

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2024 AT 7.15 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Councillors Steve Murcer (SM), Ken Huggins (KH), Martin Richards (MR), Ivana Booker (IB), Liz Stockley (LS) and Neil Robson (NR); Dorset Council councillor Pauline Batstone (PB); Members of the public – 7; Wessex Water - 2; **Minutes:** Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk.

001/24 - Apologies: Received from Val Rubie (VR)

002/24 - Declarations of interest: MR declared a pecuniary interest regarding Neighbourhood Plan matters

003/24 – Adoption of the minutes of the meetings held on 12th December 2023: The minutes were approved as drafted.

004/24 – Matters arising from these minutes: None

005/24 – Public open session: No comments

006/24 – Wessex Internet (WI) – i) presentation from Christine O’Grady (COG) and Meg Moore

(MM) on plans to install full fibre broadband in the village: COG explained the background to the Government providing funding for the installation of full fibre broadband (Ffb) in rural communities. WI has contracts to instal this in a number of communities across Dorset and Somerset. Ffb is much faster and more reliable than the old copper links. Community engagement is just starting and there is a target for the infrastructure installation to be complete by the end of July with household connectivity following on behind in a matter of weeks. WI will be publicising the project and asking people to register their interest. Hopefully most of the cabling will be underground using moles and drills, but some locations will need the installation to piggy-back existing overhead cables, poles etc. Any road closures will be as a last resort and only last for a day or two.

MW had met with Ruby Whitmarsh (RW) earlier in the day to discuss the route around Alec’s Field. RW is responsible for the main infrastructure around the village whilst MM will deal with connectivity to individual properties. Local amenities such as the village hall and pavilion can have a special deal at £1 per month. Usually this would be one building per project but COG is optimistic that both the village hall and the pavilion should be eligible. **ii) to consider a Discount Agreement or a Wayleave Agreement for the fibre access around Alec’s Field:** The route of the cable along the perimeter of much of Alec’s Field and the Keep will be installed largely by moling at a depth of 900mm. A drill taking the cable down 4 meters will be used to go under hedges etc. WI will reinstate surfaces to their pre-installation condition and take liability for any damage to field drains etc. RW anticipates the work being done in June and it should take no more than a day or two. A couple of unobtrusive manholes will be installed near the main gates and the entrance to the allotments. WI pays wayleave compensation. This is a one-off payment of £1 per metre, so approx. £500. The alternative is a discounted rate for connecting the pavilion. The council agreed that the discounted rate was a better long-term choice.

This was a very useful session with WI. They seem keen to be pro-active and helpful and can sometimes provide support and sponsorship for community events. Communication with the community will now begin in earnest – spread the word was their final message.

007/24 – Planning:

a) To consider any planning applications received: None received

b) Neighbourhood Plan – update on progress: Dorset Council’s consultation on the revised Plan closes on 12th January 2024. DC advise that, so far, no comments have been received. Arrangements are in hand to appoint an Examiner.

c) Mr A Moore – update on proposals for a development by the Red Barn shop before submission of a potential planning application to Dorset Council: A report from Jo Witherden, the parish council’s

planning consultant, had been received just before the meeting. Councillors will need to consider the report before a response is sent to Mr Moore.

008/24 – Finance:

i) to approve accounts for payment: The following payments were approved:

Cheque	Payee		Net	VAT	Total
SO	IKServices	Dog bin emptying	£150.15		£150.15
DD	Dorset Council	Cemetery rates	£19.00		£19.00
1526	M Wilson	Jan pay	£470.35		£470.35
1527	M Wilson	Expenses	£174.75		£174.75
1528	Dorset Planning Ltd	N Plan consultancy	£829.85	£165.97	£995.82
	Motley				
1530	Digital Ltd	Web host, certification	£253.40	£50.68	£304.08

ii) update on Section 106 community funding: MW will submit an application for the pv panels once we have a decision on the Capital Leverage grant, so we know how much to apply for.

iii) to note the bank reconciliation and financial summary as at the end of December 2023: This had been circulated and was agreed and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that £15k of reserves had been moved to a fixed deposit with Lloyds Bank, maturing in February 2015, at an interest rate of 5.08%

009/24 – Website and social media – update: Vanessa Weddell confirmed things were ticking over nicely.

010/24 - Climate and ecological emergency update: Next meeting is on 16th January 2024

011/24 - Footpath and highways matters: i) **“gateway” at Park Gate:** DC has still to provide a costing ii) **SID device maintenance:** The battery needs recharging. MW will deliver it to MR who has kindly agreed to help iii) **Closure of Glue Hill:** PB has asked if changes could be made to working and access arrangements to better accommodate the needs of residents and those travelling to Sturminster Newton, but to no avail. The road will be closed for 6 weeks to allow SGN to instal a new gas main.

012/24 – The Keep – update on meadow and future strategy for the land: Nothing new to report.

013/24 - Recreation Field - to note any Committee minutes and actions arising: The next Committee meeting is on Tuesday 16th January 2024

014/24 – Village Hall – report: IB suggested MW advise the insurers of the change to the heating system at the hall. He will do so, and see if there is any premium adjustment.

015/24 – Defibrillator site in Kingston: John Lewis had prepared a report on the possible sites – this had been circulated. The Standing’s site at Kingston Corner Farm is most suitable. It will need a cabinet to be purchased and installed, total cost in the region of £1k. The electricity usage should be small, but MW will ask if the householders, the Standings, require reimbursement in any shape or form.

017/24 - Report from Dorset Council Cllr Batstone: PB is hosting an open meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner at 6.30pm on Tuesday 16th January at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton. Community priorities for policing in rural areas will be to the fore. Dorset Council has completed its budget process which will see a rise in Council Tax of almost 5%.

018/24 - Public open session: Ian Stevenson enquired of the progress being made by the community resilience group – there has been none recently. Robbie Booker mentioned another road closure by Wessex Water, this time from Kingston Cross to Military Lane. This is a closure for 5 hours maximum.

019/24 – Correspondence to note: None

020/24 – Date of next meeting: This will be on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.15pm in the village hall

021/24 – Close of meeting: With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm