

WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Harmans Cross Village Hall on
Tuesday 7th April 2015 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr J Burden, Cllr Ian Bugler, Cllr Sandham, Cllr Vosper Cllr Shanks Cllr Woolford, Cllr Field District/County Cllr Lovell, There was 1 member of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from, Mrs Val Winch, Mrs Jan Hardy, the Chairman of Harmans Cross Village Hall, Mr Keith Fisher & the Chairman of Worth Matravers Village Hall, Mr Tony Viney.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 APRIL, 2014 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by the Cllr Vosper and seconded by Cllr Bugler.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL. The Parish Council met each month in 2014 -15 with an uncontested election for Councillors in June 2014 for the five years to 2019. We welcomed one new co-opted councillor filling the vacancy left. . We have considered all applications in the Parish . 25 Planning applications and 18 Tree Work Applications came to the Parish Council and were commented on in 2014-15. Many major consultation items have emerged and been commented on such as additional site specific proposals for extracting Purbeck Stone within the new Mineral Strategy for the County. The Navitus Bay Wind Farm off the Worth coastline currently one of the biggest such proposals in the UK ran through Public Inquiry for over 6 months with a decision expected later on in the year.

Purbeck District Council and other bodies consulted the PC on a range of issues. These included future Local Government Ward Boundaries for Dorset and alternative reorganisations of Dorset Fire and Rescue Service. Later in the year a Multi Academy proposal including St Georges School in Langton was commented on .Responses have been made to PDC on, Licensing Policy, Policies on Speaking at Planning Committees, the future boundary of WM and HX settlements Housing Policy and Housing Strategy and the Purbeck Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation.. Other matters considered included the Management Strategy for Camping and Caravanning Sites, and Planning Enforcement..

Cllr Woolford in HX. continues to pursue DCC Highways for a range of improvements long sought by the PC. During the year a new road surface was provided through Harmans Cross and this has been welcome and the damaged bus stops poles and street furniture have been repaired. The 30 mph restriction is currently being advertised .. In Worth Matravers the road from Langton did benefit from the reinstatement of the edge of carriageway white line marking, The Chairman is currently trialling a roadside marker system across the road past Compact farm.

The finger post signs were constructed again by the Chairman after the loss of the previous signs have been erected further back from the road at the junction at Swanworth.

The village halls at Worth and at Harmans Cross continue to give the PC a great venue for public and Council meetings. Their individual web sites show both offer a full range of community activities. Regrettably the dreadful weather for the HX Field day virtually wiped out that event and the Gymkhana on that day with consequent severe financial implications which the H X Management Committee have coped with well.

Once again due to a lot of hard work from parish councillors collecting and banking donations from the car parks that the Parish Council we are able to set a £NIL precept for 2014-15 being one of the very few parishes or town councils out of 24 in Purbeck to do so.

A copy of my full report is accessible on the Council's web site

4. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT. The financial affairs of the Parish Council continue to be in sound order. Expenditure was within Income in 2014-15 from the suggested donation at Worth Matravers car has been maintained .The Harmans Cross car park is at break-even between costs and income. Following a successful appeal to the District Valuer the Council tax levied on the two car parks and the WM toilet block was reduced and a reimbursement of £2511 was received. Grass cutting and hedge trimming costs have been increased due to the major cut back at the Withy Bed and additional one off work on the Begbie Bank approach to Worth Matravers Village Centre. This removed the overgrowing shrubs and brambles and subsequently top soil and seed for mowing was provided. All contracts are currently being retendered for a three year period to 2018.

Purbeck District Council has cut back over three years their financial commitment to maintain the Worth public toilets and there will be one last grant of £1724 for 2015-16 . This expenditure will have to be built into the Parish Council budget for 2016-7..The mild winter weather meant that the salt was not used from the two grit bins supplied by the PC on Haycrafts Lane.

The overnight thefts and damage to the donation box and stone pillar on two occasions at the Worth Matravers car park and once at the HX car park resulted in a small loss of income as boxes are regularly emptied. Significant repair costs were incurred. The CCTV provision and management strategy to minimise risk at both locations will be subject to report and review shortly.

The Bank Statement has been formally reconciled against the 2014 – 15 Budget and the Cash Book records each month. The annual and local audits were submitted without any external requests for access to the accounts. The results of the audit were published as required by statute. The External Auditor raised no issues on the Annual Accounts for 2013 – 14.

The council reviewed its reserves and future income and expenditure in setting its budget for 2015 - 2016 and decided to once again set the annual precept at a rate of £NIL

5. REPORT BY DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR M.LOVELL. Cllr Lovell gave a short verbal report. It had been a busy year at both County and District Councils where there had been substantial reductions in expenditure and staffing levels. He was pursuing the 30mph limit for HX where a number of objections had been received.. He would continue to support the PC in presenting their views on Planning Delegation and other Planning Application and Policy matters at DCC and PDC

6. REPORT BY WORTH MATRAVERS VILLAGE HALL. The Village Hall Committee did not provide a report. One from their AGM is available on their web site

7. HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL.

The Main Hall is heavily booked with little free capacity particularly in the evenings and weekend availability is scarce at times. The Meeting room is not so heavily used..

During the year our Internet service has been changed to a high speed satellite service to enable the U3A computer groups to function with several persons logged on simultaneously. One of our major costs is electricity and our new contract with Scottish Power which will save a considerable sum over the 3 year fixed rate period. The hall rental charges are reviewed annually.

The Children's playground on the Village hall field was heavily used last year. A lot of this use can be attributed to visitors to the area enjoying the good weather. This facility is maintained by the Village hall and major repairs were necessary to the Zip Wire and Adult Ski Stepper equipment. After considerable research these repairs were effected by Village Hall personnel at a considerable saving on initial quoted repair costs. The Zip Wire repair was professionally inspected before returning to service.

The Residents Club now meets monthly. Our monthly Movie Nights continue on the second Tuesday evening of the month with an average attendance of 59 in the last year.. The Music Concerts held 4 times a year have provided a very substantial income to hall funds. The small sub committee continue to find high quality performers and the concerts have provided a diverse selection of music.

Our Saturday morning “Stalls at the Hall” continue generally monthly. They are actively promoted to encourage local crafts and producers to have a sales table. They also provide a valuable community meeting place for a coffee and cake.

The Village Hall has become a centre of Purbeck University of the 3rd Age (U3A) activities with many clubs and monthly Meeting Points being held at Harmans Cross VH.

A one day First Aid course was organized for 12 personnel from both HXVH and local hiring groups. This was supported by WMPC. All attending passed the course and were awarded a certificate in Emergency First Aid valid for 3 years.

Unfortunately our Field Day on August Bank Holiday Monday 2014 was very seriously affected by the continuous rain which fell from early more until late afternoon. Thanks are due to all of the organizing team and countless helpers who braved the conditions

It is sad to report that after many successful years the Village Club closed at its AGM in January 2015. There is considerable support for a “Village Hall Community Group” to be formed to arrange a restricted programme of activities for this year.

A copy of the full report is accessible on the Council’s web site

8. ST. GEORGES SCHOOL GOVENOR.

The governors of St George’s Primary CE VA School report another year of achievements and challenges. In the new purpose-built and much admired buildings.Challenges for staff and governors have continued with the introduction of a new National Curriculum, radical changes to the system of pupil assessment, and consideration of whether the school’s future would be better secured as part of a Multi- Academy Trust. Over the past year the school has continued its cooperation with the Cluster schools and governors have been exploring the possibility of formalising this relationship. The Governors have now voted unanimously not to proceed with the process of converting to a MAT at this time. Currently there are 104 pupils on the roll. There are 4 F/T teachers including the Deputy , 2 P/T job-share teachers with 2 F/T and 6 P/T teaching assistants, 3 F/T and 1 P/T lunchtime supervisors, and 2 P/T office staff. One F/T teacher is absent at the moment , and her class is being taught by a regular supply teacher and a F/T teaching assistant. The head teacher continues to be committed to full-time administration duties although this should change in the coming year. The new National Curriculum is now being followed in years 1, 3, 4 and 5, while years 2 and 6 continue on the old National Curriculum for its final year. The new curriculum includes SPAG (spelling, grammar and punctuation). The Achievement for All programme is in its second year, focussing support on identified groups. Attainment of pupils in the Reception year showed an improvement from previous years. Phonics screening and the level of attainment at year 1 was well above the national average. KS1 attainment was lower than in the previous three years, but generally in line with national levels. KS2 pupils in year 6 took SATs for the first time in summer 2014 and achieved better than national average results. They all made the expected 2 levels progress in reading and writing, and 92% achieved these levels in maths. Attainment was broadly in line with national expectations at level 4, and was above that at level 5 in reading and writing. Overall assessment of the school’s academic performance is good, measured by objective criteria and confirmed by an external advisor. Rates of attendance cause some concern, though improvement has been seen since parents were reminded of the negative impact of taking holidays in term time. Lunch-time and after school clubs offer a range of

activities including football, multi-sports, hockey, tag-rugby, dance, choir, recorder, ukulele, craft and Lego. Matches have been played against other schools, swimming lessons take place at the Vista pool, and Planet Sport provides a tutor once a week. There have been visiting speakers, including training for pupils and parents on road safety and safer internet use. Visits have been made to places of educational interest such as Corfe Castle and the Life Education bus, and a residential visit to Osmington Bay Outdoor Adventure Centre for year 6 pupils. They also attended a service for all year 6 leavers at Salisbury cathedral. Special days have been devoted to topics like poetry, books, art activity and drama. Gardening continues using the new raised beds at school. . Links with St George's church and the community have continued, with pupils participating in Church services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival and the Leavers' service. In addition a Mothering Day service was held at school, and the choir sang at the Remembrance Day service. Further information can be found on the School website www.stgeorg.j2webby.com

9 FOOTPATH LIAISON OFFICER. Right of Way Officer's Annual Report

The winter weather has taken its usual toll on the ROW network, with water courses gouging out channels in footpaths and gateways being hard to access due to large muddy pools of water, in addition to collapsing styles.

The newly refurbished Priest Way is however a delight to walk and is a great benefit to users in Worth Matravers, Langton and Swanage. Thanks go to the PC and all other sponsors who funded this project which has been a real asset to the community.

To maintain the footpath network for the future the following will need attention to maintain the footpath network for the many walkers who visit Worth:

1. Repair of the surface to the Winspit footpath beside Happy Cottage.
2. Repair of the Quarry footpath, with a broken down style at the field end and erosion of path and the stone style which follow on.
3. A hard surface/stone to be installed at the field gates either side of Abbots Way road & the Winspit track gate near the Sewerage plant, to avoid walkers having to swing on the posts to miss the mud/water.
4. Installation of a new style at the cut through footpath leading down to Winspit.

All the above have been reported during the winter months I shall continue to monitor and pursue ROW interests across the parish and to work with the PC and Parish Clerk to address problems as they occur.

10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION None

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed.....