming financial year (08/09). Cllr Scard said if the Council could find the money then the work should be done. Cllr Smy informed members that he would be attending a meeting at WDDC to find out what Section 106 money the Council has access to. It was agreed that quotes should be sought in the first instance.

AGREED

ITEM 6 TO CONSIDER CONDITION OF MEMORIAL PARK AND WORK REQUIRED – CLLR BACHE

Cllr Bache asked that the Memorial Park is tidied up suggesting the money could come from Section 106 money as advised by Cllr Crowhurst. Cllr Bache listed the following items she wished to be attended to:

- a. Entrance overgrown.
- b. Wooden fence dumped removed.
- c. Stone Wall needs tidying.
- d. Map in ornamental well faded.
- e. Gates to Park rusted and need repainting.
- f. Large shrubs need pruning.
- g. Paths and pebble paths need weeding and edging.
- h. Conifers dying.
- i. Wreaths removed.
- j. Chain link rusty.
- k. Needs more benches.

Cllr Bache stated that the whole area could be made more attractive and a scheme to make the area a tourist attraction be considered. Cllr Smith commended Cllr Bache on her work and considers the Village has 'gone to seed' and needs this work. Cllr Smy offered caution at the cost of the works which would be very expensive and the works must be prioritised to ensure money is available. It was agreed that some intermediate works could be done and the Clerk was instructed to get quotes for proposals. Cllr Brewer advised members that any work they undertake on the war memorial must be in liaison with the RAF Warmwell Association. Cllr Scard suggested removing the wreaths and planting red poppies. Cllr Smy thanked Cllr Bache and Cllr Scard for their report.

AGREED

ITEM 7 CONSIDER FENCING ON THE EGDON GLEN BOUNDARY OF THE SPORTS FIELD

The Clerk gave a verbal quote received saying that a 6' overlap wooden fence of 60m would be at the very least in the region of £3000. Cllr Bache questioned where the boundary of the field was. Cllr Smith said that in the bushes there are concrete posts at intervals. The Clerk confirmed that this was the boundary. Cllr Round asked how many complaints have been previously received prior the recent complaint. The Clerk advised that there was no previous complaints. Cllr Northcote asked how children would know the limit of the field and stated that all schools have a 10' fence around them and how would the children in the Village know where the boundary of the field was? Cllr Round said she does not think it is a problem defining the boundary and questioned the cost of fencing when no previous complaints had been received. The Clerk asked if quotes should be for a fence in front of the current tree/hedge row or within the tree/hedge row. It was agreed that quotes would be to follow the present boundary posts within the tree/hedge row. Cllr Scard said she would not like to see any trees removed as trees are more valuable than a fence. Cllr Stenning agreed stating there were more urgent priorities.

ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF DOG WASTE BINS, COST; MAINTENANCE AND EMPTYING

It was agreed that this issue had been raised before and was considered cost prohibitive as if dog bins are supplied by the Parish Council they would then have to pay for the emptying and disposal of the contents. Cllr Round confirmed that dog owners are told to put their dog waste into the litter bins and signs on them say this. It was agreed that these signs should be clearer and the Clerk was asked to take this up with WDDC and the dog warden. Cllr Brewer stated that this has been a long standing problem and the previous Council had agreed not to become dog wardens as new powers allow. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Dog Warden to visit Crossways, meet with the Council and advise.

ITEM 9 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

- a. PAULS WAY – Gate not engaging properly. New dog bin sign required.
- b. CLYFFE VIEW – Bench needs creosoting. Bin damaged beyond repair.
- c. COMBE WAY – Bin overflowing. Seat needs creosoting

ITEM 10 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. The Committee was advised that Magna Housing is keen to contribute to projects in Crossways and Christine Stone at WDDC has suggested a source of funding for the MUGA. The Clerk was asked to look into these offers.

ACTION: CLERK

b. Cllr Bache brought to the Committees attention an e mail regarding the COMMA fund. stating that the closing date for applications was 1st September. The Clerk was asked to bring this item to the July full council agenda.

c. Cllr Connor advised members that she had met Kris Hallet the Community Worker and discussed the area of green opposite 2 Woodsford Close where Kris mentioned that if this piece of green was Parish Council owned it could be fenced for children to play on. The Clerk will speak to Kris Hallet for further information on her proposal.

ACTION: CLERK

d. Cllr Scard informed members that, after the meeting on the 5th July, she was approached by young people stating that the one thing they really want is a skate park and asked the Council to push this matter through. Cllr Stenning replied that this matter had been historically difficult with the main obstacle being where it would be situated. Cllr Smith agreed that there is a need for a skate park.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Signed(Chairman)2007