Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Monday 7th December 2020 via Zoom

Councillors Present:

Portesham Cllrs: M White (MW) (Chairman)  S Murdoch (SM)  S Weeden (SW)  R Chipp-Marshall (RCM)  D Collins (DJC)

Abbotsbury Cllrs: D Stevens (DS) (Vice-Chairman)  K Donnelly (KD)  G Roper (GR)

Langton Herring Cllrs: C Killoch (CK)  R Doggett (RD)

Fleet Cllrs: R Chipp-Marshall (RCM)  J Coombe (JC)

Mrs M Harding (Clerk)  Cllr Mark Roberts (MR)  Dorset Council  5 members of the Public

20/12-1 Welcome, zoom meeting rules and to receive apologies for absence – T Bartlett (TB)  I White (IW)  H Ford (HF)

20/12-2 To receive any declarations of interest and grants of dispensation - A dispensation form had previously been received from Cllr Tom Bartlett as unable to attend using zoom. Cllr Collins declared an interest in planning applications being considered

20/12-3 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd November 2020 as an accurate record

Proposed SM  Seconded DS  Resolved

20/12-4 Matters arising from the minutes for info only

Climate change consultation - CK, RD and JC have not yet got together on this item, closing date for comments is 20th Jan 21 - meeting to be arranged. A survey is to be completed.

20/12-5 Democratic Forum - A resident from Fleet spoke on the enforcement issue that has not been dealt with after 15 years, this is not at all satisfactory and response since the PC wrote 2 months ago. The resident suggested that a refund on Council Tax given the lack of service provided to Fleet residents. MR apologised to the meeting and agreed this is not satisfactory and is embarrassed, also many other Dorset Councillors are experiencing a lack of response from the enforcement department. It was also suggested that someone in enforcement attends the next Parish Council meeting to experience the views of the residents. It was suggested that the Clerk writes a letter to the head of planning and the Dorset Council CEO and cabinet member David Walsh to make them aware of this yet again but write separate letters for each enforcement issue as requested. 

Action Clerk

20/12-6 Neighbourhood Plan report

i. The Chair of the group provided a report to the meeting on progress and the latest survey report:

Surveys: As reported previously we have only had 9 responses from the Young Person’s Survey, which we estimate is around 10% of the total. Consequently, any analysis is not meaningful. We are formulating alternative strategies in order to reach the Young People of the Parish.

A 2nd Business Survey is ready to be issued but is on hold until the first quarter of next year.

Meetings with AECOM: We have opened discussions with 2 separate arms of AECOM, one for Design Codes and the other for assistance with Site Surveys. We are expecting some preliminary feedback from them in January.
Production of NP Report: Work has started on drafting a contents list and reviewing the historical information on each of the Parishes.

Dorset Council Local Plan Options: We have just had sight of papers published by Dorset Council on the suggested housing requirement figures for Chesil Bank and we are debating the implications, if any, on the ongoing work of the Neighbourhood Plan. Public consultation is due to start in January 2021. Our understanding is that there is an indicative number of 33 homes between 2021 and 2038. The extract from the detailed analysis of Survey 3 was circulated and is available on the NP and CBPC websites for by request.

Cllrs asked about slippage time due to Covid, it was explained that it was hoped to hold a public consultation in Nov but due to Covid and that AECOM have not carried out their work there is a 2-3-month delay. It is hoped to go out to consultation at the same time as the Local Plan late Jan /Feb.

ii. NP Survey Draw The survey draw was carried out using a mobile random number selector, paper survey £25, online survey- £50 and young person’s survey- £25. The winners will be contacted and prize money paid out.

20/12-7 Planning consultations

i. To receive any planning consultations-

WD/D/20/002789- Amendment to planning permission WD/D/15/002664- Residents objected to this amendment although not sent to the PC for comment. The amendment was refused on 4th Dec.

WD/D/20/002580- Rocket, Winters Lane- erect single storey workshop building- The applicant attended the meeting and explained that the previous building was a Nissan hut and earth floor. When the asbestos roof was removed the side walls collapsed, the applicant also listened to the comments by Cllrs and has applied for a single storey workshop. It was noted in the case officer had suggested that any new building should be like for like as much as possible, and is concerned that it is still too high. Cllrs supported the application but refer to the comments of the case officer in the official response.

WD/D/20/002248- The Old Rectory, Langton Herring- internal alterations- no objections

WD/D/20/002041- 4 Winters Lane, modification of front garden to facilitate the erection of garage- Cllrs raised concerns that the garage is causing water issues onto the road and there is still a pile of soil left by the builder so will create flood issues if washed down the road- highways to be contacted.

WD/D/20/002408- 31 Malthouse Meadows- erection of conservatory- no objections

ii. To receive and update on planning/enforcement or ongoing issues

As previously noted, the Council will write a letter to the cabinet member Cllr David Walsh regarding the issues with the enforcement department on each separate enforcement issue and copy in the CEO of Dorset Council.

20/12-8 To consider all correspondence received for decision consultation and information

Item 7- Portesham Churchyard wall, following the negative response to the request to review the tree in the rectory by the Diocese, Cllrs plan to hold a site visit when possible and ask a tree surgeon to prepare a report on the tree roots, works cannot be carried out on the wall as it is believed to be undermined by the tree roots.

Item 9- LH swing frame has rusted and now been taken out of action.

Item 10- The Planning white paper has been submitted.

Item 11- The PC are unable to adopt the BT phone box in Coryates as it is sited on private land, the owner needs to be contacted to see if they are willing to adopt it for the parish.
Item 13- Suggested poster for social media for Abbotsbury support, it was suggested that Abbotsbury Cllrs discuss this poster with the author regarding the wording of this poster so it incorporates all 4 parishes. DS to action

Item 14- Tree and shrub works for part 2 in the Cemetery have been gathered, Portesham Cllrs supported these works at a cost of £791. The works need to be carried out prior to the nesting season. Proposed SM Seconded SW

Item 15- A report was received of an issue with a headstone leaning over in the Churchyard, DJC inspected the issue and installed a wooden post to make secure. The PC have now had a request to set it on a more permanent basis. Historically the PC have laid the headstones down when no family members are available. The PC are not obliged to repair the headstone but to make safe. The PC also need to be aware of the Churchyard wall needs repairs required and this is something the PC are responsible for. It was suggested that a volunteer could carry out the work, the PC would need to ensure there is adequate insurance cover, further information needs to be gathered on costs and if a faculty is required for these works.

Item 16- RD spoke on the consultation of the “committee on standards in public life”-RD drafted a response and circulated to all Cllrs to respond by the end of the week.

Item 17- National Grid VIP project team had been in contact and looking to support a project in the villages affected by the project. As Portesham is one of those villages it has been suggested that a raffle prize could be donated that can be used for a draw after Christmas for the Chesil Fayre fund, given the short period of time the PC were given to respond.

Item 18- Communications and Staffing committee- CK reported that following the Clerk’s appraisal and feedback from Cllrs, the Clerk is very much appreciated and valued, also that Cllrs need to be mindful of the work life balance and keeping contact out of hours to a minimum. Following Cllr training session CK reported that the PC do not currently have a staffing committee, but historically this has been set up as and when required. CK recommended that a staffing committee is set up. This was agreed and the members will be CK, MW and SW. A term of reference will be set out and the committee will look into any staffing matters going forward. A report for the February meeting.

Item 19- Following the delivery of the sand bags in Abbotsbury a quote for a bin to store them in was gathered. £183 plus Vat for a green 400l bin. This was agreed

20/12-9 Finance-

i. 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 report of payments, receipts and the bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting. Bank Balances at end of Nov 20 £82,617.47
Proposed DS Seconded RD Resolved

ii. To consider the budget and precept 2021-22
The budget group CK, JC, RCM and DS met and considered the Allotment rents, Cemetery fees, and PC budget. The recommendation is to increase the precept by 3%.
The precept requested will be £28,325.00 paid in April and Sept 21.
Dorset Council have not yet published the tax base this is due 11th Dec.
The PC approved the budget and precept for the coming year.
Proposed KD Seconded GR Resolved

20/12-10 Highways- Countryside & RoW- to receive any problems and reports

i. To receive any Highways issues-
RCM noted that the road through Wadden has still not been swept of debris, this has been reported to DWP road sweeping team.
RD reported that Angel Lane has still not been swept although reported 3 months ago. MR will assist with the lack of response to the road sweeping. The car left on the top of Portesham Hill was reported to Police and DWP but nothing has been done to follow up with PCSO.

20/12-11 Parish Reports and Issues

i. Abbotsbury- DS asked if there was any updated to the ditch on Back Street, no reply since being reported Clerk to follow up.

ii. Fleet- JC reported that the kissing gates are in poor repair on the coastal path. The Ranger to be contacted.

iii. Langton Herring- RD reported all fencing and gates have been completed at the amenity area, the new gates installed to the play area section need a more substantial long bolt, RD is looking into this with the local blacksmith. RD has purchased a new bolt for the gates to bolt together as due to the winds in this location the gates need to be secured also new chains and locks have been purchased. RD also commented on the swing frame no out of action, CK and RD will look at what funding opportunities are available to replace the play items.

iv. Portesham- Back Street wall is still ongoing and site meeting is being considered. SM noted that someone has been accessing the pavilion and is being used as a toilet. RCM commented on a contractor to quote to remove the asbestos. Assuming that the contractor has the right license for the removal. JC suggested gathering photo evidence of the current state of the pavilion. The area needs to be made safe. Outline planning permission is needed for a new pavilion. Permission to use the plans from the Long Bredy pavilion is to be confirmed in writing. The Council need to agree where to site it in the field prior to putting in planning permission. The suggested siting of the new pavilion to be marked out. SW raised concerns regarding the access to the site from the village. MW explained that the PC have investigated a footpath access with costs in the region of £30,000. Further information to be provided for the February meeting. Action RCM

20/12-12 Items for the meeting on Monday 1st February 2021 via Zoom- Pavilion project

20/12-13 Democratic Forum 15 minutes

JC commented on the potential data breach by the NP steering group, the Clerk reported that the survey 3 data downloaded from survey monkey was collated on a spreadsheet but the personal information was not removed, this was then circulated to all SG members which included one member who has a shared email address. The data included personal details of those who provided this in the survey. The Clerk as DPO has taken steps to mitigate this breach, the SG members have been requested to delete the spreadsheet from their devices. Each SG member will be asked to confirm this has been done and the data breach will be reported via the data breach procedure to the ICO. The PC will take steps with the SG so this does not happen again.

MR reported on the Dorset Council budget, there is a deficit of £41M for next year but no reduction of services. Employees when getting back to the office will be working from home 3 days a week and hot desking saving money in office use. Also, DC are looking at green electricity going forward.

A resident commented on the ICO reporting taking months to respond. The resident also thanked the Parish Council for all the hard work they do for the Parishes, and wished more residents would attend. Meeting closed at 9.23pm