**Motcombe Parish Council**

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

**On Tuesday the 10th of June 2025 at 7.00pm**

**The minutes are not Verbatim**

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

**In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Kerri Jones from This is Alfred. Dorset Councillors Cllr C Woode. There were 48 members of the public present.**

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

***At this point, the Chairman introduced Mark Harding from Enviromena***

Mr Harding gave the following report:

* This is the third time that Enviromena have asked to come to give information on the proposed solar panel farm behind Bittles Green.
* The main points raised from previous public meetings are as follows:
	+ It was felt the Parish are in support of renewable energy
	+ Construction traffic routing through the village. This has now been reviewed, and no construction traffic will be going through the village for the duration of the programme. Permission has been granted for the construction traffic to have access through Hawkers Hill, next to the sub-station for the duration of the construction only. The only time the traffic will be using the access off Motcombe Road, will be after the programme for maintenance.
	+ Potential Visual Impact – this has also been reviewed, and a full landscape strategy plan and landscape visual impact assessment will be included in the planning package. There has also been a reduction of solar modules proposed to be installed.
	+ Loss of agricultural land – Concerns were raised that the land in question would never be used for agricultural land again! It was noted that the planning request is for 40year for the solar panels to be in place, after that, they will have to be removed unless another planning application is approved. There will be an increase in biodiversity net gain (BNG) through additional plating across the site.

*The Chairman withdrew standing orders to allow all to speak.*

The following points were raised by Councillors and members of the public:

* It was noted that at previous public meetings, representatives from Enviromena agreed to contact the adjacent landowner. This has not happened and also there was no mention of how the solar farm could affect the existing flooding problems in some areas of the Parish, which was raised at previous meetings. Mr Harding confirmed that there has been a full flood assessment on the whole of the development land, which anyone will be able to view when the planning application is submitted. Mr Harding did agree to send the report to the resident speaking direct. Mr Harding did state that there is no requirement set out that Enviromena are obliged to contact adjacent landowners, as public meetings have taken place.
* A member of the public suggested that as nuclear power is being approved by Central Government, why would solar or wind power be needed. The solar and wind power operation are here and now, whereas nuclear power stations take a lot of time to construct.
* A question regarding what do the village get out of this project? The Clerk has already approached Mr Harding regarding community benefit funding. Further discussions will take place to ensure that IF Dorset Council approves the planning application, that provisions are in place for the community benefit fund. The Clerk confirmed that any community benefit funding offered, will not be taking into account with any decisions regarding the planning application, it does not stop the Parish Council objecting to the application. The Clerk confirmed that solar farm developers are not obliged to give development (106) contributions, or any community benefit as a part of their planning application.

Enviromena are expected to submit their planning application to Dorset Council in the next few days. Dorset Council will then send the application to the Parish Council and will be available for everyone to view on Dorset Council planning section of their website, and also for you to submit your comments/concerns. The Parish Council will ensure that one the application has been received the details will be publicised throughout the Parish. The Parish Council thanked Mr Harding for taking the time to address the Parish Council and members of the public.

*The Chairman re-instated standing orders*

*Cllr W Dunlop needed to leave the meeting.*

**Public period**

A member of the public expressed the importance of reviewing Motcombe Neighbourhood Development Plan. This will be discussed under agenda item 4.

A member of the public asked if any information has been obtained regarding the caravans sited on the paddock adjacent to the Hunt towards Turnpike. The Clerk confirmed that at the Parish Council in May residents had questioned the legality of the caravans sited on the paddock and requested that Dorset Council planning enforcement where informed. The Clerk confirmed this has taken place.

**25/16. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Dorset Councillors Pothecary and Ridout sent their apologies.

**25/17. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.**

There were none.

**25/18. Co-option for new Councillor**

Mr Mark Hurst asked to be co-opted for role as Councillor for Motcombe Parish Council.

