



# Motcombe Parish Council

## Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 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

**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.

**89/20. Apologies for absence and dispensations**

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

**90/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

**91/20. Co-option for new members**

No members of the public came forward.

**92/20. Approve minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 and matters arising from that meeting:**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mouncey 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 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 (no budgetary requirements).

**Play Area update:** Cllr Hood confirmed that the gate has now been ordered.

**Update on the Meadows Maintenance program:** Cllr Mouncey reported that most of the proposed cut to bramble thickets and hedging was mainly completed by the contractor a few weeks ago. This produced some comments on social media, so a note was drafted explaining reasons for the work and an outline of future plans which was added to the weekly Motcombe news feed and the Motcombe Parish Council website. Due to the wet state of the land, we have decided to postpone the tree removal until early September, after which the brambles and hedges around the allotments will be trimmed, completing the two big projects to tidy up the site. Cllr Craigmile offered to give a large rowan for the meadows, Cllr Hood will liaise with Cllr Craigmile to collect it. Cllr Hood reported that he will start planting the saplings in the Meadows on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, weather permitting, which will help towards the village sustainability project to reduce the carbon footprint in the village.

The Clerk had circulated a draft policy for Motcombe Meadows. After some amendments, it was proposed by Cllr Mouncey that the policy is adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Stacey, all members in favour.

**RESOLVED:** to adopt policy for Motcombe Meadows (92/20 – no budgetary requirements)

**93/20. Report from Dorset Council Councillor: the following bullet points were tabled.**

Dorset Council Cllr Ridout congratulated the Parish Council on planting the saplings in the Meadows.

**REMINDER** - Dorset Local Plan Consultation runs from 18th January to 15th of March 2021. This is the opportunity for residents to have their say on the future of Dorset, not just your local area but the whole of the Dorset Council area. More information about the draft Local Plan can be found on the Dorset Council website: Local Plan. There will also be a series of webinars on-line, the first one entitled 'Distribution of Development', available from Tuesday, 26th, January.

**Youth Executive Advisory Panel meeting** – 15th January – discussion took place around the status of youth centre asset transfers and works, following a recent survey of all youth provision in the Dorset Council area. Clearly there is much to learn from the asset transfer to community groups back in 2016, something I know first-hand as a trustee of the Gillingham Youth & Community Centre. The EAP will be looking at 'filling the gaps' in youth provision.

**Targeted Youth Work Offer** – each locality has a Targeted Youth Worker to provide leadership around early help of young people. The TYW acts as a point of contact for partners and colleagues to provide guidance and expertise around youth work in their locality. Here in the north locality, we also have a Targeted Youth Support Worker, which reflects additional needs of the locality. The Targeted Youth Work Offer includes: TYW leading on regular multi-agency Youth at Risk meetings; Detached Youth Work focused on working with young people wherever and whenever they choose to congregate; Outreach Work with the objective to encourage and



engage a young person into an existing setting; Targeted Youth Work in groups and Youth Work Support on a one -to-one basis. Also, there is an ambition to deliver some youth work services digitally so young people can access them when and where they want.

**COVID update** – As of the 20th of January, the case rate for the Dorset council area is 308 per 100,000 population. The case rate is slowly falling but not as swiftly as it did during the November lockdown. In BCP Council area the case rate is 834 per 100,000. It is absolutely essential that we all continue to follow the current COVID rules and do everything we can to prevent spread of the virus. For any questions on the NHS vaccination roll-out programme for COVID, please go to the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, frequently asked questions: <https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/vaccinations/> To reinforce the Government’s message: ‘Stay Home, Protect the NHS AND Save Lives’.

**People and Children** - To create more homes for Dorset children. Councillors approved the ‘Placement Sufficiency Strategy’ for 2020-22 on 19th January. The Strategy sets out plans to improve accommodation for children in care in Dorset, e.g., refurbishing and registering several small properties as children’s homes. The aim of these proposals is to create more accommodation in Dorset so fewer local children have to leave their schools, their friends, their families, and everything they know and be placed in care far away. **Closer to home: St Mary’s School, Shaftesbury** - Dorset Council has completed the purchase of this former school site. It is a fantastic facility set in substantial grounds of about 55 acres. This offers exciting potential for many other community and service uses too, which will be explored in partnership with local people and community groups. The ambition is to transform the site to provide better educational opportunities for Dorset children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Anyone interested in making a difference to the lives of Dorset Children please call 01305 225568 or visit [fosterindorset.co.uk](http://fosterindorset.co.uk) for more information.

