Corscombe, Halstock and District Parish Council

Draft minutes for the Parish Council meeting 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th January 2022

Councillors present: Liz Southern (ES), David Hallett (DH), Roger Hallett (RH), Dave Clary (DC), Nigel Clarke (NC), Debbie Rix (DR), Deborah Childs (DCh), John White Hamilton (JWH), Richard James (RJ), Henry Lovegrove (HL)

The meeting was held at Corscombe Village Hall. The Council respectfully asked for face masks to be worn until seated and social distancing to be observed.

Public period for comments on issues on the agenda - 4 members of the public were present. No issues raised.

Reports from Dorset Council Councillor and Police
No police report.
Councillor Mary Penfold: Virtual meetings are still taking place, planning is still under pressure but is making headway with the backlog of applications, Cllr Flower is responsible for the Dorset Plan and is looking at issues of concern raised by the public and the Dorset Local Plan Campaign, and David Walsh is the portfolio holder for planning. Dorset Council has a good recycling record, and a large proportion of the county has now had the Covid booster.

1. **To receive and accept apologies and declarations of interest.**
   Apologies received and accepted from Grant Prior. David Hallett has declared an interest in planning application P/FUL/2021/05712

2. **To approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29th November 2021 (A).** Approved 10/10 Proposed RH, Seconded ES

3. **To discuss matters arising from the minutes not covered in this Agenda.**
   Note Police liaison contact name added.
   Noted and approved 10/10

4. **To vote on the co-option of a Halstock Councillor; Jez Hodesdon and Martyn Lee have applied for the position (B)**
   A secret ballot was held, and Jeremy (Jez) Hodesdon was co-opted onto the Parish Council having gained the majority vote of councillors present. 9 votes to 1

5. **To note the statement of expenditure to date and bank reconciliation (C) and to approve the schedule of payments since the last meeting. (D).**
   Noted and approved 10/10 Proposed HL, Seconded RH

6. **To note/receive a maintenance update for the playground and outdoor gym and to vote on the successful tender for grounds maintenance 2022-2023 (E) RH/TS**
   - No maintenance issues reported except for slight chips on some outdoor gym equipment which RW will touch-up.

- The waste bin in the playground has been emptied but there is an ongoing issue related to emptying the playground bin. It was decided that one solution would be to place a black council bin at the entrance to the playground. Clerk to look at options and liaise with Dorset Council.
- Dog waste bins were also raised as an issue in both Halstock and Corscombe but it was felt that it would not be practical to place bins throughout the villages to cover all paths taken by dog owners. It was decided to encourage dog owners to take their waste home for disposal. A further website and social media campaign would be undertaken to encourage this. It was felt the current signage around the villages regarding dog waste was sufficient.
- Tender for playground maintenance (Grass cutting); having considered the four quotes for the tender for 2022-2023 it was decided that it would be awarded to P G Holt being the cheapest quote obtained and having done an excellent job in 2021-2022. 10/10 Proposed HL, Seconded DR

7. **To determine the Parish Council's response to the proposed Dorset National Park following the presentation received at the last meeting (Verbal) HL**
   It was agreed 10/10 that the Parish Council would support the proposed Dorset National Park and the Clerk will notify the proposers accordingly.

8. **To approve the adoption of the following policies and procedures (F1 to F4) TS**

- **Vacancies procedure**
- **New complaints procedure**
- **Councillors' expenses**
- **Training procedure**

All four procedures/policies were approved and adopted 10/10 Proposed HL, Seconded DR

9. **Highways and Rights of Way**

- **Halstock speed gates – to receive an update on planters and refund from Dorset Council (verbal) TH/TS**
  It was agreed that the Parish Council would not support the action regarding placement of planters under the Halstock speed gates. Consequently, all money owed to the Halstock Village Trust (HVT), re refund of underspend from Dorset Council, would be returned. DC refund £1032.76 - £516.38 refund to HVT and £516.38 refund to be retained by CHDPC.

  It was felt that the space available for planters was an issue along with other issues such as maintenance, watering, theft etc. However, it was felt that Halstock residents may want to consider planting daffodils etc around the base of the speed gates.

- **To receive an update on Modification orders T634, T635, T637 from the Parish Rights of Way Group (PROW) - (Verbal) Diana Staines**
  PROW have not submitted a response to the modification orders as they are not yet open for public consultation, but they would support them. This issue is now deferred until such time as the modifications are open for comment.
  Noted 10/10

- **To receive an update on replacement of stiles to gates (Verbal) Diana Staines**

4 of the 12 styles purchased in 2021 are in place and the remaining 8 will be put into place by rangers once the weather improves. They are looking to replace a further 12 styles in 2022-2023.
The Parish Council would like to thank Diana and all PROW members for their work.
Simon Dalton is still working on the Walking guide which should be ready to launch later in the year.
Noted 10/10

- **CPRE finger post £200 grant - red finger post repair (Verbal) TS**
  The PC approved the application to CPRE for a grant, (this grant is per finger post). NC will look into this issue and undertake repairs for the Parish Council starting with the red finger post and also the finger post outside the Halstock village Hall. Clerk to apply for grant following feedback from NC. Approved 10/10
- **Commemorative Bench – to note purchase and wording (G) HL**
  Many people have commented on the commemorative bench with very positive feedback on its location in Common Lane with views out over the fields. It was agreed that the wording on the Bench plaque would be changed. DR to arrange for a new plaque. There will also be a small ceremony held at the commemorate bench, DR to coordinate date with help from the Clerk.
  Approved 10/10

10. To consider and note planning applications and decisions. (H) TS

Planning applications and responses since 29.11.21 were noted. David Hallett has declared an interest in planning application P/FUL/2021/05712. As there was no vote to be taken at the meeting regarding this application DH was asked if he wished to stay. He said he would be happy to stay and answer any questions. Councillors were also asked if they were happy for DH to stay, the majority response was yes. Concerns raised by a member of the public (not present) were read out by RJ. An individual response by councillors will be made by email to the Clerk by the 31st of January and the majority decision will be sent to DC by the Clerk along with any comments councillors wish to make.

- Unauthorised buildings (I) RJ
  The table presented by RJ covers the Halstock area only. This information is sufficient to allow councillors to complete the on-line planning enforcement form. Planning enforcement form - Dorset Council self- Address-service portal (achieveservice.com). The PC agreed 10/10 that we do not support unauthorised dwellings and the Clerk will also respond for the PC.

- **Dorset Council planning forum - Dorset Council Planning Update for Town and Parish Councils 27th January 2022 (Clerk, Cllr.G. Prior and Cllr. R. James to attend webinar (Verbal) TS**
  This has been delayed.

11. To receive and note training update (Verbal) TS

The Clerk has signed up for the CILCA qualification February 2022 to 2023.
The Clerk has also undergone DAPTC VAT training and is completing a three-part DAPTC planning course. All councillors were encouraged to look at the DAPTC site to see if they wish to undertake further training this year. New councillors; Jez Hodesdon and Richard James were encouraged to complete the New Councillor Induction course and Code of Conduct and RoI for New and existing Councillor's training.

12. To note progress on Register of Interest (RoI) (Verbal) TS

All completed.

13. Correspondence to be discussed and noted. TS

- **To note that the PC has signed up to the Open letter from the Dorset Local Plan Campaign to Dorset Council and discuss further action the PC may take to further support this initiative. Supported by notes from meeting 12.1.22 (J) TS**
  Noted 10/10
- **To note letter sent to and response from MP Chris Loder regarding support for DAPTC and NALC request for PC to be allowed to hold zoom meetings if required. (K) TS**
  Noted 10/10
- **TSB update address change and new signatories (Verbal) HL**
  The complete lack of response from TSB means that the PC has now decided to look for a new banking account. Approved 10/10
- **Electronic banking - to approve the switch to the Unity Trust Bank or the Coop Bank (Verbal) HL**
  It was agreed 10/10 that the staff working group should look at options and apply for a new electronic banking account.
- **To ascertain members' interest in approaching a landowner with a view to establishing an allotment site in Corscombe. (Verbal) DCh**
  This issue is on-going. DCh has approached the owner of the cricket field about the use of this land. He would first like to know if the Village Hall still has plans for this site. Clerk to approach Paul Rendell/Village Hall committee.

14. Climate and Ecology emergency action to be noted

Progress on setting up tree planting project, the Dorset Green living initiative, and other initiatives. (Verbal) DCh

- Progress has been made re the tree planting project with two hundred trees ordered for planting. The 5/6th of February has been set aside as a collection date for those parishioners who have asked for trees. The PC has agreed to cover the £200 cost of trees.
- Dorset Green Living meetings are to continue after a short pause due to covid restrictions. The next meeting will be on the 27.1.22
  If there are new families that wish to join, a new Dorset Green Living group could be set up .
- It was also noted that ES and DCh are looking at the feasibility of a village recycling bin project aimed at further recycling of black bin waste such as crisp packets.

15. **To consider urgent matters to report from members and items for the next meeting**.

- Platinum Jubilee planning – it was agreed that Halstock and Corscombe will hold separate events. Halstock is planning a Platinum Jubilee party. Corscombe is exploring options of a joint event held by the Church, PC, and the Village Hall. With potential for some money being injected by the FEST committee. ES to liaise with these organisations assisted by the Clerk. Clerk to arrange notices on website, Chimes, and social media to canvas ideas from our parishioners.
- Hedge cutting issues being raised with Clerk - It is the responsibility of the landowners to cut their hedges. Please can any such requests to the PC regarding these issues include sufficient details of who owns the hedges.
- The PC currently supports Dorset Councils Climate and Ecology Action Plan, but the creation of a Parish Council Ecology Action plan will be discussed at the next PC meeting.

16. **Next Council meeting** 28th March 2022 at Halstock Village Hall

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