

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE LOWER WINTERBORNE
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014 AT
WINTERBORNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT:	Mike Griffin (Chairman)	MG
	Di Lewis (Vice Chairman)	DL
	Laurence Burgess	LB
	Paul Humphrys	PH
	Jocelyn Jenkins	JJ
	Mark Meaden	MM
	Sarah Seaton	SS
	Lesley Wilcox (Parish Clerk)	LW

District Councillors Emma Parker (EP) and Jane Somper (JS),
Graham Hyde (GH), Rita Burden (RB) and 6 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** Tony Ives and Graham Nash (GN).
- 2. Minutes of last meeting:** Proposed by MM, seconded by SS. All in favour.
Signed by MG.
- 3. Matters arising:** MG reported that he had still to contact the Winterborne Whitechurch Speedwatch team and also to have LWPC's land valued. EP added that the WW Speedwatch scheme was being very successful.
Action: MG
MG had written to Bob Walter MP regarding the cuts to the bus service to WK but had not received a reply yet.
- 4. NeighbourCar Scheme:** Bere Regis PC are in the process of setting up a scheme and have invited LWPC to join. Clients pay a one-off joining fee of £5.00 and then 50p/mile. Volunteer drivers are paid 45p/mile. There is a government-backed scheme to underwrite drivers' insurance - full details would be required. GN will take discussions forward with Bere Regis PC.
Action: GN
- 5. Council Appointments:** the current list was approved.
- 6. District Councillors' reports:** EP advised that a public exhibition would be held on 14/2/14 (16.00-20.00) and 15/2/14 (10.00-14.00) at Winterborne Whitechurch re the proposed wind farm at Blandford Hill. A further meeting for those affected would be held on 10/3/14 (19.00). Schemes were also being developed at Milborne St Andrew and Charminster - all 3 schemes fell outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. JS stressed that she could not express a view as she sat on the Planning Committee.

There had been huge flooding problems in Milborne St Andrew and this had affected waste collection over the Christmas period. On 29/1/14 Dorset Highways would be taking part in NDDC's Overview and Scrutiny meeting and welcomed questions. MG had reported a dangerous pothole which had been dealt with very quickly.

MG asked why the reduction in the tax base had not been passed on to the towns and parishes. JS explained that this was because that funding had not appeared in the settlement from the Government to the Council (NDDC). In 2013/14 NDDC received a revenue support grant of £2.18m and in addition a grant of £175,000 for towns and parishes. This was passed on. For 2014/15, NDDC will receive a revenue support grant of £1.6m (a reduction of 25%) and no additional grant for parish councils. NDDC have made over £4m cost reductions over the last few years and will have to make about £1m cost reductions in the next two years. The staffing numbers to run services are much smaller than the surrounding District Councils. The Council Tax level is also much lower than other Dorset Councils which means NDDC is more reliant on Government funding than they are so the Government reductions mean more cost reductions. NDDC still delivers over 50 services to residents for one of the lowest council tax rates in the country.

NDDC made it clear last year that this was likely to be the situation so that Parish Councils could take action to raise precepts for 2013/14 in order to anticipate the reduction in tax base if they felt it would be necessary. Clerks were invited to attend a meeting in December 2012 to run through all the changes that were taking place with benefits, including the Localisation of Council Tax support.

7. Resolution to pay bills: MG reported that there was some £13,000 in LWPC's accounts. The accounts had been reconciled with the bank as at 10/1/14. He anticipated that £1,500 - £2,000 would be spent by 31/3/14 leaving some £11,000 for emergency funding. Bills to pay - £780 for fencing at WK Rec, £14 for petrol for the pump used to pump flood water from Wares Close (WK), £85 for mole eradication at WK Rec (a Standing Order of £250 had been set up to cover all future call-outs). Payments proposed by JJ, seconded LB.

8. Precept 2014/15: MG's proposal showing a 17% increase over 2013/14 was discussed. Proposed LB, seconded MM. Approved.

9. Planning:

i. 'SCATS' site WK: an outline planning application for 18 houses and 4 business units had been made. Whilst the proposal was supported in principle there were the following concerns: sufficiency of parking, access and visibility to the site (farm traffic would continue to use the access), lack of a footpath to the village particularly for children being taken to and from school, the adequacy and outflow of the sewerage system and the close proximity of commercial and residential buildings. The plans also assume a good bus service and Broadband speed in WK. MG noted that the previous proposals had been turned down due to the site being within 5km of Dorset Heathland. It is understood that the Developer states he will pay £26,000 in mitigation. MG will put these concerns to NDDC.

Action: MG

ii. 29A Broad Close, WK, had been approved.

iii. Middle Farm, WZ : no decision yet but it was understood that the Conservation Officer had recommended that the application be rejected.

- iv. Chalk Pit Barn Tree Works WZ: 2 trees have already been felled but the Tree Officer is likely to turn down the application.
- v. Tree Works at 'Bassets' WZ - application just received.

LW will write to NDDC to ask for the outcome of Tree Works applications to be published.

Action: LW

- vi. Broad Close, WZ: not yet approved. It is understood that the terms of the S106 Agreement are still under discussion.

North Dorset Local Plan 2011-2026 Part 1 (NDLP): PH reported that he had read through the lengthy document. The 'Countryside' is defined as all land outside the settlement boundaries of the 4 main towns (Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton and Blandford). Countryside policies will apply unless new Settlement Boundaries are defined either in Neighbourhood Plans (NP) or in NDLP Part 2. The focus is on meeting local, rather than strategic, needs and those needs can be assessed by local communities. Some forms of development will be permitted in order to support the rural economy and meet essential rural needs. The sustainable development policy encourages the re-use of existing buildings, re-development or limited expansion of existing employment sites for employment purposes, equine-related development and rural tourism accommodation. NPs will allow local communities to take forward proposals to meet local needs and to influence planning within their areas. If an NP cannot be produced, local communities can opt-in to NDLP Part 2, although the implications of this cannot be assessed as Part 2 is not yet available.

The meeting discussed the implications of this. With the experience of having produced a Parish Plan in 2004 it was agreed that the production of a NP would require professional input and take 18-24 months to complete but, as a first step, DL will write to NDDC for approval to the area to be covered by such a plan.

Action: DL

10. Mapperton Solar Farm: MG reported that the scheme had been taken to a Judicial review on the basis of a technical error. This would take at least 6 months so considerations of the use of community funds could be put into abeyance.

11. Parish Councillor's Reports:

i. JJ had received a complaint about the icy surface of the stretch of the C6 from White Post to the centre of the village. She has asked DCC Highways to include this on their schedule this for gritting. She was also concerned about the safety of the White Post junction, particularly at night, and has asked DCC Highways to make a site visit. She reported that the (new) Rights of Way officer has till to visit to examine the state of the path by the river in WK and also asked that any complaints regarding the state of stiles must be accompanied by a grid reference.

ii. DL had attended the DAPTC meeting on 14/1/14 and reported that; the proposed closure of Police counter services is being reviewed, in the aftermath of recent flooding the emergency services will be reviewing procedures, the new DAPTC website is now available, funding for the Blandford Leisure Centre seems uncertain and that final details of the changes to the bus service were still not decided.

iii. PH and DL had attended at meeting at NDDC re the on-line planning approval process. The trial had produced issues mainly concerning the clarity and scaling of plans. The 21 day consultation period will start when plans appear on the website. the current 'Swift' system will be replaced by the 'Uniform' system, possibly in mid-February. Consultee responses, permitted development and discharge approvals will be published on-line. It will be the responsibility of the Planning Officer to decide whether or not to put amended plans on-line.

iv. MG reported that flooding advice from NDDC had been placed on notice boards. Bere Regis FC were awaiting certification of their floodlighting. He also thanked GH for all his work during the recent flooding in WK.

12. Homewatch: GH reported that there had been 2 minor incidents in WK and stressed the need to safeguard property. **Flooding:** GH reported that the river had started flowing before Christmas but flooding down West St (WK) had started in mid-January. NDDC had provided 5 tonnes of sand for sandbags and several trees in the river had been removed including the one near the Greyhound which the owner's builders had helped remove. Water had been pumped from Wares Close. Only 2 houses had suffered water ingress. NDDC and the Police had been extremely efficient and helpful. GH noted that the recent river clearance work carried out by both the Burgess family and Drax Estate had proved vital in ensuring that there had been little flooding in Muston and Anderson. RB thanked GH for the sand provided for defence works in WZ and added that the river clean-up in October 2013 had helped prevent any flooding in WZ.

MG thanked GH again for all his efforts. It was noted that both Flood Wardens need deputies - volunteers are asked to come forward.

It was agreed that LW should write to the Burgess family, the Drax estate, NDDC and the police thanking them for all their work.

Action: LW

13. Correspondence: MG tabled the lengthy list of correspondence received. If anyone wishes to see any of this they should contact MG or LW.

14. Any Other Business: i. MG had received a request for parking to be permitted at WK's Rec for the 'Open Gardens' event - this was approved. ii. JJ referred to a request at the last meeting for consideration for a new bridleway between WZ and WK - it was agreed that this would take a long time to establish and be costly.

The meeting closed at 21.15.

Next meeting: 25 February 2014 at Winterborne Zelston Village Hall.

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