

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2008

Present : Cllr Daniel Smy (Chairman), Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Andrew Brewer (Vice Chairman – Finance), Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Terrie Connor, Cllr Abi Scard, Cllr David Smith, Cllr Thelma Smith, Cllr Elaine Stenning and (from 8.03pm) Cllr Geoffrey Northcote.

Cllr Smy introduced himself and the councillors present.

It was proposed by Cllr Stenning, seconded by Cllr Connor that in the absence, for personal reasons, of the Clerk, Mr R P Hanton of West Dorset District Council acts as Clerk of the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr D Smith, seconded by Cllr Rhodes that a number of regular items would be deferred due to the absence of the Clerk but that she would be asked to circulate written updates to councillors as soon as possible.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman read out in full the text of an email received by him from Jim Tarzey dated 26th February 2008 setting out the latest position and bringing councillors up to date with development proposals. The email reported meetings with the Highway and Planning authorities and described proposals to provide safe pedestrian crossing from the village across West Link Road. It explained that the intention was to withdraw the current planning applications and resubmit them with detailed amendments as soon as the land contamination report was ready.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

A member of the public (Mr Jane) thanked the Council for the efficient way that it had co-ordinated the removal of the tree from the memorial park and reported that the area was now much cleaner. He also thanked the Clerk for keeping people informed about progress.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PSCO Vicky Hedges provided updates on investigation of burglaries at Dick o' th' Banks Road and Egdon Heath. In respect of the former, an individual had been imprisoned for 15 months and another person was on remand in respect of the second incident. PSCO Hedges reported that she had attended the Fish and Chip supper at Crossways Court; the skatepark visit and the community Youth Club car boot sale.

Councillors raised the issues of cars parking at the junction of Green Lane and Dick o' th' Banks Road and cars parking on Warmwell Road. PSCO Hedges undertook to investigate these matters.

Councillors also raised with her their concerns about the temporary lights on Warmwell Road and the continuing malfunction of these lights. A member of the public (Jo Maidment) offered the advice that malfunctions should be reported directly to the contractors and she undertook to make available their contact information. This method appeared to be the most effective way of resolving the situation and addressing quickly the safety concerns which arose when the lights became faulty.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor David Crowhurst addressed the meeting and a full report had been emailed to the Clerk. He proposed, in future, to present a full report to every other meeting with the Clerk being asked to circulate the report in advance so that councillors could ask questions and provide reaction at the meeting itself. The current report included reference to issues such as council tax setting; adult social care funding; highways and the B3390 specifically. Cllr Smy suggested that these reports from the County Councillor could be available on the website and the parish notice board. A copy of Cllr Crowhurst's report is attached to the main and library copy of these minutes.

A member of the public (Mr Arnold) referred to the County Council responded to him about a planning application relating to the sawmill site in Redbridge Lane. County Councillor Crowhurst undertook to follow-up the issues raised.

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor Peter Read addressed the meeting regarding the planning application relating to the care home at Dick o' th' Banks Road. He referred to allegations made against him relating to use of offensive language in a letter to the District Council's planning committee. Cllr Read said that he deeply regretted any offence or distress that he may have been the cause of. He explained that he had apologised publicly to the residents of the care home and that he had been invited to visit the home to apologise individually to the residents. He said that the public had the absolute right to expect high standards from him as their District Councillor and he apologised again for his lapse on this matter.

In respect of the ongoing planning application, a site visit had taken place and the application would go back before the District Council's planning committee on 13th March.

Cllr Smy reminded the meeting that this matter would be dealt with again at item 9 on the main agenda.

Cllr Stenning asked District Cllr Read about the land contamination report relating to the 'Hippy Field'. Cllr Read described his discussions with the Health Care Trust and the medical practice on the extent of the land allocation requirements and undertook to check the current situation.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY CAPACITY WORKER

Community Capacity Worker, Kris Hallett reported on her involvement in a number of recent projects including the 16th February visit to skate parks in the Bournemouth area and she thanked those who had assisted in making the visit possible. The community Youth Club car boot sale had been successful and had raised the sum of £72. This amount was donated to Parish Council funds.

Kris Hallett referred to her disappointment at the turnout of councillors at the two events. She also referred to negative comments about her work which she believed to be made only by a minority of people. She underlined her intention to bring together the views of local people and to work within the local democratic system.

Cllr Scard thanked Kris Hallett for arranging the skate park visit and her view was that the initiative presented an opportunity to contribute to creation of a safe and happy environment for children in the community. She recognised that the siting of facilities was a big issue and an important one for the village and was something that should therefore be given long and serious thought.

Cllr T. Smith explained that illness at the time of the visit to Bournemouth had prevented three councillors who would otherwise have attended from doing so.

REPORT BY THE RECTOR

The Rector, Jacqui Birdseye, updated the Council on plans for the new church and Woodsford PCC had already pledged to raise £100,000 towards the project. The Bishop of Sherborne was embarking on a 50 mile sponsored walk on 10th May to raise funds for the church and sponsorship forms were distributed.

THE MEETING

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Caroline Round and District Councillor Seall. Cllr Northcote had informed the Chairman that he would be arriving late.

