

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION, CASTLE LANE ON TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr N Plummer (Chairman) and Cllrs R Rowe (Vice-Chairman), S Corben, R Corben, D Gartside, C Jay and F Light.

**In attendance:** Dorset County Councillor P Batstone  
Mrs Sophie Pearce, Parish Clerk.

**Also present:** 6 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** None

**2. Declaration of Interest and Dispensation Requests**

**a. To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:**  
No Declarations of Interest were received.

**b. To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:**  
The Clerk confirmed that no dispensation requests had been received.

**3. Minutes**

Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Proposed: Cllr Jay; Seconded: Cllr Rowe**

**4. Dorset Councillor's Report**

Dorset Council recognises that payment machines at a great deal of car parks are out of order due to the external contractor not emptying cash from the machines. Users are able to pay via apps or mobile but the Council also recognises that this is not always possible for everyone and are working hard to resolve the issues through the contractor. It is hoped the issue will be resolved soon.

There is an issue at Belchalwell around an alleged altered positioning of a sign, (discussed in Open Items in details).

Budgets are being discussed, with an increase in Precepts expected, mostly due to the increased and ongoing funding of vulnerable adults and young people.

Local plan being discussed and meetings at Dorset Council are still being carried out online.

**Public Question Time**

A resident of Okeford Fitzpaine would like to divert a public footpath that is currently running across his land. This was discussed in more details in Item 10.

A member of the public vented frustration with the Parish Council for the lack of action taken over the village Hall carpark and apparent reluctance to take it forward by meeting and addressing the issue. He felt that the 7 Principals of Public Office had been breached.

He was also concerned that the Draft Precept showed a reduction and was frustrated that issues dating from 2015 were still on the Agenda with no decisions apparently having been made.

A member of the public expressed concern about the safety in the village due to poorly parked cars, one example being those cars parked along the lane outside St Loe House, where there is a blind corner. This means cars are driving on the wrong side of the road into oncoming traffic. The parked horse box on Higher Street is also an indication that residence are taking matters into their own hands by parking obstacles around the village in an effort to slow down traffic. With more newly built houses anticipated, this problem of speed and lack of parking will only worsen. There needs to be a parking plan. What can (and can't) be done. It was agreed by the Council that this item would be added to the Agenda for the meeting in January.

## **5. UPDATES ON OPEN ITEMS:**

### **Neighbourhood Planning**

**Cllr Plummer:** A meeting has been set with a consultant in January.

### **Belchalwell and Fiddleford items:**

A driveway has been altered in Belchalwell with approval from Highways. The road sign outside the house has not been moved, but it was felt by a local resident that it now looks like it's the name of the house and so deliveries to other households were not being delivered correctly. **Cllr Plummer** had visited the site and also spoken to Highways to see if re-positioning the sign or changing the wording to give clarity could be an option. Highways have no budget for this so it would be down to the PC to do this, if all residents agreed. The costs would be in the region of £600. It was strongly felt that this was NOT a Parish Council issue and therefore the PC would not fund the change to the sign.

### **Darknoll Lane**

**Cllr Gartside:** The history of how this issue was brought to the Parish Council was reiterated. The bottom line is that the quote for works came in at £100,000, which the Parish Council does not have and does not wish to spend. As it is not a Highways issue, the full amount would need to be met. In Cllr Gartside's opinion, there have been more parishioners in support of the works being carried out than those who are not in favour, but now a decision needs to be made as to how to conclude this matter. It is hoped that a meeting will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> December with Dorset Council to gain further clarity and potential options.

### **Little/Mill Lane Crossing**

**Cllr Gartside: Cllr Batstone** This issue remains on the Agenda in the Local Plan at Dorset Council. Once a decision is made, Cllr Batstone will get back to us.

### **Plaque for Listed Building on The Cross**

**Cllr Jay:** Progress is being made. Dorset Council has referred Cllr Jay to a similar application made by David Green, the Parish Clerk on behalf of Shillingstone Parish Council which may make the process easier, so at last things are moving forward.

### **Museum**

**Cllr S Corben:** Nothing to report

### **Okeford Fitzpaine Climate Emergency Response**

**Cllr Rowe:** 150 trees will be planted in the spring.

### **Availability of Appropriate Grants**

**Cllr Rowe:** One grant (The Queen's Jubilee Trust - £ 30-50,000) has been identified, but the closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> December, and so too late to complete a business case.

**Illegal Parking at The Village Hall**

**Cllr Light:** The dumped car has now been removed.

**Repairs to the Drain at Little/Mill Lane**

**Cllr Gartside:** Work completed, water now flowing well. To be removed from Open Items.

**RESOLVED****Blocked Drains in Village:****Surface Water running into Lower Street**

**Cllr R Corben:** This is a spring, not water running off Bowey field. In the opinion of Dorset Council, if the ditch was to be dug deeper, this would resolve the problem. It was clear to all councillors who know the site well, that this is NOT the case and the PC will continue to engage with DC for a resolution. It was therefore decided that for safety in freezing conditions, a grit bin would be placed half way along the green area on the left as you travel out of the village between the chapel and the entrance to the Bowey estate. This would enable grit to be scattered easier along the whole distance of where the water is running.

**Proposed: Cllr S Corben; Seconded Cllr Gartside.**

**AGREED****Shillingstone Lane outside the old chicken farm sheds.**

**Cllr Gartside:** Photos to be sent to the Clerk for a report to be lodged with Dorset Council.

**Outdoor Table Tennis**

**Cllr Jay:** The table is now in situ. To be removed from Open Items.

**RESOLVED**

Unfortunately, and to the dismay of all, within a few days three children were caught vandalising the table. This is now a Police matter. Councillors agreed that this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated. CCTV was discussed. **To be added to next month's Agenda.**

There are now 10 bats and 70 balls. It was suggested that a free of charge raffle be held and winners drawn from a hat. This will be advertised in Fippenny News.

**Proposed Cllr S Corben; Seconded Cllr C Jay**

**Resurfacing of Village Hall Car Park**

**Cllr Plummer:** A meeting was held with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. Pricing and scope required. **Cllr S Corben to look into obtaining 3 quotes.**

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – JUNE 2022**

**Cllr Plummer:** Meetings across all community groups are to be held this month. A request for a road closure at Mary Gardens will be made by the Clerk.

**Broken signs around the Village:**

**Cllr Gartside:** The damaged public footpath sign outside Ridouts has been reported and will be repaired by our village Ranger. The road bollards at Cookwell Spring have been damaged. This will be looked at by Dorset Council.

**6. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:****Damage to grass verge on Lower Street:**

**Cllr R Corben:** The turf can be trodden back down. Unfortunately, lorries/tractors will continue to drive over the verge, but placing more wooden bollards along the road will not deter them.

**Cllr R Corben said he would speak to those affected.**

**Precept:**

Discussed at length. A few adjustments made. All now agreed. Will be made public and submitted to Dorset Council. **Proposed: Cllr F Light; Seconded Cllr R Corben**

**AGREED**

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Minutes approved as a true and accurate record, and signed as so by the Chairman presiding

..... Date: .....

**Website – updating and ongoing maintenance:**

A member of the public has come forward and volunteered his services to update and maintain the Parish Council website. There are no cost implications. Areas to be looked at are: road closure notices, who sits on the PC, updates contact numbers/email addresses, Areas of responsibilities and spelling mistakes and consistency checked.

**All in Favour:**

**CARRIED**

**PC meeting dates for 2022:** These dates were circulated. No meetings to take place in February and August 2022.

**Proposed: Cllr N Plummer; Seconded Cllr F Light**

**AGREED**

**7. PLANNING MATTERS:**

**Applications:** No Applications were received prior to the Agenda being published.

**8. REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

No meetings have taken place.

**9. CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED:**

- DAPTC Chief Exec bulletin x5 - DAPTC E-News x5 - DAPTC AGM 2021
- Reminder: DCA Trustee Breakfast Club
- Forwarded: RSN Rural Funding Digest - November 2021 Edition
- North Dorset Trailway Network - Invitation to AGM for councillor representatives
- Your Invitation: DCA - Winter Energy Crisis 2021 (Fuel Poverty)
- Disruption to cash payments in Dorset Council car parks
- Member of Public: Response to Car Parking (email above)
- NALC NEWSLETTER x5
- DCA News - Issues 23, 24
- Dorset Council Blue Badge Car Park Charging Policy
- Latest news from Dorset Council x3
- North Dorset Trailway Network - Invitation to AGM for councillor representatives
- Member of Public: Outdoor Gym Equipment
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE, THE CROSS, BELCHALWELL
- Member of Public: Lorry Reversing into Castle Avenue Without Banksman
- Working Together - Town and Parish Council enquiries to Dorset Council
- Wessex Flood Warden STOP PRESS Newsletter - November 2021
- Reminder for Climate and Ecological Support Group on Thursday 18th 7.30pm
- Dorset's green fields under threat from developers
- Your Invitation: DCA upcoming events x2
- Member of Public: Amendment to Draft Minutes
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE, SHILLINGSTONE LANE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE
- Member of Public: Entrance to Parish Land at Greenhayes/VH Car park
- Member of Public: Fwd: Government responded to "Legislate to enable Councillors to be disqualified or suspended for poor conduct"
- Member of Public: Damage to grass verge in Lower Street
- Member of Public: Fwd: 'It's backdoor privatisation of the NHS'
- Member of Public: Broken planter opposite the park
- TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE, THE CROSS, BELCHALWELL
- Fundraising for The Children's Air Ambulance - Textile Banks in the Parish(s)
- TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE, SHILLINGSTONE LANE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE
- Dorset Council email: Full Fibre Broadband to Fiddleford
- Latest news from Dorset Council

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- DAPTC Training E-News - December 2021
- Dorset Council Community Governance Review
- Planning application P/VOC/2021/05141 Proposal: Erect 5 No. dwellings, form new vehicular roads and create 14 No. parking spaces (demolish existing farm buildings) (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission 2/2019/1735/FUL to amend approved plans) Location: Pleydells Farm, Okeford Fitzpaine, Higher Street
- Planning application P/HOU/2021/05177 Proposal: Erect 2 storey annex extension Location: Meadow House, Back Lane, Okeford Fitzpaine
- Planning application P/FUL/2021/01931 Proposal: Demolish existing farm buildings and Erect 27 No. dwellings, form vehicular access, parking and landscaping. Location: Pleydells Farm, Lower Street, Okeford Fitzpaine.

## 10 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT:

**Bowey Field - Cllr R Corben:** Hedges trimmed, however the contractor accidentally damaged one of the fences. This will need repairing. The contractor responsible will adjust his invoice accordingly to take the cost of repairs into consideration. Another fence has been damaged at the top of Bowey. It will need replacing with wood rather than metal chain. **Cllr R Corben will get quotes.**

### **Recreation Ground/Pavilion - Cllr S Corben:**

The new windows have been fitted and look very good. Electrician came and completed the work. A report was submitted to the Clerk as there are other electrical concerns that will need addressing - eg: hairdryer in ladies changing room, and the replacing of some switches. Cllr S Corben will get a quote to get the work done.

**Proposed: Cllr S Corben; Seconded Cllr R Corben** **AGREED**

The Clerk's office has been cleaned and cleared. As there is no radiator, poor ventilation causes damp around one of the windows. It was suggested that a frosted plastic coating be applied to prevent condensation. When the football matches are on, Cllr S Corben will heat the office to keep the damp at bay.

**Rights of Way/Footpaths:** Plans were presented to the PC outlining a proposal from the owners of Darknoll Farm to divert a public right of way through his land. At this initial stage the owner is testing the idea to see if there would be any objections. Cllr Plummer advised that the owner go through the proper channels and apply directly through Dorset Council so that it can be heard in the usual way.

The trailer parked behind the old chicken sheds has now been removed. The footpath is now open.

The village ranger has delivered some timbers and volunteers are happy to repair Bowey steps.

**Transport:** NFTR

**Football Club:** Growing in numbers.

**DAPTC:** Cllr Plummer represented the PC at the recent AGM.

**Village Community Group (VCG):** Fifty people attended the Christmas lunch. £ 100 pounds was raised for the foodbank and another £ 100 to The Vale Pantry. Films are to be shown again in January 2022, with a new club membership initiative in place. A gourmet super club is starting on Saturday evenings. A strong turnout to the WOOF Christmas party. The Mud Pie Café Christmas party is next.

**Village Hall:** At the last meeting, there was a strong difference of opinion among the Trustees, which resulted in the Treasurer, Secretary and the booking clerk resigning. Mrs Burt has now taken over all three roles.

**History Society:** No Rep present.

## 11 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

### 11.1 Accounts for Payment:

Okeford Fitzpaine resolve to approve the sum of £ 3,275.96 as the Accounts for payment for November.

<b>Payee:</b>	<b>Cheque Nos:</b>	<b>Details:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>
Seitetto Ltd	1354	Website domain	£ 178.80
DAPTC Training	1355	Cllr Jay planning training pt1	£ 39.00
British Gas	1356	Pavilion	£ 96.84
Water2business	1357	Pavilion	£ 220.55
Keep Britain Tidy	1358	Dog fouling posters	£ 223.20
R P Moore	1359	Drain digging down track	£ 1,800.00
DAPTC Training	1360	Cllr Jay planning training pt2	£ 39.00
Sophie Pearce	1361	Salary, poppy wreath stationery	£ 625.42
Sophie Pearce	1362	Printer ink cartridges	£ 53.15

It was Proposed by Cllr Rowe and Seconded by Cllr Jay that these be paid. This was agreed by the Council.

**11.2 Accounts to be Paid:** None

**11.3 Receipts:** None

### NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

- Parking in the village
- CCTV at Bowey.
- WiFi at the Pavilion

Okeford Fitzpaine Council resolved to note the date of the next meeting as **Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm to be held in The Pavilion, Castle Lane.**

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.41pm.