

UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: John Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD

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Minutes of a Council Meeting held at Bettiscombe Village Hall on Thursday 21st September 2023, commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllr's E Rowe (Chairman), M Bowditch, J Gillingham, C Rabbetts, J Sewell

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr J Vanderwolf, Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council) and three members of the public.

485	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr's A Cameron (Family), T Richards (work), R Wyatt (Family) and J Piper (away), Resolved to accept these apologies</p>
486	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2023, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record.</p>
487	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>The Coronation seats are now in place in both Pilsdon and Stoke Abbott, Members commented on the positive comments received regarding both seats.</p>
488	<p>Casual Vacancy</p> <p>Sarah Forsey had applied to fill the vacant position. She had sent a short email outlining her experiences and why she wished to join the council. All members voted in favour of co-opting Sarah to the council.</p>
489	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>A new resident introduced himself to the meeting. He informed the meeting that he was a keen walker and would be willing to take up the vacant honorary Right of Way warden's position.</p> <p>A resident from Stoke Abbott requested that a bin be provided at Stoke Abbott</p>

490	Accounts for Payment: The following payment was ratified: S Lee £132.00
491	Financial Update: Members examined the income and expenditure account and were satisfied with it. The financial assets as of the 20 th September were £22,106.18
492	Bus Service Grant The clerk explained that for some years Thorncombe Parish Council had subsidised a number of bus services in the area. They were requesting that this council makes a financial payment to maintain the Thursday bus service to Axminster which is used by Marshwood residence. Members resolved to make a payment of £500 towards this service.
493	Chard Parkway Station Following pressure from a Somerset councillor the railway had agreed to undertake a feasibility study for the possible reopening of the former Chard Junction station, which closed in 1966. This could become a parkway station to serve Chard and the surrounding villages. Members felt this was a positive move and agreed to support it.
494	Dorset Council Report Cllr S Christopher had forwarded a report to members prior to the meeting, for which he was thanked. He reported that two meetings had recently been held concerning required repairs to the church so that the school could continue to use the facilities
495	Planning No applications to deal with at this meeting.
496	Highways and Rights of Way The Lengthsman had done some work at the War Memorial. It was agreed that bins would be provided at Stoke Abbott and Pilsdon. The clerk would contact Dorset Council to see whether we would provide the bins, or whether they would. Members agreed to pay the council to empty them. Hawkchurch had requested that Upper Marshwood Vale might like to join forces with them to create an emergency plan for the area. Cllr Rowe agreed to lead on this for this parish. The clerk informed the meeting that Devon operated a snow warden scheme, and wondered if Dorset might like to introduce a similar scheme. Members were pleased to appoint Mr Neil Macnaughtan as the Honorary Parish Rights of Way Warden.

497	<p>Remembrance Day</p> <p>Parish and town councils are now responsible for any parades and ceremonies regarding Remembrance Day. The chairman would lay the wreath at the War Memorial. He would also find out which church was holding the church service and report back. It was hoped that councillors would attend.</p>
498	<p>Dorset Association Parish and Town Councils</p> <p>A meeting was scheduled for the 6th October and the Annual Meeting would take place on the 18th November.</p>
499	<p>Other Reports</p> <p>Cllr Sewell informed the meeting that a new scheme had been introduced in which holders of blue badges could pay a one-off fee of £15, which would then entitle them to free car parking in designated spaces for up to three hours. She felt that this facility needed more publicity</p>
500	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>There were no planning applications to be dealt with at this meeting.</p>
501	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Correspondence circulated via email on a regular basis.</p>
502	<p>Closing of Meeting</p> <p>The meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.05pm.</p>
503	<p>Next Meeting Thursday 16th November 2023 at 7pm</p>

Signature of Chairman -----

Date -----