

**MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010**

Present: Cllr Andrew Brewer (Chairman), Cllr Ron Arnold (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Terrie Connor, Cllr Dave Harris, Cllr Joyce Rhodes, Cllr Barry Thomas, Cllr Daphne Bearman, Cllr Kathy Foster and Cllr Valerie Bache

Also Present: District Councillor Teresa Seall

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD** *Under the provision of paragraph 12 (2) of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council May 2007 Cllr Arnold chose to address the meeting during the public participation period giving his views on Item 14a.* Cllr Arnold gave a brief history of the site, the Old Council Depot, the application for a Timber Depot, which was refused, its use as a Goods Vehicle Depot and its present state which is on the market for rental. Cllr Arnold advised that there is no mains sewer and services connected to the site and stated his objections to this application.

No other public participation was requested.

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

PC Dale offered apologies on behalf of PCSO Vickie Hedges and sent the following report.

a. General Police Matters I'm pleased to say that since 1st January we have only had some minor crimes reported which include the theft of a bike and two cases of damage. There have also been a number of break-ins to isolated locations in the Tincton area but I'm pleased to say that there have been a number of arrests made in that connection and it is expected that some detections will result.

b. Parking in Woodsford Road I have also been looking in to the emails forwarded to me regarding the parking situation in Woodsford Road. I have visited the scene a number of times now and found things to be pretty much as shown in the photos. I have spoken with a couple of the car owners involved and also with Terrie Connor to get a feel of things. As I have explained to them, I feel that this is something that needs to be looked at in a considered manner. The last thing I would want is for this to become some divisive neighbourhood issue and I feel certain that things can be sorted through the correct channels. The points made in Terrie's email are all valid, but it must be borne in mind that there are at present no markings or restrictions in place for that stretch of road, and as such vehicles are free to park anywhere there in accordance with Road Traffic legislation. The road is narrow when cars are parked up, but I think emergency vehicles would be able to pass if needed. There are also certainly restricted views when vehicles are parked along the roadside, but this is not a problem unique to Woodsford Road and, for the moment at least, can be overcome with caution pending any action taken by other agencies.

I do not want to make it seem as though I am palming this problem off. Indeed, the last thing I would want is for anyone to be injured as a result of the vehicles parking in this stretch. There is, however, little I can do at this stage in the way of enforcement. I have spoken with people in the hope of raising an awareness and do feel that if possible the Council should look at this matter in view of the number of concerns expressed by residents in the area. I would be happy to discuss this situation further with any interested party.

**REPORT BY KRIS HALLETT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER** Apologies were received from Kris Hallett

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

**REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** Apologies were received from Cllr Read. A copy of District Councillor Seall's report is attached.

**THE MEETING**

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** The Chairman reminded Councillors that apologies for absence must be given to the Clerk with the reason for absence made clear. Councillors are to note that when they accept apologies they are accepting the reason for the apology not just the apology itself. Strict observance of the way apologies are accepted is to be brought into action with effect from the next Parish Council meeting.

Apologies for this evening were received from Cllr Connor and Cllr Stenning.

**ACCEPTED**

**ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Arnold declared a personal prejudicial interest in Item 14a and declared 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 – 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010** Cllr Arnold requested the following amendments made:

a. Page 1102 Item 10 Line 5 and 6

Delete: Cllr Arnold advised that the Allotment Rent should not be a cost to the ratepayer

Insert: Cllr Arnold reminded Councillors that the Allotment Rent should not be a cost to the ratepayer.

b. Page 1102 Item 12 Line 4 and 5

Delete: Cllr Arnold suggested suggesting writing to DCC to express dissatisfaction that all traffic was not obeying this agreement.

Insert: Cllr Arnold suggesting writing to DCC to express dissatisfaction that the planning requirements have not been enforced.

