

# PORTESHAM PARISH MEETING

## Minutes of the meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 held at Portesham VH

### Present:

Cllr David Collins (Chair) (DJC)

Cllr Sue Weeden (SW)

Cllr Martin Bartlett (MB)

Cllr Sharon Murdoch (SM) 2 x Vacancies

12 members of the public

Cllr Mark Roberts (Dorset Council)

The Clerk- M Harding

### 1. Election of Chair of the Parish

David Collins was nominated by MB and seconded by SW- DJC thanked Cllrs for their support and welcomed all the to meeting, pointing out the emergency exits.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

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

### 3. Matters arising- none.

### 4. Report from the Parish Chair for the year 2022-23

The lease has still not been forthcoming for the play area at the Glebe and without this the PC cannot carry out all the repairs so it may be necessary to close the play area if there are any H & S issues.

The new SID purchased by the PC is now in place and says "Thankyou" it was agreed that this was a benefit to the village by all. A group of volunteers have come forward to deploy the SID this is being led by Sally Holland, thank you to all those who volunteered.

The Recreation group are looking at the options for the playing field at Elworth and following the survey results there is support to take the projects forward for the area, a MUGA, Football field and updating the Tennis court, also gaining a safer route to the site. Dog agility classes have been taking place and the car boots started late last year, we are not sure if these will continue at this stage.

The maintenance of the waterless toilet needs to be established.

The CSW team continue to carry out their sessions thanks to SM for leading this.

There are further horse signs to be installed in Portesham parish.

The Volunteers are working on the wildflower project by the school.

The Solar farm has been dropped at this stage, but the battery storage site is still ongoing.

The PC are looking into the extension of the Cemetery as the space is running out and are future proofing the area for the village.

### 5. Speaker Dilys Gartside- 20's plenty campaign

Dilys Gartside gave a presentation on the 20's Plenty campaign, but due to technical difficulties the projector didn't work. Dilys spoke on the success this has been in other villages and as a result of campaigning, parish councils can now apply to Dorset Council for a 20mph speed limit in built up areas including A and B roads. She urged villages to support the slowing of traffic speed by asking parish or town councils to apply to Dorset Council, the policy changes came into effect from Nov 22. At this stage you should contact your Dorset councillor and your MP that you want this speed limit in the area where you live. She explained the speeds and damage this causes at certain speeds; this data was available in the presentation.

There will be criteria that still needs to be met but the more villages that apply the more DC will have to look at the policy in the future.

As part of the campaign residents can buy wheelie bin stickers so once a week this is put out and is gentle reminder to drivers to take care. Residents to contact the Clerk for more info.

Following the presentation residents had the opportunity to ask questions. The full presentation was circulated to Cllrs and is available on the PC website.

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Dilys was thanked for her presentation and time to attend the parish meeting.

## 6. Highways and Traffic issues

### i. HGV's- to set up a working group for the village.

DJC reported on the site meeting with a highways officer, MB, SM, Cllr Mark Roberts and The Clerk who attended the meeting on Front Street, disappointingly it was very quiet and not many HGVs used the route between 8 and 9.30m whilst during the meeting.

The outcome of the meeting was that DC will investigate an HGV weight and width limit for Front Street, this will still allow access for local businesses including the farms in the village. Support will be requested from Winterbourne Abbas PC as the HGV's access the A35 from this route near their school.

The centre white lines will be requested to be repainted on the bend by the Old School to remind drivers that it is a 2-way street.

Currently there is no further action for the PC until highways have made their enquiries. A traffic survey may be required but not necessary at present.

DJC would like to carry out some informal traffic counts from the village green and will discuss this with volunteers. It was also suggested that those walking to the school in the morning where possible could use Church Lane and across the Churchyard where visibility is better.

As part of the potential access to the playing field, highways will be invited to a further meeting to look at the access from the highway for any potential permissive path.

DJC encouraged all to report any accidents or near misses to the police as this builds evidence.

### ii. SID Volunteer SID team.

Thanks to volunteers coming forward, the new SID which says "Thankyou" will now be moved by a team of volunteers instead of paying Dorset Council £700 per year service, this money can then be allocated to support the community. Sally Holland has agreed to lead the team, full training will be given by DC and the team will be covered under the PC insurance.

### iii. CSW Report and gather volunteers.

SM reported that the group had carried out 10 sessions in the last year so roughly one per month. There have been 45 incidents which have received a letter from the police. There have not been any repeat letters sent, and most drivers slow down when the team are carrying out the CSW sessions. When the Police are in attendance then the outcome is more severe. Volunteers are needed to carry out more sessions so if interested please contact SM.

Residents commented on the issues of noise from motorbikes and needing a speed camera out on a Sunday morning. This can be reported on the Dorset traffic police website then a camera van is more likely to attend. There is a new camera van which can record the speed of motorbikes as the camera turns 360 degrees.

### iv. Other road reports.

DJC reported on the horse signs he has for Portesham. A resident commented on the effectiveness of the signs in Abbotsbury and recommended that some are placed near the playing field or allotments.

MR reported on the 20's plenty presentation- currently the B3157 is a strategic route and there will be no changes to the speed at this time. Also, if the police don't have the resources any new speed limit may not be enforced.

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## **7. Rights of Way Issues**

SM commented that the footpath through the campsite which is much better and drier. A RoW volunteer is needed for Portesham, this does not have to be a Parish Councillor.

