

PORTESHAM PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting on Monday 27th June 2022 held at Methodist Hall

Present:

Cllr David Collins (Chair)

Cllr Marsha White

Cllr Ruth Chipp-Marshall

Cllr Martin Bartlett

Cllr Sharon Murdoch

Cllr Sue Weeden

9 members of the public

1. Election of Portesham Parish Chairman

Councillor Marsha White opened the meeting and asked for nominations for chair of Portesham parish.

Cllr David Collins was proposed by SM and seconded by RCM

DJC thanked to Marsha for the last 10 years of service as the Portesham Parish Chair.

2. Housekeeping, welcome and apologies

DJC welcomed everyone to the meeting and carried out the usual housekeeping. There were no apologies for absence.

DJC commented on the new venue for meeting given the availability of the village hall and the issue with acoustics, the Methodist Hall is a very bright and convenient hall for the use of meetings and will be recommended to the PC for future meetings. There is no Wi-Fi in the hall, but this could be something the PC could look into in the future.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 21st March 2022

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Proposed RCM

Seconded SM.

4. Matters arising

Following the jubilee events receipts are now needed to pay the grant allocation for Portesham.

There are a few coins left over, this will be discussed at the parish council meeting in July.

The phone box/Book exchange is due to be painted shortly.

SM reported on the last flood meeting, there is no longer an officer in place of Mr Clarke who was following up the issues with Weir, this will be followed up.

Cllrs suggested that the links to report issues on rights of way, roads and flooding should be placed in the Chesil magazine on a regular basis, so members of public can report issues as they find them.

5. School's Wildlife Area Project by Stuart Bainbridge

Stewart Bainbridge attended the meeting and spoke on the wildlife area project on behalf of the lead volunteer for the project. He explained how the project evolved initially with a grant for the dry-stone wall on Goosehill from the National Grid community fund project in collaboration with the school and Diocese. A £9000 grant was awarded for the Dry-stone wall and wildflower project at the school site.

SB explained that the school play school field had security fencing installed for safeguarding reasons, this being a national initiative and not necessarily requested by the school, but this fencing has been installed all over country specifically following an unpleasant attack in on a child in a school in Dorchester.

The area for the wildflower meadow is not within the area fenced, it is currently an area of wasteland that hasn't been maintained for some time and is rather uneven. Funds of £1400 have been raised by the school, £800 of those funds were donated by the residents of winters close, the plan is to make an outdoor classroom, forest school, with wildflowers and community area with post and rail fencing.

The school have consulted the parents in the hope to get them involved with future maintenance of the site. The area is to re-scaled and mounds are to be made of about 1.2m high to create a small amphitheatre, there will be a pedestrian gate also some drainage is required in the area, and this is hoped to be carried during the school holidays.

A resident asked if this will be available for the community, it was expected that people be encouraged to use this outside of school hours as a community space.

The meeting felt that there is a lot proposed on the site and maybe overcrowded.

6. Green Space - where children can play safe

It was explained the PC following the loss of Playing field by the school for use by the village and community is looking at its current green spaces. The playing field at West Elworth is available for anyone to use but there is concern over walking access from the village. Although there is a public footpath a more direct walking access is being investigated via a permissive path which would have to be fenced, this would be at a cost of approx. £10,000. It was asked if this could be available for bicycles, the route could well be wet in the winter months due to the nature of the springs.

The parish council is looking at updating the site at West Elworth for the benefit of the whole of the Chesil Bank area and is looking at a survey to gather public opinion of the uses and costs.

7. HGV traffic and speed

SM commented on the meeting held with Chris Loder on the B3157 and the issues raised on the route with the speed and accident rates, specifically motorbikes and how this could be reduced. SM explained that she had personally written a letter to Chris Loder detailing the issues within Portesham and requesting an extension to the 30mph speed limit towards the scrap yard entrance and towards the entrance to West Elworth.