Subject to manuscript amendments being made the minutes were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Arnold, seconded by Cllr Harris **AGREED**

**ITEM 5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** Item 7 – Information Board ongoing Cllr Arnold and Cllr Thomas. Item 18 Parking complaint Woodsford Road – the Clerk advised that a response has been received; see PC Dale's report. The Clerk was instructed for forward this e mail to Mr Griffiths.

**ITEM 6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Since the last Council meeting I have held a variety of meetings on a range of topics and I am pleased to report progress on some of the issues we have previously discussed.

The outcome of an enquiry into a further complaint made against me has now been published on West Dorset District Council's website. The Standards Committee are due to discuss this report on 3 March and will have the opportunity to accept the findings that no breach of the code of conduct has taken place. It is disappointing that a further lengthy and costly investigation has taken place and I sincerely hope that this will now be an end to the matter. As a consequence I am still keen to ensure that everything that we do as Councillors is scrupulously correct. I am grateful once again to the clerk for helping me ensure that we do the best that we can. I attended the DAPTC seminar last evening and it was interesting to see how Crossways council and its proper officer have such a command of the relevant procedures and underlying legislation. Whilst unfortunately this knowledge is as a result of bitter experience it is now an asset at our disposal so thank you Stella.

The seminar also brought us up to speed on the pathfinder scheme being pursued by our District colleagues in combining services and enjoying economies of scale by merging departments with other councils. We were advised that Purbeck have decided to plough their own furrow leaving West Dorset and Weymouth in the scheme which becomes a partnership rather than a cluster. No doubt more will be heard in due course.

I was able to attend a meeting at West Dorset with the Vice Chairman to look at allocation of Section 137 funds to the Crossways Young People's Forum. The process was very smooth and efficient and Crossways was congratulated on the scheme and the way it had been thoroughly prepared. As a result £8,000 will be added to the funds with a further £2,000 being granted through the Car Boot Sale fund. Once again, our grateful thanks to Christine Stone and West Dorset and Collette McKenny from the subcommittee for all you have done.

The skatebowl and MUGA are now a stage nearer with all planning conditions being addressed and Maverick being advised. The MUGA has been ordered from the manufacturer and the skate bowl is now in the final stages of the detailed planning process and specifications. Amendments were requested and accepted to the landscaping element of the project and there may be a need to look at further sources of funding for the planting requirements. It has been suggested that we should now update our major funding under the playbuilder scheme who has granted £50,000. We may be tight on the 31 March deadline and it would be as well to flag this up now rather than wait until the eleventh hour.

Brian Evans-Johnson from Dorset Community Action is now alerted that his role as project co-ordinator representing us is about to begin. We are hoping there will be a chance to gain publicity when the project is started and that the building work will cause the minimum of inconvenience to local residents and will progress quickly and efficiently.

At previous meetings I have advised that there will be a need for the steering committee to evolve into a Management Committee with its own structure. I would ask Councillors to give this matter some consideration. We may wish to incorporate the playing field and pavilion into such a body so that everything is co-ordinated. I would wish to notify council however that whilst, as Chairman I would expect to sit as an ex officio member of such a group I feel that this will be an opportunity for another person to chair and would not seek to undertake this office when a change is made. May I ask that this is put forward for our consideration and that a constitution is drawn up in order that we may formally ratify this step.

I held an impromptu meeting with Kris Hallett who is naturally delighted with so much positive news and apologised for not being with us this evening. The young people are planning a special event for Bank Holiday Monday on 3 May and have secured £1,000 in funding for attractions such as a climbing wall. It is to be hoped that many in our village will become involved with this celebratory event. Kris is looking to hold a steering meeting shortly and appeal for further volunteers.

I was pleased to hear from PCSO Vickie Hedges who is now progressing from 'light duties' to being back as a presence in the community. Charlie Dale has also been in touch and reports that there have been no major crime incidents since January. He has looked into the car parking problem in Woodsford Road. The response is perhaps more cautious than we would have liked in view of our safety concerns. I think it is right that we try to address these issues drawing on community support and co-operation. I am still unsure if this is a problem that we can address on our own but I can see the merits in not antagonising people if they are not breaking the law or the highway code.