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Brewer declared a personal interest in items 10 and 17 as Group Scout Leader of Crossways Scout Group and declared that he would remain in the room for these items but not vote.

Cllrs D Smith and T Smith declared a personal interest in item 10 and declared that they would remain in the room and vote.

ITEM 3 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION There were no declarations of predetermination.

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 24TH JANUARY 2008

In respect of Item 6 (d) on page 1016 of the minutes it was noted that a copy of the letter referred to from the Standards Board for England would be attached to the main and the library copy of the minutes.

An amendment to Item 6 (d) on page 1016 to the minutes was proposed by Cllr Bache, seconded by Cllr T Smith but, following the use by the Chairman of his casting vote against the amendment, the amendment was lost.

It was proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Stenning that the minutes of the meeting on 24th January 2008 be accepted as a true record and duly signed.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

ITEM 5 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

ITEM 6 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2008 IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF THE B3390/LINK ROAD – THE HIPPIY FIELD It was proposed by Cllr Connor, seconded by Cllr D Smith that the minutes of the meeting on 4th February 2008 be accepted as a true record and duly signed.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

ITEM 7 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

ITEM 8 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- (a) Cllr Smy referred again to events over the weekend of 23rd and 24th February and that he had attended the community Youth Club car boot sale, the coffee morning at the Rectory, the concert at Moreton Church, with the Vice Chairman, and the Fish and Chip lunch for the elder members of the community. Cllr Smy had also attended the skate park visit to the Bournemouth area.
- (b) The Community Capacity Officer had informed Cllr Smy of the award of a grant of £2,000 towards the provision and use of open spaces for young people and this would be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Council.
- (c) Cllr Smy had raised with the District Council the Parish Council's planning objections to the development proposals at 5, Dick o' th' Banks Road.
- (d) Cllr Smy reported that work on the windows to the Sports Pavilion was now completed.
- (e) Cllr Smy stated that he had been notified that John Bowles had been appointed as agent for issues relating to expansion of the medical surgery.
- (f) Cllr Smy referred to an initiative proposed by Cllr Rhodes to form an informal working party aimed at encouraging further use of the library and its extensive facilities. Any councillor wishing to participate was invited to contact Cllr Rhodes and progress would be reported back to the Council from time to time.
- (g) Cllr Smy stated that issues raised in an article in this month's edition of 'Bridge' about the parish notice board would be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.
- (h) It was noted that Cllr Brewer had completed 20 years as editor of the 'Bridge' and Cllr Smy paid tribute to the contribution made by Cllr Brewer over that time.
- (i) Having participated in the research and site visits regarding the skate park and play area proposal, Cllr Smy agreed with the suggestion that time should now be taken to consider and reflect upon the issues and that further discussion of the options should take place in April.
- (j) Cllr Smy reminded the Council that a meeting of the B3390 action group would take place at the Sports Pavilion on 5th March to discuss co-ordination of neighbourhood participation in the project.
- (k) In concluding his chairman's report, Cllr Smy outlined a proposal to start to record ideas for future strategic and forward planning issues for the parish and for the Council and it was his intention to work with the Clerk to create a spreadsheet, forward plan style record of items for future discussion.

ITEM 9 5 DICK O' TH' BANK ROAD – STATEMENT BY DISTRICT CLLR READ

In the light of the statement made by District Cllr Read in the 'Report of District Councillor' section of the meeting as referred to above, Cllr Brewer stated that he would withdraw the motion set out on the agenda for the meeting.

Cllr Smy read out to the Council the full text of the statement issued publicly by Cllr Read. Cllr Smy stated that he felt that it was important that the full statement was publicly given out in this manner.

[At this point Cllr Northcote joined the meeting at 8.03pm]

ITEM 10 : TO AGREE TO ALLOW THE CUBS AND BEAVERS TO USE THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND PAVILLION ON SUNDAY 11th MAY FREE OF CHARGE

The motion was proposed by Cllr Stenning, seconded by Cllr Rhodes. Cllr Scard expressed the view that the playing field was an important source of income for the parish and that not to charge could set an unfortunate precedent. Cllr Smy was of the view that the Council's practice was usually supportive of the cubs and scouts and other youth organisations within the community. Cllr Smith stated that all those who used the facility should be required to pay for the use as a contribution towards its upkeep.

On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

ITEM 11 TO CONSIDER REMEDIAL CLEANING AND PAINTING OF THE BUS SHELTERS AND (2) TO CONSIDER ASKING THE CLERK TO SEEK FUNDING TO REPLACE THE SHELTERS

The Council was informed that the second part of the motion would be deferred.

Cllr Smy referred to the condition of the bus shelters and it was clear that they had fallen into disrepair and required, at the least, a paint and a 'spring clean'. There was the option of engaging contractors to carry out that work. Cllr Bache and Cllr Scard questioned the merits of repairing the shelters as they were in such a poor condition and suggested that consideration should

instead be given to replacement. Cllr Smy reminded the Council that it had no funds available for replacement but it was possible that grant funding sources were available for this type of project. It was proposed by Cllr T Smith, seconded by Cllr Bache that consideration of cleaning and repainting the bus shelters be deferred whilst the possibility of seeking grants for replacement shelters is further investigated. It was important that any new shelters included the ability for users to sit whilst waiting for the bus.

