



# **Minutes of the Motcombe Parish Council Held at The Pavilion, Motcombe Memorial Hall On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey - Vice Chairman, Cllr S Rogers, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr J Hood, Cllr C Craigmile and Cllr M Mason

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), There were 9 members of the public and a recording device sent from Kerri from This Is Alfred

The Chairman asked if any persons are recording the meeting, This Is Alfred will be recording this meeting. There were no other recordings.

## **Public Consultation period.**

Mr Phillip Lever reported that a representative firm FRAG have been doing some works in the woods at Hawker Hill, that fallen trees are being used as natural dams in the streams to help with the speed the water comes down into the village. FRAG are also in talks with the developers at the large development at the top of the hill in Shaftesbury, to ensure they are putting in adequate provisions for the drainage and to try and obtain funding for future projects to help reduce the surface water rushing down into the stream through to the village.

The Chairman introduced Mr Stuart Twiss and tabled the proposal Mr Twiss put forward. The proposal is for Sweet Chestnut Trees be planted to recognise the volunteers that helped the uprooted families of Syria and other refugees to find a new home in the UK in 2016 when the Syrian Civil War took place. The Chestnut Trees have their origins in Syria, that is why these trees have been put forward. The trees could also be used for the Queens Green Canopy for the Jubilee. Concerns were raised overusing a non-indigenous species in the Meadows. The Parish Council will work look at other areas the Chestnut Trees could be used or to use other indigenous trees, with the agreement from Mr Twiss. A proposal will be made before the next Parish Council meeting in April.

**Action – Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Hood**

## **75/21. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Cllr B Mauleverer and Dorset Councillor Belinda Ridout sent their apologies.

## **76/21. Declarations of interest.**

There were none.

## **77/21. Co-option for new members – There were no applications at this time.**

## **78/21. Approve minutes from the meeting dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.**

Cllr Mouncey proposed the minutes dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, this was seconded by Cllr Craigmile, all members in favour that the minutes were a true and accurate account of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 (78/21 – no budgetary provision required)

## **Matters arising:**

**Update on action plan for flooding:** Cllr Craigmile has confirmed a meeting will be arranged with the Environment Agency. It is thought that they are waiting for Dorset Council's report. This matter will be chased up.

**Speed indicator device:** Cllr Craigmile tabled information and proposals for Speed indicators for the village. After debate Cllr Craigmile proposed to supply 2 speed indicators with 2 posts to be positioned north facing and south facing along Elm Hill for the sum of £3700.00. The larger speed indicator will remain in Bittles Green. This was seconded by Cllr Mouncey.

**RESOLVED:** to erect 2 poles to house 2 SIDs along Elm Hill for the sum of £3700.00 (78/21 – Projects)

**To receive report from a meeting held with TAG energy (Hawkers Hill) –** The Clerk and Chairman have had another very informative meeting with TAG, who are still very interested in supporting the Parish Council with energy saving projects. The Parish Council are just awaiting more proposal for TAG to consider before a full agreement is put forward.

**The children in the Parish to design a Welcome to Motcombe sign –** There are four welcome to Motcombe signs around the village, two of which have been damaged and Dorset Council no longer pay for these to be replaced. As the Parish Council will have to pay to replace the signs it was agreed to hold a competition for the children in the Parish to design new signs. Cllr Mason agreed to head this project with the support from the Clerk, by arranging a



competition in the village to design 4 signs. All children entered will receive a small gift and the four winners will receive vouchers to be used at WH Smiths. **Action – Clerk and Cllr Mason**

**Grant Application for 2021-2022** – after receiving information on the grants received, which were proposed by Cllr Roger, seconded by Cllr Stacey all in favour to award the following grants.

- Motcombe Allotment Association £200.00
- St Mary Church £200.00
- Motcombe Village Fate £300.00
- Motcombe Women's institute £150.00
- Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £350.00
- Home Start £200.00
- Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau £150.00

**RESOLVED:** to award the grant above for the total cost of £1550.00 (78/21a Grants)

**Tree for the Queens Jubilee celebrations-** Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Hood are looking into options for the tree to commemorate the Queens Jubilee.

#### **79/21. 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** – as of 25th February 2022. Confirmed case rates have continued to fall across the county this week. Lateral Flow tests are available for free at local pharmacies, but you will need a collection code.

**Voluntary and Community Grants** -Dorset Council has launched a new round of grants to support social, voluntary and community sector organisations. The Organisational Support Revenue Fund will provide core revenue support to local community organisations that address the needs of disadvantaged, under served and marginalized communities in Dorset. Grants between £5,000 - £10,000 per annum for up to 2 years to help with running costs. Further details can be found on the council's website or by emailing: [communities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:communities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk). Applications to be received by Friday, 1st April. Awards will be made on 20th April.

**Council Budget** – The council's budget for next financial year (2022-23) was approved at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday, 15th February. Council tax will increase by just under 3%, of which 1% is the adult social care precept. This is equivalent to £1.02 extra per week for a Band D property.

**Local Heritage Lists** – local communities can now nominate locally important buildings, structures, designed landscapes, sites and places to be considered on a new Local Heritage Lists. The idea is to make it easy for everyone to nominate and celebrate the heritage that is important to their local area. A joint project between Dorset Council and BCP Council using a grant of £70,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The Local Heritage Lists will provide a free publicly accessible record of non-designated heritage assets, whose conservation will then be a material consideration in planning decisions. More information on the Dorset and BCP Council websites. Nominations are open for 8 weeks. Cllr Mouncey asked for Councillor to consider if there are any building, structures that could be considered.

**Libraries Consultation update** – the first phase of the 'Let's Talk Libraries' Consultation ended in January with over 7000 responses. Responses are now being reviewed and will inform a draft library strategy, which will undergo a second public consultation in the summer, aiming for implementation April 2023.

**Climate and Ecological Strategy** – The results of a survey published recently by Climate Emergency UK, showed that of 409 local authorities across the UK, 84 still did not have climate action plans, while 139 had not committed to reach net zero emissions by a specific date. Dorset is rated 40th in the whole of England, out of a total of 376 authorities – almost in the top 10% in the UK. Mr Steven Ford (new officer) has over 18 years' experience of working in public policy related fields and his primary objectives will be the successful delivery of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, working closely with councillors, senior officers, and services across the entire organisation.

**On-street parking charge increase** – From Friday, 25th February, on-street parking charges will increase as part of Dorset Council's parking transformation project On-street parking will be charged at a higher price than car park prices at the same location. This is to generate a higher turnover of cars, helping to keep on-street spaces for Blue Badge Holders and giving all residents better access to local businesses when popping into town for a quick visit. Waivers can still be purchased for tradespeople who need to park for work.

**Dorset Prepared Community Resilience Workshops** – this will benefit all existing voluntary organisations and community emergency volunteers. The Dorset Local Resilience Forum will be hosting several community resilience awareness raising sessions, running between 7th and 11th March, 2022, a weeklong series of online events and awareness raising with partner organisations. The events will be a range of live and pre-recorded presentations with Q&A sessions between Monday and Friday, starting 9.30am each day. To find out more and register your interest, go to [dorsetprepared.org.uk/community-resilience-week-march-2022/](https://dorsetprepared.org.uk/community-resilience-week-march-2022/) and follow the link to Eventbrite. Tickets are free.



**Cllr. Belinda Ridout, Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 07496413114**

### 80/21. Finance.

The Clerk circulated the payment schedule for February invoices for the sum of £ 1970.08 Cllr Mouncey proposed to pay the invoices on the payment schedule, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor, all member in favour.

**RESOLVED:** to pay invoices on payment schedule for the sum of £1970.08 (80/21 current account)

Document Date	Name	Category	Expense Amount	Income
01/03/2022	Allotment Asso	Annual rent		£ 10.00
01/03/2022	N Phillips DD	Clerk wages Feb	£ 1,247.35	
01/03/2022	N Phillips	Clerk expenses	£ 67.14	
01/03/2022	N Phillips	Re-emburse padlock	£ 26.24	
01/03/2022	Enerveo - southern electric	Street light main	£ 196.38	
01/03/2022	Vision ICT	Email hosting	£ 21.60	
01/03/2022	Norton (N Phillips)	Computer protection	£ 84.99	
01/03/2022	HMRC SO	Employers NI payment	£ 70.43	
01/03/2022	Southern Electric DD	Electric Supply	£ 107.15	
01/03/2022	Nest DD	Clerk pension Jan	£ 74.40	
01/03/2022	Nest DD	Clerk pension Feb	£ 74.40	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 1,970.08</b>	

The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation, Cllr Rogers approved it.

### 81/21 Planning: Review of Working Group recommendations:

#### Planning: Review of Working Group recommendations:

**P/PABA/2022/00961** - Kirk Farm Turnpike Road – erect storage barn – no objection

**P/OUT/2021/04802** – Land west of Little Elms – application going to Committee – Cllr Taylor will attend the North Dorset Committee meeting on behalf of the Parish Council on March the 15<sup>th</sup> at Sturminster Newton and put the case for refusal.

**P/NMA/2022/01238** – The White House – amendment to planning permission – no objection

**P/HOU/2022/01279** – Merefield, Shorts Green Lane – erect single storey rear extension – no objection

Full details of applications received for the Parish Council are available on the Parish Council website.

### 82/21 Chairman's report.

The Chairman has contacted Dorset Council waste department regarding litter picking. Dorset Council will supply all the necessary equipment for volunteers to use and the Clerk has confirmed that the Parish Council can request a road closure down the Hollow for the safety of the volunteers. While the Hollow is closed the pull in that has once again become covered in soil and debris can be cleared. Once a date is agreed for the litter pick, it will be advertised in the village for volunteers to come along and help keep our village tidy.

Concerns have been expressed that the show ground is being used for more than the 28 days a year, which was a part of the original agreement for planning consent for the ground to be used for public events. The Chairman has contacted the show ground organiser, who assure the Parish Council that there will not be more than 28 days this year used for events and also the clause for the 28 days is no longer in force.

### 83/21 Officers reports.

#### Bullet points of reports that had been circulated; a hard copy can be obtained by the Clerk.

**Cllr Hood reported the following:** The community tree planting project will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March at 11 am, to meet in the front field of the meadows. Please come along to help plant over 300 whips. People will need to bring spades, gloves, and wear wellies. Children welcome, if accompanied by an adult. Cllrs Hood and Cllr Mouncey will be undertaking some works at the Meadows this weekend, including a small bonfire, so please do not be concerned if you see smoke coming from the Meadows.

The school had asked parents to not park along the road while the traffic lights were outside the school. This seemed to work for one morning but was ignored in the afternoon. It was also noted that parents parking on the road waiting to collect their children are keeping their engines running. This is in fact illegal, and the school should inform the parent not to do this, as they can be fined. Cllr Hood expressed concern that there is parking at the Memorial Hall for parents to use to drop off and collect their children and this should be promoted more by the school.

Motcombe Memorial Hall are looking for volunteers and member to join the Village Hall Committee. If you are interested please contact Cllr Hood or the Memorial Hall committee for more information.

#### Cllr Mouncey had circulated the following report – which bullet points have been taken:

**Rights of Way** - Local paths were affected by the two recent storms. The path from Bittles Green to Hawker's Hill was blocked by a fallen tree on the Friday morning, which was cleared then another fell by the following Tuesday, which



was also cleared. The overgrowth up through the copse has been cleared back. Several trees are down in Kingsettle Wood. Those on the public path have been logged on Dorset for You (plus a further one below Virginia Haywood), but those on the permissive path round the top of the wood are the responsibility of the Woodland Trust. One had smashed a recently installed memorial seat. However, I have ensured as best I can without a chainsaw that both routes are still walkable with care. A submission from the Horse Society to convert the path from Bridewell Lane (leaves the road beyond the bends by Larkinglass) to Bay in Gillingham to a bridleway. This route has been walked it doesn't appear to be well used but includes stiles and much of it round the edges of very boggy fields. Landowners would need to give their consent, and evidence would be needed to demonstrate that there was some form of historic precedence. Cllr Mouncey has read a full assessment by the Dorset Roads & Rights of Way Committee from 2012 for a similar submission elsewhere in Dorset, which is extremely detailed in compiled evidence. A horseshoe was spotted laid in the concrete of the bridge over the Lodden (near Bay), at the base of the waymarker post at that location. Cllr Mouncey has cleared the route of overgrowth and will also improve waymarking in due course. I returned from Bay via the parallel path to Wolfridge Farm, clearing overgrowth and found another stile that needs replacing, which will be reported to the rangers. No further work as yet on the bridleway improvement project at the Meadows— still too wet. An objective of the White Hart Link is to designate circular walks off the main route, and Cllr Mouncey has recently written up & mapped the first one, a 4-mile circular from/to the Meadows car park via Coppleridge, North End, Cowridge Copse and Kingscourt Wood. Part of this was once in a leaflet produced years ago by the Parish Council, which Cllr Mouncey has extended in length with more historical context.

**Meadows:** The pruning of the main orchard was completed as planned. Next winter, this will be just a routine maintenance task, and the fruit trees in the neighbouring plantation will be thoroughly pruned. The next task will be to mark diseased/dead trees in the other plantations for removable next autumn. It is now birds nest season, so only light trimming possible until late August. The new saplings will extend the existing plantations. No further large-scale plantings are planned, but a new hedge will be needed alongside the new fence (when installed) alongside the bridleway, plus the proposed planting of cherry/mountain ash saplings behind the hedge on the front field.

We are still awaiting advice from the Dorset Flood Prevention team on maintaining the streams across the site, and a date for the footpath improvement work to start.

Dog poo remains a problem again, including the front field, used as children's play area. Our Clerk is obtaining new signs from Dorset Council, and Cllr Mouncey is dye-marking what he finds. **Please be reminded that the Dog Warden does visit the village from time to time and is able to enforce a on the spot fine for anyone not picking up after their dogs.**

**Cllr Taylor reported the following:**

The transport forum meeting has been postponed until more information has been received from Central Government regarding the bus back scheme.

**Cllr Craigmile reported the following:**

Mr Stuart Irwin has not yet been able arrange a meeting to date with the school safety working group but reported that year 5 and 6 are using the rear exit from the school and now covid restrictions have been lifted, the drop and go system has been re-introducing. The idea to extend Motcombe Memorial Car Park will also be looked at.

**Cllr Mason reported the following:**

The project for the phone box will commence in the spring (better weather needed). The environment team will arrange a meeting in the near future. Cllr Mason will re-introduce the hedgehog project, as they are now coming out of hibernation and need to be protected.

**84/21. Clerk Report – Correspondence**

The Clerk tabled prices for replacing two notice boards, one outside the village hall and one in Willow Way. After debate and discussion with the Village Hall members, it was agreed for Cllr Hood to look at the suitability of where the boards are positioned, and sizes required.

**Action- Cllr Hood**

The Parish Council had received concerns regarding the scaffolding and works taking place at the Forge. The Clerk has contacted the builders and they have acknowledged the concerns and are looking into the matter.

**85/21. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting**

**School Safety – Notice Boards – Welcome Signs – Litter Pick – Queens Jubilee tree**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 at 7pm at the Pavilion, Motcombe Village Hall**. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.35

Signed by the Chairman.....

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

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