

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 28th OCTOBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Andrew Brewer (Chairman), Cllr Dave Harris (Chairman Sports Field Management Committee), Cllr Kathy Foster, Cllr Elaine Stenning (Vice Chairman (Finance)), Cllr Barry Thomas, Cllr Ron Arnold and Cllr Terrie Connor (Vice Chairman) (Part – see Page 1132)

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS There were no public information announcements

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD (NOT EXCEEDING 30 MINUTES) None requested

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER Police not present.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR Apologies were received from Cllr Crowhurst.

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Apologies were received from Cllr Teresa Seall

THE MEETING

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Bache, who had to attend at WI Meeting. Cllr Ted Rowley, who is unwell, and Cllr Daphne Bearman, who is unwell.

These apologies were accepted

AGREED

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

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

ITEM 4 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 30th SEPTEMBER The Minutes of the previous meeting (30th September 2010) were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Foster AGREED

ITEM 5 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

SUSPEND – CPSO Vickie Hedges entered the hall; the meeting was suspended to hear her report.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER – CPSO Hedges advised that during a speed watch exercise a suspicious vehicle was noticed and its occupants apprehended on a separate issue. Vickie reminded those present of the importance of being vigilant and reporting any suspicious vehicle to her or PC Charlie Dale. Details can be texted to the numbers on the notice boards. Vickie also informed the meeting that arrests had been made in the matter of burglaries in Crossways and Broadmayne.

MEETING RECONVENED

ITEM 6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There is a balance of good news and not so good news in my report to Council as well as questions to pose for our future direction. On a national level, the role and powers of Parish Councils is a topic for discussion and the abolition of many Quangos means we shall no doubt see a large number of initiatives, papers, consultation documents and meetings. As with the Standards Board, although this body will cease, its functions will have to be devolved somewhere. The Government is very keen on promoting the 'big society' and we anticipate a bill on localism which is designed to give local people a greater say in decisions which affect their communities.

For Crossways, this means that any future development plans should require a more involved role for this Council. Rather than being a consultee or a body whose opinion is noted we may be sat at the decision table. This sounds a great idea but as with all 'rights' it comes with 'responsibilities'. The reason I mention all of this to you are the approaches we have been receiving from parties interested in promoting large and medium scale development in Crossways. As Chairman, I am acutely aware of my limitations in dealing with these negotiations and the delicate balance that needs to be preserved. On the one hand we must be professional and listen to the proposals made but ensure that this does not convey support or backing at this stage. We also need to correctly reflect the aspirations and concerns of our electorate as a whole. With this in mind, I met with Hilary Jordan, Planning officer at WDDC. Together with Councillor Connor we spoke about the current uncertain situation regarding planning strategies and also how Crossways may feature in housing provision in the coming years.

In short, matters are in a state of flux for the reasons I have outlined. However WDDC are receiving representations for agents looking to explore development possibilities in the village. At present there is no urgency in any of these matters and we should look for further Government direction in due course. There is undoubtedly going to be a need for housing with Dorchester and Charlton Downs reaching their natural limits with further expansion being impractical or too controversial. It is important Crossways is well placed to assess its stance towards future growth and with it improvements to infrastructure.

Part of the new statutory framework will be the concept of a neighbourhood plan which will have legal validity and carry weight. Crossways is a strong candidate to pilot this new concept which will be driven and led by the Council with community impact. More details will follow but all of this will now take place after the next elections to the Council in May 2011. It will be a first priority of the Council after this date to look at and undertake this exercise.

In dealing with developers and agents in their requests for meetings my policy has been to assess the purpose and agenda. In some cases, where larger developments are proposed I am conscious that, as a layman, I do not have the technical expertise to appraise proposals. Whilst the companies making these presentations have always been most helpful their prime directive of obtaining maximum return for their client may not sit comfortably by what is best for our village. Hilary has kindly said that if we feel the need for a qualified officer to be with us at any consultations this is available and I think that is a vitally important facility which we may need to use.

The crucial question that all this poses and needs to be addressed is whether Crossways remains a large rural community or develops into a small country town. Do we wish to see a doubling of the population in the next 20 years as we have seen in the last ? If we do not, are we prepared to accept the facilities we have and that there will not be much scope for additional ? Do we look to smaller scale infill of sites in and around the area ?

We might consider the financial incentives through 106 agreements but also have to bear in mind that population increase will need more financing of the school which will need to expand, the health centre, our roads, refuse, public open spaces. As I say matters for the future but I wished to put before you as soon as possible.

Since we last met, there has been some incidents of concern around the village including some graffiti on the new MUGA/Skate bowl area. With Kris Hallett and Vickie Hedges we are trying to explain that the specialist surface of the concrete could be damaged through this activity. There is a definite artistic form of graffiti and that which is just plain scruffy or offensive. We continue to work on establishing a strategy to deal with this.

In late business this evening I shall be seeking your approval to write to Betterment Properties regarding the public open space area between Brewer and Blackwell Walk. It is my intention to formally advise the developers that this Council will not accept ownership of the land as it is presently landscaped. In addition we are told that the gateway to the play area has had to be moved from our original scheme because of health & Safety. I wish to see clear evidence of this and if the re-siting has been because it would have inconvenienced them or some additional small scale work was required then we shall expect this to be done. Our refusal to accept the land into our care means that Betterment remain responsible for its upkeep and maintenance and liable for any problems under their Public Liability Insurance and not ours. In short the mound to be reduced and the gateway moved even if we have to seek for this to be done under planning enforcement through WDDC.

I am aware of difficulties with regard to the track to the Allotments and have asked the Society to advise this Council of the current situation. I do hope that this matter can be concluded amicably and am sure it can be without the need for the Council as leaseholder to become involved.

Through the chair I would like to commend and congratulate the Playing Field Sub Committee for their plans and aspirations for additional facilities and refurbishment of the existing. The Council was made aware of a fire which occurred behind the pavilion and I am most grateful to the local residents who called the brigade and helped put out the burning hedge. Details have been passed to our Community Police team. It is usually the case that in the early Autumn near Halloween and Bonfire that there is some silliness in and around the village. I would urge everyone to be aware and to contact Dorset Police if you have any suspicion that something untoward is going on especially around areas such as the Library, pavilion and this hall.

I have managed to meet with Kris Hallett and we have toured the new facilities and saw plenty of children enjoying the half term sunshine. The opening is set for Saturday 20 November at 10.00am when Mrs Anthony Pitt-Rivers, HM Lord Lieutenant will cut the ribbon here and on the Playgroup's new play area. The WI have been asked if they would be able to undertake the catering and I gather this should be the case. Unfortunately Lord Knight will be in Westminster that day and unable to join us.

Once again the Council will lay a wreath at the War memorial on Sunday 14 November and may I commend the service in this hall followed by the parade to Mount Skipet Way.

ITEM 7 WOODFORDS QUARRIES LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT – CLLR STENNING Cllr Stenning reported that the presence of Crested Newts is holding up areas of excavation at present. It was noted to find more information on the Nature after Minerals project post 2014, a scheme developed by RSPB and Natural England. Cllr Stenning reported that electricity was being produced from Methane Gas emissions; this supplies the quarries with electric and spare is being sent to the national grid. Cllr Stenning advised that the Quarry Owners are seeking to open a new pathway for dog walkers.

ITEM 8 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE EQUALITY ACT 2010 PUBLISHED ON 1ST OCTOBER 2010

The Council adopted this policy on a majority vote.

PROPOSED: Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Arnold

AGREED

Cllr Stenning opposed.

Cllr Terrie Connor (Vice Chairman) joined the meeting.

