



Motcombe Parish Council

Minutes of Motcombe Parish Council Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Pavilion, Motcombe Village Hall

On Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey – Vice Chairman, Cllr S Rogers, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr F Burney, and Cllr W Dunlop

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk). There were 9 members of the public and Kerri from This is Alfred and This is Alferd will be recording the meeting.

At this point the Chairman welcomed Nicola Hopkins – Senior Farm Environment Adviser - FWAG Southwest

Cllr F Burney reported that she wanted a positive start to 2024 regarding flooding issues by inviting Nicola Hopkins along to the Parish Council meeting to give information of projects to help with mitigating flooding events by using natural sources, to show measures being put in place to try and help the village and the Stour catchment.

Nicola Hopkins from Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Southwest gave a presentation on what FWAG does. The following are bullet points from the presentation:

- FWAG is a registered charity supporting, enthusing, and inspiring farmers to value the environmental assets on their land and use them to secure sustainable, profitable businesses.
- They have been working on the Stour headwater project to improve the water quality in the River Stour catchment whilst reducing flood risk, increasing biodiversity, and improving farming nutrient efficiency.
- They work with farmers/landowners on solutions in a natural way to help with flooding, by using materials to help hold the water, so it releases at a slower rate onto smaller streams and highways.
- They are working with Mr Phil Lever and Port Regis School to work on projects on their land that would help with management of water coming off the fields. FWAG will put these projects forward to relevant authorities for funding and once funding has been obtained the projects can be started. FWAG are looking to start some works before the nesting season, but if not, they are looking at the Autumn 2024.
- More information on what FWAG do can be found on their website www.fwagsw.org.uk

These were the questions raised by the Council and members of the public.

- A member of the public asked who funds the projects, is it the Environment Agency? Nicola answered that a lot of funding is from the environment agency, but there are other organisations that help.
- Cllr Mouncey asked what causes the colour of the water changes when there is heavy rain fall. Nicola answered that water from cultivated fields can cause the change of colour due to the soil being washed over the land rather than water passing under the land.
- Cllr Mouncey asked if Nicola is happy to give advice on the stream next to the Meadows, Nicola agreed that she is happy to do so.

The Chairman thanked Nicola for attending the Parish Council meeting and for giving a very informative presentation.

Public period.

A member of the public asked why the SID had not been moved for a while and also offered to help with the SID management. Cllr Dunlop confirmed that the SID has been moved today and that the only reason why it had not been moved before, was due to the increase in traffic using the village, due to the road closure in Gillingham, the position it was at was more beneficial.



A member of the public raised the following:

- Where the new sign showing children crossing by the Village Hall is, could another sign showing Play Area and School be fitted? The Clerk will obtain prices for these signs.
- Reported that state of the potholes at Hugglers Hole have got very bad. The Clerk will report this to Wiltshire Council and also ask Semley and Sedgehill Parish Councils to also report them.
- People in the village are parking illegally on the main road. The cars should park with the traffic flow, i.e., in the same direction as the traffic is driving on that side of the road. This is so that the rear reflectors can be seen by approaching traffic. It was agreed for a reminder to be placed in the Villager.

Action - Clerk

23/93. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr V Moore, Cllr M Mason and all Dorset Councillors sent their apologies.

23/94. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.

There were none.

23/95. Co-option for new Councillor.

No members of the public came forward.

23/96. Approve minutes dated the 12th of December 2023

Cllr Mouncey proposed the Minutes from the meeting dated the 12th of December 2023, this was seconded by Cllr Taylor, all members in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes from the meeting dated 12th December 2023 (23/96 – no budgetary provision required)

Matters arising: Update on to do list – The Clerk read out the to do list, where no actions needed to be approved or resolved.

The following were new or actioned from the to do list:

To discuss the request for a 20MPH zone outside the school – After debate it was agreed for the Clerk to instruct Dorset Council to complete a survey outside the School (in term time) as this would be required before applying for a 20MPH limit in the area. **Action – Clerk**

Update on lighting for Church Walk – The Clerk had spoken to organisations to see if lighting this area would be possible. At the moment there is no easy structural or economic lighting solution for Church Walk, without having the major cost of putting up a new Street Light.

To remind residents of the Parish to cut their hedges back before the nesting season. Please make sure you have cut hedges back before the nesting season starts in 4 weeks.

23/97. Report from Dorset Councillors

Cllr Belinda Ridout and Cllr Valarie Potheary, Councillors for the Gillingham Ward had sent their reports, the following are key points, and the full reports can be found on the Parish Council website or requested from the Clerk:

Cost of living help – Thursday's, 10am to 12pm, 1pm to 3pm, or Tuesday's and Wednesday's, 10am to 12pm a reminder that there is free, confidential, and impartial support available on money worries, accessing affordable food, housing and employment rights and looking after your mental health. Dorset Council works with Dorset Citizen's Advice to offer this support. Call Freephone North Dorset Citizens Advice, 0800 144 8848.

Dog related public spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - a new PSPO across the Dorset Council area came into force 1st January 2024 for three years. This helps to keep specific beaches and open spaces free from dog fouling and safe to use by all. Insisting that dogs are kept on leads.



Planning for Climate Change - Dorset Council has recently published three guidance documents:

- Planning for climate change: Interim guidance and position statement.
- Sustainability statement and checklist for planning applications.
- Listed buildings and energy efficiency: what you can do for climate change.

The guidance can be viewed on the Dorset Council website at: Planning for climate change – Dorset Council.

Council Tax – Dorset Council has published its initial proposals to deliver a balanced budget for 2024-25. Proposals will ensure frontline council services continue to be provided to residents and businesses. The proposals would see an increase in council tax next year by just under 3% and to levy the adult social care precept of 2%. The increase would be equivalent to £1.82 extra per week for a Band D property.

Is your gas hob safe? Please check your gas hobs, the companies involved are Apelson Appliances UK Ltd., Buy It Direct Ltd, Glen Dimplex Home Appliances, Kingfisher International Products Ltd, Lancaster Holdings Ltd, Maurice Lay Distributors Ltd, Midea UK Ltd, Product Care Trading Ltd, Samsung Electronics, Shop Direct Home Shopping Ltd, Stax Trade Centres Ltd and The Wright Buy Ltd. The companies will visit every home to make affected hobs safe.

23/98. Finance

To agree: Payment Schedule. To ratify the payments for December that were agreed via email and the Clerk tabled the payment schedule for January 2024 for the sum of £1644.10, details listed below:

Name	Category	Expense Amount
N Phillips	Clerks wages Jan	£ 1,078.71
Nest	Clerk pen PC & Clerk	£ 148.80
HMR	NI/tax/emp ni Jan	£ 215.71
SSE supply	Street Light Supply	£ 132.39
N Phillips	Clerks expenses Jan	£ 68.49
Total for January 2024		1644.10

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr Mouncey that the bills on the schedule be paid, all in favour. **RESOLVED:** to pay the bills on the schedule above (23/98– accounts)
Cllr Rogers agreed the payment schedule and bank reconciliation.

23/99. Planning - Review of Working Group recommendations.

P/HOU/2024/00361 – Church Farm – Turnpike – Erection of porch – no objection

P/HOU/2024/00217 – 10 Bittles Green – erect two storey side extension – no objection

P/FUL/2023/05051 – Land east of Lidl – erect 41 retirement homes – appeal

P/HOU/2024/00674 – Royal Oak House – erect a playhouse – no objection

Cllr Taylor reported that the Land East of Lidl has requested an appeal due to Dorset Council Planning department having not yet determined the application within a specified date.

There are a few other planning applications in the Parish which Dorset Council have not determined to date, which are: Blackmore Vale Leisure – new Show Room, Brickyard Farm – erect 4 dwellings.

An appeal by the developer of the Bittles Green development has been announced but with further details as yet on the Dorset Council planning website. However there is an exchange of recent communications regarding 106 contributions. The Clerk will contact the relevant authorities, as the 106 agreements should involve the Parish Council.

Action - Clerk

23/100. Chairmans report – nothing to report.

23/101. Officers’ reports



Cllr S Rogers reported that following- the external play inspection took place before Christmas and the report was circulated to the Councillors. There are no red issues that need to be dealt with urgently but there are a few small areas that need maintenance matter that Cllr Rogers has agreed to look at and also the older equipment that need replacement, the Cllr Roger and the Clerk will look into cost and funding for the items to be replaced. **Action – Cllr Roger and Clerk**

Cllr J Taylor reported the following: - the QR code for the bus service has been placed in the notice board next to the village shop.

Cllr P Mouncey reported the following:

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mouncey has already circulated a note including a draft revised timescale for commencing an update of the current Plan. More to follow once the grant programme for 2024/25 is announced, probably sometime late next month or early April.

Rights of Way - Firstly, residents may have encountered in recent days work on clearing vegetation and ditch digging along the bridleway between the Meadows and Coppleridge, which has led to a hopefully only temporary deterioration of the surface. It is believed this is being undertaken by the landowner, and following a site meeting I held today with the Head Ranger, he will be contacting the landowner to discuss his plans for the site to ensure that the work does not lead to any detrimental long-term impact on the bridleway. We also discussed further clearance of overhanging trees, particularly at the Meadows end. Cllr Mouncey is also very grateful to the Rangers for promptly clearing a fallen willow caused by the big storm a few weeks ago that completely blocked the bridleway behind the Meadows.

Secondly, in Cllr Mouncey's role as Project Manager for the White Hart Link I've also been discussing with the Rangers possible further improvements to the section between Gillingham & Shaftesbury, which is predominately within our parish, together with other possibilities on the 50-mile route.

Meadows - The hedge laying project has continued throughout the winter and should be completed before birds nesting season begins next month. However, it is unlikely that the brash will be cleared before then and will need to be left on site until the season ends in August as the ground conditions are far too wet to enable any access for chipping the brash. It is also more cost-effective if there is a single chipping session (probably taking two days). Cllr Mouncey is also trying to find a solution for this that incurs minimum cost to the Council – a work in progress but with a possible solution in mind.

Cllr Mouncey also very recently been informed that there could be Dorset Council funding that we could bid for to help improve the Meadows, but this is dependent on the presence of specific reptile species. Cllr Mouncey has contacted the post-grad student who undertook a reptile survey across sites in Dorset, including the Meadows to see if we might qualify.

Finally, the annual pruning of the orchard is well underway for the third year running.

23/102. Clerk Report

The Clerk has received a complaint from a resident that lives on the Paddocks, next to the public footpath, that when we get heavy rain, the footpath drainage system can not cope and water floods into his back garden. It was agreed for the Clerk to ask Dorset Council rights of way team to investigate. **Action - Clerk** Reminded Councillors about the election process and the Clerk will put out notices for information.

23/103. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting

Elections – 20 MPH scheme

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 12th of March 2024 at 7pm at the Pavilion, Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.20.

Signed by the Chairman.....

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