

## UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: John Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD

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### **Minutes of a Virtual Council Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 commencing at 6pm**

**Present:** Cllrs M Bowditch (Chairman), A Cameron, J Sewell, A Edwards, J Gillingham, C Rabbetts, J Piper and F Bailey

**In attendance:** The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe) , Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council) and about six members of the public.

**Non-Attendance:** Cllr's T Brown, E Rowe and R Wyatt

It was noted that the meeting would be recorded

<b>190</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr T Richards, which was accepted.
<b>191</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct made at this stage of the meeting.
<b>192</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of January 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record.
<b>193</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> The clerk had sent out a request for all councillors to inspect their local grit bins and report back any that were empty or low. It was important that the identification number was provided. Cllr J Gillingham had reported to the clerk that the new grit bin had not been filled. The clerk stated he had reported this to the highway officer.
<b>194</b>	<b>Democratic Period</b>

	<p>Cllr Sewell asked if local companies had been asked to tender for the works at Norway Lane. Cllr S Christopher stated that this would have been considered if local companies were on the procurement list.</p>
<b>195</b>	<p><b>Accounts for Payment:</b> Resolved to ratify the following payment: Precision Peripheral £78.00.</p>
<b>196</b>	<p><b>Financial Update:</b> The financial update was agreed with one alteration. The end of year estimated figure for the website to read £537 and not £150.</p>
<b>197</b>	<p><b>Covid-19 Update</b></p> <p>The clerk made the point that there were concerns that not everyone was aware of the assistance available for people experiencing difficulties during the pandemic. He urged everyone to ensure, as far as they could that no one was missed out, taking into consideration the fact that not everyone used social media</p>
<b>198</b>	<p><b>Marshwood Speed Camera Project</b></p> <p>Cllr A Edwards thanked the council for agreeing to go ahead with the speed camera project at the previous meeting. The posts for the cameras had been installed, however training had been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. A recent police speed check had found 20 motorist breaking the speed limit in a two hour period, with one person being taken to court for excessive speed through the 30mph limit.</p>
<b>199</b>	<p><b>Dorset Council Report -sent by Cllr S Christopher</b></p> <p>I have had discussion with officers and other interested parties re ongoing work in connection with speeding, particularly in the centre of the village. Where there is also concern with speeding at or near to the primary school, I have been working with officers and the lead member for education.</p> <p>The state of Norway Lane remains under review. As with all lanes there is concern over the size of vehicles using the lane.</p> <p>The consultation on the new Dorset local plan has commenced. This is arguably one of the most important things the Dorset Council will do that it is have a plan which guides as to where development takes place. Central to this is deciding where homes will be built The Council has set out its thoughts guided by a predominate idea that homes will be allowed to be built predominately where they are reasonably close to major services not least of which are schools and hospitals. This is an important piece of work, especially given the demand for houses in the</p>

County and high house price/ earnings multiple. You may also believe that it is a good idea that houses for those working in our hospitals are care homes etc should be available locally. Please remember that the local plan should be seen as a guide.

Thus it is an established fact in planning case law that the Local Authority does not have to slavishly follow the local plan and I am the first to remind officers of that when I hear concerns from those in the Ward.

I continue to press for assistance for the village shops and the 11 village halls in the Ward. I have received e mails of thanks from several village halls in connection with Covid-19 lockdown grants. Please as a matter of priority let me know if any hall is missing out I say this as the Council will not because of GDPR send me details of all grants paid to all village halls for all lockdowns

With respect to the workforce of Dorset Council they are clearly impacted by the lockdown. One practical example is where a Dorset Council employee has children and there are childcare issues schools and even playgroups having closed. In such circumstance's childcare is very much shared between spouses or partners. The result is an increase in what you might call flexi time and inspection of bridges footpaths etc may happen at times which may change at short notice. All of this is totally fair enough and understandable provided the work is done if there are concerns re highways issues, I am naturally addressed straight away. There are rare occasions when major work is required. This may involve more complicated consideration of how the work is done and quotes obtained from specialist firms

The roll out of the vaccine continues and the reaction of those I speak with is very largely that this is very well organised. COVID-19 support grants have again been paid out for the third lockdown and on an automatic basis according to Government rules. Such grants are what I call very many premises based i.e., where businesses are not able to open their premises while there are other business people who have been impacted through loss of work, work cancelled etc

Work is continuing in relation to the declared climate emergency and also to improve broadband. I point out for example the difficulty parish councillors have due to poor broadband

I am still conscious of how long people are spending in our local hospitals, not helped by the fact that the availability of carers is at such a premium

	<p>During the month I attended the meeting of the local WATAG meeting of those wish to promote improvements in transport and indeed public transport bus and rail primarily. I have known the chair of WATAG for a great many years and look to continue to be a channel of communication between the group and Dorset Council Officers and Transport portfolio holders and our employees</p> <p>You will have read the wide coverage that has been given to the financial difficulties that Local Authorities face and the impending impact on the level of Council tax This will reasonably include Local Government reorganisation being so quickly followed by the pandemic issues around non council tax income being impacted and the need to take a realistic approach to building etc inherited from predecessor councils whilst having the central objectives to preserve services and look forward to a post COVID-19 world of economic growth and prosperity</p> <p>Clearly there is considerable concerns about the future for farmers in The Vale. The effects of Brexit do not appear to have been a cliff edge. The UK EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) avoided the cliff edge of a no trade deal.</p> <p>What has been apparent are the effect of Non-Tariff Measures (NTM'S), which will impact on exporters and by implication UK farmers. I am aware of concerns re NTM's.</p> <p>Non-Tariff Measures (NTM'S) are government – imposed trade regulations, faced by trading businesses, which are unrelated to tariffs and which place non -price and non-quantity restrictions on cross-border (agriculture and food) trade. These apply on trade both between the UK and the EU and between third countries and the UK.</p>
<b>200</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>WD/D/20/002988 Lower Park Farm, Cards Mill Lane, Whitchurch: Change of use from barn to holiday accommodation. The meeting agreed to support this application as it was in line with the present West Dorset Local Plan.</p>
<b>201</b>	<p><b>Dorset Local Plan</b></p> <p>It was agreed that comments would be forwarded to the clerk by the end of the month so that a corporate response could be made. Councillors are free to make individual comments to Dorset Council in their own name.</p>
<b>202</b>	<p><b>BAVLAP Report</b></p>

	<p>Cllr Sewell explained that it was likely that BAVLAP would join forces with the Lyme Forum, who had not lost their funding from Dorset Council. A report of a recent meeting of BAVLAP had been circulated; and was noted.</p>
<b>203</b>	<p><b>Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils</b></p> <p>Various circulars had been forwarded to members</p>
<b>204</b>	<p><b>Western Area Transport Action Group</b></p> <p>A report had been circulated by the clerk of the annual general meeting, which he had attended. The group had expressed concerns about the lack of detail in the draft Dorset Plan appertaining to local bus services in the future. At present the Government was paying for buses and trains to operate for essential journeys. Concerns had been expressed that anyone required to travel by bus to receive their Covid-19 vaccination could not travel in Dorset before 9.30am on weekdays.</p>
<b>205</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Correspondence had been circulated at the request of a parishioner regarding a future planning application. Members were in general favour of the proposal, but reserved their final opinion until the planning application was before them to be dealt with.</p>
<b>206</b>	<p><b>Items of Urgency:</b> No items</p>
<b>207</b>	<p><b>Closing of Meeting</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 7pm</p>
<b>208</b>	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> The next meeting will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 6pm. This will be a virtual meeting.</p>

Signature of Chairman -----