**Home Schooling help**, online resources, digital help, and desks – Dorset Council has put together some advice for families about getting online, data help. Desks may also be available for home schooling families. This is available online or phone Dorset Council on 01305 221000. Dorset schools are being asked to sign-up to a national scheme, which sees businesses donate laptops and other office equipment to schools. Called ‘Business to Schools’, the initiative sees businesses donate computers, laptops, tech equipment and furniture that they are about to replace. Schools need to register with: Business to Schools Initiative: Pages ([business2schools.com](http://business2schools.com)).

**Census 2021**, March 21st - Households across Dorset will soon be asked to take part in the 2021 Census. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It will be run predominantly online, with all Dorset households receiving a letter in late February with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computer, phone, or tablet from early March. Support available from Dorset Digital Champions. Paper questionnaires will be available.

**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.

**Parents and carers helpline** - Dorset Council’s Educational Psychology Service has set up a helpline to support those who are worried about their child or teenager during the lockdown. The helpline number is 01305 474036, open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30-minute phone consultation.

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>.

**94/20. Finance**

The Clerk tabled January’s payment schedule for the sum of £1758.93, it was proposed by Cllr Stacey to agree and pay the invoices listed on the payment schedule, this was seconded by Cllr Mouncey, all member in favour.

N Phillips wages	Clerk wages	£	1,062.88
N Phillips expenses	Clerks expenses	£	65.14
Nest	Clerk pension	£	74.40
HMR NI	employers ni	£	45.66
Chris Berwick Ltd	Aug grass cut	£	510.85
		£	<b>1,758.93</b>

**RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed on the payment schedule for the sum of £1758.93 (94/20 – finance).

**95/20. Planning – the Planning group gave the following suggestions.**



Cllr Taylor reported the following:

**2/2020/0677/OUT** - Land North of Enmore Court New Road Shaftesbury Dorset erection of 23 no affordable homes – appeal. In 2018 the original application was refused, it went to appeal and was turned down, but the inspector was happy with some of the proposals for the development. The developers then applied again and as Dorset Council planning department had not decided on this application, the developers have chased it up and has now gone to appeal.

**P/FUL/2031/00026** – Land at E 386668 N 124209 – Littledown, Shaftesbury – erect 41 no dwellings. This application was only received on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, so the planning team will discuss this application and send their recommendations to the Councillors for their consideration.

**2/2019/0331/OUT and P/VOC2020/00245** – Frog Lane. The hedge on the eastern boarder of the site has been completely removed. This appears to be in direct contravention of one of the conditions (no 8) of the original approval of this development. This matter has been reported to Dorset Council Planning enforcement officer for the action.

#### **96/20. Chairman's report**

##### **The Chairman gave the following report:**

Raised the following projects for 2021-2022.

- The Parish Council had considered changing the old speed indicator device (SID) at Bittles Green and would like to re-visit this project. The Clerk reminded the Councillors that when the outline planning went in for development on a site at Bittles Green, it was considered to request that the developer contribute funds to replace the SID and fund the cost to replace the streetlight down Bittles Green. As there has been no further development on the proposed site, the Councillor may wish to re-visit this project.
- Has contacted Tagenery, the renewable energy developer and investor and have invited them to attend a Parish Council meeting to give presentations of their ideas.
- To obtain quotes for replacing notice boards in the village. It was recommended that the residents have a say in what style of notice boards should be used. Cllr Hood agreed to take this project on. Action – Cllr Hood
- To make better use of the phone box. It was agreed to ask the residents of the village what they would like to see the phone box used for.
- To replace the remaining streetlights in the village. The Clerk will obtain an up-to-date quote to replace these.
- For the Parish Council to adopt a village sustainability policy, to include greener energy for new developments. Cllr Mauleverer reported that by using a test tool to measure CO2 emissions in the village, a report should be coming back by the end of February, where the Councillors will be able to see what the village can do to offset and reduce the CO2 emissions. It was agreed that this an important matter and will be added to the Parish Council's agenda each month. Once Dorset Council's planning policy has been adopted, details of their requirements for new developments, which could be incorporated into Motcombe's Neighbourhood plan.
- Asked if there is any update of when the Owl boxes will be put up in the Meadows. Cllr Hood will speak to Mr Heenan to find out when this can be done.

