**Motcombe Parish Council**

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

**On Tuesday the 8th of April 2025 at 7.00pm**

**Present: Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey – Vice Chairman, Cllr R Craigmile and Cllr F Burney**

**In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Kerri Jones from This is Alfred. Dorset Councillors Cllr B Ridout. There were 5 members of the public present.**

**Kerri Jones from This is Alfred will be recording the meeting**

At this point the Chairman asked everyone to stand in remembrance of Tom Crabbe. The Chairman went on to say, Tom was a true Dorset Man through and through, he could have been, and was often called the Mayor of Motcombe, very community minded, raising thousands of pounds with his and Brenda's garden parties.

He spent many years on the Parish Council and was the Chairman from 1983 until 1995. While on the PC Tom and the whole Parish Council saw many developments, including Stainers Mead, Hunters Mead and Glebe Gardens. At this time the school had a very low attendance and was in danger of being closed. These developments brought young families to the village and their children's attendance at the school helped the school to continue. Any village that loses its school loses part of its heart and life blood. Motcombe would be a very different today without its school.

Even after Tom left the Parish Council, he continued to be a strong supporter of it, offering words of wisdom and advice. He would frequently ring me after meetings offering kind words and encouragement. for which I am very grateful.

He will be sadly missed, and our thoughts go out to Brenda Tracey Chloe Harry and all his family and friends.

**Public period-** once again, concerns were raised over the speeding traffic down Motcombe Road/Bittle Green. Cllr Craigmile explained the reasons why a SID can not be put up near the existing speed unit, as it could show contradicting information. The Clerk will contact Dorset Council to ask if a SID pole could be placed on Bittles Green for traffic going towards the Hollow. It was also note that another resident in the Parish is producing a report regarding road safety that can be sent to Dorset Council as evidence that more speed calming measures should be put around the village. **Action – Clerk**

A member of the public asked for an update on the football goalposts that have been suggested to be put on the recreation area at the village hall. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council has agreed to help towards the cost of the goalposts, and it is believed that a resident from the Parish has agreed to donate funds to the village hall to help purchase the goalposts. The Chairman will raise this at a Village Hall Committee meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall Committee to ask if they are responsible for the stream that runs alongside the recreation/play area, as it needs clearing out. Action **Action - Clerk**

Concerns were raised over a skip on a grassed area in the Limes, which is damaging the grass. The Clerk confirmed that the green spaces in the Limes have not been adopted by the Parish Council, they are still the responsibility of Persimmon Homes.

Mr M Smith thanked Cllr Craigmile for arranging a training season with the Police for new volunteers for the Speed Watch Team. It was noted that it seemed that speeding issues are raised at every Parish Council meeting. Mr Smith requested that the excellent report from Cllr Burney giving an update on Flooding matters should be put in the Villager. It was agreed for the Clerk to request this. **Action - Clerk**

**24/103. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Cllr S Rogers, Cllr W Dunlop, Cllr M Mason and Cllr J Odell, plus Dorset Councillors Pothecary and Woode all sent their apologies.

**24/104. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.**

There were none.

**24/105. Co-option for new Councillor**

No one came forward

**24/106. Approve minutes dated the 4th of March 2025**

Cllr Mouncey proposed the Minutes from the meeting dated the 4th of March 2025 this was seconded by Cllr Craigmile, 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:**

**Possible closure of the Trinity Centre in Shaftesbury –** concerns have been raised over the proposal from Dorset Council to close the Trinity Centre. It is felt that the service the Trinity Centre offer to the elderly and under privileged or vulnerable residents, is so important to such residents in Shaftesbury and those in surrounding Villages, for whom that loss of this facility would be very detrimental.. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Dorset Council expressing the Parish Councils and local residents’ objection to the proposed closure of the Trinity Centre. **Action - Clerk**

**Update on to do list –** this was updated on the 8th of April 2025 and circulated to Councillors. The following matters have been updated:

* Clerk is continuing to chase Persimmon Homes regarding adopting the grassed areas in Willow Way and the Limes.
* The managing Director from Low Carbon has apologised for the delay in the in having the MOU signed, which was dure to wan administrative error, which is now being resolved, The Chairman should have the MOU to sign within the next week.
* Cllr Mouncey asked the Clerk to chase up Dorset Council regarding the repairs to the verges along Frog Lane.

