



Motcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held Tuesday the 9th of March 2021.

Present: Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey - Vice Chairman, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr J Hood, Cllr S Rogers, 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 5 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.

100/20. Apologies for absence and dispensations

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

101/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations

There were none.

102/20. Co-option for new members

Mrs Mandy Mason expressed her interest in joining the Parish Council and had already provided information about herself and why she would like to join the Council to the Clerk, which had been circulated to the Councillor for their attention.

Cllr Mauleverer proposed that Mrs Mandy Mason join the Parish Council as a new Councillor, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor all members in favour. The Clerk welcomed Mrs Mandy Mason to the Parish Council.

Resolved: Mrs Mandy Mason joins the Parish Council as a new Councillor (102/20 – no budgetary requirements)

103/20. Approve minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated the 9th of February 2021 and matters arising from that meeting:

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mouncey and seconded by Cllr Mauleverer, 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 9th February 2021 (no budgetary requirements).

- **Play Area update:** Cllr Hood confirmed that the new gates at the play area have been fitted.
- **To consider grant applications:** The Clerk tabled details of the grant applications received. After debate, the following grant awards were proposed by Cllr Mouncey and seconded by Cllr Rogers, all members in favour:

1. Motcombe Allotment Association	£200.00
2. Motcombe Scout Group	£200.00
3. Motcombe Cub Pack	£200.00
4. Motcombe Beavers	£200.00
5. Motcombe primary school	£150.00
6. Air Ambulance – working dog fun day	£300.00
7. Home Start	£200.00
8. Citizens Advice Bureau	£150.00

Donation to the Village Hall of £270.00 for the loss of hall hire from the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: To award the above grants and donations for 2020-2021. (103/20 – Grants/donations).

- **Update on cycle way:** Cllr Mouncey had circulated the following proposal for the Council's consideration: Proposal from the cycleway group for funding improvements to the Motcombe-Gillingham bridleway, using 106 monies held by Dorset Council. After debate, Cllr Taylor proposed the use of 106 money for the necessary improvements, this was seconded by Cllr Stacey, all members in favour.
RESOLVED: Motcombe Parish Council support the cycleway group in using 106 monies held by Dorset council for rights of way improvement in the south Gillingham area for the improvement of the Motcombe to Gillingham bridleway. This project has also been approved by Gillingham Town Council (103/20a – no budgetary requirements). **Action – Cllr Mouncey**
- **To consider village sustainability project:** Cllr Mauleverer gave a power point presentation on a tool that can provide figures for Motcombe showing the co2 emissions, which showed the village co2 levels are even higher than Shaftesbury. It also showed ways of counteracting the effect the village is having on climate change and ideas of how to improve the emissions to make Motcombe a Carbone positive village. This project is in its early days and will be an agenda item going forward. The Councillors all agreed it is a very important project and one that all residents in the village can help to improve.
- **To agree response for Dorset Plan:** Cllr Mouncey had circulated a very detailed response from the Parish Council, regarding the Dorset Plan and thanked Joe Witherden, for her help in producing the response. All Councillors agreed for the response to be sent on to Dorset Council for their consideration. the Chairman thanked Cllr Mouncey for his hard work in producing the response on the Parish Council's behalf. **Action – Cllr Mouncey**



- **To consider replacing Parish Council's laptop:** The Clerk had tabled a request for a new laptop, as the old one is not working sufficiently. After debate it was agreed to investigate the best laptop for the job and circulate the details to the Councillors for their agreement. **Action - Clerk**

104/20. Report from Dorset Council Councillor: the following bullet points were tabled. A full report can be obtained by the Clerk.

Dorset Local Plan: As at 8th March, Dorset Council has received over 1,700 responses, equating to over 10,000 comments. Many comments around housing figures (Standard Methodology) and making developers build carbon neutral homes. Dorset Council can only encourage and support carbon neutral development at this current time, it cannot be mandated. Change in the Standard Methodology and building regulations has to come from central government. Still awaiting details of the government's new 'Homes Standard' policy.

FULL COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY – the main item being, to approve Dorset Council's Budget 2021/22. This budget funds all services the Council provides to residents, communities, and businesses throughout the year. The increase in budget is needed to fund the cost of responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, the growing need for social care within the Dorset population, and inflation. The budget for the financial year 2021-22 is increased to just under £313m (from £304m the year before) and reflects a continuation of the theme of previous Dorset Council Budgets, to redirect resources from support services into front line services wherever possible. It is a balanced budget for the next Council year, which depends on increasing council tax and ensuring that the transformation of services goes ahead as planned. Members approved an increase in general Council Tax at just under 2% and to levy the adult social care precept of just under 3%, in line with the Government's Spending Review, providing a band D Council Tax figure for Dorset Council of £1,779.39, equating to £1.62 extra a week for a Band D property. This will provide an additional £12m to maintain front line services for the people of Dorset. The coming year will stretch resources, particularly in needs-based services, Adult & Children's Social Care. With regard to the Climate & Ecological Emergency declared in May 2019. Increasing Council Tax for this purpose was not an option. However, the council has also established governance arrangements around the capital programme and several bids that would help deliver the climate change action plan are being progressed through that route and will go to Cabinet for consideration, in due course, but there is no additional revenue budget proposal at this time.

COVID update – As at 5th March, the case rate for the Dorset Council area is 51.3 per 100,000 population and for BCP, 63.0 per 100,000 population. The rate for the South West is 46.1 per 100,000 and for England its 86.4. Covid-19 patients in hospital beds in Dorset: 68 (compared to 147 as at 26th February). This shows the continued decline of COVID cases locally, thanks to lockdown measures. Over a quarter of a million local people have had at least one dose of the vaccination!

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'.

Climate & Ecological Emergency Consultation – Main Consultation – 1519 responses received from all over Dorset. A breakdown of the individual responses showed that the 45-64 and 65+ age groups were the main responders. Broken down into categories: 1359 members of the public, followed by organisations, 53 (which included Extinction Rebellion, RSPB, CPRE, National Trust, and community groups), Businesses 16 and Parish Councils, 40. The amended Strategy document and Action Plan will be scrutinised at the next Scrutiny and Overview committees on 25th March. Results indicated an overall broad agreement with the approach of the Strategy Document and Action Plan. The main negative comments related to the Carbon targets set for Dorset Council itself at 2040 and the Dorset Council area at 2050 (which would require the support of central Government and everyone in Dorset taking action. Members were reminded that these targets are not fixed, that Dorset Council's aim is to reduce its carbon footprint before these deadlines. Note: Dorset Council is responsible for only 1% of Dorset's carbon footprint. Youth Survey - this has been a great success. It is still live until the end of March. 1495 responses so far. 87.3% of respondents felt that tackling climate change is vitally important. 92% felt that Dorset Council's target to be carbon neutral by 2040 is a good idea and very important.

5G Rural Dorset - 5G's potential for Dorset. It is a £7m Government funded project over two years. 5G is about connecting more devices reliably to the internet, supporting multiple social and commercial connectivity. 5GRuralDorset is a consortium led by Dorset Council. It is next generation connectivity.

New Trees Policy – this will be going to Cabinet shortly. This document outlines the approach taken in the management of Council owned trees, covering replacement of trees felled, climate change tree planting, large scale tree planting linking into Climate Change policy, nitrate mitigation, bio-diversity, long term sustainable tree works.

Business Grants - the latest round of Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG Phase 2) covering the current lockdown period opened to new applicants on Friday 12th February. The ARG Phase 2 is for businesses which have not previously applied for and received the ARG relating to the November 2020 lockdown. Eligibility criteria for the ARG Phase 2 has been widened to include businesses eligible for the Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). See the DC website on how to claim grants.

Empty Homes –Dorset Council is highlighting the problem of long-term empty properties during Empty Homes Week, 15-21 February 2021. There are estimated to be around 400 long term empty properties in Dorset. Each one is a wasted home. The Housing Standards Team is urging people to come forward to report or seek help to deal with a long-term empty property. Dedicated empty Homes Officer will investigate cases, help to identify the worst properties, and then take the most appropriate action Loans of up to £25,000 are available to carry out repairs. Owners of properties that have been empty for 2 years or more may be able to claim a reduced rate of VAT on renovation/alteration works. Only when offers of help and assistance have failed will enforcement action be taken.

Residents Survey – conducted at the end of 2020. Just out of interest, the survey found that: 90% of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. 72% of residents are satisfied with the way Dorset Council runs things (up from 61% last year).



75% of residents of residents think the Council keeps them well informed (up from 58% last year).

Recycling Centres – the local recycling centres have been inundated with visitors, if you can, please keep your rubbish until the Covid restrictions have been removed so that the centres are able to allow more people in at one time.

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. 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. Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>.

105/20. Finance

The Clerk tabled January's payment schedule for the sum of £6975.71, it was proposed by Cllr Mouncey to agree and pay the invoices listed on the payment schedule, this was seconded by Cllr Stacey, all member in favour.

N Phillips wages	Clerk wages	£	1,062.88
N Phillips Clerk exp Jan	Clerk expenses	£	65.14
Nest Pension	Clerk pension	£	74.40
HMR NI	Employers Ni	£	45.66
Dorset Council	SLA rangers	£	459.65
Southern Electric	Electric supply	£	295.79
Security	Security laptop	£	84.99
Tom Carter	Hedgecutting mm	£	720.00
Motcombe United	Operation Valentine	£	200.00
Ministry of play	play area gate		3,967.20
Total		£	6,975.71

RESOLVED to pay the invoices listed on the payment schedule for the sum of £6975.71 (105/20 – finance).

106/20. Planning – the Planning group gave the following suggestions.

P/FUL/2020/00438 – 7 New Road, Shaftesbury – change of use – No objection, it was noted that this application fall under Shaftesbury not Motcombe.

P/FUL/2020/00253 - The Coppleridge Inn - Demolish existing outbuildings & erection of chalet building comprising 4 residential units and storage room – this application had only been received today. The planning group will discuss it and circulate their recommendations to the other Councillors for their consideration.

107/20. Chairman's report

The Chairman gave the following report:

- Dorset Waste Partnership have now removed the bin next to the kissing gates in the Village Hall recreation ground and has fitted 2no new bins, one opposite Frog Farm, Frog Lane and on the corner on the way to the Coppleridge.
- Congratulations to Cllr Mauleverer and the working group who was responsible for operation smile, which was a great success.
- A thank you to the person who has been litter picking around North End. The Parish Council will organise a litter pick day once the lock down restrictions is lifted. There has been reports of more fly tipping around the village. If you see anyone fly tipping, please report it to Dorset Council, who have the power to enforce penalties for their actions.
- Welcomed Mandy Mason to the Parish Council

108/20. Officer Reports.

Cllr Craigmile gave the following report:

- Will be meeting with Enrico Dimarino, from Dorset Council Highways team, to address issues regarding the drainage in the village and will also discuss warning signage for School Children down Bittles Green and a warning sign for children playing at the entrance of the Village Hall.
- A resident has been using a pollution monitor to record the pollution along Church Road. I will be interesting to see the results.
- The road at the top of the hollow near Cowherd Shute Farm, that had the large pothole, has been repaired again.
- It was noted that there are still a lot of overgrown hedges along The Street, which have encroached on the path, making it difficult for people to pass. The Councillors agreed that the areas under the hedges will be cleared to show the residents that owen the hedges where they should be cutting back to.



- Asked Dorset Councillor B Ridout about the 1.14 million pounds Dorset Council have been given towards public transport. Cllr B Ridout will find out and report back. It maybe something that could be considered for transporting the Children not living in Motcombe using Motcombe School, to help alleviate the parking problems along Church Road.
- The new kerbs have been put in place next to the Memorial Hall by Dorset Council.

Cllr Mauleverer gave the following report:

- Tabled ideas for the use of the phone box next to the Village Hall. After debate it was agreed that it would be a good idea to use it for information, e.g.: map for walks, local phone numbers for local organisations, as well as a book/game swap exchange. Cllr Mauleverer and new Cllr Mason will investigate options and circulate to the Councillor for their consideration.
- Is looking at ways to make the village look nice by putting flower planters on land owned by the Parish Council. A proposal will be forwarded soon. A member of the public will be promoting a project over Easter for residents of Motcombe to put a flowering plant at the front of their homes to brighten up the village.
- A few dates for the calendar: 14th March, Mother's Day and the first service for a long time at St Mary's Church at 9.30am. 29th March outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households. 12th April Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors and other non-essential retail outlets can open. 2nd May Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show and on the 3rd of July the Village Hall and recreation area has been booked for an event yet to be agreed.

Cllr Hood gave the following report:

- Village Hall- Unfortunately, the Memorial Hall has remained closed due to restrictions. Discussions have been made on future events for the whole village in place of the fate. The two trees at the front of the hall have grown too large, and in need of attention. It has been decided, under recommendation from professionals, to completely remove both trees, and replace them with something more suitable. They understand that this decision is a sensitive issue, and so we wish to involve the whole village in choosing the replacement trees. More details are planned to be shared in the upcoming Villager newsletter.
- I also wished to propose an update to the parish council chair board hung in the main hall. **Action - Clerk**
- Cllr Hood, Cllr Stacey and Cllr Mouncey have planted about 500 saplings around Motcombe Meadows. There are a few more saplings to plant, which will be done in due course. The orchard has also had a good prune for the first time in years. Some trees have unfortunately been lost, and others needed drastic cutting back to encourage a better growth. We hope to improve and promote better growth and increase the numbers.
- Bob Messer, a gentle man that has given Gillingham Town Council advise on their open spaces, has offered to do a survey of the Meadows, and give his advice.
- The ground has started to dry out the contractor will be contacted organise rolling some of the areas churned up by the hedge cutting.
- Mr Heenan is still happy to help erect our owl box, but again has wanted to wait for dryer ground conditions.

Cllr Mouncey gave the following report:

- Confirmed that the overhead cables for crossing the new development at Littledown will be moved underground by boring a tunnel, which will prevent the footpath being temporarily closed.

Cllr Taylor had nothing further to report.

Cllr Rogers had nothing further to report.

109/20. Clerk Report – Correspondence – Matters of interest

All correspondence had been circulated and actioned if necessary.

Had received emails from Janet Odell asking for the Parish Council to investigate the hard standing on the land to the rear of Port Regis. The Clerk confirmed that this has been reported to Dorset Council and the Councillors will keep an eye on the area.

The other email was to ask for a School warning sign along Bittles Green and a children at play warning sign. These had been discussed earlier and Cllr Craigmile will discuss the matter with Enrico Dimarino, from Dorset Council Highways team.

110/20. Item for next agenda and date of next meeting – Phone Box – Village sustainability - TBA

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY 13th April 2021 at 6.30pm**, Via Zoom.

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

Signed by the Chairman.....

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