

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 2009

Present: Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Brewer (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dave Harris, Cllr Barry Thomas, Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Abi Scard, Cllr Dave Smith, Cllr Thelma Smith, Cllr Ron Arnold and Cllr Terrie Connor

Also present: District Councillor P Read

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS There were no public information announcements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

a. PRESS REPORT IN THE MATTER OF EX CHAIRMAN DANIEL SMY Members of the public and some Councillors were concerned about the press report given to the Dorset Evening Echo in the matter of ex Chairman Daniel Smy. Cllr Rhodes read the following put forward by Cllr Arnold for consideration. NB: this was originally to be brought in under any late urgent items but due to the public also expressing concerns it was agreed to read this statement during public participation.

Cllr Arnold asked that the Council consider the following: “That the Chair and Vice Chair (Finance) make it quite clear when speaking with the Press or others that their views are their own personal views and not necessarily the views held by other Councillors, unless of course they have obtained prior approval and permission from those Councillors before publication. To send the contents of a press release to Councillors after the publication date is not sufficient and may seem to smack of duplicity. This is not the first instance of the Chair and/or Vice Chair making unilateral statements to the Press. I do not recognise the description of Daniel Smy from the press release.”

After much discussion it was agreed that this article did not represent the views of all Councillors and in future if press statements are released it must be stated that they do not represent the views of the Council as a whole. Any Councillor making a statement to the press must ensure that it is attributed by name.

Cllr Rhodes apologised for the press statement. A member of the public asked for a vote of no confidence in the Chair and Vice Chair. The Clerk advised that this was not permissible and read the relevant section of the Parish Council standing orders. Cllr Read stated that this was allowed quoting procedure at WDDC. Standing Orders were upheld.

b. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS/EX CLLR DANIEL SMY Mr Chitson asked how parishioners can be assured that members of the Parish Council were not aware of Daniel Smy’s alleged fraud and theft when he was a member of the Parish Council and questioned the integrity of the accounts. The Clerk informed Mr Chitson that as the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council she could assure him the accounts are in order and have been subject to two external audits since May 07; the date Daniel Smy joined the Council. Mr Chitson continued to question the accounts; Cllr Brewer offered his assurances. Cllr Read advised the Clerk that had she looked on the Portman web site in 2006 she would have seen references to Mr Smy and his reasons for leaving his job; Cllr Read suggested that the Clerk was remiss in not doing this and therefore not advising caution to the Council. Cllr Thomas questioned Cllr Read as to why he proposed Daniel Smy for Parish Councillor when he was aware of his reasons for leaving the Portman. Cllr Read replied that he was not aware of Daniel’s problems when he nominated him.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER Community Police Officers not present.

REPORT BY KRIS HALLETT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER No separate report given (see Item 12).

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR No separate report given (See Item 10)

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Apologies were received from Cllr Seall. Cllr Read did not give a report.

THE MEETING

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Stenning.

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

ITEM 4 CORRESPONDENCE – TO RECEIVE AND NOTE LETTER OF THANKS FROM LIFE EDUCATION WESSEX Noted

ITEM 5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 26TH MARCH 2009 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

ITEM 6 MATTERS ARISING

a.. Cllr Arnold requested that the following be minuted “Cllr Brewer stated that the agreement between

CPC and the ASC had been passed to WDDC Legal Department who had no concerns.

b. Councillor Thelma Smith asked about planning gains in view of proposed further development in Crossways. Cllr Read offered to speak. Standing Orders were suspended.

Cllr Read, speaking of a meeting he had with agents for Woodsford Farms, said there would be further development on the Woodsford Fields site about 300 houses and planning gains would give Crossways a 2 court sports hall from Sect 106 money of approximately £450,000 plus Lottery Funding. This facility could be given to Crossways by WDDC with no cost to Crossways. Cllr Read said plans for this development would be out in November 2009.

Meeting resumed.

ITEM 7 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8th APRIL 2009 Cllr Arnold requested an addition to the minutes stating "Cllr Arnold expressed in answer to a public question that he had had concerns that were now addressed".

ITEM 8 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

ITEM 9 REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY SPORTS FIELD DRAINAGE – CLLR ARNOLD

The Working Party has been set up and consists of representatives from Crossways and Owermoigne FCs, CPC & the public. Pitch inspections have taken place and the problems discussed at length. WDDC were approached to assist with advice, funding and assistance with a professional consultant to carry out the sports field survey. This will tell us what is in the ground and more importantly where it is along with details of the water table. This will provide us with basic information, in order to establish a permanent solution to the problem. WDDC are considering if they can fund this survey. There is no money available from the parish for this drainage work at this time. The working group have listed sources of funding and will make the applications. When funding is secure, we will seek tenders based on the consultant's report. WDDC in consultation with Dorset Football Association are to provide advice and guidance. The working group will of course seek approval of the full parish council at the appropriate time. We are now arranging the next meeting.

ITEM 10 TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID CROWHURST

Cllr Crowhurst's report was accepted. Cllr Crowhurst's report is attached at Annex A to these minutes.

ITEM 11 TO AGREE A DONATION TO THE FROME VALLEY SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB UNDER SECTION 137 LGA 1972

Cllr Scard requested a donation between £150-£200. Concern was expressed about the small numbers of children using the breakfast club. Cllr Harris suggested that this donation should not be used to pay staff. It was suggested that the donation be used to buy equipment. Cllr Arnold proposed a grant of £50 with further consideration given at a later date, seconded by Cllr Connor, a vote was taken 8 in favour 1 against, 1 abstention.

AGREED

ITEM 12 TO REPORT OF THE MUGA/SKATEBOWL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20th APRIL 2009 TO INCLUDE REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY APRIL 8TH

The report on the public consultation written by Kris Hallett was noted.

ITEM 13 TO CONSIDER APPLICATION IN MATTER OF TREE PROTECTION ORDER TO SHORTEN TWO BRANCHES ADJACENT TO CHESTNUT TREE BARN, HEATHFIELD PARK, CROSSWAYS

Councillors were given a copy of Cllr Arnold's recommendation which stated:

This is a listed tree with a tree preservation order. The tree is not owned by the applicant but overhangs his garden.

Previous cutbacks have been made. This is an application to cut back more. The reasons for cutting back a TPO's tree can be allowed only if the tree

- a. is diseased, and this one is not.
- b. is causing damage to property a building i.e. subsidence, damage to drives or drains
- c. other structural damage i.e. walls & sewers,

The above causes need to be supported by an engineer or surveyor's report and an arboriculturalist's report, giving technical evidence and possible solutions – all as set out on the form.. AS I SEE IT, WE

CANNOT POSSIBLY AGREE TO THIS APPLICATION. None of the above criteria are met, none of the conditions are met. The tree is not the problem; it's the pigeons that are the problem. The only damage appears to be a patio table and parasol. If you cut these branches off, the pigeons will move to another branch, as

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presumably they have done since the last cutting back. I suggest that you look for another solution. There are many devices on the market to prevent pigeons roosting. If the tree were not protected by a TPO, there would not be a problem, but the law says certain conditions must be applied and they have not been complied with.

Cllr Arnolds proposal was seconded by Cllr Brewer that the Parish Council objects to this application.

AGREED

ITEM 14 TO AGREE TO ALLOW THE CROSSWAYS CHURCH SEPTEMBER FETE COMMITTEE TO USE THE PARKING AREA OF THE SPORTS FIELD, DICK O' TH' BANKS ROAD AND WEATHER PERMITTING TO ALLOW THAT PARKING AREA TO INCLUDE PART OF THE GRASSED AREA OF THE FIELD.

Cllr Brewer proposed agreement, Cllr Arnold seconded

AGREED

ITEM 15 TO CONSIDER QUOTATION IN THE MATTER OF STREET LIGHTS MOIGNE COMBE TO VILLAGE HALL This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

ITEM 16 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a. 1/D/09//000409 ERECT DWELLING 46 DICK O' TH' BANKS The Council agreed to object to this development on the ground of overdevelopment and previously expressed concerns regarding access for emergency vehicles.

b. 1/D/09/000365 VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF PP 1/E/06/000700 TO ALLOW SUBMISSION OF RESERVED MATTER APPLICATIONS NOT LATER THAN 5 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF PERMISSION – LAND ON THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF THE JUNCTION OF WEST LINK ROAD AND WARMWELL ROAD, WARMWELL ROAD, CROSSWAYS The Council recommend approval subject to a condition of immediate restoration of the site to its previous condition.

Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Smith

AGREED

ITEM 17 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 26th MARCH 2009 – 23RD APRIL 2009

	Income	Expenditure
	£	£
Wessex Water		104.99
Grant Bus shelter	1000.00	
Shrub and Maintenance Contract		500.00
Nildram Broadband		17.96
Gratuity Clerk (Transfer)		435.17
Rates Pavilion		33.73
Crossways Football Club	150.00	
S Manuel Grass Cutting		487.00
Salary Clerk		755.65
Southern Electric		92.61
DAPTC Membership		604.14
Inland Revenue PAYE		247.25

AGREED

ITEM 18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (MAY 28th - THIS WILL BE THE ANNUAL MEETING) Agreed

ITEM 19 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION None requested.

There being no other business the meeting close at 10.40pm

Signed Chair 2009