ITEM 12 TO CONSIDER MRS KENDRICK'S LETTER IN THE MATTER OF FLOODING IN COMBE WAY AND TO CONSIDER TAKING FORMAL OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA IN QUESTION

Cllr Smy reminded the Council that these issues of legal ownership and the obligations that came with ownership of land needed to be considered carefully and all councillors were aware of the need to move steadily in deciding a way forward. As an initial stage, the Clerk was investigating formal legal title issues with the Land Registry.

It was proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Northcote that the Council seek to have an informal meeting with Magna and other landowners with a view to seeking a way forward on the legal landownership issues involved and that a further report on options be made to a future meeting of the Council.

ITEM 13 TO FORMALLY ADOPT THE 'DIGNITY AT WORK' POLICY

Cllr Smy explained that the Policy, which had been drawn up by the Society of Local Council Clerks, would provide a framework and policy context for addressing employee and councillor disagreement within the Council. It was proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Connor that the 'Dignity at Work' policy be adopted by the Council.

AGREED

ITEM 14 TO FURTHER CONSIDER THE MATTER OF THE LIGHTS AT THE SPORTS PAVILLION, DICK O' TH' BANKS ROAD (BROUGHT FORWARD ITEM FROM 24th JANUARY 2008)

It was reported that the lights on the pavilion had now been repaired but that it now appeared that when functioning normally the lights remained on all night on a dusk to dawn basis.

It was proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Scard that quotations are sought for the possibility of adapting the lighting system to a sensor or timed activation basis and the matter is reported back to the Council for further discussion.

ITEM 15 TO ACCEPT FROME VALLEY FIRST SCHOOL OFSTED REPORT

The Rector, Jacqui Birdseye, in her capacity as a school governor informed councillors of the recent Ofsted report which had resulted in a 'grade 1 outstanding' award for the school. This was excellent news for the school which had been operating on its current site for only 18 months and was of considerable credit to the headteacher, staff and pupils. The inspectors had noted the support for the school which existed in the community and particularly the pride which the pupils showed for the school. The result was confirmation of the success of the move from Owermoigne to Crossways and there was now the opportunities to develop still further the links between the school and the community.

It was proposed by Cllr D Smith, seconded by Cllr Stenning that a formal letter of congratulation be sent from the Parish Council to the headteacher and chair of governors at the school.

ITEM 16 TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND

This item was deferred

ITEM 17 TO CONSIDER SPONSORING THE LOCAL SCOUT GROUP IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RESITE THE METHODIST CHAPEL BY AGREEING TO COVER THE COST OF ANY PLANNING APPLICATION REQUIRED

Cllr Connor was of the view that sponsorship should be offered as a way, indirectly, of preserving the former chapel as a community building within the parish. There were questions from other councillors about the cost involved.

It was proposed by Cllr T Smith, seconded by Cllr Scard that this matter be deferred to allow the Clerk to ascertain the actual costs of the proposal and to gain more information to assist consideration of this matter by the Council.

ITEM 18 TO HEAR DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED

This item was deferred. Details will be circulated to councillors.

ITEM 19 TO CONSIDER THE PLANNING APPLICATION AT 56 MOUNT SKIPPET WAY

Application plans had been available for inspection prior to the meeting. There were no comments about the application for submission to the District Council.

ITEM 20 TO AGREE EXPENDITURE FOR A DIGITAL RECORDER TO BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR RECORDING MEETINGS

This item was deferred.

ITEM 21 : TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 24th JANUARY to 28th FEBRUARY 2008

It was proposed by Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Stenning that expenditure be agreed as follows :

	Expenditure (£)
Petty Cash top-up	200.00
Viking Direct	59.23
Viking Direct	12.09
Larkin Windows	859.00
Roman Glass	104.76
Nildram Broadband	25.36
Heritage Coast Tree Services	329.00
Cleaners Pavilion	100.00

ITEM 22 : FINANCIAL BUDGET REPORT

This item was deferred.

ITEM 23 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 27th March 2008

ITEM 24 : ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

(a) VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Cllr Smy informed the Council that, because Cllr Northcote was unable to be present at the beginning of the meeting, Cllr Smy had previously agreed to allow Cllr Northcote to speak at this point on a matter arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

In relation to item 13 on page 1018 of the minutes of the meeting of the Council on 24th January 2008, Cllr Northcote reported on progress with the Village Design Statement and described his proposals for taking forward the programme. He also took the opportunity to respond to a number of matters set out in the approved minutes of the January meeting. He replied to some further questions focussing particularly on issues of timescales, finances and consultation and Council involvement in the Design Statement preparation process. Cllr Northcote referred to the Council's adoption, earlier in the meeting of a 'Dignity at Work' policy and this policy made available a framework for dealing with any grievances which a councillor may have about the way in which he may have been treated by the Council.

(b) USE OF PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILLION

Council was informed that a member of the public had donated the fee for the use of the playing field and pavilion by the Cubs and Beavers on 11th May

Signed (Chairman)March 2008