#### **97/20. Officer Reports.**

##### **Cllr Mauleverer gave the following report:**

- There are 18 volunteer cooks, who will be producing 1500 cup cakes with the village logo on it, to be delivered to each household in the village for valentine's day. The reasoning behind is not just to bring a smile to people, it is an opportunity to visit homes, in a covid safe manor, to seek out any lonely persons in the village. If the group can find one or two and help, it will be a very worthwhile project.
- Has produced an up-to-date map of the village with an estimate of how many residents the village holds. This will be circulated to the Councillors for their information.
- Will be giving a report on the finding for the CO2 emissions in the village and suggestions of what we can all do to improve it.

##### **Cllr Hood gave the following report:**

- The Village Hall is closed for the time being.

##### **Cllr Mouncey gave the following report:**

- A zoom meeting of the joint Cycleway group was held in mid-January, where Cllr Mouncey represented Motcombe Parish Council. Two key points were noted. Firstly, the plan to create a new link round the edge of Gillingham, under the railway and over the Lodden is no longer considered feasible by Gillingham TC as the future housing developments in that area are unlikely to provide an easily accessible linkage point. In addition, there is still extensive landowner resistance on part of that route, and the extensive costs of creating flood protection around the bridge under the railway and a new bridge over the Lodden no longer look viable. The second point is the urgent need to spend the Section 106 money that Dorset Council hold towards the costs of creating the link round that part of Gillingham, and it was subsequently confirmed that such monies could be diverted to improving the bridleway (some 106 expenditure has already been sanctioned for drainage improvements near Kingscourt Wood, due to be undertaken by the Rangers' contractor in the coming weeks, delayed by Covid). It was therefore agreed that Graham Stanley (Rangers) and Cllr Mouncey would undertake a survey of the bridleway



from New Lane in Motcombe to Kingscourt and identify where deviations from the current route, and improvements to the surface, would be cost effective within available funds, with the Rangers developing a costed proposal for agreement by Gillingham TC and Motcombe PC, subject to subsequent landowner approval where necessary. This survey was undertaken last Wednesday. It was also agreed that the current informal deviation from the Kingscourt site towards Kingscourt Wood should be formalised and the cost of this included in the costings. Whilst this would not create a full all-weather surface for the bridleway, it could significantly improve the bridleway's usefulness in the winter months. Longer term, other sources of funding would be needed to finance a full all-weather route matching, say, that of the Dorset Trailway. It is hoped that this proposal will be ready for discussion at MPC & Gillingham TC meetings in March.

- Dorset Plan Consultation on the new draft Dorset Council Local Plan opened in mid-January. The draft Plan totals over 2000 words, and consultation ends on 15th March. Cllr Mouncey, Cllrs Stacey, and Cllr Taylor will be drafting a response for discussion at the March MPC meeting. The consultation is open to anyone with a likely interest.

**Cllr Craigmile gave the following report:**

- Dorset Council Highways will commence works kerb by the entrance of the Village Hall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February until the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, the road will be closed between 9am and 4pm.
- Has received an email back from Dorset Council regarding the flooding outside the Paddocks, more investigation is required. Cllr Craigmile and Cllr Hood will meet to look at the drainage at the rear of the recreation area onwards toward the Paddocks.
- Is having a meeting at the School to look at the access to the rear of the School on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February.
- the road will need to be closed for one day, which will require road closure permission which can take up to six weeks.
- Will continue to report block drains and potholes to Dorset Council. The Clerk will also report the block drains along Elm Hill and Bittles Green.

**Action - Clerk**

**Cllr Taylor gave the following report:**

- Will be updating the facility page on the website, once things are back to some kind of normality, as there maybe societies/groups that are new or no longer running.

**98/20. Clerk Report – Correspondence – Matters of interest**

All correspondence had been circulated and actioned if necessary.

**99/20. Item for next agenda and date of next meeting**

Grants– Cycle way – village sustainability – response for Dorset Plan.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March 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)

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