

**Minutes of the Motcombe Parish Council held at the Pavilion, Motcombe  
Memorial Hall  
On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 at 7pm**

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

**In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), There were 17 members of the public  
PC Phil Sugrue and PCSO Mandy Robinson, Dorset Councillor Belinda Ridout**

The Chairman asked if any persons are recording the meeting, Cllr Mauleverer set a recording on behalf of Keri from This is Alfred to record the meeting. No objections were raised.

**Public Consultation period.**

A member of the public expresses concerns over the works taking place at the Meadows, laying paths and the works that took place last winter, that damaged the ground where the tractor had cut back the hedges/brambles. The costs for these projects were also raised. The Chairman and Cllr Mouncey assured the member of the public, that the focus for the future of the Meadows is to continue to provide a nature conservation area, as well as making it available for everyone to easily access the whole of the site. The Clerk reported that the money being spend on the Meadows is from 106 money (developers' contribution), not from the precept. Cllr Mouncey confirmed that the paths are to improve those that are in place so people can keep to the path, rather than making the existing pathways wider by dodging the waterlogged areas. The initial area for the raised pathway will be a trial to see if it would be beneficial or not. The member of the public noted that Cllr Mouncey does a lot of work on the Meadows and feels that he should have more support. Cllr Mouncey reported that he and Cllr Hood are working on a proposal for a working party for the Meadows, which they will manage.

**Mrs Mellor** expressed concerns over the proposed works to the tree at Willow Way. Dorset Council Tree officer has given an idea of works that would be acceptable to apply for on the trees at the Limes, but there does not seem to be enough top crowning. Mrs Mellor gave the Clerk a copy of a structural engineer's report, giving details of trees too close to the property and other matters that will be passed on to the tree office for their consideration.

**Mr Stuart Irwin** - Trust Governor at Motcombe School, reported that a risk assessment had been completed to enable a start point for actions to be considered to improve the safety of the children attending the school. Mr Irwin is reconstituting the working group to meet and discuss the way forward. In the meantime, a letter has gone out to the parents asking for their support in parking off the white line rather than over them and use the village hall parking rather than on the side of the road. In the last week the parking seems to have improved, but as pointed out by another member of the public, parents still stand around in the road talking, which is also causing traffic problems. The Parish Council will be represented on the working group and any recommendations will be discussed at the Parish Council meetings in the future.

**Mr Mike Smith** introduced himself, as a new resident to the village and had expressed concerns over matter to Cllr Mason and Cllr Craigmile and is happy with the responses he has received from both Councillors.

**32/21. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Cllr J Taylor and Cllr Hood sent their apologies.

**33/21. Co-option for new members** – There were no applications

**34/21. Approve minutes from the meeting dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.**

Cllr Craigmile proposed the minutes dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, this was seconded by Cllr Mauleverer all members in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 (34/21 – no budgetary provision required)

**Matters arising:**

**Update on Memorial bench for Allistair Leask** – The Chairman confirmed that the bench is now at the front field and will be put in situ very soon, once a is laid first. Allistairs wife will be asked how she would like the Parish Council to publicise the picnic bench.

**Replacing the Parish Councils notice boards:** Cllr Hood had circulated his report regarding notice boards. The Clerk and Cllr Hood will work to produce costs for replacing the notice board at the Village Hall and at the Limes. **Action – Clerk and Cllr Hood**

**Complaint regarding stones on verges** – Cllr Mason had received a complaint from a resident after hitting his car on a stone on a verge in the village. Cllr Mason would like the Parish Council to ask Dorset Council Highways department for guidance on the rules of stones on verges that are or not owned by the residents. If the Parish Council have written guidance, that guidance can then be publicised so that it is clear of who is responsible for the stones. After debate and with Dorset Council Cllr Ridout's suggestion, it was agreed for Cllr Craigmile to ask the Community Highways Officer to give further details on the Dorset Councils rules regarding the stones or other objects on the verges.

**Applying for tree works at Willow Way for Persimmon to action:** The Clerk had tabled a list of proposed tree works for Willow Way, which had been agreed by email for the Clerk to apply for the works, with the additional requests from the structural engineer's report completed for Mrs Mellor.

**35/21. Report from Dorset Council Councillor Ridout.**

**The full report can be seen on the Parish Council's website, Facebook page and a copy can be obtained by the Clerk:**

**COVID update** – Latest available update, 8th October 2021, the case rate for the Dorset Council area is 335.4 per 100,000 population (up from 325.2 the week before) and for BCP, 223.7 per 100,000 population (up from 215,90 the week before). It's not too late to get your vaccine, book a National Booking System or by calling 119 or go to a walk-in clinic. Our nearest walk-in in Dorset is Wareham Hospital, Streche Road, Wareham BH20 4QQ. Check the times before you go. 01929 552433. Please continue to do your bit – get vaccinated, get tested, self-isolate when required. Lateral Flow tests available at all Gillingham pharmacies.

**Free Digital Advice** –Dorset Council provides a volunteer digital champion service in most libraries, including Gillingham, which is every Saturday, 9.30am to 1pm.

**Aquaculture Innovation Centre for England** – Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) has successfully secured funding from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to develop the concept of an English Aquaculture Innovation Hub.

**Briefing by David Sidwick, Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)** – The PCC has been in office for 100 days. During his campaign for the role, he carried out a public survey and the findings of that survey has formed his Police & Crime Plan. The Dorset Police & Crime Panel, a panel of 12 members drawn from DC, BCP and independent members will make recommendations on the draft plan before it goes live at end of October. The Chief Constable has put together an operation plan for early in the New Year.

**Virtual tour of 'Energy from Waste' (EfW) facility** – in light of potential applications coming forward for 'Energy from Waste' facilities in Dorset, members of the Strategic Planning Committee were given a presentation and virtual tour of an EfW facility operated by MVV environmental Development Ltd in Devonport, Plymouth.

**Re-register** by 1st December to stay on Dorset's Housing List – any resident on the current housing register, needs to re-register on the new Dorset Council Home Choice System no later than Wednesday, 1st December to keep their place on the housing list.

**Local Heritage List Campaign** – Dorset Council has appointed Land Use Consultants (LUC) to manage the Local Heritage List Campaign, which allows communities of all ages and backgrounds across Dorset to nominate locally important buildings, sites, monuments and features to be included on new Local Heritage Lists.

**Bus Back Better** – The Government's 'Bus Back Better' campaign launched March 2021, a new national bus strategy for England. It requires each local authority to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which is a long-term strategic plan to coordinate services. Following analysis of the public and stakeholder surveys and detailed discussions with public transport providers. It was made clear that it is vitally important to push the RURALITY of Dorset as opposed to the urban focus and to produce a robust BSIP to government with achievable and ambitious schemes that are deliverable. Cllr Ridout made the point that this is a great plan and do so hope it will be awarded the necessary funding by government, but the focus is very much on digital information and processes and not to forget those who cannot access online and need physical timetables. Cllr. Belinda Ridout, [Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) 07496413114. 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). All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

### 36/21. Finance.

The Clerk had circulated the payment schedule for September's invoices for the sum of £7358.99. Cllr Stacey proposed to pay the invoices on the payment schedule, this was seconded by Cllr Rogers, all member in favour.

**RESOLVED:** to pay invoices on payment schedule for the sum of £7358.99 (36/21 current account)

Reformed Plastic AP	Allistair's bench	£	780.00
N Phillips SO	September	£	1,247.35
Hindon Fencing AP	Gates MM	£	3,600.00
HMR AP	payment	£	54.04
Nest AP	Pension	£	74.40
N Phillips	Clerk expenses	£	67.14
Ministry of Play	equipment	£	970.80
Southern Electric	Supply	£	99.02
Southern Electric	Maintenance	£	211.24
R V Maidment	Skip hire for MM	£	255.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>7,358.99</b>

The Clerk had tabled the bank reconciliation, Cllr Rogers approved the bank reconciliation.

### 37/21 Planning: Review of Working Group recommendations:

- P/LBC/2021/02768 – The Laurels – replacement windows – no objection
- P/HOU/2021/02999 – Milanola – erection of extensions – no objection
- P/FUL/j2021/02066 – Manor Farm – Change of use – no objection
- P/HOU/2021/03052 - Glamaig – raise walls and roof by 1.5m – no objection
- P/HOU/2021/03428 - Snowdrop Cottage – erect a carport – objection, over development

- P/FUL/2021/02168 - Silver Ley - change of use – no objection

### **38/21 Chairman's report.**

- Have arranged with Ian Bristol to cut the front field hedge on Saturday 16th October, the front roadside edge will be cut back hard to ensure maximum pavement space. It was suggested that this hedge cutting should be included in the ongoing maintenance program for the verges and paths. This will be discussed at the November's meeting.
- The Chairman, Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Craigmile had held an informal meeting to discuss the restarting of the schools working group that is looking into parking and congestion. The Chair would have hoped the Group would have had its first meeting by our MPC October meeting however for various reasons this has not been possible. The last working group meeting was in March 2020, when 28 different actions were suggested to help reduce the congestion outside the school and improve pedestrian safety. This list has been circulated. Sadly, most of the suggestions are unworkable.
- The exception was to improve the access path into the back of the school, (quotes have been obtained and a further quote will be sought). Cllr Craigmile has been working hard to push things forward and had meetings and discussions with Stuart Irwin. His determination and dedication to this tricky issue was much appreciated.
- Have approached Tree Care to chase up the installing of our owl box in the Meadows, which needs to be erected before the Meadows become muddy.
- The Clerk and Chairman hope to arrange a meeting with Anita Leask very shortly to discuss the siting of Allstairs bench in the Meadows front field, so that work can go ahead for a had standing.

### **39/21 Officers reports.**

**All reports that had been circulated; a hard copy can be obtained by the Clerk.**

#### **Cllr Mason reported the following:**

- Work on progressing the phone box project is in hand

#### **Cllr Mouncey reported the following:**

- Bridleway – information from the contractor working for the Dorset Rangers that they paused improvement work to the bridleway to Gillingham is likely to recommence sometime next week. This could be from the Motcombe end, off New Lane & behind the Meadows.
- The Meadows – Have discussed with the contractor appointed for the footpath work, that we would like to have a base laid, additional to the other work, for the new picnic bench, so it needs to be agreed exactly where it should be located.  
Secondly, it is likely that the work on the 'black' paths at the Meadows will be undertaken by the contractor at around the same time as they work on the bridleway. A revised quote for the 'grey' (raised/green paths) areas, has been asked for, with a test of the method behind the allotments. Hindon Fencing will be undertaking the agreed work on gates/fence towards the end of this month. Before this work starts, Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Hood will clear the overgrowth away from the old fence.
- School entrance - When the contractor starts work at the Meadows, they have been asked to view the back gate into the school and provide a quote for improving the path there. This will be in association with Cllr Craigmile and Mr Erwin.
- Rights of Way - The only items to report are firstly, a step has been installed off the new bridge off Frog Lane. The Rangers have been asked to consider a further one beyond the

new gate as it will become very slippery there over the winter. Secondly, the gate catch behind the Memorial Hall field needs replacing and have asked the Rangers for a replacement.

- Nadder Community Energy - Finally, the project manager for Nadder Community Energy would like to set up an initial meeting with MPC to discuss their work and whether this could be extended to cover Motcombe parish. Cllr Mouncey, Cllr Mason and Cllr Mauleverer will be meeting with Nadder Community Energy later this month.

**Cllr Mauleverer reported the following:**

- Future dates: 26<sup>th</sup> October – fete 2022 planning meeting; 31<sup>st</sup> October – Halloween Pumpkin competition; 6<sup>th</sup> November – fireworks at the Coppleridge; 4<sup>th</sup> December – Abba Angles tribute band; 5<sup>th</sup> December – The Great Santa run; 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Donkey Parade.
- Update on the Parish Councils Facebook page. 96 likes and 101 followers. What's going on in Motcombe group, 1288 members, over 28days 1004 active peruses. 42 post clicks on the agenda, seen by 381 people and 5 likes. The September minutes were seen by 470 people a 122 clicked through. Planning applications are put on the site for resident to have their say.

**Cllr Craigmile reported the following:**

Cllr Craigmile tabled the following Highways and Road Safety report:

- **Road Safety -**

Following an incident that happened outside of Motcombe Primary School in early September much work has been done to identify how this can be prevented in the future. Mr Stuart Irwin, who is a Governor at the school will be discussing this with the school, the other Governors and The Academy Trust to agree a way forward. Cllr Craigmile is convinced that now Mr Irwin is dealing with this we can make good progress to agree what actions the school can take and what actions we will need DCC Highways Department for assistance with. Mrs Fran Bridgwater's initiatives to resolve these issues going back to the public meeting in January 2020, and indeed for some years prior to this, required cooperation and a good understanding of the risk and causes of that risk from the school. Mr Irwin has this knowledge first-hand and is already taking a proactive approach to resolving parking issues in the interim period before longer term safety measures can be implemented. This is much needed and If parents and road users can offer him their support too, we can start to resolve these issues. We have discussed a range of options and are both agreed that a collaborative and innovative approach will be required from all stakeholders.

Once the working group can meet all options can be explored in depth and more work done to involve DCC Highways and other agencies. We have also spoken to residents and hall users to build the wider picture. It is expected to have the results of the speed survey will be available ahead of next month's Parish Council meeting, as soon as this information is available it will share it with other Councillors so that we can discuss any other works that might be open to us. Speeding continues to be an issue and Community Speedwatch sessions will re-commence once the speed survey has been concluded. DCC purposefully do not give advance warning of when speed surveys are carried out to make sure their results are as normal as possible.

**Highways -**

Our Community Highways Officer has been on leave recently, on his return and availability I'm intending to discuss the ponding water outside of Church Farm where drainage works have been authorised as well as possible improvements to the three-way junction at the bottom of Bittles Green. Some cars fail to give way to traffic on the right when leaving The Street and near misses have been recorded. The white lines to either side of The Hollow have worn off in places. Their replacement will be requested as well as refreshing of the white lines outside of

the Memorial Hall. The verge hedging alongside the road to the Gillingham side of the school needs to be cut back, this has been reported to Highways, as it is obscuring the school warning sign and is overhanging the highway. A pothole reported on Bittles Green is due to be repaired after 21st October.

**Cllr Hood send the following:**

- Most of the repair work to the play area has been completed, just some turfing left to put in around one of the swing areas. Not been able to find users of the outside gym equipment in Gillingham or Shaftesbury to gain further insights to what equipment is most used or desired. Perhaps a more suitable survey could be carried out online via social media sites. To further reduce the costs of this potential project, Cllr Hood suggests leaving the current tarmac area, adding fun usable markings, and then constructing the gym equipment further up. This would save the cost of removing tarmac and installing safety flooring. The Hall management committee have been asked if this would even be considered and received a positive response.
- As Cllr Mouncey stated in his report, Hindon Fencing will be carrying out the fence and gate work later this month, also followed by Roses continuing the bridleway and path works. Once this is completed, we hope to plant the Oak saplings donated from around the village.
- While browsing our own web pages, it was noted that the “Motcombe Community Facilities Directory” was last updated in 2016, and much of the information is now incorrect. It may be worth updating.
- The Memorial Hall is now running as usual with nearly all groups and clubs running. Wifi installation is being organized, and future music events being booked. The Village Hall committee are seeking new recruited to join the committee, and a reminder everyone is welcome to attend the meetings held on the last Wednesday of each month. The management committee AGM is on Wednesday 24 November at 7pm in the main hall.
- Will review the project to replace the notice boards in the village.
- Further to the sign’s idea, QR codes to link users to web pages for more information could be put on each. The hall currently has several photos, and historical items, and I would like to put together a small team of village volunteers to create a display and document them all. If any villagers are interested, please contact Cllr Hood.

**40/21. Clerk Report – Correspondence – Matters of interest**

The Clerk had received an email from a resident who had spoken to Cllr Hood regarding the increasing amount of dog mess on our pavements, and within the Meadows. The resident was unable to attend our council meeting so emailed their concerns to the Clerk. The Clerk has responded and will contact the Dog Warden at Dorset Council requesting a visit to the village to remind people that it is an offence not to pick up after your dogs and will also supply more signs for the village asking people to pick up after themselves.

**41/21. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting**

**Budget**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 at 7pm at the Pavilion, Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.11

Signed by the Chairman.....

Website - [www.motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk) Email – [motcombepc@motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:motcombepc@motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk)