

WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Worth Matravers Village Hall on
Tuesday 1st April 2014 at 7pm.**

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr J Burden, Cllr Ian Bugler, Cllr Sandham, Cllr Meates, District/County Cllr Lovell, There were 2 members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Vosper & Field, Mrs Val Winch, Mrs Sandra Brown 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 2 APRIL, 2013 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by the Cllr Meates and seconded by Cllr Bugler.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL was given by the Chairman and placed on file. A copy 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 well within budget representing 62% of the original budget estimate. Income in 2013-14 at Worth Matravers car park is still below 2011/12 due to the adverse weather during the year. The Harmans Cross car park although now heavily used at times for events at HXVH operates at near break-even between costs and income. Grass cutting and hedge trimming costs have been held. Purbeck District Council from October 2013 cut back over three years their existing financial commitment to maintain the Worth public toilets. These extra costs currently some £7500 per annum have been progressively built into the Parish Council budget for 2013/15 and future years. A new Toilet Cleansing contractor was appointed in 2013. A three year fixed price contract for power supplies to the WM toilets has been entered into with N Power. The warm winter weather meant that little or no salt was used. The financial reconciliation of the WMPC accounts is reported to the PC on a monthly basis as recommended by the Internal Auditor. The Council reviewed its reserves and future income and expenditure for 2014-15 and decide to set the annual precept at a rate of £NIL A copy of the RFO report is accessible on the Council's web site.

5. REPORT BY DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR M.LOVELL. Cllr Lovell gave a 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 had pursued the 30mph limit for HX and a range of improvements of footway and carriageway surfacing and was optimistic that works in HX would take place in 2014-15. He had obtained assurances that the Worth Traffic Regulation amendments requested by the PC would be pursued in 2014-15. 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 report a very good year, income-wise. They have invested in a number of improvements which have made the hall an even better facility for the village and ran another successful series of events for the village, hence the increase in net income. It said goodbye to one of our longstanding members of the Management and the Events Committees, Gerald Crofton Briggs, and anointed Nick Viney as the new chairman of the Management Committee. Jack Ross is staying on as the Chair of the Events Committee, for the time being at least. WWMVH are still appealing for new members for both Committees and there are signs of progress, and ran a successful 'door to door' campaign to add more households to their email group.

7. HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL. The Village Hall continues to be very well used .. The main hall has an occupancy level of 80%. Music Nights have now become established with 4 live concerts last year with high quality groups providing a selection of diverse music. Movie Nights held on the second Tuesday evening of the month have averaged an attendance of over 50 per month. The Village Club provides a mix of afternoon speakers with coach outings, literary lunch and other social events such as cream teas and skittle evenings. Coffee Mornings were re-launched as "Stalls at the Hall". The Residents Club now meets twice a month. A maximum of 10 wedding receptions are held a year. In May a very successful Art Exhibition was held by our local Art Group. The Annual Field Day held on August Bank Holiday Monday was blessed with perfect weather and attracted a record attendance of some 2,500 visitors. The Jubilee Bench in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has been installed at the rear of the hall so that users can sit looking down the field and enjoy the afternoon and evening sun. The project to build our new storage barn has been ongoing for much of this period. It was completed in early 2014 after further delays caused by the extreme weather conditions.. The Village Hall is now a registered with Dorset County Council and Purbeck District Council as an Emergency Centre. Building repairs and Maintenance costs are necessarily high to keep the high quality of the hall its facilities and its infrastructure. The AGM was held in November 2013. Hugh Salter stepped down and Keith Fisher took up the Chairmanship. 3 ladies joined as volunteer Trustees on the committee at the same time. Hugh was thanked for all the hard work and enthusiasm he had given over the period of building and establishment of the new Hall. A copy of the full report is accessible on the Council's web site

8. ST. GEORGES SCHOOL GOVERNOR.

The Governors' reported to the Parish Council on its second academic year as a primary school. The move into the new building is now complete. Total number of pupils on the roll is 113. Current staffing levels are: 5 full-time teachers, 2 temporary part-time teachers, 1 permanent part-time teacher, 7 teaching assistants (full and part-time) and 3 lunchtime supervisors. Attainment is generally good at each key stage, and by the end of year 4 it matches or exceeds Dorset averages.

An effective ICT infrastructure with new hardware has been installed in the new building to ensure access for all pupils Football, hockey, tag rugby, netball, multi-sports; art, crafts, and book clubs; choir and recorder optional lunch-time and after-school activities are offered. A German club for year 6, dance for years R, 1 and 2, and Lego and gymnastics clubs started in this year. All Key Stage 2 pupils have a term's swimming, and all pupils are involved in gardening on the raised beds in the Langton Allotments. . Pupils have taken part in various local musical events. The regular services at St George's Church are an important part of the school life. The Old Malthouse School has rented to St George's their hall, 3 classrooms, and office and storage spaces for the extended duration of the build, as well as allowing the use of their all-weather outdoor sports/play area. The governors wish to thank the community for their patience in tolerating the increased traffic and disruption associated with the construction work. A copy of the full report is accessible on the Council's web site.

9 FOOTPATH LIAISON OFFICER. Langton PC, with the assistance of DCC and the National Trust, and with support from Worth PC and Swanage TC, successfully applied for £150k funding for the project from the "Paths for Communities" scheme, a European fund which is administered by Natural England. In October –December 2013, DCC, with contractors, implemented this project to deliver improved drainage, re-surfacing and signage along the length of the PW, including around Eastington in Worth parish. Local stone was used for all repairs. The Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust funded new signage. The work on the PW was immediately tested by a second consecutive very wet winter. The new surface and drainage stood up well to the test of exceptionally wet conditions. At the same time, the repaired surface has quickly re-gained a natural appearance. Wet weather took its toll on RoW, with significant impact in the wider locality. Landslips caused prolonged closure and diversions around sections of the SW Coast Path including a section below Hounstout, and diversions around a much-used path between Spyway and Dancing Ledge [both stretches of path still closed at this point. Thanks are due to all those responsible for maintaining our local ROW for their prompt and helpful response when problems have arisen, including: Rob Field of Weston Farm, Derek Haddon of Suttles Quarries, and Jonathan Kershaw of the National Trust A copy of the full report is accessible on the Council's web site.

10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed.....