**Motcombe Parish Council**

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

**On Tuesday the 4th of March 2025 at 7.00pm**

**Present: Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey – Vice Chairman, Cllr S Rogers, Cllr W Dunlop, Cllr M Mason and Cllr F Burney**

**In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Kerri Jones from This is Alfred. Dorset Councillors Cllr B Ridout and Cllr V Pothecary. There were 11 members of the public present.**

**Kerri Jones from This is Alfred and Cllr M Mason recorded the meeting**

**Public period-** Mr M Smith had sent an email to the Parish Council, which had been circulated, referring to the proposed 20MPH scheme for the Parish, requesting that Frog Lane’s speed limit reduced to 30MPH, to introduce calming measures at certain points along the Street and Bittles Green and to obtain residents feedback on any proposals put forward. Cllr Mouncey confirmed that the public consultation for any traffic management for the Parish will be added to the Neighbourhood Plan public consultation to ensure that all residents within the Parish get to have their say. There has been a hold up on updating the Neighbourhood Plan due to the availability of the consultant. Cllr Mouncey will be speaking to the consultant in the next few days to discuss a start date.

**24/92. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

The Clerk reported that Cllr V Moore has now moved away from the Parish and has resigned from the Parish Council. A thank you to Cllr V Moore for her work on the Council.

Cllr R Craigmile and Cllr J Odell and Dorset Councillor C Woode sent their apologies.

**24/93. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.**

There were none.

**24/94. Co-option for new Councillor**

No one came forward

**24/95. Approve minutes dated the 4th of February 2025**

Cllr Rogers proposed the Minutes from the meeting dated the 4th of March 2025 this was seconded by Cllr Mouncey, all members in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes from the meeting dated 4th of March 2025 (24/95– no budgetary provision required)

**Matters arising:**

**Update on to do list –** this was updated on the 1st of March 2025 and circulated to Councillors. There were no updates. **A copy of the to do list can be requested by the Clerk**

**Grant application –** to consider grant applications received and tabled:

After debate the following grants were proposed by Cllr Stacey, seconded by Cllr Mouncey, all in favour.

* Motcombe Village Hall support for new Defibrator £500.00
* Motcombe Church towards grass cutting £200.00
* Motcombe Church towards update footpath £500.00

**RESOVED**: Total awards given under section 93 of LAG 2003 £1200.00 (24/95 – grants)

**Update on Phone Box renovation** – Cllr Odell had circulated her report, stating that she has cleared the phone box and removed the old shelves in preparation for renovating the phone box as an information hub.

A resident from the Parish has offered to help with maintaining the phone box. Another resident has expressed concerns over the safety of the phone box being close to the road. Cllr Mason confirmed this matter has already been assessed and its meats all of the safety criteria. It was also noted that the phone box has not been moved and was used as a phone box for many years before BT removed the phone and the Parish Council adopted it. Cllr Odell will give an update at the meeting in April.

**Update on flooding matters in the village** – Cllr Craigmile had circulated a report to Councillors and Cllr Burney gave a detailed report from the Flood Risk team, on the concerns over the increase of surface water coming down from the Hollow, down Bittles Green. The full report can be found on the Parish Council website, these are the main points:

* Cllr Craigmile visited the Redrow site at Blackmore View to check the main infiltration basin, located just above the bend at the top of The Hollow. The basin has large fissures in the base and an area that appears to have subsided.
* Cllr Craigmile revisited on the morning of 26th of February, when it was raining. There was significant amount of water leaving the pipes feeding the basin but quickly disappeared into the ground. Three basins are shown on the drainage plan (these can be seen on the Parish Council website) along with buried infiltration tanks, all located close to the edge of the hillside. The drainage strategy seems to rely on the elevated position of the site to drain water away. It is not attenuated using either man-made or natural methods.
* The flood team will be speaking to the Flood Risk Management engineer at Dorset Council, Highways and Cllr Burney will be meeting with Simon Hoare MP so that all necessary authorities are informed of the concerns raised.
* While water has remained within the flood alleviation scheme in the Parish, any blockage caused by debris flowing down the waterways could cause another major flood event as occurred in 2021.
* The works that have been completed on Phil Lever’s land, seems to be having a positive effect, slowing the water flow down.
* Thanks to Adrain Cooper from Church Farm for his help/support.

**24/96. Report from Dorset Councillors**

**Cllr B Ridout, Cllr C Woode and Cllr Pothecary had circulated their reports, which is available on the Parish Council website, or a copy can be obtained by the Clerk.**

**Cllr Ridout highlighted** the Climate and Nature Recovery goals to be Net-zero have been brough forward to 2035 instead of 2045, which is great news. It was also noted that Cllr Ridout has requested that biodiversity mitigation is necessary for every planning application, the Portfolio Holder for Planning has assured Cllr Ridout that is it on his lit to discuss with the head of Planning.

**Cllr Pothecary reported** on a project to help prevent modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. There is no typical victim of slavery. Victims can be men, women or children of all ages and nationalities. The following definitions are encompassed within the term 'modern slavery' for the purposes of the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

'slavery' is where ownership is exercised over a person

'servitude' involves the obligation to provide services imposed by coercion

'Forced or compulsory labour' involves work or service extracted from any person under the menace of a penalty and for which the person has not offered themselves voluntarily

'Human trafficking' concerns arranging or facilitating the travel of another with a view to exploiting them. It is irrelevant whether the person consents to the travel.

It was noted that the main point of discussion at Dorset Council is the Budget.

If you have any suspicions or concerns, you can report them to Dorset Council using the following link <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/modern-slavery>

Ful report will be published on the Parish Council website.

**24/97.** **Finance**

**To agree: Payment Schedule.** The Clerk tabled the payment schedule for February 2025. Details listed below:



It was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Mouncey to pay the payments on the schedule for February 2025, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: to pay the payments for February on the schedule (24/97 – current account)

Cllr Rogers agreed the bank reconciliation.

**24/98. Planning - Review of Working Group recommendations.**

**P/VIC/2025/00066** – East Coppleridge Farm – erect new dwelling – it was noted as it is for variations of conditions on an application that has already been agreed – Dorset Council approved.

**P/HOU/2024/07330** – 44 The Street – erect pitch roof from existing out building to main dwelling – no objections – Dorset Council approved.

**P/FUL/2025/00581** - Lake Mead, Frog Lane - Erect a dwelling (revised to be a bungalow rather than 2 storey dwelling) with new vehicular access and demolish garage. Create 1 No. parking space to provide 3 in total – No objection

**P/HOU/2025/01257 –** 74 North End – Single storey rear garden store – No objection

**24/99. Chairmans report**

Reported that he has visited Sylvia Robers, as she is not ablet to attend the Parish Council meeting, and presented her flowers as a thank you for all of her support to the Parish Council and to wish her all the very best.

**24/100. Officers’ reports**

**Cllr P Mouncey reported the following:**

Cllr Mouncey and Cllr Burney attended the DAPTC planning seminar, where the following points were raised:

* Dorset Council have a new planning team who are working hard to ease the backlog of planning enforcement and other matters.
* Central Government have increased Dorset Councils housing target by 80%, from 1793 dwellings PA to 3219 PA over the next 17 years – 54,273 in total. Concerns are raised of how this will be achieved. Dorset Council would be looking for any factors they can use to mitigate this total, if possible.
* Cllr Mouncey had commented on the volume of additional vehicles these developments will produce and the need to ensure that the necessary strategic infrastructure is also put in place, such as road improvements, public transport provision ect, not just localised improvements funded by developers.
* The Dorset Plan will be out for consultation in mid 2026 to hopefully be approved by mid 2027.

**Motcombe Meadows**: The orchard at the Meadows has now been pruned for this year, and 20 Dog Roses & Spindleberries have been planted in the front field hedge.

**24/101. Clerk Report.**

A letter has been received in response to a letter sent from the Parish Council asking for a resident to cut their hedge back. The resident felt that the hedge is not overhanging the highway as the curb can be seen. The Parish Council feel that the hedge is still overhanging the highways and will now forward the letters on to Dorset Council highways department for their action, hopefully a site visit.

Simon Hoare MP has sent a poster promoting his services to the residents of North Dorset. This poster will be put up on a notice board in the village.

**24/102. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – to do list, end of year accounts**

The Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 8th of April 2025 at 7pm in the Pavilion at Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.10

Signed by the Chairman…………………….............................................

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