



# Motcombe Parish Council

## Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2021.

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

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) - and Keri from This is Alfred.  
There were 5 members of the public present.

*The Chairman asked for one minute silence in respect of His Royal Highness Prince Philip. Prince Philip had given so much for the Country and supported his wife, the Queen for over 70 years.*

*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:**

The matter of the trees at the Limes was raised. Dorset Council have refused permission to remove some of the tree's that have TPO's on them. After debate, it was agreed that the Parish Council will ask for the support from Dorset Councillor B Ridout, as it is felt that Dorset Council Tree Officer has not given a good enough reason for why the TPO's were put on the trees. It was also agreed that the Parish Council will request a site visit with the Tree Officer and a few of the residents to discuss what work can be done on the trees before sending in another application for reducing the canopies on the trees. The Clerk will also contact Persimmon regarding completing the tree works that have been approved and to report the poor state of the pavements around in the Limes and Willow Way.

**Action - Clerk**

### **111/20. Apologies for absence and dispensations**

Dorset Councillors Cllr D Walsh, Cllr V Potheary, Cllr B Ridout. Parish Councillors Cllr S Rogers.

### **112/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

### **113/20. Co-option for new members**

There were none.

### **114/20. Approve minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 and matters arising from that meeting:**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mauleverer and seconded by Cllr Mouncey, 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 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (no budgetary requirements).

- **Play Area update:** The Clerk has submitted a request to Dorset Council for 106 money for replacing the large multi play equipment.
- **Update on village sustainability project:** Cllr Mauleverer raised the matter of the proposed solar farm with battery storage on land to the east of Shaftesbury Road, which is within the Parish. Every resident in the village would have received information and a community feedback form to complete. After debate it was agreed that Cllr Mouncey will contact the person that has given the Stours advice on the proposal they had for a solar farm, to give the Parish Council more information on this proposal. Once the Parish Council have obtained more information, a meeting with Low Carbon will be arranged to discuss their proposal in more detail.  
**Action Clerk, Full Council**  
Cllr Mauleverer, Cllr Mouncey, Cllr Mason and Cllr Craigmile are working together to produce a questionnaire for the residents of the village, asking how they could help with sustainability in the Village. The Memorial Hall, Shop, Churches and Schools in the village will be asked to help with this project, to make sure it is a village community project rather than just a Parish Council project.
- **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 for the Clerk to purchase a HP laptop for the sum of £579.00. **Action- Clerk**

### **115/20. Report from Dorset Council Councillor: the following bullet points were tabled. A full report can be obtained by the Clerk.**

**COVID update** – As of 1st April, the case rate for the Dorset Council area is 28.5 per 100,000 population and for BCP, 17.2 per 100,000 population. Both Dorset council and BCP council areas have seen a slight fall in case rates this week. Both areas are now below the average rate for the South West and significantly lower than the England average. We must all continue to play our part and strictly follow the lockdown rules to prevent spread of the virus. Shielding ends on 1st April but support from Dorset Council will remain in place for anyone who has been shielding and needs some extra help, as well as for anyone needing to self-isolate. Help with things like grocery shopping, travelling to vaccination appointments, or even dog walking can be requested online or by calling the Dorset Together helpline 01305 221000.

**Members' briefing on Recovery from Covid-19.** In June 2020, a Covid-Recovery & Reset cross-party Executive Advisory Panel was set up. The Panel produced a very detailed Recovery & Re-set Report for Dorset Council which was endorsed by the Local Government Association. This work has now been handed over to the chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.



The multi-agency response to a major incident, the Dorset Local Resilience Forum has recently been stood down. Dorset Council is now focussing on the Recovery phase of the pandemic. Recovery Phase: Rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitation following an emergency.

**Members' Briefing with Chief Superintendent, Dorset Police, Steve Lyne** – a very interesting briefing detailing the measures to be taken as Dorset comes out of lockdown, given the scenes we saw last Easter and summer at beauty spots along our coastline. The approach taken is very much multi-agency and partnership working with Dorset Council. The TCG covers concurrent risks such as Covid, Brexit, even possible volcano eruptions in Iceland!, flooding issues, alongside the key threats: County Lines, Exploitation, and Vulnerability. From April a new policing model comes into effect. Two local Police areas, one covering the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole area and the other covering the Dorset Council area, each with their own Chief Superintendent. Chief Superintendent, Steve Lyne will be covering the Dorset Council area. With the national uplift, the current force is expected to grow by approximately 200 officers by 2023. A weekly operations group will co-ordinate plans for Dorset coming out of lockdown, using Intelligence gathered during the Covid pandemic; weather forecasting to anticipate surges at beauty spots ("sunny policing"), joint patrols to key threats, enhanced resourcing, and a strategic relationship with partners, so everyone is working from the same page.

