

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Present: Cllr Andrew Brewer (Chairman), Cllr Barry Thomas, Cllr Daphne Bearman, Cllr Terrie Connor (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Kathy Foster

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS None to report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD None requested.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER Apologies were received from PCSOs.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR Apologies were received from Cllr Crowhurst. Cllr Crowhurst's report is attached to these minutes.

REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Apologies were received from Cllr Seall. Reports from Cllr Seall and Cllr Stein are attached to these minutes.

REPORT LIZ CALLISTER, FRIENDS OF CROSSWAYS LIBRARY Mrs Callister was not available for report.

THE MEETING

ITEM 1 TO FILL BY CO-OPTION A VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL. The Chairman introduced Mr Jeff Allen and proposed him to fill a vacancy on the Council by co-option. Cllr Barry Thomas seconded this proposal which was agreed unanimously. Mr Allen signed the Acceptance of the Code of Conduct and the Declaration of Office witnessed by the Clerk and took his seat. Cllr Brewer welcomed Cllr Allen to the Council.

ITEM 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Elaine Stenning, these were accepted by the Council.

Proposed: Cllr Connor, seconded Cllr Foster

AGREED

ITEM 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no Declarations of Interest.

ITEM 4 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION There were no Declarations of Predetermination.

ITEM 5 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 28th JULY 2011
The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Bearman, seconded Cllr Connor

AGREED

ITEM 6 MATTERS ARISING Action points were noted as actioned.

ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Councillors will be aware that several matters have been brought to the attention of the Council since we last met. There has been the fencing of land by Woodsford Farms which has previously enjoyed as a dog walking area. The advice received is that this is part of a routine process that the landowners undertake to stop the automatic gaining of a public right of way which may affect any future plans which they have. As with any small community, the grapevine and rumour mill have been in full swing since the fence went up. No planning applications for building have been made and it is not scheduled for imminent development. We are advised that a crop will be grown, harvested and then the boundary will come down. A word of caution from the chair is that we must not lose sight of the fact that it is down to the owner that local people may walk on their land and it is not a right at all. It would be unfortunate if this relationship was soured by intemperate words or accusations. As soon as this matter was brought to our attention we were able to make the necessary information and it has been shared in the parish magazine today. Councillors are aware of a long e mail correspondence from one resident who wishes us to discuss and debate the provision of a dog walking area. My response has been that it is not an item on our agenda and we rely on the information supplied by Woodsford Farms that this is a short term inconvenience. There is no legal obligation for us to provide such a facility and the acquisition of land, its maintenance and associated requirements make it cost prohibitive. I have therefore declined any further action and seek your agreement to my stance.

A similar case in point is the land across the west links road, alongside Oaklands Park and the recent activity. Following a bitter lesson that we learned over a Bank Holiday weekend the vigilance of local residents is to be commended. Anything which tidies this area up is to be welcomed.

To complete a hat trick I received a late evening call from another irate resident who had been informed by a representative of Betterment Properties that nothing had been done regarding the transfer of the open space into our

ownership. It transpires that this was a man cutting the grass to which I am afraid my good humour stretched to something along the lines of 'I do not know who died and made him MD of Betterment'. Assumptions once again are being made and I am afraid I will defend my Council's record on this one to the hilt. I was informed that if the fencing is not installed and we have heavy snowfall that this resident would be putting up barbed wire instead. I wish to publicly state and record that I have advised this resident and anyone else who considers doing this that they should think again. This Council will never condone or commend those who take the law into their own hands and you run the risk of being in a very dangerous legal position. I am grateful that Betterment have responded immediately and confirmed that although the legal formalities are not quite completed we can proceed to commission the work on the fence and I hope Council will endorse this as we have already received the quotations and accepted in principle.

Of course we need to live in harmony with our neighbours and Councillors are aware of my views that we cannot become embroiled in disputes between residents or groups of residents. Our role as the first tier of local government must be to look objectively and endeavour to do the best thing for the greatest number.

Another resident has made contact because the Dorchester road is not scheduled to be gritted in adverse weather. I agree that this is a matter of concern but also have to advise that our options on this are very limited. I can only ask you to make your feelings known to County Hall and our representative David Crowhurst. On the subject of the road I was also alarmed when the resurfacing work caused a fault to the traffic lights under the railway bridge at Lewell. Councillors will be aware that as a rare occurrence I used the Chairmanship to speak to the department and raise this as a dangerous matter requiring immediate attention. The lights were so slow in sensing traffic it was leading to some 'jumping' the lights. I am pleased and grateful to report that a response and action within 24 hours. All too often we sit and bemoan the service we receive so it is good to highlight a positive.

My thanks to Councillor Harris who accompanied me to the Dorset Best Kept Village Competition presentation evening. I have already given you the details but was surprised that this has not received much prominence in the Echo. I should have guessed when the reporter said 'as you are the only Council left I'll interview you' I responded using the words scraping and barrel. As Chairman I was of course delighted to receive such high praise on behalf of the village. Last year I questioned the rationale of the competition and I still hold by my opinion. Whilst chocolate box cottages, idyllic streams, lovely war memorials and rustic bus stops are marvellous I work for a community where facilities are heavily used. We may have lost .01 of a mark because there was a doggy doo outside the village hall or a crisp packet on the sports field. I lament the passing of the best community village award that Crossways did well in because unless we pull all the houses down and build and thatch new ones I cannot see how this is a competition that is able to compare on a level playing field.

I have received some comments from parents of 9-11 year olds that there is nothing in the council's facilities for this age range. I promoted the MUGA/Skatebowl and was told that this is becoming a 'no go' area because of the language and activities taking place there. I know Stella has been keeping an eye on things when able and that our litter picker calls as part of his duties. We also have a resident who kindly collects the rubbish from the bins and puts it at the top of the field for collection. I shall be asking if the police can add the area so that it can be checked more frequently.

We have received a thank you acknowledgment on behalf of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for our loyal greetings on the occasion of their marriage. There has been a disappointing response to the appeal for volunteers to help co-ordinate the Diamond Jubilee events next year. We have the opportunity of a village lunch here, a civic church service either here or outside, a beacon lighting and evening celebration at Brownjohn's Copse and suggestions of a village sports event and a concert or cabaret. We shall be writing direct to organisations to outline plans and inviting them to a meeting. In addition we need to consider if we wish to repeat the golden jubilee and give a souvenir to each child.

As the Council's representative to the Management Committee of the hall I would advise my colleagues that exploratory discussions are now being undertaken for the extension of the lease with our landlord. There is only a short period left and it was always envisaged that there would be a new hall to take over long before this expired. Initial thoughts are we shall have to look at a minimum period of 20 years and to take remedial action to protect the fabric and improve facilities to cover that timeframe. I shall keep Council informed as matters progress.

ITEM 8 TO CONSIDER THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM DCC IN THE MATTER OF SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN DORSET AND BROADBAND DELIVERY UK (BDUK) FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The Clerk advised that in discussion with other Dorset Clerks DAPTC were advised that there was not enough detail to make a decision. The matter of quality of service in some areas is not properly addressed. DAPTC (Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils) have been asked to request further consultation on this matter. The Council agreed to defer pending further information.

ITEM 9 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPORTS FIELD AND RECREATION COMMITTEE DATED 13TH SEPTEMBER 2011 In the absence of Cllr Harris, Chairman of the SF&RC Cllr Connor presented the minutes. The minutes were accepted.

ITEM 10 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 28th JULY 2011 – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2011

The following items of Income and Expenditure were noted:

	Expenditure £	Income £
Painting Play Areas x 3	1665.00	
VAT Refund		50.57
Storage Shed Tennis Equipment	485.98	
Fleet Line Markers	125.88	
Grass Cutting	220.00	
Salary Clerk (August)*		
Inland Revenue PAYE*		
BT	41.12	
Wessex Water	179.47	
British Gas	261.75	
Grass Cutting	440.00	
Sprint Signs (for Sports Field Gate)	18.00	
Clearing Gutters Pavilion	20.00	
Viking Direct Stationery	39.46	
Salary Clerk (September)*		
Inland Revenue*		
Cleaner Pavilion*		
Grass Cutting	220.00	
Century 21 Photocopier Hire	108.00	
Litter Collector	160.11	
Net Benefit (Web Site Domain)	298.80	
Talk Talk Business	20.47	
Shrub & Maintenance Contract	750.00	
Home as Office Payment	200.00	
Cleaner Pavilion*		

* Not published to comply with the Data Protection Act

Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Thomas **AGREED**

ITEM 11 TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SIX MONTH BUDGET FIGURES Councillors noted the six month budget summary. No concerns were raised.

ITEM 12 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION The Chairman allowed two items of planning to be considered as they arrived after the agenda setting date.

a. 8 WARMWELL ROAD – ERECT BUNGALOW WITH GARAGE

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

AGREED

b. PLOTS 80 AND 83 WOODSFORD FIELDS, SCHOOL DRIVE – 4 SEMI DETACHED DWELLINGS

The Council noted previous application of this nature, which involve 2 detached properties being replaced by 4 semi-detached properties. The Council objected, as in previous applications, that to agree would undermine the original planning application for 140 houses only and the Section 106 implications.

Proposed Cllr Brewer, seconded Cllr Foster

AGREED

ITEM 13 CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 27th 2011 Confirmed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed (Chairman)2011