

## MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

Present : Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Chairman), Cllr Elaine Stenning, Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Barry Thomas , Cllr Ron Arnold, Cllr Dave Harris', Cllr Dave Smith and Cllr Thelma Smith

**PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS** None to report

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

- a. Mr Graham Walker questioned whether Item 10 and 11 should be heard as the subject matter was a subject to a Standards Board enquiry being heard and not yet resolved. The Clerk advised Mr Walker that she had taken advice on these items from the Investigating Solicitor, as had Cllr Brewer, and as the items referred to the complaint and not to any findings they are allowed and do not contravene Sect 63 of the LGA 2000. The fact of the investigation is not confidential; only details of the findings are confidential. This matter may be discussed without reference to any of the investigating officer's findings.
- b. Mrs Hilary Marrett spoke of number of complaints and counter complaints; Mrs Marrett said she felt some Councillors seem to be defensive and asked that the culture of the Council is changed to be pro-active and transparent.

**REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER** Apologies were received from CPSO Hedges.

**REPORT BY KRIS HALLETT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER** Kris Hallett's report is attached to these minutes.

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

### REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- a. **Cllr Peter Read** advised those present of the recent 'calling in' of an executive decision in the matter of the Charles Street project to give £250,000 to the developers to assist with planning issues. Cllr Read noted that this item was dealt with under exempt business and the decision has been ratified. Cllr Read spoke about the efforts being made to re-open the shop/post office in Owermoigne; the bad condition of the White Horse on the outskirts of Weymouth advising that he has become a 'champion' of the project to restore the White Horse to its original condition asking that the Parish Council offer support for this project. Cllr Read concluded his report advising that the WDDC funds are sound and has a safe and sustainable budget.
- b. **Cllr Teresa Seall** advised that the WDDC precept has seen an increase of 2.5%. Cllr Seall spoke of concerns about the lack of affordable housing and the appointment of a rural housing officer. Cllr Seall informed the meeting that WDDC has published a leaflet giving advice about debt problems. Cllr Seall said the WDDC Efficiency Scrutiny Committee is looking at eco friendly grants to insulate properties. In conclusion Cllr Seall reiterated Cllr Read's comments regarding the White Horse project

### THE MEETING

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies were received from Cllr Brewer. The Clerk read out the content of a letter received from Cllr Brewer "*Please would you accept this letter as my formal apology that I shall not be able to attend this meeting. Being aware of the discussion due to take place as a result of my previous correspondence I should like the reason for my absence to be noted by Councillors and public. I shall be attending an important parents meeting as a tutor in the school where I teach and although my employers have been very accommodating in the past it is not possible to do so on this occasion. I would also wish to advise you that, following representations made to me today I have decided not to proceed with the publication of my letters in the 'Bridge'. I shall await the deliberations and decisions of the Council to take place without there being any possibility of accusations being made that I have used the parish magazine to my own political ends. The Investigator duly appointed in these matters has been advised of my decision.*"

### ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a. Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 11 advising that he would not vote on this issue.
- b. Cllr Ron Arnold declared a personal interest in Item 11 advising that he would not vote on this issue.

**ITEM 3 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION** There were no declarations of predetermination.

**ITEM 4 CORRESPONDENCE** No correspondence to report.

**ITEM 5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009** The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Thomas

**AGREED**

**ITEM 6 MATTERS ARISING** Cllr Arnold advised Councillors that he had met with Planning Officers at WDDC and was advised that the MUGA/Skate Bowl may be able to proceed to planning as 'Permitted Development' rights. The Planning Officers advised the Council to use the drawings as shown. Cllr Arnold asked for the Council to agree to go ahead with the permitted development and requested a cheque in the sum of £40.00 as the fee for this application. The Council suspended for advice from Cllr Seall who advised that if the application was within planning policy it would be done. The meeting reconvened and Councillors agreed to go ahead with the application for permitted development and the cost of same.

AGREED

**ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

a. Cllr Rhodes informed the meeting that the Council had met with the agents for Woodsford Farms (see Item 9) for further talks regarding proposed further development in Crossways and their wish list for planning gains from this development. The Councillors discussed possibilities which included improvements to the Medical Centre, sports facilities, indoor climbing wall, bowling green, squash courts, outdoor tennis courts, cycling, community hall (incorporating indoor sports facilities), petanque and running tracks, trim trail and a sports hall. It was noted that due consideration would have to be given to ongoing costs and maintenance of facilities and the ultimate burden which may be placed on Crossways tax payers.

b. Cllr Rhodes further informed the meeting has an offer of land had been made to the Parish Council for Allotment land from Mr Wyatt Paul, Woodsford Farms; this was welcomed. The Council will meet with members of the Allotment Society of Crossways to carry this forward.

**ITEM 8 ACCEPT DCC LEAFLET 'MANAGING DORSET'S RURAL ROADS AND CONSIDER ANY ACTIONS/THE WAY AHEAD FOR CROSSWAYS** Cllr Arnold stated that part of the message in this document was bring in savings on road signs and to reduce visual distraction which he supports however the leaflet in general he felt did not reflect and bears no relation to the problems of rural roads in Crossways. Cllr Arnold felt the document was unnecessary, too big and too expensive, does not reflect current problems and is an unnecessary expenditure. The Council advised no further action.

AGREED

**ITEM 9 TO HEAR REPORT OF FULL COUNCIL WORKING PARTY MEETING TO DISCUSS LAND AT WOODSFORD FIELDS BEING PROMOTED FOR DEVELOPMENT MID 2013 (SUBJECT TO MARKET FACTORS AND PLANNING AGREEMENTS) AND POSSIBLE PLANNING GAINS FOR CROSSWAYS** This item covered under the Chairman's report at Item 7.

**ITEM 10 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM CLLR BREWER IN THE MATTER OF THE PARISH COUNCILS DONATION TO THE BRIDGE AS AGREED AT FULL COUNCIL MARCH 2008 AND TO ALLOW COUNCILLORS TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION AFTER CONSIDERATION OF CLLR BREWERS LETTER** Cllr Rhodes said she felt it was an honest and forthright action by Cllr Brewer in offering to return the Bridge donation in view of the reasons given in Cllr Brewer's letters in that some Councillors felt unable to vote as they would have liked due to Cllr Brewer's presence. Cllr Arnold stated that he has witnessed many difficult Council meetings and these letters will not help the situation. Cllr Arnold asked that if any grievance is felt at a meeting then Councillors should say so at the meeting or advise the Clerk of their grievance so a meeting can be held to discuss the problem. Cllr Arnold asked that Councillors stop resorting to the Standards Board. Cllr Stenning stated that the issue of the Bridge donation does need to be re-discussed. Cllr Thomas stated that the Bridge is run by volunteers not just Cllr Brewer, the Bridge does fund raise and he felt that the Bridge is quite entitled to ask the Parish Council for a contribution towards its costs. Cllr Rhodes stated that she had made enquires of other Parish Councils and they do make annual donations to their respective Parish Magazines. Cllr Arnold asked Councillors to think very carefully stating the Bridge is a community magazine and he felt it was a good useful publication and he would not like to see it stopped but questioned any conflict of interest when the Editor is also a Councillor. The Council was informed that the Clerk wrote the Parish Council reports not Cllr Brewer. Cllr Stenning reminded the meeting that a donation to the Bridge has always been done as a Council resolution, not a request from the Editor. Cllr Thomas stated that he felt the Bridge was a worthwhile as a means of communications for all Village residents and organisations and without the Bridge this information would not be otherwise available to all residents. The Bridge informs and is delivered to all residents.

Cllr Stenning proposed that the donation to the Bridge for the year 08/09 be ratified. Cllr Thomas seconded this proposal. A recorded vote was requested:

Cllr Stenning	For	Cllr D Smith	Abstained
Cllr Thomas	For	Cllr T Smith	Abstained
Cllr Rhodes	For	Cllr Bache	Abstained
Cllr Harris	For		

Cllr Arnold Declared

CARRIED

**ITEM 11 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM CLLR BREWER IN THE MATTER OF THE METHODIST CHAPEL AND THE DISTRICT SCOUTS SPORTS FIELD BOOKING AT FULL COUNCIL JUNE 2008 AND TO ALLOW THE PARISH COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION TO ALLOW THE DISTRICT SCOUT GROUP TO HOLD THEIR CUB/BEAVER TOURNAMENT FOR THE COMING FIVE YEARS FREE OF CHARGE AFTER CONSIDERATION OF CLLR BREWERS LETTER**

Cllr Stenning proposed that the decision to allow the District Scout Group to hold their tournaments free of charge is ratified and reaffirmed. Cllr Harris seconded. A recorded vote was requested:

Cllr Harris	For	Cllr D Smith	Abstained
Cllr Stenning	For	Cllr T Smith	Abstained
Cllr Rhodes	For	Cllr Bache	Abstained

Cllr Thomas – Declared  
Cllr Arnold – Declared

CARRIED

**ITEM 12 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION 1/D/09/000041 8 BINGHAMS ROAD – ERECT CONSERVATORY.** The Parish Council had no objections to these plans.

**ITEM 13 TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2009 – 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009 TO INCLUDE PAYMENT FOR BUS SHELTER** The expenditure for the previous month was noted as follows:

Salary Clerk	£730.65
Nildram	£19.72
DAPTC Trg	£75.00
Bus Shelter (Queensbury Shelters)	£5211.80*

£4000.00 was transferred from deposit account at WDDC towards this payment and a grant of £1000.00 has been agreed from Dorset County Council.

Proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Thomas

AGREED

**ITEM 14 TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION BUDGET STATEMENT AS AT 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009 (11<sup>th</sup> MONTH)** Councillors received a copy of the budget statement. A copy is attached to these minutes.

**ITEM 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009** Agreed

**ITEM 16 ANY LATE URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION** Cllr Arnold proposed that the Council agree to pay a cheque in the sum of £40.00 to forward the MUGA planning documents to WDDC this was seconded by Cllr Stenning and agreed. The condition of road signs in Crossways was noted to be forwarded to DCC and the Council agreed its support for the restoration project of the White Horse on Osmington Hill.

**ITEM 17 TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) 1960 TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL IN CONFERENCE TENDERS** Proposed Cllr Stenning, seconded Cllr Rhodes

AGREED

**ITEM 18 TO CONSIDER TENDERS RECEIVED FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2012** Cllr Rhodes opened the two tenders received. After consideration it was decided to award the Contract to Mr Steve Manuel as best value.

Proposed: Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Harris

AGREED

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

CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL

INTERIM FINANCIAL SUMMARY – 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009-03-20

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spend to Date</u>	<u>% spend to date</u>
	£	£	£/%
Sect 137	400.00	0.00	0.00
Courses	400.00	285.00	71.25
Publicity Adverts	100.00	66.40	66.40
Legal Professional	500.00	66.40	13.28
Stationery/Postage	750.00	516.41	68.85
Insurance	2500.00	1610.64	64.43
Equipment	500.00	360.00	72.00
Audit Fees	450.00	427.40	94.98
Councillors Expenses	400.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Fees	500.00	762.88	152.58
Telephone/Fax/Internet/Web	450.00	287.53	63.90
Clerks Expenses	550.00	224.80	40.87
Clerks Gratuity	400.00	0.00	0.00
Clerks Salary	12000.00	10333.10	86.11
Election Expenses	1.00	0.00	0.00
Meeting Venues	150.00	71.00	47.33
Contingency/Planning	500.00	35.00	7.00
Home as Office	200.00	0.00	0.00
Village Hall Sect 133	200.00	0.00	0.00
Play Areas	1500.00	245.00	16.33
Gardening and Shrubs	1250.00	613.30	49.06
General Maintenance	2000.00	1406.03	70.30
Grass Cutting CPC	2500.00	3204.00	128.16
Grass Cutting (Income)	2000.00	3951.65	197.58
Grass Cutting DCC	2500.00	2610.00	104.40
Playing Field and Pavilion (Income)	1.00	779.60	
Playing Field and Pavilion	2000.00	1305.52	65.33
Heat Light and Water	750.00	591.44	78.86
Rates (Pavilion)	350.00	297.00	84.66

**REPORT**  
**Crossways Parish Council meeting**  
**on Thursday 26 February 2009**

The Crossways Young People's Forum has been busy organising a Car Wash, Shoe-Shine Fundraiser alongside the new Monthly Community Market. They will be charging £4 to clean a car and from 50p for shoes, sit 'n ride toys etc. Posters have been on display for some weeks.

Last week, during half-term they delivered over 500 leaflets through letterboxes, in the hope many people will turn out to support their efforts.

CSO Vickie Hedges found a sponsor to provide the car shampoo and I was able to source buckets, sponges, rubber gloves and shoe cleaning materials. The fundraiser commences this Saturday at 10.00 in a space outside the Library, with the Community Market taking place in the Youth Club.

The Group, CSO Vickie and myself would like to thank the organisers of this new Monthly Community Market for their support in allowing them to attend and Chris Galpin at Crossways Library for her generous support for the team on the day.

I am liaising with Christine Stone, West Dorset District Council's Funding Advisor to help the Open Spaces project identify the appropriate funder to go to for the skate bowl and the Multi Use Games Area.

**Kris Hallett**  
**Community Capacity Worker**  
**Dorset Community Action**  
**24 February 2009**