## **8. Report from the Portesham Volunteers**

Stuart Bainbridge Chair of the PV gave a brief report on the activities of the group. The PV with volunteers from Burton Bradstock have been carrying out work on the Doctors surgery garden for the benefit of staff and patients. The project to rebuild the wall at Goosehill which is now complete with funding from the National VIP project. The replacement of the Parish map on the village green is due to take place shortly. The outdoor classroom for the school has been created at the glebe land by the school. It is hoped to place some benches in the area as well. The Princess of Wales has been invited to officially open the area once complete and a coronation bench is being considered. The PV have also been planting shrubs and trees on the green at Goosehill, some work is required to replant some of the trees away from the area but the PC and the PV will be working collaboratively to provide a licence for future projects in this area and on land maintained by DC. DJC explained that a working group of volunteers and Cllrs will be set up to manage the working together project. Some work may not be able to take place given the regulations required. This will be discussed further.

## **9. New bench for the village green to mark the Coronation of King Charles III**

DJC explained that there had been no requests for funds from the PC so far for the Coronation events in the village as many are having their own street parties, it was noted that the Pub would probably be doing something.

It was therefore suggested that with the funds allocated by the PC of £1276.42 could be used to provide a Coronation bench for the village green and some seating for the Community area created by the PV and school. Cllrs asked if a bench is purchased for the area will this be accessible for all of the community, this was agreed. This will be further considered by Portesham Cllrs and recommended to the PC. The PC have a policy of all new benches to be of recycled materials.

## **10. MMXXXIV-Millennium Anniversary**

Keith Brignell commented that both Portesham and Abbotsbury reps are starting to discuss what can be organised to commemorate this event, all the info is on the Portesham village website. It was suggested that both villages could hold a joint event, it was suggested that the Playing field could be used for this celebration. Further information to follow.

## **11. Planning and enforcement issues**

The PC have dealt with various planning enforcement issues in the village and some of these are ongoing.

## **12. Flood Report**

SM explained that following the flood report of 2019 some of the quick wins have not yet been carried out. The PC have contacted the flood officers to ask for feedback on the items that have still to be considered. Also, to note the sluice gate is to have a mesh cover DJC is investigating this, a resident who is directly affected by the sluice levels has the code to the lock as does DJC, this is to be monitored by the PC and flood group regularly.

SM commented that if anyone is able to assist when there is a flood issue then this would be most welcome as those affected will be dealing with their flood defences at the time and would not be answering phone calls.

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## **13. Recreation- report and update on activities**

MB reported that the Cemetery extension, which is still ongoing. The PC following the feedback from concerned residents had asked if the area the PC could purchase for the extension could be to the lower area, but the Estate expressed that the only area that the PC could possibly take on was to the north. Residents asked why the PC can't re-use the bottom area of the cemetery as they have in Chickerell, also how has the calculation been carried out to consider this extension, it was explained that many of the plots are already purchased by local families so there is only a small number of plots now available. The record for all burials is with the Clerk should anyone wish to view these. Residents of Cemetery Road were very concerned about the extension, and further discussions will be held with the residents and the estate before any purchase is made.

MB also reported on the potential for a permissive path from Portesham to Elworth, currently there is an agreement from the tenant and landowner that this could happen, but the route will not be a hard surface and not fenced and requires further investigation of costs.

The potential for the railway from Portesham to Upwey had taken a back seat but is still being pursued.

## **14. Dog Fouling**

DJC explained that there have been further issues with dog fouling, a resident who had contacted the dog warden about the issues commented on the idea of placing dog poo bags in areas in the village, this had been carried out in the past by the local scout group. Most dog owners are responsible and pick up after their dogs it is the few that ruin it for others.

It was noted that if the village wanted support from the Dog warden, then the request needs to come from the PC, this will be considered at the next meeting.

It was noted that the public bins can take the dog poo bags, but ideally this should be taken home and placed in your own rubbish.

## **15. Parish Assets/responsibilities update Cllr reps-** this was deferred until the vacant seats have been filled and the responsibilities can be shared out.

## **16. Councillor vacancies-** the process of co-option was explained and assuming there is not to be an election then the 2 seats will be filled by co-option if candidates come forward.

## **17. Any other Portesham issues or your issues**

A resident asked if the recreation area at Elworth can be used for learning to ride a bike or if facilities can be found as now the school playing field is not available, many are not using the play area. The tennis court area is suitable for this purpose, but residents were concerned about accessing the site on foot or on bikes.

DJC reported that a site meeting had been held with 3 Cllrs to look at the future use of the site and the pavilion currently. The ideas from the survey of Outdoor Gym equipment, picnic benches and gaining grant funding to carry out these projects are being looked into.

A resident commented on the project in their previous village of a purpose-built cycling set up to give children and adults the confidence to ride safely. This information will be shared by the resident.

Cllr Mark Roberts ward Councillor for the Chesil Bank area gave a report on the activities of Dorset Council. He explained he had been a District then Dorset Council Cllr for 20 years and sits on several committees including harbours and scrutiny.

The DC budget has now been agreed without a cut to services. The budget is currently £348M this covers 450 services for 380,000 people across Dorset. DC employ approx. 4000 people and when the Unitary Council was formed there was a saving of £76M. The transport budget is 12M

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per year an additional 2.4M has been provided by the government for potholes but given the increase in costs this means highways can only maintain their current services. Adult social services is 50% of the whole budget, and children's services is 25%.

MR also commented on the wish of DC to charges second homeowners double council tax but this has not been supported by the government at this time. DC had suffered with the collection of Council tax during the covid crisis, but this has now returned to 95% recovery.

MR reported that Chris Loder MP when carrying out his survey of the B3157 from Bridport to Weymouth was very keen that all signs and road markings are reinstated and supported the purchase of a new speed camera van to catch motorbikes.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm