

**MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009**

Present: Cllr Andrew Brewer (Chairman), Cllr Ron Arnold (Vice Chairman) Cllr Terrie Connor , Cllr Elaine Stenning, Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Dave Smith, Cllr Thelma Smith, Cllr Barry Thomas and Cllr Dave Harris,

Also Present: Cllr David Crowhurst (DCC and eight members of the public.

Cllr Brewer welcomed all present to the meeting.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

- a. Cllr Connor advised that building works have re-started on the Woodsford Fields Estate bringing with it the dry dust problems. It was agreed to ask Betterment to take steps to alleviate this problem where it could.
- b. A member of the public asked when the swings would be replaced in Pauls Way play area. The meeting was advised that the swings were removed as declared unsafe during a ROSPA inspection. They will be replaced as soon as possible.

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER** PC Charlie Dale said he has been looking into reports of anti-social behaviour in the area of the Youth Centre and Library and said that the Police have not witnessed these events. PC Dale asked those members of the public ring the Police as soon as these incidences of anti-social behaviour are seen. PC Dale advised that CPSO Vickie Hedges has resumed light duties but unfortunately due to her incapacity the PACT Surgeries did not take place. In conclusion PC Dale warned members and the public present of thefts from cars at beauty spots and advised caution when visiting these areas.

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

**REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR** County Councillor David Crowhurst sent his apologies. Cllr Brewer, on behalf of the Council congratulated Cllr Crowhurst on his re-election.

**REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** Members were advised that Cllr Peter Read had been taken ill. On behalf of the Council Cllr Brewer recorded their best wishes for a speedy recovery. Apologies were received from Cllr Teresa Seall.

**THE MEETING**

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies were received from Cllr Abi Scard.

**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** The Clerk advised that a letter of thanks had been received from the Frome Valley School Breakfast Club thanking the Council for the donation of £50 towards equipment.

**ITEM 5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 28<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009** The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed. Proposed Cllr D Smith, seconded Cllr Arnold.

**ITEM 6 MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Item 23 – Councillor Arnold advised the meeting that he had not yet met with the Clerk and Chair to discuss undertaking the role of Councillor with responsibility for Finance.

ACTION: CLERK/CLLR ARNOLD

- b. Cllr Harris questioned whether the street lights would be done. The Clerk advised that the Contractor had been requested to undertake as soon as possible.

**ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** Cllr Brewer gave his report as follows:

May I firstly thank all those who have given me feedback during the past month on my election as Chairman and the meeting we held. In particular the messages and comments of support from my fellow Councillors which have meant a great deal to me in this new role. I know that it has taken a lot for some of you to say these things bearing in mind past history. However, I am confident that our community wants it to be just that – past history and that a line is now being firmly drawn. In this I cannot claim the

credit as it has been down to all the Councillors and those who work with us to take steps to address the issues which have beset us for the last two years.

Can I also please say for the record that if you have comments or criticisms on any aspect of our meetings please speak to either me, Cllr Arnold or the Clerk. We will never agree on everything but that is the nature of a democracy but I am keen to continue with the pledge I gave the public upon my election. This is a learning process for us all and I am looking forward to building on the optimistic spirit shown already. With your agreement last month we are to undertake the most comprehensive and thorough review of our Standing Orders. This is the legal document which dictates how we operate and has been a source of contention. With the help of the Vice-Chairman and Clerk we shall ensure that we obtain all the most up-to-date advice to ensure that Standing Orders are 'fit for purpose'. This will not be a quick process and will need us to seek advice from the DAPTC and West Dorset legal services as well as the NALC who produce model documents and are, I believe, in the process of publishing a new template. Most crucially, all Councillors will have the opportunity of meeting, discussing and considering all aspects of our work. When this process is complete and we have a revised document we shall need to adopt the new procedures. My aim would be, realistically for our annual meeting in 2010 to have the task completed. I would ask Councillors to agree that we agree a realistic timetable and process prior to our September meeting with an initial meeting of interested Councillors to take place earlier that month. My suggestion is that we take a similar approach with regards to the adoption of byelaws but we have already received advice on the ease of adopting model byelaws and the complications of a more bespoke version.

As a Council we are keenly monitoring the feedback being made on the proposals for the MUGA/Skateboard park. I would urge all interested parties to use the opportunity to have your say. It is also important that as a Council we take note of concerns and comments and act upon them wherever possible and in this respect I am delighted to note the contributions being made with suggestions for planting and future facilities. It was also a pleasure to visit the Dorchester skate bowl this evening with Inspector Les Fry and to see for myself and ask questions of the many young people using the bowl as well as the impact it has had on the local area. I would suggest that it is well worth the opportunity of a visit especially the lack of noise from users of the special surface created by Maverick our preferred contractors. It was interesting to hear how the police have helped the community in addressing litter as an issue and I was impressed at how tidy it was this evening. The Young people have also received a grant of £5,000 from West Dorset car boot fund and £100 from the Scout Group. The committee meeting will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Thanks goes to Councillors Bache, Scard, and T Smith who volunteered to undertake a tidy up of the memorial park area and to Councillor Rhodes for her tour of the village and work with Cllr Scard regarding the notice board. I hope Councillors will also agree that we should use Cllr Rhodes experience and knowledge when looking at the issues of our Library and the new opening hours and use of volunteers as we have received an interesting document which gives us background of the problems being experienced at other outlets.

Once again our bus shelter in Mount Skippet Way has been the target of a mindless attack which may lead to an insurance claim but also impact on our spending. Please ask everyone to be vigilant whenever they see damage to public property to report. I am pleased to say I saw Vickie Hedges yesterday who sends her best wishes and is nearly recovered from her nasty accident and looking forward to getting back in amongst us.

We have also been looking at the problems of the entrance sign to the village and the local fans of anagrams and word games who have repeatedly changed the welcome to 'please die carefully, rough village' Thank you to Councillors for your input and Cllr. Arnold for an appraisal. We are being asked to consider requesting the removal of existing and replacement with a simple 'Crossways' sign – can anyone think of a trap with regard to defacement – after all Moreton got changed to Moron recently !

Cllr Brewer concluded by reminding all Councillors to review their Registers of Interest and ensure they are up to date.

**ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER APPLICATION IN MATTER OF TREE PROTECTION ORDER TP/09/00152 TO FELL ONE SCOTS PINE AND TWO BEECH TREES CROSSWAYS GARAGE WARMWELL ROAD** Cllr Arnold stated the reasons given for felling were not valid. Cllr Harris suggested trimming. Cllr Rhodes suggested if the trees are felled replacement trees should be planted. Cllr Arnold proposed no comment; seconded Cllr Smith

AGREED

**ITEM 9 TO CONSIDER REQUEST BY OWERMOIGNE FOOTBALL CLUB TO HOLD A FUND RAISING EVENT FREE OF CHARGE – DATE TBC** Councillors requested further information.

REFERRED

**ITEM 10 REPORT/UPDATE SPORTS FIELD WORKING PARTY – CLLR ARNOLD** Cllr Arnold advised that he has a file of letters, documents and advice. The working party is at present seeking funding for a survey of the field and required a copy of any by-laws, a sample booking form and a scale of charges. Funding from COMMA Landfill Trust is being sought. Cllr Brewer suggested Cllr Arnold talks with Christine Stone as WDDC to assist with funding matters.

**ITEM 11 TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER ROSPA PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORTS** The Council noted the reports. Immediate action was to top up the bark surface.

AGREED: ACTION CLERK

**ITEM 12 TO CONSIDER COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT COUNCILLOR UPDATE SEMINAR ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 7PM** Councillors Arnold, Thomas, D Smith, T Smith and J Rhodes agreed to attend the seminar.

*POST MEETING NOTE: CLLR D SMITH, CLLR T SMITH AND CLLR RHODES DID NOT ATTEND*

**ITEM 13 CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MUGA/SKATEBOWL COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 6.30PM IN THE SPORTS PAVILION**

AGREED

**ITEM 14 CONSIDER DONATION REQUEST FROM CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE** The Clerk reminded members of the Sect 137 procedure. It was noted that applications requests have been put in the Parish Council Bridge report on two consecutive months. These requests will be dealt with prior to the November’s budget/precept setting process. Cllr Thomas proposed refusal of this application, Cllr Connor seconded this proposal.

AGREED

**ITEM 15 TO RECEIVE, APPROVE SIGNING OF THE END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS STATEMENTS 08/09 SECTIONS 1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, SECTION 2 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS RETURN AND TO NOTE AND ACCEPT THE INTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT, SECTION 4 AND RECEIVE, APPROVE SIGNING OF THE STATUTORY STATEMENTS (PAGE 1 – 3) COPY END OF YEAR STATEMENTS AS SENT 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE AND MEMO/STATEMENTS/EXPLANATORY LETTER ATTACHED** Cllr Brewer agreed to present the accounts as they pertained to his year as Vice Chairman. It was noted that Cllr Arnold would present the year 2020/2011. Cllr Brewer asked if any Councillor had any questions on the accounts. No questions were asked. Cllr Brewer read Section 2 of the Governance Statement and Councillors agreed these statements. Cllr Brewer proposed approval of the accounts, Cllr Harris seconded

AGREED

**ITEM 16 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 28<sup>th</sup> MAY 09 – 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 09** The following expenditure for the previous month was approved as below:

	£
DAPTC Training Partnership	30.00
Nildram Broadband	16.55
FleetLine (White Lining)	87.41
S Manual Grass Cutting	850.00
Viking Direct Stationery	91.67
Fireline Appliance Inspection	39.50
Cutler & Sons (Bus Shelter) Mount Skippet Way	304.75
British Gas	154.27
PlaySafety Ltd	217.35
Litter Collector	343.80
Salary Clerk (June)	755.45
Inland Revenue	174.45 (£100 rebate received for filing online)
Cleaners Pavilion	40.00

Proposed Cllr Harris, Seconded Cllr Arnold

**ITEM 17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009**

**ITEM 18 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION** No late items were requested.

Signed ..... (Chairman) ..... 2009