



# Motcombe Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual General meeting and Subsequent Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Pavilion, Motcombe Village Hall  
On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr L Stacey, Cllr P Mouncey, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr J Hood, Cllr S Rogers, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr R Craigmile and Cllr M Mason

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk)

**There were 10 members attended, Dorset Councillor Belinda Ridout and Keri from This is Alfred**

## **22/01. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Office.**

Cllr Taylor nominated Cllr Stacey for Chairman for Motcombe Parish Council for 2022-2023, this was seconded by Cllr Rogers, all member in favour. Cllr Stacey agreed.

**RESOLVED:** for Cllr Stacey for Chairman for Motcombe Parish Council 2022-2023(22/01– no budgetary allocation required).

## **22/02. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Cllr V Moore sent her apologies

## **22/03. Election of Vice Chairman and signing of Declaration of Office.**

Cllr Stacey nominated Cllr Mouncey for Vice-Chairman for Motcombe Parish Council for 2022-2023, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor, all members in favour. Cllr Mouncey agreed.

**RESOLVED:** for Cllr Mouncey for Vice-Chairman for Motcombe Parish Council for 2022-2023 (22/03, no budgetary allocation required)

## **22/04. To confirm that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed**

**Conditions) Order 2012 will be agreed.** The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council have met the conditions of eligibility and it was agreed by all.

**To confirm there have been no changes to the adopted policies and procedures.** The Clerk confirmed that the adopted policies and procedures have been checked and no changes required from the last 12 months.

Both items above were proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Mouncey, all members in favour.

**RESOLVED:** that the Parish Council met the conditions of eligibility and there have been no updates on the policies and procedures adopted 2021. (22/04 no budgetary allocations required).

## **22/05. Approve minutes from AGM dated the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

Cllr Mouncey proposed the minutes from the AGM dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, this was seconded by Cllr Rogers, all members in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.



**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from AGM 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (22/05 – no budgetary provision required)

#### **22/06. Approval of annual accounts and governance statement**

The Clerk tabled the following:

- The annual governance statement 2021/22
- The end of year accounting statements 2021/22
- The Asset Register 2021/22
- The Bank reconciliation 2021/22

It was proposed by Cllr Mouncey to agree the governance statement, this was seconded by Cllr Rogers, all member agreed. The Chairman will be sent the document to sign.

**RESOLVED:** for the Chairman to be sent the governance statement for signing and to agree the other above items in 22/06 for the year ending 2021/22 (22/06 – accounts)

#### ***At this point the Chairman closed the AGM and opened the Monthly Meeting***

**There was a 3-minute public consultation period at the beginning of the meeting where the public can raise issues and concerns to the attention of the Council. The Chairman asked if anyone present wished to record the meeting, please let themselves known.**

Keri from This is Alfred is recording the meeting.

Mr Stephen Graeser, independent planning consultant, introduced himself and his clients Mr and Mrs Heming. Mr Heming, runs a successful Forestry and Arboriculture training centre at Fox Ridge, Lodge Lane, Motcombe, which is just west of the Coppleridge Inn. Over the last 18 months they have been exploring a number of options to provide much needed additional facilities on the site and have now developed these to an advanced, but not quite finished, stage. Mr Graeser gave a full and detailed report on the proposed plans for additional classroom, pods for clients to stay whilst undertaking their training and a single storey dwelling for the Heming family to reside on the existing site. The full plans will be submitted to Dorset Council in the near future. The Parish Council thanked Mr Graeser, Mr and Mrs Heming for bringing this proposal to their attention and given the full details of the proposal including information that the business will then be able to employ more staff and plan using environmentally friendly materials for the buildings in the proposal.

#### **22/07. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

**22/08. Approve minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.** There was one amendment, under 94/20 – Cllr Mason reported, that it is against the law to leave engines idling, the minutes were then proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded by Cllr Mauleverer and all members agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting, these were duly signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2022. (22/08 – no budgetary provision required)

#### **Matters arising – School Safety**

Mr Matt Barge – Head Teacher for Motcombe School and Mr Bob Stacey – Head of Operation for the Academy reiterated the importance of children's safety when attending the School.



Concerns were expressed that there had not been the communication through the working group that was hoped for and it seemed to fall apart through the lockdown and covid regulations.

Mr Matt Barge had sent information on results from surveys taken from the parents/carers of the children attending the school, which was circulated to the Councillors for their attention. These are some of the questions asked and the responses from those who completed the survey:

- Where do you live - it was the same amount of people from Shaftesbury as from the Village . Those from Gillingham were fewer and those from other villages were far fewer again.
- How do you regularly travel to school – the majority come by car.
- If you travel by car where do you park – it was an even split for parking at the Village Hall and the road outside the School.
- If you don't park in the village hall why – the main reason for not using the Village Hall parking is time.
- If the bus was available from Shaftesbury or Gillingham would you use this option – there was a large majority saying no to the bus.

Mr Barge and Mr Stacey had met with officers from Dorset council to once again look at areas where the safety could be improved around the school. It is felt that the School are now doing everything in their powers to try and help relieve the problems of school drop off time by continuing to provide different drop off times for different year groups, they have also provided a code of conduct for the parents to follow, including a no idling policy and this matter is regularly mentioned in the school news letter. Dorset Council have agreed to look at visual aids, marking on the road and have also given an idea of how much it would cost to provide a lollipop person for crossing The Street from the Village Hall carpark. After further discussions, it was agreed for Mr Barge, Mr Stacey and the Parish Council to work closely together, rather than form a new working party. The way forward at the moment will be to look into cost to provide a safer pathway for students to use the rear entrance of the school from the church, to look into funding for a lollipop person and consider the road markings being suggested by Dorset Council. One thing everyone agreed on, it that the safety of the children is most important. The Parish Council thanked Mr Barge and Mr Stacey for attending the meeting.

## **22/09. Officers' reports and Chairman's reports.**

Chairman's report:

- The last twelve months have seen many changes within the PC. We have hopefully left behind all Covid restrictions and virtual meetings are a thing of the past.
- It was very sad to see that Motcombe properties flooded twice last year devastating for those residents. Flooding was a frequent event before the flood alleviation scheme was put in place. The report from the environment agency and Dorset Council will hopefully be with us in July.
- Congestion outside of the school has been an issue in Motcombe for a number of years. We hope to see the reinstatement of the working group with the new team that heads up Motcombe Primary School working alongside the Church and local residents to alleviate the problem. I am sure that it will always be busy outside of the school at peak times however we must work to make this a safe environment for everyone.



- Over the past year, most planning applications have been supported by the Parish Council planning team; one of the exceptions was the solar farm. The planning team has had to wade through an abundance of paperwork particularly with this application and I thank them for all of their continuous hard work and dedication. Thanks should also be given to our Dorset councillor Belinda Ridout who spoke out on our behalf so well at the public meeting.
- The neighbourhood plan will need to be updated in the forthcoming months once Dorset Council complete their Local Council Plan. We will need to consider the environment far more in the updated plan. Low carbon, sustainable living will need to become the norm for all of us.
- One of the most common complaints to the Parish Council is speeding traffic. I am pleased we have invested in a Speed Indicated Device (SID) which can be moved to the speeding hotspots to deter speeding motorists.
- Work goes on within the Meadows. It's really great to see two consecutive years of tree planting with the latter involving the community. Last autumn, we completed the removal of the short run of conifer trees and old wire fencing; a project which had been spoken about for years.
- Sadly, Barney Mauleverer has decided to step down from the Parish Council this spring due to growing work commitments. I thank him for all of his hard work, energy and commitment he brought to the Parish Council and all of the projects he was involved with. Fortunately we have had a new councillor, Vanessa Moore, join us in April. I look forward to working with her in the months to come on future projects.
- We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of Parish Councillors who bring various skills and knowledge from all walks of life, that work together as team. All the councillors give their time for free for the benefit of the village and I thank them all for the commitment and their public spirited attitude.
- Similarly, my gratitude extends to our highly qualified and commitment clerk. We are so lucky to have a clerk with so much experience and knowledge. She is always on hand to help or advise to ensure that the Parish Council keeps above board and legal.
- Going forward, I hope that we can continue working so well together and enjoying what we all do.
- The defibrillator at the Village Shop, is still working, but there is an issue to the heater that is essential to keep it dry in the winter. The Parish Council has had an electrician look at it, but it is a compete unit, so the Parish Council will look into way for funding a replacement defibrillator before the winter.

**Action - Clerk**

**Cllr M Mason reported the following:**

- Confirmed that she is working with Mr Barge in promoting the no idling policy in place for the parent/careers of the children attending the school.
- Asked if the Parish Council wish to have a stall to promote the Council at the Village Fete. After discussions, it was agreed to put a notice board up at the fete, showing details of what the Parish Council do and to encourage people to come along to the meetings.
- Cllr Mason confirmed that she has received some great pictures for the design a new village sign for Motcombe competition. The pictures will be judged by independent residents in the village and the winners will be informed once the decision has been reached.



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

**Rights of Way** - Cllr Stacey & Cllr Mouncey have re-hinged the gate on the path up to Kingsettle. Not the first time, but we hope the repair this time will deter users from trying to open it the wrong way & force the hinges, which eventually come off the post.

Cllr Mouncey gather from the project manager for the Gillingham Royal Forest project that 5 of the promised 8 stiles-to-gates for Motcombe paths have now been agreed, but no confirmed date for the work as yet. This project was delayed by covid & changes in land ownership.

Cllr Mouncey reported two stiles on the route from by Donedge Lodge to Cowridge Copse as needing major repairs.

**Gillingham Royal Forest** - The project manager is asking local groups if there are any projects which could involve young people from Gillingham youth clubs. Part of the GRF project principles is to engage with young people on countryside related tasks in the GRF area.

**Meadows** – Has obtained a roll of wire netting to use in blocking the holes in the front field hedge, although nettle growth seems to be doing quite an effective job in recent weeks! Just need to obtain a few posts & the temporary work can be done. Hindon Fencing are quoting £200-300 to convert the gate by the car park to easy access for those with disabilities. Cllr Mouncey will ensure that the solution truly addresses the problem. The Parish Council agreed to pay up to £300.00 to ensure the gates are suitable for disabled access.

Cllr Mouncey still has no date from The Rangers for completion of the bridleway work.

### **Cllr J Hood reported the following:**

- The next village hall committee meeting will be on the 18th of May at 7:30 at the main hall. The general public are more than welcome to attend and the village hall committee are looking for new members to join, so if you are interested please come along to the meeting. The broadband has now been installed in the village hall and posters a pain produced with the passwords to be able to access this facility.
- Cllr Hood raised concerns over parents cars parking on the and damaging the verges when dropping off for school runs.
- Councillor hood had forward information on new notice boards to replace the one at the Village Hall and Willow Way. The materials being used for the notice boards are recycled materials and one side of a notice board can be kept open for local information on the one at Willow Way. Now the design and materials have been agreed, the Clerk will look at the costings for them to be replaced. **Action – Clerk**
- Councillor Hood proposed postponing the litter pick due to the costs to close the
- Hollow being so high which is required to ensure the safety of those litter picking down it. The Clerk will contact Dorset council again and express the Parish Councils disappointment of the cost of close the road for a few hours, when they are trying to do a service for the community by cleaning this area, which Dorset council are not providing.

#### **Action - Clerk**

### **Cllr J Taylor reported the following:**

- The old planning application for Shorts Green Farm development, has been turned down by Dorset Council, on the grounds of flood risk (Sequential Test) and policies stated in the North Dorset Plan and Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan.
- **P/HOU/2022/02360** – Paddock Way – first floor extension – Parish Council object under overdevelopment of the site.



- **P/LBC/2022/02103** – 21 Bittles Green – repairs to listed building – Parish Council had no objection, waiting Dorset Council decision.
- **P/HOU/2022/02829** – 7 New Road – Alterations to garden room and front porch – Parish Council had no objection.
- Cllr Taylor had received an email from Mrs Hurd regarding **P/OUT/2021/04802** – Elm Hill. Correspondence is still continuing with the planning team on the rules of a Rural Exception Site.

**Cllr R Craigmile reported the following:**

Is happy to see the progress from the School for the School Safety.

- Had an update from Justin Neely -Engineer, Assets & Property at Dorset Council that Dorset Council have raised a Section 19 report on the flooding that took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in the village. A draft of the report has been sent to the necessary authorities for their attention and report back for the 19<sup>th</sup> May. Works have been taken place to try and help with mitigating possible future flooding events by removing trash from the streams and checking with cameras. More information will be given once received
- There is confirmation from Dorset Council that the white lines through the Hollow will be repainted in the better weather.

**22/10. To receive report from Dorset Council representative Cllr B Ridout  
Dorset Council Councillor Ridout’s report will be available on the Parish Council’s website or a copy can be obtained by the Clerk.**

- Cllr Ridout and Cllr Potheary had walked the Southern expansion of Gillingham. Principal Street and was impressed with the work carried out.
- Confirmed that the Dorset Plan is still in progress and a date for the revised version, ect, is yet to be confirmed.

**22/11. Finance**

**To agree: Payment Schedule**

The Clerk tabled the payment schedule for April for the sum of £4557.07 details listed below:

Document Date	Name	Category	Expense Amount
01/04/2022	Dorset Council Precept	Precept	
01/04/2022	Commisioner)	Subscriptions	£ 35.00
01/04/2022	HMR employers NI	Employers NI	£ 54.12
01/04/2022	Southern Electric	Street Lights Supply	£ 133.38
01/04/2022	N Phillips	Clerks Wages	£ 1,279.46
01/04/2022	Viking Direct	Stationery	£ 134.59
01/04/2022	N Phillips	Clerk's Expenses	£ 65.14
01/04/2022	Vision ICT	Website	£ 172.80
01/04/2022	T Signs	Play Area	£ 162.00
01/04/2022	Nest	Pension	£ 74.40
01/04/2022	Motcombe Village Hall	Hall Hire	£ 25.00
01/04/2022	Chris Berwick 2322	Grass Cutting/tree/footpa	£ 2,209.94
01/04/2022	Enerveo Southern Electric	Street Lights Maint	£ 211.24
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 4,557.07</b>

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Rogers that the bills on the schedule be paid, all in favour. **RESOLVED:** to pay the bills on the schedule above (22/11 – accounts)



**23/12. Clerk Report** - nothing to report.

**23/13. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting**

Co-option – Flooding

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 14<sup>th</sup> of June at 7pm at the Pavilion, Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.19

Signed by the Chairman.....

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