Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Monday 11th May 2020 via Zoom

Councillors Present:

Portesham Cllrs

Abbotsbury Cllrs

Langton Herring Cllrs

Fleet Cllrs

Mrs M Harding (Clerk)  Cllr Mark Roberts (MR)  Dorset Council

Welcome, Zoom meeting rules and to receive apologies for absence –

T Bartlett (TB)  H Ford (HF)  G Roper (GR)

To receive any declarations of interest and grants of dispensation - none.

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd March 2020

Proposed DS  Seconded RD

Matters arising from the minutes for info only

i. Correspondence Item 20 re the War memorial at Abbotsbury and who is responsible for its maintenance. The PC had been contacted to say that the PCC did not bring this to the attention of the Parish Council but the PCC will be looking into this in order to confirm who is responsible. DS commented that he was under the impression that Historic England had taken on this responsibility, the Clerk will look into this.

ii. MW commented that prior to lockdown the 4 Chairs were going to meet to discuss the procedure for preparing a housing register. Now that Zoom is available for meetings the 4 chairs will meet and discuss this for consideration at the June meeting.

iii. KD commented on the response by the Highways officer to updating the white lines on Market and Church Street “At this present time we do not refresh or put in center lines in the carriageway, as they do not come under the code of practice” KD explained that this is incomprehensible and asked that the PC follow this up.

iv. RD asked if the Best Village Competition and Chesil Fayre are to be held this year, MW explained that the Chesil Fayre has been cancelled this year but we are still waiting on Magna to decide about the Best Village competition.

Democratic Forum- none

To consider the updated Standing Orders- The Clerk had circulated the updated SO which included a new section on virtual meetings, RD asked that the paper circulated in Nov 2019 with guidance on dealing with the harassment of Councillors be included in the current SO, the council discussed this and agreed to annexe this paper to the CBPC SO and agreed to the updates on virtual meetings.

Proposed KD  Seconded JC

Finance

To consider the finance report of receipts and payments

All payments due were authorised to be paid in line with the necessary internal controls and contracts. The Internal Audit has been carried out no actions arising

The report of payments, receipts and the bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Bank Balances at end of Mar 20 - £71,415.39 and at end of April 20- £81,118.89

Proposed JC  Seconded SM
ii. **To approve the Annual Return part 1**
   The Council agreed part 1 the Annual Governance Statement 2019-20
   Proposed IW Seconded DS

iii. **To approve the Annual Return part 2**
    The Council agreed part 2 the Accounting Statements 2019-20
    Proposed JC Seconded SM

iv. **To consider the Annual Insurance quotes**
    The Clerk gathered quotes from 3 insurance companies. The current Company Zurich was the most competitive and agreed to the premium of £661.05 for a 5-year LTA.
    Proposed JC Seconded DC

2020/05-8  To consider all correspondence received for decision consultation and information

   Item 2- The Neighbourhood plan end of year grant report was submitted and the underspend has been returned.
   Item 12- Allotment enquiries- The PC received 2 enquiries for allotments and have been able to fulfil this with some allotment holders leaving, the new area is not yet ready for cultivation but the PC are holding a waiting list.
   Item 35- An enquiry was received regarding the Blackdown heathland and new fencing, the Ranger sent details on the new fencing and a plan but Cllrs were confused by the plan and asked for clarification on the area concerned.

2020/05-9 Planning Consultations-

   i. **To consider all planning applications:** -none in circulation

   ii. **To consider any other planning/enforcement or ongoing issues**
       The Council had received a reply regarding the current enforcement issues from an enforcement officer.

       JC had supplied a draft letter and report to the Council for consideration to be submitted to the enforcement department and head of planning, the letter detailed the 3 current enforcement issues and the reasons for their delay, the Council will send this letter and ask the planning department to deploy a more robust process for clear breaches of planning. Cllr Mark Roberts was asked to support the Council with this letter and concerns regarding the enforcement processes. Cllr Roberts commented that enforcement have to follow due process but IW commented that these issues were in place prior to lockdown and one has been an enforcement issue for nearly 15 years.
       Proposed JC Seconded DC

   iii. **Neighbourhood Plan update- report supplied by NPSG**
       a. Work on the Neighbourhood Plan was put on hold on the 23rd March 2020 owing to the Covid-19 outbreak.
       b. It is not expected that work will resume before September 2020. This will inevitably delay completion from the existing target of April 2021.
       c. A budget application for 2020/2021 to Locality is being prepared. The fallout from Covid-19 is likely to result in a change of approach for future activities in order to reduce social contact. This may increase some costs, for example greater use of Postal Services for future surveys and Newsletters. In addition, Jo Witherden, Dorset Planning Consultant is preparing a quotation for inclusion in the Locality submission, taking into account the likely slippage in dates.
       MW asked the Chair of the SG given these times and changes how will the group move forward. The NPSG Chair explained that the group may well consider revisiting the survey with changing attitudes, also the changing of ways of communication and the additional costs that may be incurred if surveys need to be posted but meeting virtually will reduce hall hire costs.
2020/05-10  Recreation- to consider the Play area repairs following the latest inspection reports
Abbotsbury play area- It was hoped to have a meeting with the Children’s Play company – The Clerk had contacted the rep from the Play Company to arrange a meeting but due to the lockdown and a family illness the meeting has been postponed but the rep confirmed that the company are keen to work with the PC on the issues with the maintenance of the equipment and will be in contact as soon as possible.
Langton Herring play area- The latch on the gate into the play area requires repair, Clerk to contact the local contractor.
Portesham play area- the surfacing of the mound and under the swings has been completed some further pins to tie down are required and the area is cordoned off until the grass grows and the area beds down.
Notice Boards- MW reported that the notice boards on the village green, play area and on the area of land at Dove Cot in Portesham require maintenance.

2020/05-11  Highways- Countryside & RoW- to receive any problems and reports
i. To receive any Highways issues- RCM reported on the water leaking from the Duck Pond as it is creating a slippery surface underneath and a resident of Portesham slipped and fell.
DJC also reported the slippery surface where water was going over the road on New Road.
RD reported again the verges and road edges in need of repair.
SM reported to the PC the issues of perceived speed of tractors driving through the village, whilst silage making the Clerk will report this to the Farm manager.
DJC commented on the electric fencing that was used next to a footpath, a dog had received a shock.
RCM reported that the fence was the agreed distance from the footpath, was marked appropriately and it was noted that dogs should be on leads and under control at all times, especially near livestock.
SM reported that the drains are all full but have been reported.
IW spoke on the issues of cyclists along the footpaths around Fleet which he has reported.
It was noted that with the current situation there will be many more cyclists on the roads in the future.

2020/05-12  Parish Reports and Issues
The Council wish to record thanks to all those who have volunteered and supported the community at this time.

2020/05-13  Items for the meeting on Monday 8th June 2020 via Zoom
Report on Parish property/Assets.

2020/05-14  Democratic Forum 15 minutes
Cllr Mark Roberts spoke on the meetings being held with senior officers the CEO and cabinet members. Adult and children’s services are at the forefront at the moment, there is concern at the possible rise in domestic abuse but the reporting of these issues is low in Dorset, there is concern that issues are not being reported.
The Dorset Council have reconditioned 270 laptops and have purchased a further 1000 and mobiles for vulnerable children in the county to enable them to attend online learning and contact their teachers. Cllr Roberts explained that if the Council had any questions, he can put this to the panel, also to the West Dorset Cllrs who are meeting virtually the MP Chris Loder.
The issue of Broadband and rural mobile services was brought up as the Chesil Parishes have issues in Rodden, Fleet and areas of Abbotsbury. Cllr Roberts will take this forward.

Meeting closed at 20.25