



# Motcombe Parish Council

## Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2021

**Present:** Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey - Vice Chairman, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr J Hood and Cllr B Mauleverer and Cllr R Craigmile and Cllr S Rogers

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) - and Keri from This is Alfred, Dorset Council Cllr B Ridout, There were 2 members of the public present.

*At this point, the Chairman asked if anyone present was going to record the meeting. The Clerk and Keri from This is Alfred will be recording for their records.*

**Public Consultation period:**

There were none.

**78/20. Apologies for absence and dispensations**

Cllr D Walsh and Dorset Councillor Cllr V Potheary were unable to join the virtual meeting.

**79/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

**80/20. Co-option for new members**

No members of the public came forward.

**81/20. Approve minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 and matters arising from that meeting:**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mauleverer and seconded by Cllr Taylor, all members in favour that they were a true and accurate account of the meeting. The Clerk signed the approved minutes on behalf of the Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** Approved the minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (no budgetary requirements).

**Play Area update:** Cllr Hood confirmed that the maintenance work on the play area has been completed. Cllr Hood had circulated quotes for replacing the two gates at the play area. After debate it was agreed for the Clerk to contact Ministry of Play to ask if the option of the metal gate can be supplied in other colours? The Parish Council agreed in principle, to instruct Ministry of Play to replace the gates once clarification on the colour is obtained. **Action – Clerk**

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council have in principle, to instruct Ministry of Play to replace the gates, once clarification on the colour is obtained. (81/20 – play area)

**Update on the Meadows Maintenance program:** Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Hood had circulated two agreed projects for quotes for bramble and hedging and to removing trees at the Meadows. Councillors agreed via email to instruct Tom Carter to do the necessary works on the brambles and hedges at the Meadows. The quote from the preferred contractor for the tree work is being confirmed.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council will instruct Tom Carter to do the necessary works on the brambles and hedges as per his quote. (81/20a – Motcombe Meadows)

Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Hood met with Graham Stanley in December to discuss whether the bridleway at the back of the Meadows could be widened to improve the surface and escape the growth from the trees along that section. There is already a plan to replace the fence along that end, and Graham Stanley will be providing his thoughts on achieving this in due course, Graham Stanley also agreed to talk to the landowner who has erected a new fence behind the Meadows, as it does not provide adequate room for a bridleway. It was reported that there has been an electric fence erected along the bridleway, which also does not provide adequate room, Cllr Mouncey will look into this matter.

Cllr Hood will be in contact with John Heenan, to confirm his offer to put up the Owl Box with his cherry picker and remove the old one and arrange a date. It is hoped to plant the saplings in due course (if covid rules allow). It was agreed for Cllr Mouncey to look into obtaining hedging plants from Woodland Trust.

**Reminder that local organisations can apply for grants from the Parish Council –** the Clerk would like to remind local organisation to apply to the Parish Council for small grants, the deadline for application will be the end of February 2021. You can email the Clerk for an application for

**82/20. Report from Dorset Council Councillor:**

**REMINDERS:** Draft Climate & Ecological Emergency Consultation ends on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 21. Dorset Local Plan Consultation coming out soon.

**COVID update –** Dorset Council has worked with Dorset Health partners to bring COVID vaccinations through Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester. 300 frontline care workers were vaccinated in the first week of receiving the vaccines and this will continue



week on week, some becoming Vaccine Champions to help with the vaccine roll out. The Oxford vaccine will start to be rolled out from Monday 4th January 21, alongside the Pfizer vaccine. This will hopefully bring us a step closer to some kind of normality as we go forward into the new year.

As we all know, the Government announced that as of Thursday, 31st December, Dorset is now in tier 3 and BCP Council in tier 4. There has been a significant increase in both the number of cases and rate of infection in Dorset (DC: 154 cases per 100,000 population and BCP: 271 cases per 100,000 population). Key advice from Public Health Dorset is:

- Do not travel unless you absolutely have to and walk or cycle where possible.
- Avoid sharing a vehicle with anyone not in your household.
- Local means staying within your town or village where you live.
- Stay at home as much as possible.
- People must not travel to or from a tier 4 area (eg. Somerset) unless it is for a permitted reason, such as work if they cannot work from home.

More details can be found on the government website. Business Support Grants are available during both Tier 2 and 3, offering continued financial support. Please see the DC website. Update guidance on schools and childcare returning to school in January can be found on the DC website. The web pages are updated in line with Government announcements, often on a daily basis. Although there will be a staggered return for most secondary school pupils, (apart from vulnerable or critical worker children for whom schools remain open), school transport will continue as usual from 4th January. Care Homes. In tier 3 outdoor visiting and 'screened' visits are permitted. The advice is, unless visiting a family member or close friend, you are recommended not to be visiting care homes or hospital at this time.

**Climate Emergency & Ecological Emergency Consultation** - in light of the Prime Minister's recent vow to cut Co2 emissions by 68% by 2030, an update on Dorset Council's programme post consultation: Consultation results to be analysed, debated and amended if necessary, through the Executive Advisory Panel in February, which is open to all councillors to make comment. A paper of findings and suggested revised strategy will go to the People & Health Scrutiny Committee on 25th March and to Cabinet on 6th April. Final Strategy and Action Plan to be signed off 15th April 21. The Sustainability Team continue to ensure that 'actions' will be delivered as per the Action Plan and have applied for £30m grant money to take this forward. Low Carbon Dorset continues to receive many requests for help with Low Carbon Projects across the Dorset Council area.

Member's Briefing, Tuesday, 15th December – Strategic Green Belt Review. This is a background study to be published January 2021, along with the Dorset Local Plan Consultation.

A single Strategic Review for the whole of Dorset, working jointly with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole as both council areas share Greenbelt land to some extent. The aim of the Review is an independent assessment of the Greenbelt, looking at how all land in the Greenbelt performs against the purpose of the Greenbelt and potential harm to the Greenbelt should land in certain locations be released for development (only in exceptional circumstances through the Local Plan process after all other possible options considered, ie. existing brownfield sites, other more suitable sites). The Review does not identify suitable sites to develop or consider exceptional circumstances for removal of land from the greenbelt but focusses on the 5 main purposes of the greenbelt as laid out in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework):

1. check unrestricted spread of large built-up areas.
2. Prevent neighbouring towns merging.
3. Safeguard countryside from encroachment.
4. Preserve the setting/special character of historic towns.
5. Assist in regeneration by encouraging recycling of derelict/urban land.

The first part of the assessment shows the variation of contribution of greenbelt land, broken down into 'Purposes' 1 – 4 above and part two gives an assessment of the harm of releasing land within the greenbelt, with contribution ratings to indicate the impact of contribution to greenbelt purposes.

To consider new greenbelt land, the local authority would have to go through a strict strategic testing process. If greenbelt land is given up for development, the NPPF requires local authorities to enhance existing greenbelt land, e.g., through habitat improvements. Most of Dorset's greenbelt is around the conurbation in the south-east of the county.

**Dog related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)** – new rules for dogs in open spaces come into force from 1ST January. In the first few weeks the council will focus on advice and guidance to dog-owners, explaining the new rules. The order replaces a number of existing dog related PSPO's across the council area. The intention is that the new Order will provide clarity and consistency across the area for dog owners and non-owners alike about dog controls on public open spaces such as beaches, sports fields and other public areas.

**Highways** briefing to members took place before Christmas. The majority of Dorset Council highways works is delivered through Dorset Council's own in-house team in partnership with Hansons. This is a reciprocal arrangement. Old tar-based arisings (road surface waste) are low level carcinogens and costly to dispose of, but these waste arisings are now recycled by being crushed and bounded in cement to neutralise and put back into the network as construction materials. To date, DC has recycled 11,000 tonnes of old tar-based arisings in this way, saving Dorset Council £1.8m. Highways also assist charities across Dorset, free of charge by, e.g relaying access roads, filling in potholes, laying the base for playgrounds. Highways is now completely digital which allows informed decisions and real time improvements to be made; collection and sharing of data (materials to site, where mixed, weather conditions, etc); health and safety improvements for the team/risk assessments; improved asset management.



