

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE LOWER WINTERBORNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2013 AT WINTERBORNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Mr M Griffin (Chairman) MG  
Mrs D Lewis (Vice Chairman) DL  
Mr L Burgess LB  
Mr P Humphrys PH  
Mr T Ives TI  
Mrs J Jenkins JJ  
Mr G Nash GN  
Mrs S Seaton SS  
Ms L Wilcox (Parish Clerk) LW  
4 members of the public.

**Appointments:** Mark Meaden was co-opted onto the Council as a new Councillor for Winterborne Tomson.

- 1. Apologies:** Sarah Gale, Emma Parker, Jane Somper. MG announced that Sarah Gale had resigned from the Council wef 17 December 2013 due to business pressures. On behalf of the Council he thanked her for her work over the previous 2 years.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Proposed by GN, seconded by LB. All in favour. Signed by MG.
- 3. Matters arising:** MG reported that (i) fencing had been erected at WK Rec to protect the new tree and that wild flower seeds would be planted (a grant may be available), (ii) Bere Regis PC had expressed an interest in running the Post Office - decision awaited, (iii) thanks to efforts by JJ the rubbish in the lay-by on the A31 near White Post had finally been cleared.
- 4. Resolution to pay bills:** these included Clerk's expenses £122.56, grass-cutting bill for September (£500.00) grass-cutting bill for November (£912.50) which included £250.00 for the removal and disposal of a tree in the churchyard, new keys for the notice board and the village hall in WK (£14.50) and dog stickers (£19.81). In addition a VAT refund (£1,455.16) had been received from HMRC and the fees (£70.00) for the hire of the WK village hall by the Pop-In Club had been paid. Proposed GN, seconded JJ. All agreed.
- 5. Precept 2014/15:** MG had attended a meeting at NDDC on 5/12/13 and had been impressed by the amount of savings already achieved by NDDC but his view was that Precepts were likely to be capped for 2015/16. Currently there is approx £14,000 in LWPC's accounts including specific reserves, £2,000 in reserves. He anticipated a spend of £2,500-3,000 between now and the end of March 2014. A copy of LWPC 2013/2014 precept had been circulated as a base for discussion of the 2014/2015 precept.

NDDC had requested contributions to the running of Blandford Leisure Centre. It was agreed that the Centre was well-run and that LWPC is currently one of the few

parishes which have not contributed so far. DL proposed a contribution of £400, seconded by PH, all agreed.

GN proposed an annual contract for trapping moles on the WK Rec for £250.00 pa, to be paid quarterly, as this would provide better value-for-money and more regular attendance by the contractor. Seconded TI, all agreed.

GN raised the problems previously encountered in paying bills for grass-cutting in WK. MG agreed that this had been embarrassing and would not happen in future.

MG to prepare the 2014/2015 precept for approval at the next meeting. **Action: MG**

MG reported that he and DL had attended a meeting on 16/12/13 with the Developer of the Mapperton Solar Farm to discuss the setting up of a Trust to manage funds donated by the Developer for use by the community. It was proposed to have 5 Trustees; 3 from Sturminster Marshall (SM) and 2 from Lower Winterborne, these need not be Parish Councillors. MG suggested that the Trust should be set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which would limit the Trustees' liability if the Trust were to fail. Funding applications would be received by the Trust and decided twice a year. Various guidance documents are expected from Good Energy in the next few days and will be circulated to all councillors.

£25,000 will be provided each year for 30 years (the anticipated life of the Solar Farm). Of this, it had already been agreed that £3,000 would be paid annually for the maintenance of the village hall at SM and £5,000 annually to Mapperton leaving £17,000 pa. There will be a further meeting with the Chairman and Clerk of SMPC. MG asked for views on how funds coming to the community could be used.

**Action: All Councillors**

## **6. Planning:**

- i. Ravensholt, WZ - application approved;
- ii. Broad Close, WK - terms of S106 agreement not yet agreed;
- iii. Middle Farm, WZ - PH reported that no objections had been received from neighbouring properties. Agreement proposed by PH, seconded DL. All agreed. LW to notify NDDC; **Action: LW**
- iv. Sunnyside, WW (but within LWPC) - no objections. LW to notify NDDC; **Action: LW**
- v. Alveston, WZ - no objection from WZ's Tree Officer to proposed tree works;
- vi. SCATS site, WK – the new Developer (Cawdor) had written to LWPC advising their intention to submit a further application for the site before Christmas. This would comprise 18 units (a mix of housing, both affordable and for private sale, and business units). Nothing was presently on NDDC's website. JJ confirmed that there was a TPO on the chestnut trees on the site.
- vii. A copy of an application to demolish a garage and erect a single-storey extension at 29A Broad Close, WK, had been received.

**7. Bus service :** DCC had approved Option 3. This will mean the cessation of the 316 service from WK to Blandford on Thursdays. Tenders had been invited for a shopping service from WK to Poole once or twice a week. New timetables would take effect from April 2014.

**8. County Councillor's and District Councillors Reports.** Hilary Cox had e-mailed all Parish Councils on 2 December outlining the current situation re the bus service, Highways service and Broadband.

**9. Parish Councillor's Reports:**

JJ reported that she had received a complaint about horse-riders using a footpath at Abbots Court. It was agreed to place an item in the Red Post Magazine reminding riders to stick to bridleways. She will also discuss both this, and the condition of the footpath along the river in WK, with NDDC's Rights of Way Officer. **Action: JJ**  
SS raised concerns about speeding traffic in West St, WK. MG will invite a representative from Winterborne Whitechurch to attend the next meeting to discuss their experiences in setting up Speedwatch in WW. **Action: MG**

GN (i) advised that a quote had been received from Playsafe Playgrounds for the works to the play park, WK. There were concerns about the amount quoted. He had also received advice from Roy Allcock which he would discuss further with him, (ii) raised the Neighbourhood Car Community Scheme. There was the possibility of a grant from the POPP. Nigel Hodder who runs a similar scheme in Milton Abbas will **Action: TI**  
be invited to the next meeting where this will be discussed further, (iii) advised that the tree-planting ceremony to replace the Coronation tree at Broad Close with an oak had taken place on 13/12/13; it was disappointing that the school had decided that the inclement weather should prevent the children from attending.

TI reported that soil would be delivered early in the new year to be used to restore graves which had settled in WK's cemetery. He was also expecting advice concerning the revision of cemetery fees to enable new fees to come into effect in April 2014.

MG reported that:

- i. Blanchards Bailey Solicitors had confirmed that they held relevant papers and Deeds relating to LWPC's ownership of land at the village hall, allotments and the Rec in WK. LB suggested that all ownership should be registered with the Land Registry. MG will discuss the valuation of the land for LWPC's Fixed Asset Register. **Action: MG**
- ii. NDDC had asked whether LWPC held any records concerning consultation on the provisions of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and had been directed to Archives at Dorset History Centre.
- iii. Legislation was going through Parliament to permit councils to use electronic banking. MG will update list of current authorised signatories. **Action: MG**
- iv. LWPC's list of appointments had been revised and would be posted on the website. **Action: LW**
- v. Bere Regis FC's Under-9s are now using the pitch at WK Rec on a Tuesday evening. MG is awaiting confirmation from the Club that they hold Public Liability insurance.

**10. Homewatch** - Graham Hyde (GH) reported that (i) there had been 7 minor incidents in the area, including 2 in WK. (ii) Police were currently stressing that shoppers should safeguard their purses during the Christmas shopping period. (iii) 26

Community Speedwatch schemes had been set up. (iv) Blandford Police Station is one of those stations being considered for closure. **Floodwatch** - GH has again reminded the Environment Agency of the need to remove the tree in the river near the Greyhound in WK although this was not currently causing a problem. He had no other concerns re flooding at present. On behalf of the Council LB thanked GH both for the help he had given him and for all the work he carries out in WK and elsewhere.

**11. Dogs and the WK Rec** - it was agreed that the pitch should be roped off to exclude the exercising of dogs on that part of the Rec.

**12. Safety of stiles.** There had been some concern about the safety of stiles in the current weather. JJ's view was that this could not be a priority at present and that walkers should take an appropriate level of care. Ideally, all stiles would be replaced with kissing-gates but this was an expense that could not currently be justified.

**13. Correspondence** - MG had received: (i) Info re Blandford Car Club (thought to be of little use as the cars are based in Blandford itself, (ii) Newsletter from Rural Services Network advising that Broadband service not likely to be improved until 2016, (iii) Rural Health, (iv) Comic Relief is open for bids, (v) Encouragement to join PPG (Brian Venison is a member of the PPG for Bere Regis Surgery), (vi) grants for sowing wild flowers/grasses MG to pass information to WK Youth Club for their project at the WK Recreation ground(vii) Dorset CC Highways Winter Plan and Service Plan (viii) Schools Admission Application poster, (ix) Traffic collision information from DCC, (x) Advice re application of Freedom of Information Act - not thought to be an issue for LWPC but procedures will be reviewed. If anyone wishes to see any of this correspondence they can contact the Clerk.

**14 AOB** - Della Jones (i) encouraged everyone to read and comment on NDDC's Local Plan and was concerned at the implication of no-growth for villages with the loss to the local economy, (ii) advised that photographic proof of riders using footpaths would be helpful, (iii) suggested that a bridleway be established E-W linking WZ with WK.

Brian Shears was concerned that any volunteer car scheme should permit time for shopping and leisure. He also described his success in asking Blandford shopkeepers to sign a petition expressing their concern about bus service reductions and stressed that the wider costs of cutting services should be assessed and recognised, ie the loss to the local retail economy. MG agreed to write to DCC again on this issue.

**Action: MG**

JJ advised that she had been notified of the deviation of Bridleway 22 and creation of a new Bridleway 8 allowing safer crossing of the A31 from Anderson to Bloxworth.

LB queried the format of the current agenda. It was agreed to revert to the previous format.

**Action: LW**

The meeting closed at 21.15.

Next meeting: 21 January 2014 at Winterborne Kingston Village Hall.

cc All Parish Councillors, Graham Hyde, Hilary Cox, Emma Parker, Jane Somper

