

## **MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY**

Present : Cllr Daniel Smy (Chairman), Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Andrew Brewer (Vice Chairman – Finance), Cllr Terrie Connor, Cllr Elaine Stenning

Also present: Mr Alan Muir, WDDC Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, PC Charlie Dale and District Councillor Teresa Seall

Cllr Smy opened the meeting by introducing those Councillors present and Mr Alan Muir. Cllr Smy advised that Mr Muir was attending as an observer only and thanked Mr Muir for his continued work in the mediation process being undertaken by the Council. Cllr Smy advised the meeting that Mr Westrell, Area Estates Manager, Aggregate Industries, who was unable to attend the Parish Meeting in April, would now be available to speak on the future of quarrying at Warmwell at the June meeting of the Council. Cllr Smy informed the meeting that Councillor Caroline Round had offered her resignation due to work commitments expressing his sadness at losing a young Councillor. Caroline's resignation will be dealt with in the usual manner. Cllr Smy advised the meeting that following Cllr Northcote's resignation 10 signatures had been presented to WDDC requesting an election therefore an election will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr Smy read a statement regarding events at the previous Council meeting:

- **Statement By The Chairman**

At last month's meeting, we made considerable progress and I was personally very delighted at the vote in favour of improving facilities on the sports field.

When I came to the Any Late Items, I was disappointed that Cllr Abi Scard felt it appropriate to re raise matters which had already been aired at previous meetings. I was becoming very concerned that the tone and content of Cllr Scard's comments were becoming very personal and not appropriate to be aired on the floor of the Parish Council. At this point I felt Cllr Scard's comments were not only letting herself down, but were also bringing the Parish Council into disrepute. It was at this stage that in my opinion I felt it appropriate to ask Cllr Scard to sit down not only for her own dignity but also for the sake of the reputation of the Council. Cllr Scard on two occasions ignored my requests as Chairman to sit down and be silent; in fact when I stood she refused to take her seat and be silent. At this point I ruled Cllr Scard's action out of order and regrettably asked her to leave the meeting. It is my opinion that her conduct had become disorderly.

I really do not want to make matters worse, but I believe colleagues and members of the public would expect me to comment on what happened next.

After I had closed the meeting, several councillors and members of the public stayed back to help put back chairs and tables and to tidy the Village Hall. At this point the Rector had returned into the Hall looking rather shaken at events that had been happening outside in the car park and I took Rev Jacquie Birdseye into the kitchen to try and find out what had been happening. Within a few minutes of this I was called to the main hall to find Cllr Scard shouting uncontrollably at Cllr Brewer and being restrained by Cllr D Smith and Mrs Marriot. I had seen that water had been thrown at Cllr Brewer and he was facing a barrage of further abuse from Cllr Scard. I helped Cllr D Smith and Mrs Marriott to remove Cllr Scard from the hall, and I pay tribute to both of them for their help in trying to calm down the situation. I also asked Cllr Brewer to go to the kitchen.

There were several Parish Councillors and up to 12 members of the public who witnessed this very unfortunate and disorderly conduct by Cllr Scard. Such conduct is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated at meeting of this Parish Council.

I want to report that if I feel that any further disorderly conduct is being shown by Cllr Scard at meetings I shall without discussion invoke rule 36 (a),(b) & (c) of Standard Orders of this council and seek approval from Council for her to be removed from the meeting.

Clearly we all need to show the 10 principles of conduct that is outlined in the Standards Board code on how councillors should conduct themselves. I have asked the Clerk to give all Councillors a copy of this to remind themselves of the principles.

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

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

- Mr Northcote criticised the Parish Council for not allowing villagers to refute statements made in public regarding their actions. Mr Northcote stated he had not said the things of which he was accused and he felt the residents had a right to know. Mr Northcote expressed concern that the item was not fully recorded in minutes and advised that the matter was now subject to a formal complaints procedure.

Mr Northcote said the Parish Council was outmoded and dysfunctional and asked for all the Council to resign.

(b) Mr Lucas asked for the individuals alluded to in above paragraph (a) to be named. Cllr Smy replied that it was not a requirement for minutes to be transcribed verbatim. Mr Lucas spoke of his concern about misleading information.

(c) Mr Tizzard reminded the meeting that as stated on the minutes of the Parish Council dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006 during the public participation period a resident of Egdon Glen complained against the proposed MUGA stating that the public had not been consulted. Mr Tizzard added that the proposed provision of the MUGA followed two surveys, one being the Parish Plan, which showed a MUGA as being shown as a need. Mr Tizzard also recalled that a resident of Egdon Glen also argued that the MUGA should go on the Youth Club field and was advised that this land was not in the ownership of the Parish Council. Mr Tizzard stated that he felt that some Councillors have their own agenda and asked if the Council was being run as it should be stating that he felt that Councillors had abused their position. Mr Tizzard, in conclusion, asked about the cost to the ratepayer of the forthcoming election and the cost to the ratepayer of the conflict within the Council.

(d) Mrs Chitson spoke on two issues:

i. Mrs Chitson said she understood that Council meetings would be videoed and as this was not being done by the Council she asked that her daughter be allowed to do this. Cllr Smy said the Council was in the process of purchasing a digital recording machine and it had been agreed by the Council that the only copy of the recording would be kept by the Clerk. Cllr Smy requested that Mrs Chitson's daughter does not record Council meetings

ii. Mrs Chitson stated that she was addressing the meeting with the permission of Cllr Scard (not present) and spoke about Cllr Scard's distress following the events of the previous meeting and informed the meeting that Cllr Scard was arrested and accepted a formal caution despite having been told following the incident by PC O'Shea that no further action would follow. Mrs Chitson advised the meeting that she was present when PC O'Shea made these statements Mrs Chitson then went on to allege that following intervention by Cllr Smy and Cllr Rhodes Cllr Scard was arrested.

Mrs Chitson stated that she knew PC O'Shea personally and she had been told that Cllr Scard would not be charged. Mrs Chitson spoke of her perception of the friction within the Council and called upon the Council, as a whole, to resign. In reply Cllr Smy strongly refuted the allegation that he and the Vice Chair had anything to do with the decision to arrest and charge Cllr Scard.

Cllr Smy also told Mrs Chitson she was wrong to infer that Cllr Brewer is the only Councillor causing the 'friction' within the Council. Cllr Smy asked PC Dale to reply to Mrs Chitson's allegations. PC Dale said he was aware of Mrs Chitson's complaints and stated that the matter of the charges and subsequent actions are a matter only for the perpetrator and the victim of the assault confirming it was a police matter and no other person was involved, or influenced the decision. PC Dale said he has undertaken all duty of care necessarily afforded to Cllr Scard and has visited Cllr Scard following the arrest and caution.

(e) Mr Mike Hlland, Group Chairman of Milborne St Andrew Scout Group and organizer of the Dorchester District Football Competition, on behalf of the Beavers and Cubs, thanked the Crossways football club for raising money for the future tournaments on the sports field following the Council's vote to charge for future events. Mr Hlland said the event has become an important event in the Scouting calendar and is attended by cubs and beavers and parents and is thoroughly enjoyed by all.

(f) A resident of Oaklands spoke about the revised plans being submitted for development on the land abutting Oaklands Park stating that he felt that there had been few changes from the previous plans. Concern was raised about the height of the industrial units. The Council was asked to write to Ravine Leisure to ask them to remove the unsightly piles of concrete and building residue. The Council was also asked to place a condition on the contractors to put in place a suitable buffer zone prior to work commencing.

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER** PC Dale reported that the recent months statistically had been quite quiet, with 2 burglaries by bogus workmen and a break-in in Moreton Road however PC Dale advised continued vigilance and to keep watch and report anything suspicious and be aware of anything out of the ordinary. Cllr Terrie Connor reported that she had attended the latest meeting of the DDCPP (Dorchester District Crime Prevention Panel) and reported that the crime rate in Crossways is relatively low but warned against people letting their guard down. Cllr Connor's full report will be forwarded in due course.

**REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLORS** Apologies were received from Cllr Crowhurst.

**REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- a. District Councillor Read was not available.
- b. District Councillor Teresa Seall's report is attached.

**REPORTS BY SCHOOL GOVERNORS** The Head Teacher's report is featured in the Bridge.

**THE MEETING**

**ITEM 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** Cllr Rhodes nominated Cllr Daniel Smy, Cllr Stenning seconded this nomination. There being no other nomination Cllr Smy was elected as Chairman.

**ITEM 2 SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN** Cllr Smy signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman.

**ITEM 3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN** Cllr Smy nominated Cllr Joyce Rhodes, Cllr Connor seconded this nomination. There being no other nomination Cllr Rhodes was elected Vice Chairman.

**ITEM 4 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN (FINANCE)** Cllr Smy nominated Cllr Andrew Brewer, Cllr Elaine Stenning seconded the nomination. There being no other nomination Cllr Brewer was elected Vice Chairman (Finance).

**ITEM 5 CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS** Cllr Smy thanked his fellow Councillors for allowing him to continue to serve as Chairman. Cllr Smy informed the meeting he had attended the Beavers and Cubs tournament to present trophies and stated what a well attended enjoyable event it was. He advised the Council that he will be requesting an agenda item to revisit the Council's decision to charge for this event and will ask for this decision to be reversed. The Chairman advised the meeting that a further consultation with residents of Egdon Glen, Briars End and abutting properties will take place on May 28<sup>th</sup> and that a MUGA/Skatebowl Steering Group will be formed. In conclusion Cllr Smy asked all Councillors to focus on working together for the good of Crossways, setting practical realistic goals. Cllr Smy dismissed accusations that the Council was dysfunctional reminding those present that the Council meets every month, an agenda is set and minutes produced and whilst it has been a difficult year he remains optimistic that a way forward can be found.

**ITEM 6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bache, Cllr D Smith, Cllr T Smith and Cllr Abi Scard.

**ITEM 7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no Declarations of Interest.

**ITEM 8 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION** Cllr Stenning declared predetermination in Item 19d declaring that she would remain in the room but take no part in the discussions and not vote.

**ITEM 9 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE MEETING DATES FOR THE YEAR MAY 08 – MAY 09** Cllr Brewer proposed acceptance of these dates, Cllr Connor seconded this proposal. The meeting dates were accepted.

AGREED

**ITEM 10 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING BODIES:**

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a. HYBRIS RECYCLING GROUP                     | VACANT                      |
| b. DAPTC REPRESENTATIVE                       | CLLR SMY AND CLLR RHODES    |
| c. WINFRITH LIAISON & NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE | VACANT                      |
| d. WARMWELL QUARRY LIAISON COMMITTEE          | CLLR SMY                    |
| e. CRIME PREVENTION PANEL COMMITTEE           | CLLR CONNOR                 |
| f. YOUTH CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE            | CLLR RHODES                 |
| g. TRANSPORT FORUM                            | VACANT                      |
| h. DCA STEERING GROUP                         | VACANT                      |
| i. CROSSWAYS PLAYGROUP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE   | REPRESENTATION NOT REQUIRED |
| j. CROSSWAYS SCHOOL/COMMUNITY COMMITTEE       | CLLR SMY                    |
| h. VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE          | CLLR BREWER                 |

**ITEM 11 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING POSTS:**

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| a. ANCIENT MONUMENT LIAISON OFFICER    | CLLR BREWER        |
| b. EMERGENCY CONTACT OFFICER (2 POSTS) | CLLR BREWER/VACANT |
| c. RIGHT OF WAY/FOOTPATH OFFICER       | VACANT             |
| d. PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR (WEEKLY)       | CLLR SMY           |
| e. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER               | VACANT             |

**ITEM 12 TO NOTE ATTENDANCE FOR THE YEAR MAY 07 – APR 08**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meetings Attended</u>	<u>Total Number of Meetings</u>
Cllr Daniel Smy	10	10
Cllr Joyce Rhodes	10	10
Cllr Andrew Brewer	10	10
Cllr Valerie Bache	10	10
Cllr Terrie Connor	10	10
Cllr D Smith	10	10
Cllr T Smith	10	10
Cllr Elaine Stenning	10	10
Cllr Abi Scard	9	10 (Co-opted June 07)
Cllr Geoffrey Northcote	9	10 (Resigned Apr 08)

**ITEM 13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed. Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Connor.

AGREED

**ITEM 14 MATTERS ARISING** A question was put regarding the omission of naming persons mentioned in Kris Hallett's report. Cllr Stenning reminded the meeting that it was agreed in the March meeting that minutes would be reduced and questioned why the minutes were being disputed again with additions requested. It was agreed that the minutes as agreed under Item 13 would not be added to.

AGREED

**ITEM 15 TO CONSIDER THE WAY AHEAD IN THE MATTER OF COMBE WAY** It was noted that Betterment Properties do not claim ownership of Combe Way and to pursue ownership would involve instructing a solicitor and this could incur great expenditure. Cllr Stenning stated that she hoped the Council does not consider taking on full ownership of Combe Way. It was agreed to revisit this item in three months time.

PENDING

**ITEM 16 TO UPDATE AND AGREE FUNDING AND ERECTION OF A REPLACEMENT BUS SHELTER IN DICK O' TH' BANKS ROAD** Cllr Smy advised Councillors that the bus shelter in Dick o' th' Banks needed replacing. A grant of £1000.00 was available through DCC leaving a shortfall of £3 – 4000. Cllr Smy suggested that some of this expenditure could be found from this year's budget or the Council could use reserves and pay back this sum over three years. It was agreed that if the Bus Shelter does not comply with Health and Safety issues it should be replaced. Commercial sponsorship was considered. Cllr Brewer asked that the Health and Safety issues be confirmed prior to funding being agreed.

ACTION: CLERK

**ITEM 17 TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF A TEMPORARY RUNNING TRACK ON THE SPORTSFIELD DICK O' TH' BANKS ROAD** It was agreed that due to financial restraints and the cost of marking and maintaining this track would not be feasible. Cllr Smy concurred that unfortunately the provision of a running track could not move forward on this occasion unless a need was proved and volunteers for provide found.

**ITEM 18 TO AGREE LOCATION AND ERECTION OF A NOTICE BOARD IN THE NEW BETTERMENT DEVELOPMENT AT THE FOOTPATH JUNCTION OF BREWERS WALK TO SCHOOL DRIVE ON THE GREEN** It was agreed that a Notice Board should be sited on the new development. A price for erecting the Notice Board the Council owns will be sought. Betterment will be approached for a contribution.

ACTION: CLERK

**ITEM 19 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:**

- a. 25 DICK O' TH' BANKS ROAD The Parish Council had no objections to these plans.
- b. 35 BINGHAMS ROAD The Parish Council had no objections to these plans.
- c. HEATHLANDS – 32 GREEN LANE The Parish Council had no objections to these plans
- d. LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF THE B3390 AND THE LINK ROAD (COUNCILLORS The Council debated each application for this area of land separately.
  - i. 1/D/08/000637 Erection of a Care Home (Class 2) with associated vehicular access and Parking

The Council recommended approval for a Care Home only if it was being considered in isolation; it is not felt a care home would sit comfortably located near a public house.

ii. 1/D/08/000639 Erection of a Doctors/dentists Surgery (Class D1) and/or Pharmacy (Class A1) and associated vehicular access

The Council recommended refusal of this application feeling that the location of the Surgery detracts from the centre of the Village location presently enjoyed in Crossways. The Council had concerns about patients safety when negotiating the Link Road.

iii. 1/D/08/00636 Erection of a Public House (Class 4) with associated vehicular access and parking.

The Council felt that the Village alone would not be able to adequately support a public house and is aware that there is no business plan given to show the viability of this application. The Council feels that uncomplementary functions would have to be considered causing heavy traffic issues and noise problems.

iv. 1/D/08/000638 Erection of Offices/light industrial units and associated access and parking.

The Council had no comments on this application aware that outline planning had been granted previously.

In conclusion the Council strongly requested as a condition of planning adequate screening and buffer zones should be put in place prior to any work starting. This consideration is paramount to protect the residents of Oaklands Park and the residents of Empool Close overlooking this development. The Council, on highway issues, is not satisfied that the pedestrian access viz the traffic island is not sufficient and requests a condition of planning should be the installation of a 30mph speed limit on the relevant section of the Link Road, and complementary traffic calming.

**ITEM 20 TO NOTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED** The Clerk advised that the planning application for 5 Green Lane has been approved.

**ITEM 21 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR PREVIOUS MONTH AND AGREE EXPENDITURE FOR SIGNATURE TO DATE** Income and Expenditure was noted and agreed.

	Income £	Expenditure £
Insurance refund damage Bus Shelter	104.76	
Football Field Hire Moreton	27.00	
Salary Clerk		720.85
Inland Revenue		314.30
Cleaners Pavilion		80.00
Nildram Broadband		30.76
Viking Direct, stationery		26.53
Net Benefit – Web Site		44.06
S Manuel Grass Cutting		482.00
Planning Seminar Cllrs and Clerk		40.00
Fleetline Markers Whitelining		166.42
S Manuel Grass Cutting		482.00
Crossways Football Club	162.00	
Owermoigne Football Club	108.00	
Hire School Hall		15.00

Proposed: Cllr Stenning, seconded Cllr Connor

AGREED

**ITEM 22 STANDARDS BOARD 2007/2008 REPORT BY CHAIRMAN, INCLUDING UPDATE ON FORTHCOMING TRAINING BEING PROVIDED BY WDDC** As requested by Mrs Fleur Chitson the following list of Standards Board cases involving Parish Councillors was read out by the Chairman.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMPLAINANT</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
JUL 07	CLLR CONNOR	CLLR SMITH	CLEARED AFTER INVESTIGATION
JUL 07	CLLR READ	CLLR BREWER	CLEARED ON PREJUDICIAL (CLLR BREWER AND ALL COUNCILLORS TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING)
JUL 07	CLLR READ	CLLR ROUND	NOT INVESTIGATED
JUL 07	CLLR READ	CLLR CONNOR	NOT INVESTIGATED
JUL 07	CLLR READ	CLLR SMY	NOT INVESTIGATED
JUL 07	CLLR READ	CLLR STENNING	NOT INVESTIGATED
NOV 07	CLLR BREWER	CLLR SCARD	NOT INVESTIGATED
JAN 08	MR WALKER	CLLR SMY	NOT INVESTIGATED
MAR 08	CLLR BREWER	CLLR T SMITH	NOT INVESTIGATED
MAR 08	CLLR BREWER	CLLR SCARD	NOT INVESTIGATED

Cllr Smy informed the meeting that all Councillors will be undertaking further training and that Dorset Mediation Group will undertake a mediation programme with all Councilors. The Clerk will also attend these sessions.

**ITEM 23 TO RECEIVE ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS WITH THE PERMISSION ON THE CHAIRMAN**

- a. Cllr Brewer advised Councillors that the Parish Council web site was receiving a very large amount of ‘hits’ and suggested that there may be a financial implication and opportunity to receive advertising revenue. It was agreed that this matter would be researched.

**ITEM 24 CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The date of the next meeting was confirmed as June 26<sup>th</sup> 2007.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Signed ..... Chairman .....2008