**A copy of the to do list can be requested by the Clerk**

**Update on the noticeboards –** The Men Shed in Gillingham have done a great job repairing the notice board at Willow Way and will now repair the noticeboard at the Village Hall.

**24/107. Report from Dorset Councillors**

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

**Cllr Ridout highlighted** – David Sidwick – Police & Crime Commissioner reported that following a one-year trial of road safety signage across North Dorset funded by my Office, the option to use the signs across the Dorset County area has been made possible thanks to the cooperation of Dorset Council Police. The Clerk will contact David Sidwick to find out how the Parish Council can apply for Slow Down signs for the entrances of the Parish. **Action – Clerk**

Cllr Craigmile asked Cllr Ridout to speak to the road safety team/Highway to ensure that their Traffic Regulation Order is up to date, to ensure that speed limits are able to be enforced by the police.

**24/108.** **Finance**

**To agree: Payment Schedule.** The Clerk tabled the payment schedule for March 2025 and end of year totals, which had been approved by Cllr Rogers. Details listed below:



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

**RESOLVED**: to pay the payments for March on the schedule (24/108 – current account)

Cllr Rogers agreed the bank reconciliation via email.

**24/108. Planning - Review of Working Group recommendations.**

**P/NMA/2025/01302 –** Corner Lane Barn – nonmaterial amendment – no objection

**P/PIP/2025/01509** – Land at Paynes Place Farm – erect no 1 dwelling – no objection

**P/HOU/2025/01196 –** Farthings, 40 The Street – replace single glazing to double glazing – no objection

**P/FUL/2025/01246 –** Old Brickyard Farm – Erect no 1 dwelling – change of use – no objection

**P/VOC/2025/01541 -** West of Shaftesbury Road At, Land South of Gillingham – amended plans for 155 dwellings – duly noted

**P/PABA/2025/01977 -** Location: Land at E 383334 N 128181, Lawn Bridge – erect agricultural building – No objection

**24/109. Chairmans report**

Nothing further to report.

**24/110. Officers’ reports**

**Cllr P Mouncey reported the following:**

**Meadows -** Signs are in place explaining why the 'hedge' by the allotments has been felled. Colin House also explains this in the latest Villager, thanking the Parish Council for the work.

**Rights of Way -** Graham Stanley (Dorset Council) has informed that the owner of Frog Lane Farm (Crocker family) had disputed the route of the bridleway through the farmyard. OS maps show the route through the gate between the farm out buildings, but the assumption was that the Martins had asked at some time it to be rerouted via the farmyard. Within a week the revised signposting was in place for the route shown on OS maps.

**Neighbourhood Plan -** In August Dorset Council will be publishing their updated SHLAA that lists sites in Dorset that landowners/developers have submitted for future housing developments. The list will show for each site whether or not it meets Dorset C's criteria for development. This will help the working group to decide whether or not they should instigate a local call for sites or rely on the Dorset list. Obviously, the new target for housing will be crucial, especially in the light of the increased target the Government is seeking to impose on Dorset (and nationally). In the original plan, we used the current SHLAA that was last updated by the old North Dorset District Council. The group (once set up) will also need to decide the extent to which the policies in the current plan remain valid, and where revised or additional policies will be necessary. However, the Labour Government has decided to seek new tenders for delivering grant funding in 2025-26 and beyond for Neighbourhood Plans, instead of continuing with the previous scheme. Will await a decision on this, due this month, as grant funding is essential to undertaking the planned update.

**Cllr R Craigmile reported the following-**

A meeting has been arranged with the environment agency on the 9th of May.

Another meeting will be arranged with Dorset Council Highways team, Dorset Flood Protection, and Cllr Craigmile to discuss the increase of water running down the road on the Hollow. As reported by Cllr Burney in the last meeting, concerns have been highlighted to the appropriate authorities regarding the Redrow Site at Blackmore View, that the infiltration system that has been put in place is not good enough to maintain the water flow. Shaftesbury Town Council has also highlighted the issues.

**24/111. Clerk Report.**

Nothing

**24/112. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – to do list, AGM, APM**

The Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 13th of May 2025 at 7pm in the Pavilion at Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 19.51

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

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