ITEM 9 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION:

a. 1/D/10/0001607 4 HURRICANE CLOSE – ERECT REAR CONSERVATORY The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

b. 6/2010/0308 REDBRIDGE ROAD QUARRY FURTHER DOCUMENTATION – BUILDINGS ELEVATION PLAN AND ADDENDUM TO NOISE REPORT ORIGINAL APPLICATION ERECT REPLACEMENT BUILDING FOR THE STORAGE AND TREATMENT OF INERT AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE, PLANT STORAGE AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PLAN The Parish Council had no comment on this application.

c. 1/D/10/001673 7 HYBRIS BUSINESS PARK – EXTENSION TO COMMERCIAL BUILDING TO HOUSE BREWERY The Parish Council had no objections to this application subject to all licensing, safeguards and environmental protection issues being put in place.

ITEM 10 REPORT PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED/REFUSED

a. 1/D/10/001219 Unit 10, Scotton Way, Hybris Business Park

GRANTED

b. 1/D/10/001227 13 Dick o' th' Banks, Crossways

GRANTED

c. APPEAL DECISION Land to the rear of 40 Dick o' th' Banks

APPEAL DISMISSED

ITEM 11 CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT THE WEST DORSET PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL ASSEMBLY LAUNCH OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN Cllr Harris will attend if available.

ITEM 12 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE SPORTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 19TH OCTOBER 2010 ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES AND TO AGREE ANY ITEM FOR EXPENDITURE REQUEST INCLUDED Cllr Harris presented the minutes for the Sports Management Committee dated 19th October 2010. Cllr Harris explained the decision regarding the memorial seat for George Hood. The Clerk was tasked to contact the Oddfellows to meet at the proposed site for agreement.

PROPOSED: Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Connor

AGREED/ACTION CLERK

ITEM 13 TO RECEIVE BUDGET REPORT PRIOR TO BUDGET SETTING ARRANGEMENTS Cllr Stenning asked for a budget meeting with all Councillors after the 12th November.

ACTION CLERK

ITEM 14 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 30th SEPTEMBER 2010 - 28TH OCTOBER The following items of expenditure were noted and approved:

	Expenditure £	Income £
Wessex Water (Pavilion)	232.20	
Part Payment White lining	80.00	
Grass Cutting CPC/Agency	400.00	
Play Builder Funding MUGA		25,000.00*
Salary Clerk	753.46	
Inland Revenue PAYE	276.45	
Maverick DBM	25,000.00*	
Refund VAT		2382.98**
Poppy Appeal British Legion	30.00	
Southern Electricity (Pavilion)	38.69	
Line Marking Machine	470.00	
Clerks Expenses/Mileage	196.00	
Viking Direct Stationery	45.60	
County Training Partnership	15.00	
External Auditors	499.38	
CTP Chairman's Seminar	15.00	
Reference Library – Parks and Open Spaces	19.95	
Turf for Goal Mouths	25.00	
Grass Cutting CPC/Agency	400.00	

* MUGA/Skate bowl Account

** VAT returned to MUGA/Skate bowl Account

ITEM 15 TO RECEIVE EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2010 Councillors were supplied with a copy of the external auditors report. The Auditors report was received and noted. The Auditor made a non statutory recommendation that all items of expenditure record the power they are relying upon when making expenditure. The Council agreed to ensure these powers are noted and checked at the budget setting process. No other matters were noted.

PROPOSED: Cllr Stenning, seconded Cllr Connor

AGREED

ITEM 16 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

a. Cllr Brewer requested authority to send further correspondence to Betterment Properties in the matter of the unsuitable mound on the open space area in the Woodsford Fields development facing abutting Blackwell and Brewers Walk.

ACTION: CHAIR/CLERK

b. Cllr Connor reported on the Chairman's Seminar she attended advising that the Standards Board local committees will be disbanded; it is proposed to refer disciplinary matters adjudication to Civil Courts (stc). Cllr Connor also reported the forthcoming Localisation Bill which will when agreed devolve more power to Parish and Town Councils. NB both these items are not yet ratified.

ITEM 17 CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING 25TH NOVEMBER 2010 Confirmed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.10hrs

Signed (Chairman) 2010