

UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk to the Council: John Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD
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Draft Until Approved

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Bettiscombe Village Hall on Thursday 21st
January 2016**

Present: Cllr's M Bowditch (Chairman), A Cameron, C Rabbetts, F Bailey, T Richards,
E Rowe, J Brown and J Gillingham

In Attendance: The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe) , Cllr D Turner (Dorset County Council), Cllr
J Sewell and Cllr M Roberts (West Dorset District Council), one member of the press and
two members of the public.

Not in Attendance: Nil

072	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr's C Gray (meeting), A Edwards (family), R Warburton (work) and R Wyatt (meeting). Resolved to accept these apologies. An apology was also received from County Councillor R Knox; which was duly noted
073	Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct Cllr M Bowditch declared a personal interest in Planning Application WD/d/15/002731..
074	Minutes The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 3 rd December 2015 were adopted as a true record, and were signed by the chairman.
075	Matters Arising Cllr A Cameron and the clerk had visited Higher Sminhay Farm as requested to look at the proposed diversion of footpath 50. Having examined the proposal, and taking into consideration comments from the West Dorset Ramblers, it was felt that there were little on-road hazards associated with the short walk required by the diversion, however the ramblers proposal that the path should follow the edge of the field rather than across it seemed a sensible solution. As they had been given power to act the clerk had written back to Mr Denny supporting his application providing the slight amendment mentioned above was included in the application.
076	Police Report No report

<p>077</p>	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>Mr M Robinson updated the meeting in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan. The first consultation meeting with the public will take place at Blackdown Hall on the 26th and 27th February. The consultant to assist with the project had been selected and a draft letter compiled. The district council had stated that they were not willing to assist with the mailing, however Cllr Sewell had volunteered to assist with the addressing and the clerk would send them out from Tiverton Town Council using the franking machine facility, which would save funds.</p> <p>A parishioner expressed concerns regarding the consultation taking place regarding the possible withdrawal of subsidies to bus services that only operate on a weekly basis. If implemented this would see the withdrawal of all services in the area including the very well-used service to Axminster on A Thursday, which on occasions has had to turn people away because it was full.</p>
<p>078</p>	<p>County and District Reports</p> <p>County: The Council was still exploring the possible double devolution, although there was little detail at present about this scheme and was impact it might have on parish and town councils. Concerns were being made to the Government about the latest cuts in grants which would require far more cuts in spending than were originally thought. With regards to the possible withdrawal of bus subsidies, the meeting was reminded that comments were required by the 8th February. There are at present 200 traffic orders outstanding. 19 parish and town councils had shown an interest in possibly taking over youth services in their area. Councillor Knox had forwarded an email to the clerk stating that she had received correspondence from residents concerned about the possible withdrawal of services 688 and 14. She has asked the transport team to provide details of costs involved and the number of users of these services. She felt that the community scheme might be the answer. The general consensus of the meeting was not in favour of this option. The clerk stated that the community scheme in Thorncombe was really designed to take people to hospital appointments and other such events and not to ferry 15 people.</p> <p>District: The West Dorset local Plan had been approved and a copy had been provided to the meeting. Agreed that this document would be circulated via councillors so that everyone could become familiar with its content. There would be a seminar in Dorchester on the 2nd and 3rd February regarding the Local Plan. There would be a public referendum regarding the way in which the district council is governed. This will take place on the 5th May, the same day as the poll for a Police and Crime Commissioner in Dorset. The referendum will ask whether the people want a leader, who is an elected councillor chosen by other elected councillors, which is the present position, or run by one or more committee made up of elected councillors, which would be a change from the present way in which the council is run. The expenses limit for the referendum is set at £7036.45, having been calculated from 79,228 electors.</p>

079	<p>Accounts for Payment The following accounts were authorised for payment: S Lee Garden Services £1268.00. Agreed to pay £50 towards the clerk’s professional fees. It was agreed that accounts could be paid between meetings providing the authorisation of one authorised councillor is obtained. Bank Update: with the above payment the bank balance would be £6,365.14.</p>
080	<p>Planning WD/D/15/002731 Laverstock Farm: Retain two Shepherds huts as self-catering holiday lets and conversion of garage to holiday let. Support. Neighbourhood Plan: Clerk authorised to apply for and settle accounts with the consultant up to a maximum of £5,000 in total.</p>
081	<p>Reports Highways: A number of works had been carried out by the parish lengthsman. Dorset CC had produced a draft maintenance plan for 2015/16 which was available from the clerk on request. A concern regarding a footpath had been dealt with, and the landowner had agreed to rectify the problem. The lady who had made the complaint had received an acknowledgement, which had been circulated. Housing: Tenants were now moving into the new homes Newsletter: Next newsletter to be published in February Bus Services: it was felt that this item had already been adequately dealt with during the meeting</p>
082	<p>Items of Urgency No items</p>
082	<p>Meeting Dates 17th March Council 21st April Annual Parish Meeting 19th May Annual Council Meeting 21st July Council 15th September Council 17th November Council 15th December Council –budget</p> <p>Agreed that due to the poor car parking facilities at Stoke Abbot all meetings in 2016 would be at Bettiscombe.</p> <p>Next Meeting: 17th March 206 @ Bettiscombe 7.30pm <i>Note this has since been changed to Wednesday 16th March</i></p>