HGV issues were not discussed at the meeting on the B3157 but this is hoped to be considered at a future meeting.

SM commented on the community speed watch team which still meets on a monthly basis and receives mostly positive feedback from drivers, more volunteers are needed for this scheme.

The PC have also made a request to the Traffic Safety team at DC to extend the 30 mile limit out of Abbotsbury towards Portesham to just beyond the bridleway as well as the 2 requests for the extension to the 30mph speed limits in Portesham and requesting a weight restriction of HGV's on Front Street, but still allowing access to businesses.

Residents at the meeting commented on how their houses shake when HGV's come down Front Street, specifically as many don't have foundations.

There was a request from the meeting for 20 mph speed limits through the village, but Dorset Council and Chris Loder are not in favour of this policy at present also if this were in place it would require policing.

The white lines along Front Street around the Old School have also been requested to be repainted.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Update - how it effects Portesham

Ruth Chipp- Marshall reported on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, following the consultation of the draft plan there had been 43 comments across all the parishes the majority of these had come from Langton Herring, 1 from Abbotsbury, 9 from Fleet and only 4 from Portesham which was disappointing. The steering group are meeting in July to discuss the comments made with a view to incorporating these into the draft plan, once this has been done it will be put to the Parish Council in October to approve ready for submission to Dorset Council for their consultation process.

RCM explained that under the current and emerging local plan the number of new dwellings should be 33 for the Chesil Bank Area for the next 15 years and as Portesham village is noted as

sustainable and having a Defined Development boundary the majority of this development is likely to be in the village of Portesham, some of the planning applications already passed would be part of this 33.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan call for sites a site came forward at North Mead Farm for a development of 4 to 6 homes with 50% of these as affordable, following a recent meeting with the landowners and a housing association it was now hoped that 10 dwellings could be sited on this site but still with 50% of them being affordable, this could be rented or shared ownership schemes and it is hoped that these would be for local people but under current funding schemes for affordable homes this is not necessarily the case.

9. Pavilion update

The recreation group have been looking into the pavilion project and preparing for outline planning similar to the cricket pavilion at Long Bredy.

There have been delays in the ecological surveys needed and discussions are being held with the architect to consider putting the pavilion in front of the current derelict pavilion, no new entrance therefore not having to carry out the ecological surveys, this information will be put to the parish council at the next meeting.

RCM explained that it is hoped to hold car boots and a potential dog agility training group are interested in the site but this is still to be agreed.

RCM explained that in order to remove the old pavilion which has an asbestos roof ecological surveys need to be carried out prior to removal and costs of this have doubled in recent years from £800 pounds at least £1600 this has been put on hold for further decision by the parish council.

A survey of the Chesil Bank area to gather comments and feedback will follow.

10. Funding grants available under S106 Development Fund

DJC explained that there are some section 106 funds left in the pot for the Portesham and Abbotsbury parishes, the parish council are currently looking at how these funds can be allocated to current projects and if not where they can be allocated as there is a time limit of six months left on some of this money.

11. Any other Portesham issues/business...

SM commented that she had been approached by several parents because there are 10 children in the area who will be attending middle school in Dorchester as Portesham is not the catchment there is no transport, it was suggested that the parents could perhaps do car share.

A resident asked if part way along the railway track there could be some kind of leaning post or basic bench for people to rest along the route as it's quite a long walk for those who are not so able.

It was explained that the millennium year is now in 2024.

There was a discussion about the motor show and parking vehicles on the short piece of road above the village green, a road closure is required for this area.

A resident brought up the new entrance to the scrap yard and wondered why this has not yet been started considering the amount of work that has taken place on site.

Also, a resident commented on the size of the caravan camping site within Portesham and how much larger it has become and all the trees that have been removed and questioned whether there had been any planning permission given.

This will be an action to be taken to the next parish council meeting on the 4th of July although it was noted that enforcement is discretionary and not statutory as noted by our ward councillor Mark Roberts.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

