**Motcombe Parish Council**

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

**On Tuesday 12th March 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 M Mason**

**In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Dorset Councillors Cllr B Ridout and Cllr D Walsh. There were 13 members of the public present. Kerri Jones from This is Alfred, Cllr Mason and the Clerk recorded the meeting.**

**Public period.**

A member of the public asked to speak to agenda item 4 – 20MPH speed limit. It was agreed to withdraw standing orders at this agenda item.

It was noted that no 1 and 2 Church Walk are having their watertight doors fitted today. There is still work to be completed on the building to the screeding for the French doors, but this is good news for the residents.

**23/104. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Cllr V Moore, Cllr W Dunlop and all Dorset Councillor V Pothecary.

**23/105. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.**

There were none.

**23/106. Co-option for new Councillor.**

The Chairman reported that if anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council, to contact the Clerk who will issue the nomination forms for local elections, being held on the 2nd of May 2024.

**23/107. Approve minutes dated the 13th of February 2024**

Cllr Mouncey proposed the Minutes from the meeting dated the 13th of March 2024, 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 13th of February 2024 (23/107 – 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:**

* The Parish Council are working with Dorset Council to produce a proposal to Persimmon Homes for the Parish Council to adopt the grassed areas and the trees at Willow Way and the Limes.
* The rangers from Dorset Council have agreed to dig out the ditch along the footpath behind The Paddocks, to try and help prevent water flowing in the gardens of The Paddocks.
* The information on the grass cutting tenders has been circulated. Unfortunately, even after extending the time for tenders to be submitted, only two quotations were received. After debate, Cllr Rogers proposed to appoint A. Burt Countryside Services the 5-year contract for grass cutting, this was seconded by Cllr Mouncey, all in favour.
	+ **RESOLVED** – to award the 5-year grass cutting contract, start from April 2024 to A. Burt Countryside Services (23/107 – Grass Cutting)

**Dorset Council speed survey for outside the school for 20MPH scheme –** the Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council have been instructed to complete a speed/traffic survey for outside the school, to be able to take this project forward. Cllr Mason reported that in other areas, a survey is not necessary as Dorset Council have reports from GPS which is free. The Clerk confirmed that the survey is a requirement for evidence when applying for a 20MPH but will check why the GPS data is not sufficient **Action – Clerk**

**At this point the Chairman removed standing order to allow the public to speak to agenda item 4**

The following points were raised:

* Why has the Parish Council not undertaken a consultation to see if residents supports a 20MPH speed limit throughout the village? It was noted that the Parish Council are working on getting the area outside the school designated a 20MPH zone, to help with the safety of the school children. If the residents of the Parish wish to come forward with a proposal for 20MPH scheme for other areas in the village, the Parish Council would have a duty to request an investigation by the Dorset Council Road Safety Team to see which areas would meet the criteria for a 20MPH limit.
* The Chairman reported that the village has a Speedwatch team and the Parish Council have installed a SID (speed indicator device) to try and help with the speed control in the village.
* Concerns were also raised about speeding through the Hollows. The Chairman stated that that area is under a 60MPH, but since the road has been resurfaced and the white lines have been put down (which are to be repainted in the spring) there have been fewer reported incidences.
* It was also noted that in the past the school Governors had undertaken a risk assessment for outside the school but this seems to have been ignored by the appropriate authorities.
* It was also noted that it is not just the speeding through the village, it is the increase in traffic through the village.
* It was agreed to put a note in the villager asking for any volunteers to join the Speedwatch team.

 **Action – Clerk**

* Cllr Mouncey reported that a 20MPH scheme for other areas in the village could be considered as a topic for public consultation when updating the Neighbourhood Plan.
* Cllr Mason reported that she is continuing to work on a proposal for the village regarding a 20MPH scheme.
* To record any road traffic incidents please use this link <https://www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk/enforcement-operations/reporting-traffic-concerns/> the more data Dorset Council Road Safety team have, the more powers they have to allocate funds towards projects to help reduce speeding/reckless driving.

**At this point standing orders were re-instated.**

**23/108. Report from Dorset Councillors**

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

**Local Transport Plan Survey –** Held a drop-in event at the Chantry Office, Gillingham on Thursday, 29th February, where Cllr Ridout, Cllr Pothecary and Cllr Walsh were present to listen and record comments and help individuals to complete the on-line survey. Results of the survey will be published in due course.

**Climate Change –** members recently received an update on what Dorset Council is doing to help Dorset become a climate and nature friendly county. Full details can be found on the Dorset Council website: Climate and Ecological Emergency – Progress so far. Just a few highlights:

Climate Emergency: Full details are available on the full report.

**Reducing Waste –** good progress over the last decade has increased recycling rates year on year. Waste sent to landfill has decreased from 71% to 2%. Recycling rates have risen from 29% in 2004 to 59.8% last year, ranking it at 11th place out of 351 local authorities. Food waste is now processed within Dorset to produce biogas and electricity.

**Generating renewable energy –** to address the climate emergency, all energy currently provided by fossil fuels for heating, transport and electricity will need to come from a low-carbon source.

**Ecological Emergency-** Managing Green Spaces – with over 80 countryside sites, nearly 3,000 miles of Public Rights of Way, long distance trails and just under 5000 miles of highway verge, below are some of the things Dorset Council is doing to tackle the ecological emergency:

**Changes to countryside management –** allowing natural grasses and wildflowers to grow on roadside verges; helping to protect and restore rare heathland across Dorset; implementing a range of positive approaches in the Council’s Pollinators Action Plan to protect bees, butterflies and other pollinators by cutting hedgerows less frequently, planting flowering trees and shrubs and enhancing the ecological value of roadside verges.

**Switching to battery-powered tools –** in 2021, nearly all two-stroke petrol engine hand tools were replaced with battery driven equivalents and solar panels installed on the roof of the depot where the tools are recharged.

**Going peat-free –** Dorset Council now only uses peat-free compost.

Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy progress reports can be found in detail on the Dorset Council website.

**Extra Funding for Road Maintenance –** an extra £4+ million funding from the Department for Transport over the years 2023/24 and 2024/5.

**Council Tax Premium on Second Homes and empty houses in Dorset –** Dorset Council approved proposals for a council tax premium on second homes and an amendment to agree an earlier commencement date for the existing Long Term Empty Homes premium - new flexibilities for councils under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, 2023.

**Dorset Council Local Plan – Dorset Councillor D Walsh gave the following report -**

a revised approach to the drafting of Dorset’s Local Plan, in anticipation of a new plan-making system to be introduced by central government at the end of 2024, was considered by Cabinet on 12th March. Work has continued on producing the Local Plan, the actions that were holding up the process have now been competed, so Dorset Council are ready to take the plan forward. There will be more public consultations before the plan is submitted to Central government.

In response to a query in an email sent earlier that day to Cllr Ridout, Cllr D Walsh advised Cllr Mouncey to continue work on updating the Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan and will forward the relevant information from Dorset Council regarding land allocations and housing numbers once they have been finalised at Dorset Council. Cllr D Walsh also reported that in total there are 60 neighbourhood plans either adopted, being re-viewed or designated, which is a great achievement as even if a neighbourhood plan is becoming out of date, it still holds some weight in planning decisions.

**Belinda Ridout, Councillor for the Gillingham Ward -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. All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.**

**23/109.** **Finance**

**To agree: Payment Schedule.** The Clerk tabled the payment schedule for February 2024 for the sum of £1790.97.

details listed below:



It was proposed by Cllr Roger 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 (23/109– accounts).

Cllr Rogers agreed the payment schedule and bank reconciliation.

**To agree Clerks wage scale increase –** after debate, Cllr Rogers proposed for the Clerk to remain on scale 36 with an hourly increase of £1.00 an hour, this was seconded by Cllr Mouncey, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: to award the Clerk an increase of £1.00 an hour for wages 2024/2025 (23/109a – wages)

**23/110. Planning - Review of Working Group recommendations.**

**P/HOU/2023/06565 – 25 Bittles Green Motcombe – Erection 1no dwelling –** objection, full details of which can be seen on the Dorset Council website**.**

**Dorset Council have approved the following:**

**P/HOU/2024/00361 – Church Farm – Turnpike – Erection of porch**

**P/HOU/2024/00217 – 10 Bittles Green – erect two storey side extension.**

**P/HOU/2024/00675 – Royal Oak House – erect a playhouse.**

**P/FUL/2023/06233 – Blackmore Vale Leisure – erect new showroom**

There is no date yet for the appeal for Land South of Motcombe Road – erect 12 houses.

**23/111. Chairmans report –** Thanked his fellow Councillors support and hard work.

**23/112. Officers’ reports**

**Cllr P Mouncey reported the following:**

**Rights of Way –** Cllr Mouncey had discussed with the Rangers at a site meeting concerns over the lack of drainage provision into the ditch recently du-out by the landowner beside the bridleway from behind the Meadows up the hill towards the Coppleridge, Awaiting a response.

**Meadows -** The hedge laying project is now completed. Cllr Mouncey has received three verbal quotes to remove the brash as soon as possible. The cheapest quote is for £1200.00, which funds have been allocated for in the 2023/2024 budget. Cllr Mouncey will ask the contractors to provide written quotes, and once approved by Councillors via email, instruct the contractor to complete the works once the field has dried out. It was also noted that birds do not normally nest in dead brush, but before works commence the brash will be checked.

**Cllr M Mason reported the following:**

The church had agreed in principle to upgrade the footpath in the churchyard leading to the rear entrance to the school and allow it to be used as a route by school children. The cost of the works is to be ascertained, but some fund raising maybe necessary.

**23/113. Clerk Report**

The Clerk reported the sad news that Anita Loring – widower to previous Motcombe Parish Council Chairman Allistair Leask, passed away in February. Before Anita was ill, it was agreed to hold a small picnic on the memorial picnic bench in the front field in remembrance of Allistair. As the picnic never took place, it was agreed to hold the picnic in the summer in remembrance of them both.

**23/143. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting**

Grants – 20MPH – to do list.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 9th of April 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…………………….............................................

Website - www.motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk

Email – motcombepc@motcombeparishcouncil.org.uk