March sees the departure of our village librarian and it is right and proper to use this forum to publicly record this council's thanks and admiration of all the work that Chris has done in over 25 years with Crossways Library. We all know that in this life there are people who do the job for which they are paid and are good at it, there are those who don't deserve what they earn because they let others do all the work. Then there are those who bring added value and go that extra bit further because it makes a difference. When we were facing the closure of the library it was in a large part down to what Chris had achieved that we were able to mount a large and effective campaign. I have to say however that I do feel that she has not been treated well and the reduction of hours, loss of an assistant and the introduction of new systems and schemes has not been helpful. We are going to miss Chris in the library and I am looking forward to paying tribute to her at her farewell party next week. Regrettably, Local Government legislation prevents us from making a corporate contribution but I am placing a container on the table in the old tradition of this council to invite anyone who would wish to donate to do so. Jill Fox is co-ordinating the reception and presentation and I am honoured to accept the kind invitation. The future of the Library is a matter we shall continue to watch carefully with the friend's scheme hopefully enabling some of our lost hours to be recovered.

I have held a meeting with John Loosemore of Betterment Properties and will report more fully later on in the Agenda. The development is nearing completion with houses being built and sold. However the company is having problems in selling the bigger units of 4-5 bedrooms and there is a demand for 2-3 bedroom houses. The Parish and District Councils may continue to receive applications for further modifications. There is an issue with affordable housing being included within any changes. We have yet to meet with Broadway Malyan concerning their identification of further land for housing.

Finally, I have met with the Dog wardens from West Dorset and Major General Bond and his agent concerning the issue of dog fouling around the village. The District has agreed to assist with a concerted effort to crack down on this anti social behaviour on the part of the owners. It was interesting to see that as we were meeting on the car park of the hall one such owner allowed his dog to foul on the roadside and walked on. He was given a verbal warning on his return. We have also attempted to secure the installation of a further bin on the car park here. It cannot be designated as a dog poo bin but will be emptied as part of the normal refuse collection. Any faeces must be properly bagged and placed in the bin but this will be a welcome help although until some owners are fined I do not think the message will get out but it would be good if word was put out on the street about what is in the wind. Our thanks to General Bond for readily agreeing that the scheme can be applied to the private Moigne Combe road and Village Hall area. It was excellent to note that the ladies from West Dorset have placed notices around the first school on the track which is frequented by a lot of walkers and that the bin in Arabia walk was marked appropriately.

**ITEM 7 TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT THE FOLLOWING TRAININGS/SEMINARS:**

- a. FINANCE – MILBORNE ST ANDREW THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2PM - £15.00 - CLLR ARNOLD
- b. PLANNING – STRATTON VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 10AM-4PM - £30.00 –  
CLLR HARRIS

**ITEM 8 REPORT TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING – CLLR BEARMAN** Cllr Bearman reported that she attended the consultation and was aware that there was already a voluntary car scheme called Dorset Cars. Dorset Cars is run by a couple in Owermoigne. Their details are in the Bridge. Cllr Bearman reported that this new scheme called Community Transport is going to be run on similar lines with the addition of taking young people to public houses and passengers to airports. Community Transport charges would be 40p per mile (Dorset Cars charge 25p per mile) Dorset Cars are subsidised by DCC. This forum was put on to recruit drivers and anyone willing to undertake the co-ordination. No resident of Crossways was present. Cllr Bearman advised that she has been told that this scheme will run concurrently with Dorset Cars.

**ITEM 9 TO RECEIVE REPORT/UPDATE SPORTS FIELD WORKING PARTY – CLLR ARNOLD** A copy of Cllr Arnold's report was copied to Councillors and is attached to these minutes. Cllr Arnold advised that volunteers are needed to clean the manholes. Cllr Arnold is waiting for costings prior to seeking funding.

**ACTION: WORKING PARTY**

**ITEM 10 TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMME/AGENDA (IN ADDITION TO STATUTORY ITEMS) FOR PARISH MEETING 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL. TO AGREE ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE** The Council agreed that further advertising was needed and suggested the Echo (as an article) and postings in Bus Shelters and Shops. The Clerk was requested to write to Village Organisations to give reports. It was noted that to date no requests had been received for

Section 137 grants. Cllr Thomas said he felt that the residents would like to hear an annual report by the Chairman. Cllr Arnold said that residents had questions they wish to ask.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**ITEM 11 TO CONSIDER MEMORIAL BENCH IN MEMORY OF EX CLLR GEORGE HOOD – CLLR BREWER**  
Cllr Brewer showed various types of bench materials. This item was deferred to allow further details of bench prices and materials.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**ITEM 12 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER DETAILS OF OPEN SPACE AREA PROVIDED BY SECTION 106 AGREEMENT WOODSFORD FIELDS** Cllr Brewer showed a Power Point presentation showing the area of the Woodsford Fields development. Councillors discussed various options. Cllr Arnold suggested landscaping to negate football being played and an area of 'meadow' land. Cllr Harris suggested rolling landscape. It was agreed that residents of Brewer Walk, School Drive and Blackwell Walk could be consulted. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with John Loosemore of Betterment Properties and prior to that Councillors would visit the site as they wished individually or in groups.

**ACTION: CLERK/COUNCILLORS**

**ITEM 13 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE WOODSFORD QUARRY LIAISON COMMITTEE DATED 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010** The minutes were received and noted. Cllr Brewer noted that Cllr Read's request for top soil for the football pitch had now been superseded by the professional report on the field. Cllr Arnold spoke of two challenges; one to a planning condition, the mounds higher than agreed; these will be reduced and the problem caused by water and material running into the river; this will be addressed.

**ITEM 14 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Cllr Arnold left the room.*

**a. 1/D/10/000128 OLD COUNCIL DEPOT REDBRIDGE LANE – ERECT 4 DWELLINGS, GARAGES AND ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROAD**

The Parish Council voted to object to this application expressing the following concerns:

- i. The Council feels this development represents a modification to the Structure Plan pertaining to Crossways.
- ii. Increased traffic on Redbridge Lane.
- iii. Concerns about setting a precedent for development of this type in this area.
- iv. Concerns about the lack of mains sewerage and services

Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Foster

UNANIMOUS/AGREED

*Cllr Arnold returned*

**b. TO NOTE APPEAL IN THE MATTER OF LAND TO THE REAR OF 40 DICK O'TH' BANKS AND CONSIDER ANY FURTHER COMMENTS** Noted no further comments.

**ITEM 15 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010 – 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010** The following items of expenditure and income:

	Expenditure £	Income £
Salary Clerk		
Inland Revenue (PAYE)	274.25	
Petty Cash Top Up	177.21	
Owermoigne Football Club		79.50
Nildram Broadband	19.93	
Wessex Water	125.59	
Allotment Society	50.00	

Proposed: Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Rhodes

AGREED

**ITEM 16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010** Noted

**ITEM 17 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION – CLLRS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE CHAIRMAN OF ANY LATE ITEMS THEY WISH TO BRING FORWARD PRIOR TO THE MEETING** Cllr Arnold advised that he had received a phone call regarding the pathway running adjacent to the Link Rd between Airfield Close and Moynton Close stating that it was damaged. The Clerk was requested to research ownership and report this damage. Secondly Cllr Arnold suggested the Council form 'walking parties' to walk the ROWs (Rights of Way) in the Parish. Cllr Arnold was requested to bring this matter forward to the spring/summer months.

**ACTION: CLERK**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50

Signed ..... (Chairman) ..... 2010

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED