

WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Harmans Cross Village Hall on
Tuesday 2th April 2019 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr J Burden, Cllr Ian Bugler, Cllr Sandham, Cllr Vosper Cllr Woolford, Cllr Selby DCC
Cllr Brooks PDC Cllr Lovell There were two members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from, Cllr R Field

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 APRIL, 2017 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by the Cllr Vosper and seconded by Cllr Bugler.

3. ANNUAL CHAIRMANS REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.

The Parish Council met each month in 2018-19 (excluding January 2019) with all seven Councillors in place to the 2019 elections. Councillors continue to be actively involved in a voluntary capacity to contribute as locally informed eyes and ears whilst directly supporting the financial management of the car parks and assisting with local minor maintenance matters. The workload has been busy and varied. We have considered local planning and tree work applications to the Local Planning Authorities, Purbeck District and Dorset County Council. (DCC). 26 Planning applications and other Tree Work Applications came to the Parish Council and were commented on in 2018-19. The PC's views on behalf of residents were represented by the Clerk at two major Public Inquiries. As part of the Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Mineral Sites Plan Public examination, proposed Purbeck Stone extraction sites were withdrawn from the plan period to 2030 for the Gallows Gore area.

The Bournemouth-Swanage motor road ferry company toll increase review application was considered and as a result of representations the Inspector recommended and the Minister agreed that the companies proposed ferry increases were not approved.

The PC were updated that the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 had come into force Purbeck District Council and other bodies consulted the Parish Council on a range of other issues. DEFRA Consulted on the proposed third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones in Purbeck Coast & Studland Bay, DCC Consulted on Home to School Transport Policy and the Post 16 Transport Policy for 2019/2020. Consultation was also from, the Boundary Commission on election ward boundaries, the Police Commissioner on a proposed merger of Dorset and Devon and Cornwall Police Authorities, a Green Paper on Social Housing, a Green paper for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing and the Dorset AONB Draft Management Plan, We have also considered the National Park proposal for Dorset and Devon which will now be restricted to a proposal for a National Park covering Dorset alone.

We opposed the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group developments to close hospitals and beds providing facilities for Purbeck to the DCC Health Scrutiny committee. They agreed to ask the Minister to reconsider the current proposals. The Purbeck Local Plan with the major additional Housing Sites proposal review continues to be controversial. Objections have been made to the Worth Matravers village proposals and a Public Inquiry at which the PC will be represented by the Clerk will take place in 2019. The PC fully supports the work of the Pan Purbeck Action Group in their work challenging the proposed and very high housing targets being proposed for this Purbeck Local Plan review.

The new car park signs and 'Twenty is Plenty' and 'Duck Warning' signs in Worth were implemented. Speed Indicator Devices and their locations were agreed with DCC (Highways on the A351 Valley road HX and these were installed in 2018-19. Cllrs worked on minor repairs and the PC contractors resurfaced the London Row footpath through Worth village, cut back hedges and cleared and cut and patched roadside verges throughout the parish.

I regret that the position of WM Rights of Way officer is vacant and we would welcome a volunteer. Repair items raised are reported and pursued with DCC Highways by the Clerk. 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 that both offer a full range of community events and activities. Thankfully the weather for the WM fete and the HX Field day was good on the day in 2018. The PC has agreed the arrangements and donations to WMMVH arising for the Village fete in May 2019. We have therefore continued to support through donations the work of both village halls.

Further donations have been made to the Dubber, the Citizens Advice Service, the National Coast Watch service, the Langton St Georges pre-school., the Burngate Stone centre LM, and the Purbeck Film Festival for their work in this area of Purbeck. The PC supports and thanks the voluntary litter picking organisation 'Purbeck Litter free'.

The PC continues to be represented and make its views known at the meetings of the Dorset (Purbeck District) Area Parish and Town Council meetings held now in Wareham Town hall. (DAPTC). I have attended with the Clerk regular Chair/ Clerks liaison meetings with the Purbeck District and with the National Trust in December 2018 as well as informal liaison meetings with five East Purbeck Parish and Town councils. The Local Government Reorganisation to 2 Unitary authorities from the 9 existing principal councils has been implemented with new elections to the new Dorset County authority in May 2019. I have worked to ensure the transfer of the Purbeck District Council Begbie Field Asset to the parish council before the abolition of PDC on 31 March 2019. The PC has supported a volunteer proposal for a trial 5 metre wildflower strip Begbie Orchard and this is in progress.

Once again due to a lot of hard work from parish councillors collecting and banking donations from the car parks that we are able for the tenth year in a row to set a £NIL precept for 2019-20 being the sole parish or town councils out of 24 in Purbeck to do so.

I would like to thank those councillors who have decided not to stand again for 2019-2024. Both Councillor Field and Councillor Sandham have provided much input and participated in the work of the PC for many years and this is much appreciated. I regret that after a short time other commitments have meant that Cllr Selby is not standing but I hope she may reconsider in the future when perhaps these have eased.

I am pleased that with the support of the Clerk I have been able to fulfil the role of Chairman ably assisted by Cllr Bugler as my Vice Chairman. Councillor Jerry Burden Chairman

4. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT. This had been circulated previously and was noted at the meeting

The financial affairs of the Parish Council continue to be in sound order. Revenue expenditure was within the original budget estimate. Income in 2018-19 from the suggested donations at Worth Matravers and Harmans Cross car parks has been maintained above budget on a rolling 12 month period. The Council's Bank Statement has been formally 'Reconciled' against the 2018-19 Budgets, the Santander current account total, and the Cash Book records each month.

PC contract prices were retendered during the year for a three year period to 2020. Grass cutting and hedge trimming costs have been met on budget following the retender exercise. The mild winter weather meant that little salt was used from the two grit bins supplied by the PC on Haycrafts Lane.

The new padlock and light system trialled at WM and HX proved successful as no damage to the stone pillars occurred. . The central tower located multiple CCTV provision and agreed management strategy for Worth Car Park has protected that substantial income stream in 2018-19. This installation is currently being upgraded with a future maintenance contract.

The annual and local audits for 2017-18 were submitted without any external requests for access to the accounts. The results of the audit were published as required by statute. The External and Internal Auditors raised no issues. The Council reviewed its Risk Assessments, its Financial and Internal Controls, its Reserves and renewed a term bond for a further two years to 2020. The PC formally considered these Reserves, in excess of two years revenue expenditure, and its future annual income and expenditure in setting its budget for 2019-20. The PC decided that again and for over ten years in a row to set the annual council tax precept at a rate of £NIL. Worth Matravers is the sole Parish Council in Purbeck to set a £Nil rate precept.

The RFO summarised the successful financial performance of the PC over the five years since the last election. Income voluntarily collected and banked by the parish councillors had risen by 40% allowing significant additional expenditure on environmental and safety maintenance and major improvements. New playground equipment and an upgraded WM car park CCTV system with a central tower and cameras had been installed

5. REPORT FROM SHADOW UNITARY COUNCIL - Shadow Councillor Ms C BROOKS

Ms Brooks gave a short verbal report on the current operation of the Shadow Dorset Council. She accepted that there was a need for the new Unitary Dorset Council to sort out effective communications and engagement with Town and Parish Councils in the future. There had been a shortage of time allowed by government to implement the reorganisation of nine councils to one rural Dorset Unitary. As a result there had to date, been little progress in making the cost savings envisaged in the Price Waterhouse report justifying this reorganisation. Reorganisation redundancy costs had been very substantially higher than they had envisaged. She accepted the need to make efficiencies and start an effective transformation process but the start point was to ensure a safe and legal authority in the short period available. The future formation of the structure of the new Dorset Rural Unitary Authority (DRUC) will arise following the elections for Councillors in May 2019.

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCIL. Whilst the Purbeck District Council no longer exists , Cllr Lovell as a residual Shadow Member of DRUC gave a short verbal report on progress on the Working Parties for communication and engagement.

7. REPORT BY WORTH MATRAVERS VILLAGE HALL. The Village Hall Committee did not provide a report. Cllrs were again concerned in view of the financial support given to the village hall in the form of donations by the PC, (The Custodian Trustee), that once again no report on their annual activities had been provided. It was agreed to defer a decision on any future donations until Cllr Vosper, the PC representative on the WMVHMC, had raised this issue.

8. REPORT BY HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL. This had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

The Village Hall continues to be a vibrant centre for the community. It remains financially successful with a large number of bookings. Highlights of 2018-19 include the August bank holiday Fete, which was attended by approximately 2500 locals and visitors. 94 locals helped in

the planning and running of the event and a thank you evening for helpers in October was well attended. Monthly movie nights continue to be well attended with an average of 55 attendees. Movie nights contributed £1950 to hall funds in 2018. The milestone of the 100th film showing was achieved this year. A new website was developed and launched. The new website is more mobile and ipad friendly. 650 forward diary entries were entered into the calendar on the website for 2019. Weddings are a major source of income. Twelve were held in 2018. This was an exceptional year and in consideration of local residents we will not hold as many in 2019. The bar is opened and managed by hall volunteers for events such as music nights, choir concerts, movie nights and Jazz club events. The wide choice of beverage and the low prices are welcomed by attendees. The bar contributes healthy profits to the hall funds, amounting to c£1500 in 2018. 5 Stalls in the Hall were held. These provide opportunity for the sale of local produce and crafts and for locals to gather for coffee and a cake. Challenges in finding volunteers to run these events has meant we have reduced the number held per year. The Hall remains a center for Purbeck University of the 3rd Age (U3A) activities with many clubs and monthly meetings being held in the Hall. The Coffee Junction meets fortnightly to provide refreshments and a chat. There is a monthly informal Church Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The Management Committee continues to monitor Village Hall facilities and services to ensure our hirers receive good value and to keep our running costs to a reasonable level whilst maintaining quality of service. Several major repairs have been undertaken this year. The main hall has been fully redecorated. New carpet was laid in the corridor from the entrance hall. The outside patio area had sunk at one end; this has been levelled and repointed. There were three resignations from the committee this year including the Chair, Keith Fisher. Keith was thanked for his many years of service to the Hall. Three new members joined the committee during the year. Alison Clough, a new committee member, took over the Chair. There is still a need for more committee members and new volunteers are being actively sought. The concept of becoming a 'Friend' of the Village Hall was launched to try to attract volunteers who are prepared to help with certain activities but do not necessarily want to be on the Committee. Several volunteers already work with us in this way. New volunteers have come forward to help with regular maintenance checks, let-ins, IT and technical support and with Stalls at the Hall, but more are needed. Newer village residents, in particular, are being approached but every Harmans Cross resident would be very welcome to join the committee or become a 'Friend' and get involved in any of the activities, which need volunteers, in order to ensure we can carry on operating with all the events. The Children's playground on the Village hall field continues to be heavily used, both by locals and visitors to the campsites. Regular maintenance and safety checks are carried out by a qualified volunteer 'Friend'. The Post Office Counter facility continues each Thursday morning for local residents, although since the PO opened at St Michael's garage the business volume is significantly reduced. In all another successful year providing a community centre and facilities to the residents of Harmans Cross and surrounding area. In conclusion the Committee would like once again to sincerely thank the Parish Council for their contributions and support throughout the year. Alison Clough Chairman

9 RIGHTS OF WAY. Officer's Annual Report None. The position is vacant and a volunteer is needed. Cllr Bugler indicated he might know a person willing to assist in this role.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm

Signed.....