Mr Hurst expressed he is very interested in supporting the village in any way he can and is very interested in helping with review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr Stacey, proposed for Mr Hurst to be co-opted on as Councillor, this was seconded by Cllr Mouncey, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: Mr Mark Hurst is co-opted for the role of Councillor for Motcombe Parish Council (25/18 – no budgetary requirements)

**25/19. Approve minutes dated the 13th of May 2025**

Cllr Odell proposed the Minutes from the meeting dated the 13th of May 2025 this was seconded by Cllr Stacey, all members in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes from the meeting dated 13th of May 2025 (25/19– no budgetary provision required)

**Matters arising:**

**Update on Neighbourhood Development Plan review –** the Chairman reported that as agreed at the Parish Council meeting in May, a notice was put out to the residents of the Parish, for those that wish to join the steering group to review and update the existing Neighbourhood Development Plan. There was a cut-off date of the 31st of May. Eight residents have come forward and some of the Parish Councillors will also be on the steering group. The Chairman and Clerk will now arrange a meeting with those volunteers to help set up the group, as a constitution needs to be followed, they will need a chairman and recommended a Vice Chairman and a secretary to minute the meetings. If anyone still wishes to help, please contact the Parish Clerk.

**Update on the noticeboards –** The noticeboard at the Village Hall is next on the list for repairing.

**Update on Play Area repairs** – these have now all be completed.

**25/20. Report from Dorset Councillors**

**Dorset Councillors reports are available on the Parish Council website, or a copy can be obtained by the Clerk.**

**25/21.** **Finance**

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



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

**RESOLVED**: to pay the payments for May on the schedule (25/21 – current account)

Cllr Rogers agreed the bank reconciliation.

**25/22. Planning - Review of Working Group recommendations.**

**P/OUT/2025/01834-** 45 The Street - Erection of 1no. dwelling – concerns were raised over the access to the property

**P/FUL/2025/03032** – Hunters Lodge – convert stable into dwelling – No objections

**25/23. Chairmans report**

Noted that Cllr Mason and the Chairman will continue to work on the best action to erect the welcome to Motcombe signs that had been designed by the Children of the Parish, in a competition set 3 years ago. It was originally set, as two of the welcome to Motcombe signs had been damaged and Dorset Council stated they were not going to replace them. A few months later, Dorset Council did replace the signs. The Parish Council also did not have the spare funds to get the signs made. This is why it has taken so long to action.

This will be discussed at the meeting in July.

The Chairman had attended a Transport Forum meeting, where in the past it was suggested that a bus shelter be erected at Elm Hill, but this is not going ahead, however they are looking at improving the turning area.

The car link project is under threat, as the existing volunteers are looking to step down and they need new volunteers to continue running this very well used service. More details can be seen on the link below:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjyvqSNlOmNAxW-TkEAHTw7FLcQFnoECDkQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.shaftesburycarlink.co.uk%2F&usg=AOvVaw2pSyG-zDSj8RHhR1TRk2dM&opi=89978449>

**25/24. Officers’ reports**

**Cllr Odell reported the following:**

Had attended the recent Village Hall Committee meeting. The main points raised were Tickets for the upcoming musical are selling well: the internal lights in the main hall are to be replaced and new car park markings have been laid, to ensure that people do not park to close to the doors.

**Cllr P Mouncey reported the following:**

**Meadows –** the cherry tree and some rowan trees in the front field have either died or are not growing very well. It is suggested that these trees are not suitable for the front field. Cllr Mouncey will obtain advice on what trees would survive better on the soil in the front field and liaise with the Shaftesbury Refugee group who provided the rowans.

**25/25. Clerk Report and additional correspondence.**

The Clerk reported that she received a call from a resident living at North End, Motcombe. The resident had contacted Dorset Council to request they erect slow and horse warning signs up, as there are no pavements along the roads and it is being used a lot more by normal and heavy traffic than it used to. The resident is concerned over the safety of young children, as they are forced to walk on the road. The resident was informed that they need to contact the Parish Council. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to Dorset Council road safety team to request more signage for this area. **Action – Clerk**

Another matter was raised, that the Parish Council consider a memorial to Mr Tom Crabbe, and a suggestion of if any development takes place within the Parish, to consider naming one of the roads after Mr Crabbe.

**25/26. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – to do list, Welcome to Motcombe Signs - NDP**

The Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 8th of July 2025 at 7pm in the Pavilion at Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.49

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

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