**Disposable BBQ's** – Following last year's devastating fires in Wareham Forest, with over 220 hectares of forest alight, believed to have been caused by a disposable BBQ, councillors on Dorset Council's Cabinet discussed recommendations at its meeting on 6th April and have agreed to continue looking at the orders for the banning of disposable BBQ's. Proposals did not recommend a blanket ban on disposable BBQ's in the whole of the county, only in areas which are known to be high fire risk, such as in forests, grasslands and on protected heathland. The Council will work alongside its partners in Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service to implement and communicate any changes.

**116/20. Finance**

The Clerk tabled March's payment schedule for the sum of £4065.72, 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	Clerks wages	£	1,062.88
N Phillips expenses	Clerks expenses	£	67.14
Nest Pension	Clerk pension	£	74.40
HMR NI	Employers Ni	£	45.66
Motcombe Allotment Ass	Grant	£	200.00
Motcombe Scout Group	Grant	£	200.00
Motcombe Cub Pack	Grant	£	200.00
Motcombe Beavers	Grant	£	200.00
Motcombe Parent Teacher Ass	Grant	£	150.00
N Phillips Air Ambulance Dog day	Grant	£	300.00
Home Start	Grant	£	200.00
Citizens Advice Bureau	Grant	£	150.00
Motcombe Villge Hall	Donation for hall hire	£	270.00
Vision ICt website	Email address	£	21.60
SSE contracting	Lights maintenance	£	264.22
SSE supply	Lights supply	£	113.97
Chris Berwick Ltd	Grass cutting	£	510.85
ICo data protection	Annual subscription	£	35.00
Total		£	4,065.72

**RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed on the payment schedule for the sum of £4065.72 (116/20 – finance).

**117/20. Planning – the Planning group gave the following suggestions.**

Concerns have been forwarded from a local resident, regarding an on ongoing planning application for **2/2019/1213/FUL** – change of use for land to a single Gypsy/Traveller pitch, regarding the highways report and response from the applicant in February 2021. The resident has requested that the following is sent to Dorset Council Planning department for their consideration:

a) the gate is to be set back by 5.0 metre from the roadway, which with a two-metre gate, would effectively require a vehicle to start exit /park approx. seven metres from the roadway before opening closing the gate within the site.

b) the tarmac would have to be left clear of vehicles for access to the rear of Lakeside.

The trace Design survey is totally misleading and should be disregarded.

a) as the speed survey was carried out during the 'stay at home' period and is therefore totally unrepresentative of normal vehicle activity.

b) the time frame of the on-site survey was only one hour in the quietest time of day.

c) the speed sample size of only six vehicles is inconclusive and too small for a representative sample.

d) the report disregards the width of the roadway.

The sample should be taken again during a 'normal' working and school day over a longer time frame, at a more representative time say 08.30 to 10.30hrs. The sight line to the north does not take account of the rise in the road which hides a dip towards Frog Lane farm. There is little visibility of oncoming persons bicyclists, children, prams, and no pull-in for any oncoming vehicles.

The Parish Council agreed to forward the resident's concerns and support them. Improving the sight lines, as required by Highways, would require adjacent landowners to cut back their hedges

**Action-Clerk**

**118/20. Chairman's report**

**The Chairman gave the following report:**



- Asked Cllr Hood to speak to Mr J Heenan, to arrange a date for the owl boxes to be replaced.
- Asked for the Clerk to chase up the replacement 3 streetlights with Southern Electric.
- Thanked Cllr Hood and Cllr Craigmile for their in-depth report circulated.

#### **119/20. Officer Reports.**

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

Met with our Community Highways Officer to discuss matters around the village. This was a very useful meeting. Items discussed were as follows:

- The water coming from a BT duct cover outside of One Oak at Bittles Green was investigated. The BT duct is collecting water runoff from further up The Hollow and a blockage in the duct further downstream from One Oak is causing water to overflow from the duct cover. BT have been notified and as an update have been met on site by the CHO and BT have agreed to clear the duct.
- Water is also emitting from the verge further towards Motcombe Garage. Wessex Water were contacted to investigate. They have reported that there is no issue with their pipes that would cause this and in Dorset Council's view this a natural phenomenon that they would not normally deal with, but it will be monitored.
- The large puddles at the end of Church Road to the entrance of Church Farm are due to be dealt with by the installation of a new road gully discharging into an adjacent surface water drain line. No date has been agreed for these works and they have been left with a Highways Charge Hand to commence when possible.
- A road gully to the side of the exit outside of The Memorial Hall was identified as needing attention. Update - This has already been repaired with the installation of a cast iron inspection cover lid.
- The road alongside of the weir gully outside of Turks Paddock was identified as not being graded sufficiently to allow water to drain to the gully. Update – this has now been re-graded.
- The ongoing situation regarding congestion outside of Motcombe Primary School was discussed and the area walked over to investigate options for a more permanent solution. Possible mitigation methods were put forward, but all were dismissed as not likely to be acceptable top DCC highways. This is not a position that can be acceptable to parents and Village residents. I will further develop a discussion document to the Working Group to discuss at a future meeting.
- General gully clearing was discussed. DCC will only clear gullies that are identified as being blocked. It was reported that there are only two gully clearing lorries in Dorset and they have scheduled routes that they follow. Special clearing is normally carried out by contractors and their use is controlled due to cost reasons. Is planning to complete a schedule of village gullies so that they can be easily identified and reported as requiring clearing to DCC when a problem is identified.
- The area of verge in Shorts Green Lane that is used as a parking place was discussed. If the land can be restored and made more suitable for parking this would not attract further attention from DCC. This will need to be discussed with the homeowner/tenant/Sovereign Housing.
- The damaged verges along Frog Lane and Shorts Green Lane were discussed. The staff carrying out the works to The Street that resulted in traffic using this route while The Street was closed were due to return to carry out repairs. There is no evidence that this has been carried out and no current plan to remediate the verges. It seems that simply flattening the wheel tracks will not necessarily lead to a lasting solution. The road is higher than the verge and this could lead to the breakup of the edge of the road. This matter will be followed up.
- The signage that was requested by a resident to the end of Bittles Green warning of a School ahead, as well as warning sign close to The Memorial Hall and Play area was discussed. Redundant posts are in place and it appeared that these could be used for additional signage. However, DCC do not take the same view. They consider the post on Bittles Green Road to be too close to the highway and non-compliant for a school warning sign. They do not see a need for signage by the Memorial Hall also. This will be followed up again, funding was identified as one reason for not approving this work. It was agreed that to ask the CHO to obtain prices for the signs for the Parish Council to consider paying for.
- The road at North End leading towards Coppleridge has been identified for resurfacing. This is currently with the Asset team at DCC while priorities and funds for the work are established.
- The road surface on Willow Way and The Limes is adopted by DCC on an annual basis. This does not include the concrete kerbs or pavements. The state of the pavements and public paths are dangerous in places and these should be repaired as soon as possible by Persimmons if they still retain responsibility for them. The Parish Council should not consider adoption of any areas that would result in responsibility of footpaths. It appears that shrinkage of the clay below the footpaths is the main cause of the uneven surfaces. This should be attended to as a priority.

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

- A group in the village are updating the local organisations and groups contact document designed for the Neighbourhood Plan, for the village and Parish Council.
- Proposal to move the phone box was discussed. It was agreed that more detailed information on costs would be obtained and discussed for a future meeting. The main reason for considering moving the phone box is that in its present location, it is too close to the road to try and promote people to use it as an information hub.
- The Coppleridge will be re-opening on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.
- The Village Hall and recreation area has been booked for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July for live music and barbeque for the village.

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

- Would like to promote a project that is up and running in Dorset to make people aware of the reduction in Hedgehogs around the County. Picture of "ghost" Hedgehogs (white paper outline of hedgehogs) are popping up on posts around the County and would like to do the same for the village. In September/October time to give out information of how to build a Hedgehog house for them to be safe whilst hibernating. The Councillors agreed that this would be a great idea.
- The Echo treasure hunt has been successful, children have been doing the hunt and can put their answers to the question on the map in a box outside no1 The Limes.

##### **Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Hood gave the following report on the Meadows:**

- Footpath improvements: These proposed improvements are twofold. Firstly, 'gravel-type' surfaces at pinch-points and where the surface tends to rapidly deteriorate after rain. Secondly, raised grass-faced surfaces in some areas of poor drainage



where usage is lighter. The intention is not to create an urban park environment, it is to make the Meadows more attractive for users throughout the year. It would also prevent paths widening in winter as users avoid the worst of the muddy areas.

- In addition, we recommend some small reductions in the current network of paths. Firstly, encourage walkers not to pass through the current two small plantations, where the new saplings have been planted as a first step in closing the gaps. This is to provide a better environment for wildlife, with more extensive cover. Secondly, to reduce the current parallel paths alongside the New Lane side and align a single route with the renovated bridleway where it comes off New Lane. The bridleway through, and across the back of the Meadows, is being improved by the Dorset Rangers as part of the overall improvements that go onwards towards Kingscourt. This will include clearance off over-growth and a new fence, all funded from the 106 monies as described in the project discussed and approved at the March MPC meeting (Graham Stanley says that the bridleway along the back of the Meadows is on land owned by the adjacent landowner).
- Gates: Are recommending replacement of the two main 'field' gates to the site, off The Street and off the car park. Both are in bad condition and beyond simple renovation. We also recommend the installation of two new pedestrian gates: by the side of the field gate off the car park, and on the other path off the car park. A third new pedestrian gate might be considered where the diagonal path across the front field comes out by the car park.
- Tree planting: Finally, we are also recommending planting a line of Rowan & Cherry trees inside the hedge alongside The Street.

With taken on board comments from Cllr Rogers, the Parish Council agreed for quote to be obtained for these proposals.

**Cllr Mouncey gave the following report:**

- Bridleway to Gillingham: Graham Stanley has completed discussions with landowners at the Motcombe end of the bridleway to Gillingham, and the surface improvements and new gates/fencing agreed. There will be no deviations at our end, so the only one is likely to be a confirmation of the existing 'unofficial' one at Kingscourt - Graham is meeting that landowner next week. As mentioned in the paper on the Meadows, Graham has ascertained that the bridleway behind the Meadows is on land owned by the adjacent landowner, so if this is to be widened to include a narrow strip of the Meadows, the boundary line that confirms land ownership will need to be clearly defined. The full programme of work is planned to be completed before next winter.
- Other footpaths: Have circulated the latest deviation at Litledown, that comes into force in early April. Have also have a growing list of infrastructure repairs necessary on the network of paths in the Parish (mainly repairs to stiles, gates & finger posts), which I will be re-discussing with the Rangers. Covid has created a lot of challenges for the Rangers. Working practices have had to be changed, and the network of paths in the county have been over-loved during the last year. However, budgets remain squeezed, and manpower resources are stretched, even when contractors are used. Cllr Mouncey has also cleared the path from Donedge Lodge to Wolfridge Farm of overgrowth and improved waymarking.
- Response to the Dorset Local Plan: This was submitted well within the timeframe, and have received confirmation of its receipt, and that it has been added to the overall file of responses. Have been interviewed by Kerri Jones, from which he broadcast two pieces, and have also been interviewed for a feature on local responses being published in the BVM.
- A resident had reported that a wired fence has fallen across the footpath from the Meadow to the Coppleridge, causing a tripping hazard. Cllr Mouncey is dealing with this matter.

**Cllr Hood gave the following report:**

- Notice Boards/information boards for the village: Had circulated a very comprehensive report on options of notice boards. After debate it was agreed that Cllr Hood, Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Taylor will work together to produce a few proposals that can be circulated out to the resident of the village for them to have a say in what notice boards/information boards will be used.
- Village Hall- the hall is getting ready to re-open.

**Cllr Taylor had nothing further to report.**

**120/20. Clerk Report – Correspondence – Matters of interest**

All correspondence had been circulated and actioned if necessary.

Had received a letter from Janet Odell, expressing concerns over the use of the Parish Council's logo. This letter will be circulated for Councillors to respond.

**121/20. Item for next agenda and date of next meeting – AGM– End of year accounts - Village sustainability - TBA**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6.00pm**, Via Zoom.  
There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.11.

Signed by the Chairman.....

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