

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 18th November 2021

Present: Cllrs M Bowditch (Chairman), J Sewell, A Edwards, A Cameron, R Wyatt, C RabbettsJ Gillingham, T Richards, S Hudston, J Piper and F Bailey

In attendance: The Clerk, Mr J Vanderwolfe and Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council).

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| 290 | Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr E Rowe. |
| 291 | Declarations of interest There were no Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct made at this stage of the meeting. |
| 292 | Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 16 th September 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record. |
| 293 | Matters Arising An officer from Dorset Council had visited the Dog Kennel site today and discussions regarding her report will be forwarded in due course. |
| 294 | Democratic Period No items |
| 295 | Accounts for Payment: Resolved to ratify the following payments: S Lee £156.00 and J Vanderwolfe £135.20. |
| 296 | Financial Update: The financial update had been circulated prior to the meeting and was adopted. It was noted that the Council had received a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) of £4580. The clerk explained that this had to be used for projects that would benefit the community and not for the general running of the council. It was agreed that an article would appear in the Beneath the Vale seeking public views on this. Cllr Sewell suggested a |

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| | village gateway or something to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee next year. |
| 297 | <p>Marshwood Speed Device Project</p> <p>Cllr Edwards stated that she was still awaiting the report on the survey which had taken place some time ago. She felt that in the main the camera had the desired effect. The chairman thanked Cllr Edwards and her team for all their efforts on this project</p> |
| 298 | <p>Dorset Council Report</p> <p>A number of parish councils receive reports from the farming community:</p> <p>That is, reports from farmers, who are also parish councillors, outlining current challenges facing farmers, for the benefit in particular of other parish councillors, many of whom have recently moved into the parish and often with little or no knowledge of farming.</p> <p>I suspect that many in the farming community will say that in the Upper Marshwood Vale 2021 will be remembered as a year of great challenges. Clearly we have seen an influx of tourists in the Vale driving through the narrow lanes and particularly so at a time when farming activity has been at it's most intense.</p> <p>2021 will also be remembered as a challenging time for farmers financially, not merely as there is the move away from the basic payment subsidy i.e. area based subsidies but also because of inflation.</p> <p>It is fair to say that input costs have been soaring e.g. fertiliser at more than £650 a tonne.</p> <p>Red diesel is now around 75 pence per litre compared to 42 pence per lite a year ago.</p> <p>Farm gate prices of milk for example while increasing somewhat fail to match these increases.</p> <p>There is also the high profile nature of farming with so much COP 26 focus on the meat and dairy sector. The price of tractors etc. has soared and labour supply and costs are cited as a concern even before consideration of the National Insurance hikes next April.</p> <p>Clearly farming networks and talking has never been more important than at the present time, when there is so much discussion on COP 26 reduction in methane, increased commitment to TB testing , the need to house animals and the focus on the state of rivers etc. and the future of local abattoirs etc.</p> <p>Pilsdon Lane:</p> <p>I received a query in relation to delays in road surface work at Pilsdon Lane.</p> |

I queried the point with a lead member for highways, the lead member responsible for road surfaces with the Dorset Council road network

His reply was as follows:

“I am sorry that the work to Pilsdon Lane has not been able to be carried out as originally planned. I am sorry too that you were not given advanced notice of this as ward member, which I would have expected.

In essence the reason for the delay is caused by a contractor being unable to do the work on the original date then a period of poor weather has required a delay. This is because of the type of work that we had planned. We had 4 schemes, including Pilsdon Lane that we were unable to get done this year and before the weather changed, this isn't to do with rainfall but the 'in situ recycling work' does require certain drier weather conditions.

I asked the team if it would be possible to undertake the work using other methods to ensure that this could be done sooner. I understand that the cost for changing to another method is approx. double the current cost, would require the road to be closed for longer and is also less environmentally friendly. Bearing all of that in mind, and our current budget and environmental commitments, there is little I can do to reinstate the work.

I have been told that this will be picked up again in the spring and I will endeavour to get a more exact date for you as soon as I can.

Once again I am sorry that this work was unable to be completed as originally planned.”

Canine Establishment:

PLATINUM JUBILEE :

I have also received a response from Matt Prosser, chief executive of Dorset Council in response to my question in respect of the 2022 Jubilee celebrations for HM Queen Elizabeth 2, our sovereign and defender of the faith.

The response was as follows:

“Dear Cllr Christopher

There are a number of officers across Dorset Council working to support and prepare for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, from links with our Lord Lieutenant who is arranging formal services in conjunction with Dorset Council, to mark the occasion through to supporting the national Queen's Canopy project to plant trees across the UK.

We are also linking with DAPTC to provide practical support to those towns and

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| | <p>parishes wanting to host local events and needing to apply for street closures or additional waste and recycling services.</p> <p>I have asked the various teams for an update which I will collate in due course and circulate to members. I am also in contact with the Lord Lieutenant to understand any further requests coming from Her Majesty's team. "</p> |
| 299 | <p>Planning</p> <p>P/Ful/2021/04523 Copse Gate Farm, Whitchurch: Change of use of land and siting of a Shepard's Hut for use as a dwelling and creation of parking space. The Council agreed to support this application as they felt it was in line with the West Dorset Plan.</p> |
| 300 | <p>Highways and Rights of Way</p> <p>Our Parish Lengthsman had tidied the War Memorial area ahead of the laying of the wreath commemorations on Remembrance Day, when the Council was represented by our chairman, Cllr M Bowditch.</p> <p>Cllr Wyatt would speak to the parish Lengthsman and asked him to investigate gullies and ditches ahead of the winter period.</p> |
| 301 | <p>Bottle Inn</p> <p>Dorset Council had visited the site on a number of occasions and generally found it to be secure, however this was not the case on the last visit when it was found that a door was open and windows had been smashed. It was also noted that a number of planters had gone missing from the car park area. The car park surface is now in a very poor state of repair. The clerk stated that if the Premises License had not been renewed within a period of time he suspected it would be revoked. Agreed that the clerk would contact the licensing section of Dorset Council to ascertain if this was the case or not.</p> <p>The clerk had forwarded a copy of the application for the Bottle Inn to be registered through Dorset Council as a Community Asset. He made the point that all the details required on that form plus a map of the location would be required if the council wished to make this application.</p> <p>It was resolved that the Council applies for the Bottle Inn to be registered as a Community Asset.</p> |
| 302 | <p>Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils</p> <p>Various circulars had been forwarded to members</p> |
| 303 | <p>BAVLAP</p> |

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| | <p>The clerk had received correspondence from BAVLAP stating that due to a loss of funding from Dorset Council it required £9,520 per annum to operate the group. The letter had stated that there were 14 parishes in the group and that it had been requested that Upper Marshwood Vale contributed £64.33 towards this cost. The letter also noted that Bridport Town Council was being asked to contribute £8,120 per year. Members discussed the group and felt that in the main it served Bridport and the parishes immediately around it, but that there was not a great deal of influence on Upper Marshwood Vale. The clerk had attended one zoom meeting but had not felt very welcomed. Members felt that in the main the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, to which we already pay a membership fee, provides us with adequate information and that to some degree any additional costs would be a duplication.</p> <p>Resolved that Upper Marshwood Parish Council would not contribute to any costs and that it withdraw from membership of BAVLAP. The clerk would write to the secretary and inform her of this decision.</p> |
| <p>304</p> | <p>Beneath the Vale</p> <p>Cllr A Cameron informed the meeting that he was giving notice of his intention to step down as editor of this magazine following the publication of the next two editions. The chairman thanked him for his contributions and hoped that a successor could be found.</p> |
| <p>305</p> | <p>Litter /Dog Bin Stoke Abbott</p> <p>The clerk stated he had received correspondence from a lady in Stoke Abbott stating that there were no dog or litter bins within the parish. The Stoke Abbott councillors confirmed that whilst there had in the past been some litter bins this was no longer the case. The chairman agreed to provide suitable locations for one or two bins within the parish. It was noted that Dorset Council no longer provides separate dog waste bins. It was felt that possibly Dorset Council could provide one bin, and that the other could be paid for from CIL funds. Cllr Christopher asked the clerk to drop him an email on this matter.</p> |
| <p>306</p> | <p>Climate and Ecology</p> <p>Cllr Hudston gave an informative short presentation regarding Climate Change and asked everyone present what they could do. Char Valley Had instigated a detailed plan and she stated that she wanted this council to sign up to one at the January 2022 meeting. She stated that there was a great deal of inaccurate out there. She agreed that most people signed up to small changes, however there was a need to make bigger decisions that would make lasting changes. She made reference to the end of fossil fuels by 2030.</p> |

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| | She asked for volunteers to meet with her to discuss the way forward. Cllr's Sewell and Edwards agreed to meet with her. Cllr Hudston asked that if any other members later felt that they could give some time to this project that they contact her. |
| 307 | Correspondence Correspondence from Public Health Dorset regarding their 'Let's Talk Winter' project was distributed to members and duly noted. |
| 308 | Items of Urgency: No items |
| 309 | Next Meeting: Thursday 20 th January 2022 at 7pm |

Signature of Chairman -----