**Help and Support for Dorset Residents - Help to deal with financial struggles: Dorset Citizens Adviceline on Freephone 0800 144 8848. Support also available online: [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reaching-out](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reaching-out). Coping with Isolation and Loneliness: Dorset Together Team, support including food shopping and delivery, collection of prescriptions, dog walking and befriending. Help can be accessed via an online form on the Dorset Council website or by calling the Dorset Together helpline on 01305 221000, 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Digital Hotline – people with queries about getting online or improving online skills can call the Dorset Digital Hotline on 01305 221048, Monday to Friday from 10am to noon. Outside of those times you can leave a message and a Digital Champion will get back to you. If you are on a low income and do not have a broadband connection or device at home to connect to the internet, it may be possible to help you to get set up. The Dorset Council website is an invaluable tool for finding out the latest information and about essential services affecting the public. For those residents not online, who have important questions or concerns, call Dorset Council on 01305 221000, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week or email: [communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk). Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>.**

### 83/20. Finance

The Clerk tabled November's payment schedule for the sum of £2,908.83, it was proposed by Cllr Stacey to agree and pay the invoices listed on the payment schedule, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor, all member in favour.

Chris Berwick Ltd	Grass Cutting/tree/fi	£	678.85
N Phillips wages	Clerk's Wages	£	1,062.88
N Phillips expenses	Clerk's Expenses	£	67.14
Nest	Pension	£	74.40
SSE contracting	Street Lights Maint	£	229.25
supply	Street Lights Supply	£	454.15
Ministry of Play	Play Area	£	271.50
HMR NI	Employers NI	£	45.66
Legion	Grants & Donations	£	25.00

**RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed on the payment schedule for the sum of £2,908.83 (73/20 – finance).

The Clerk circulated the bank reconciliation, Cllr Simon Rogers checked the reconciliation and agreed it. the Clerk signed the reconciliation form on behalf of the Parish Council.

### 84/20. Planning – the Planning group gave the following suggestions.

Cllr Taylor reported there were not updates on applications from Dorset Council Planning department.

A resident had sent concerns over Sherborne Causeway - New Elms Garage, with regards to water run-off onto the A30. The Clerk has forwarded the residents email on to Dorset Council enforcement team for their action.

### 85/20. Chairman's report

**The Chairman gave the following report:**

- There has been some progress at the Limes for the removal of the trees that do not have TPO's on them, which have now been felled. The Clerk has contacted Wessex Water requesting a site visit and a report on the damaged drains, which can be used towards the application for the removal of some of the trees that TPO's on them.
- The Clerk will continue to forward information from DAPTC to the Councillors.
- Has received correspondence from Matt Barge – Motcombe Primary School confirming that he has no objection for the rear entrance of the school being used and that the Church has also given permission for the Children to use the path through the Church Yard to the School. A quote is being regrade the slop to the rear entrance to make assess safer.
- Can all Councillors think of projects within the village that need to be considered this financial year and email their ideas?
- Received a letter from Tagenery, who have recently acquired the 20MW battery project at Hawkers Hill farm. Tagenery is a renewable energy developer and investor with experience in the renewable industry. The Clerk will circulate the letter to all Councillors for their information and it was agreed for Cllr Mauleverer and Cllr Craigmile to correspond with Tagenery and report back to the Parish Council. The possibility of a future presentation on the project by Tagenery was also discussed.
- Would like to congratulate Cllr Mauleverer in reinstating Motcombe United.

### 86/20. Officer Reports.

**Cllr Mauleverer gave the following report:**

- Motcombe United is up and running for the third time to support residents in the village through lock down. Cllr Mauleverer asked people to keep an eye out for neighbours in these hard times. There is a lot of information and support on Motcombe United face book page.
- Had attended a virtual Climate Crises seminar, which is providing a test tool to measure CO2 emissions in the village. Cllr Mauleverer will use the tool and report back to organiser feedback any issues found. This tool should give details to help provide information of how much the village need to do to offset the carbon footprint and even improve the carborm footprint for the village. As already reported, Draft Climate & Ecological Emergency Consultation ends on Wednesday, 20th January 2021, details can be found on <http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-strategy>



- Rolland Steelig, resident of the village will be turning 100 years old on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, details are on the what is going on in motcombe Facebook page.
- Motcombe quiz will start this Friday, details will be posted on Motcombe Facebook page.

**Cllr Hood gave the following report:**

- The Village Hall is closed for hire but has been offered as a possible Covid vaccination site and to use as a hub for food collections services.
- At the last Village Hall Committee meeting, the matter of a broken bench on the recreation ground was raised. The Clerk will look into the ownership of the bench.

**Action – Clerk**

**Cllr Craigmile gave the following report:**

- Dorset Council Highways team have confirmed that to do the necessary works on the kerb by the entrance of the Village Hall, the road will need to be closed for one day, which will require road closure permission which can take up to six weeks.
- Cllr Craigmile is in talks with Enrico di Manio from Dorset Council Highways regarding the access water at Turks Paddock. Wessex Water had been contacted; they confirm it is not their responsibility. Cllr Craigmile will report back once information is obtained by Enrico.
- Asked for an update on the multipurpose bins. The Chairman confirmed that Dorset Waste Partnership have been instructed to remove one old bin and install two new bins in the village. Advance notice of removal will be posted on the bin.
- Is still in talks with Dorset Council, the School and the Church to try and come up with ideas to relieve some of the parking issues outside the school and to make the walk to school safer.
- Has reported the potholes around the village and will ask Highways to re-new the white line down The Hollow in the better weather, as some have already been washed away.

**Cllr Taylor gave the following report:**

- Reported that there are a lot of drains blocked in the village. Cllr Craigmile will report this to Dorset Council. If anyone sees a block drain or pothole, they can report these direct to Dorset Council on their website.

**Cllr Mouncey gave the following report:**

- Has investigated a complaint about a locked gate near the A350 end of the path from North Hayes Farm that parallels the railway. A site visit confirmed that the location is in Wiltshire and spoke to the property owners about the complaint and have passed it over to Sedgfield & Semley Parish Council to investigate further. The path joins the track leading to the property from the A350, and if the gate across the track is locked, the right of way is blocked. Has also discovered in trying to register the complaint on the Wiltshire website that this is far more complex than using Dorset for You. Has also reported a deviation that has appeared at the Dorset area of this path end by the railway bridge but was very pleased to find that the Rangers have replaced the nearby footbridge over a tributary of the Lodden that they temporarily repaired about 18 months ago and thanked them for doing so. Has also registered that the gate at the back of the Memorial Hall field needs replacing, and a damaged stile support over the field from Frog Lane. In discussing these with Graham Stanley, he mentioned that the bridge over the ditch by the damaged stile was being considered for replacement in the next financial year. This would mean two new gates replacing the existing stiles.
- There will be a site meeting between the Rangers and Redrow sometime soon to discuss the long-term plan for re-routing the footpath into Shaftesbury at Littledown. Both Jan Wardell (Ramblers) and will be attending, along with the new RoW Officer for Shaftesbury Town Council.
- Will be attending an online meeting of the cycleway team, lead by Gillingham Town Council, later this month.

**87/20. Clerk Report – Correspondence – Matters of interest**

All correspondence had been circulated and actioned if necessary.

An email received from a resident expressing concerns over works taking place at Larkinglass Farm, which has been forwarded to Dorset Council enforcement team.

An email from a resident asking if the Parish Council would consider adopting Dorset Council's wide Policy for the Motcombe Meadows regarding Dog RSPO. As this is a very popular area for dog walkers the Parish Council would not like to see an order on the land and will produce a Policy that will highlight the rules that are already in place for the Meadows.

An email from a resident asking for the Parish Council to chase Sovereign Housing to do repair works to the verge being damaged outside a bungalow along Shorts Green Lane. The Clerk will contact Sovereign Housing again.

**Action – Clerk**

**78/20. Item for next agenda and date of next meeting**

Policy for the Meadows – other to be agreed.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 6.30pm**, Via Zoom.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.00

Signed by the Chairman.....

[Website - www.motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk)



Email – [motcombepc@motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:motcombepc@motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk)

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