

## **STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at  
7.30pm on Zoom

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. Miss H Palmer; Cllr M Steel; Cllr Mrs S Cade; Cllr Jackson; Cllr H Fookes; Cllr S Gerry Cllr A Godfrey and Cllr L Seare

Also in attendance: Clerk Mrs Alison Clothier; Dorset Cllr R Cook

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC** – There were 62 members of the public present.

The Chairman of the Council outlined how the meeting would run for those who had not attended before.

15 members of the public present spoke and made the following points:

### **DORSET LOCAL PLAN**

- A member of the public spoke about the village survey carried out by a group of local residents. There were 311 responses to the survey, the large majority of whom wanted to see less than 200 new homes in the village. It was stated that Dorset Council do not have exceptional circumstances to release the Green Belt. The member of the public put forward an alternative strategy which proposes one site (Station Road) of 100-150 dwellings. As mitigation for the loss of the Green Belt a range of proposals were put forward including joining the North-South section of the Trailway.
- A member of the public asked about putting an ACV on the Golf Course. The Golf Course is very well used and has a high community value for players. This group are looking for ways to raise funds to purchase the course and want to work in partnership with the Parish Council.
- There are not exceptional circumstances for building in the Green Belt and the Local Plan proposals will completely alter the character of the settlement.
- Objection to the proposal to build 10 houses on Bartons Ground as part of the Golf Course site. This area of land is very valuable to local people. Bartons Ground acts as a national wetland and access is very difficult. Would like to see a designation of Local Greenspace.
- Welcomed support of the Parish Council in objecting to the Golf Course inclusion in the Local Plan. The allocation is contrary to policies in the National Planning Policy Framework. The course is not surplus to requirements and there are no suitable alternative sites.
- Concerns were raised over the environmental impact of building 425 new homes. Soil and greenspaces absorb carbon and help slow climate change. They are also a lifeline for wildlife and help mental and physical health.
- The importance of the golf club for young people was highlighted as it offers training and lessons. This helps with mental health for young people.
- The traffic on White Mill Bridge is an issue as this is not designed for heavy traffic.
- The recreational aspect of the Golf Course has been played down – it is a very well used open space.
- The golf club caters for older players and the loss of this would impact on the health of this generation of players.
- The course is also an important resource for lady players.

### **CHURCHILL ARMS (PLANNING APPLICATION 3/20/2184/FUL)**

- A local pub owner spoke about the Churchill Arms – they are very interested in buying and running the establishment. They have assessed that the business is

	<p>viable and have presented evidence to argue this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member of the public spoke in objection to planning application 3/20/2184/FUL (The Churchill Arms). The last set of accounts for the business was not filed at Companies House. Dorset Council need to seek independent advice regarding the viability of the business.</li> <li>• It was questioned that if this application was approved, how long would it be before an application for a larger number of dwellings was put forward.</li> <li>• Concern was raised that this application was being used to delicense the pub and then a larger application would follow.</li> </ul>	
1	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES – MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.</u></b> There were no apologies.</p>	
2	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b> There were none.</p>	
3	<p><b><u>POLICE REPORT</u></b> The reports were circulated before the meeting and are attached as <b>Appendix 1.</b></p>	Clerk
4	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b> The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved as true record of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b> A report from the Clerk which had been circulated was read by the Clerk and is attached to these minutes as <b>Appendix 2.</b> Ongoing issues from the Clerks Report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Pill Box</li> <li>ii. Playground</li> <li>iii. Highways matters</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b><u>DORSET LOCAL PLAN</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) A draft response to the Local Plan was circulated to Councillors before the meeting and placed on the Parish Council website. This is a good basis but there is a need to add comments regarding the loss of a facility in relation to the Golf Course. It also needs to be made more explicit that the Neighbourhood Plan might suggest alternative sites.</li> <li>ii) Corfe Mullen joint response – Clerk to find more details of what would be involved in this.</li> </ul>	Clerk  Clerk
7	<p><b><u>COVID 19</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The work of the volunteer group has largely stopped. The link with the Corfe Mullen food bank remains with a volunteer delivering food there from the Co-Op on a weekly basis.</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b><u>AMENITIES AND FACILITIES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i Pill Box – a planning application has now been approved for the interpretation sign. Clerk has had no response from the National Trust but will continue to chase progress.</li> <li>ii Playground –Huck have carried out the repairs the whirling climbing</li> </ul>	

	<p>frame. The new toddler equipment will be fitting on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> March – Clerk to put up a notice to say the playground will be shut on those dates.</p> <p>iii. Noticeboards – the cork for the noticeboards has now been ordered and will be installed in Spring.</p> <p>iv. Churchill Close Green – the No Parking signs will be put up as soon as possible</p> <p>v. Maypole Green – the work will take place in Spring 2021.</p> <p>vi. Johnnies Ditch – no update.</p> <p>vii. Footpaths – the meeting with the Highways team took place on 26<sup>th</sup> February regarding the bridleway at Mapperton. The downgrading of an unclassified road has not taken place successfully in the County recently so some research needs to be carried out on what will be involved. This will cost about £3000.</p> <p>viii. Churchill Arms – the application for an ACV was discussed and it was resolved to move ahead with another application.</p> <p>ix. Bartons Ground – it was agreed to sign the statutory declaration and resign the lease.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9	<p><b><u>ENVIRONMENT</u></b></p> <p>i. Bins/Clothes banks – school recycling bin – a response from Dorset property has been received and they have no issue in principle but would need to see details of the agreement. Clerk to pass on to the School Society.</p> <p>ii. Drainage Ditches – a quote was received from CF Selby and Son which totalled £1,080 to clear the ditch at Moor Lane. This was agreed. In the exceptionally circumstances and with the risks of meeting contractors on site at present it was agreed to progress with only one quote. CF Selby and Son have carried out a lot of work for the Parish Council.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
10	<p><b><u>TRAFFIC &amp; TRANSPORT</u></b></p> <p>i. A31/A350 – the A31 road closures are finished. Clerk to report loose manhole cover on the A31 near the roundabout. Road closure at Spetisbury postponed.</p> <p>ii. Highways – potholes – Clerk to ask the Community Highways Officer to conduct a survey of the village as there are many potholes. White lines at Church Street also need to be repainted. The tree on the road between Almer and Mapperton has still not been cut back.</p> <p>iii. SID – sites are confirmed and order placed with Dorset Council. To be delayed until after September</p> <p>iv. Removal of verge at King Street – Dorset Council Highways to action.</p> <p>v. Sign at Almer – Clerk contacted sign shop about wording on the sign.</p> <p>vi. Bailie Gate Roundabout – cut complete.</p> <p>vii. Road Closures – Dullar Lane closed on 9<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>viii. Surfacing at Stourfield, Back Lane – a meeting took place with Highways and the Tree Officer and they are going to send their advice through in writing.</p> <p>ix. Aspen Tree, Church Street – this will be cut back. Clerk to notify SSE/BT.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11	<p><b><u>REPORTS</u></b></p> <p>To receive reports from representatives of the following:</p> <p>i. Alms House Charity – nothing to report.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Memorial Hall – a meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March to discuss timescales for reopening. An opinion was sought on planting trees on the piece of land at the front of the car park.</li> <li>iii. Sports Association – there was a discussion regarding the future of the Sports Association as it was originally formed when there was both a Cricket Club and Football Club in the village. A meeting will be held with the Football Club to discuss roles.</li> <li>iv. P A C T – nothing to report</li> <li>v. DAPTC - nothing to report.</li> <li>vi. Flood Wardens – nothing to report.</li> <li>vii. Dorset Councillor – see <b>Appendix 3</b>.</li> </ul>	
12	<p><b><u>FINANCE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Accounts for payment. To invoices and approve payments as per Schedule of payments. These invoices will be paid via bank transfer and the PDFs of the transfer will be printed out.</li> <li>ii. 2021 Insurance Renewal – Clerk to seek three quotes.</li> <li>iii. Parish Council online bank card - following consultation with the auditor is has been concluded that we can carry on authorising payments using the current system. This will be reviewed again at the next audit.</li> <li>iv. Risk Assessment and Asset Register – Clerk to send Asset Register to all Councillors for examination.</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Dorset Council have acknowledged the delay in the transfers and aim to have these resolved by the end of the financial year.</li> </ul>	
14	<p><b><u>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The Site Assessment Technical package is now moving forwards and should be finished by mid March.</li> <li>ii) The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Local Greenspace Study and Footpaths and Cycleways Study are all underway. The next step will be an Options Consultation in Summer 2021.</li> </ul>	
15	<p><b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golf Course ACV – the first step will be establishing whether there is a group in the community that be willing to purchase the Golf Course if it is granted an ACV.</li> <li>• Draft Fire and Rescue Community Safety Plan – noted.</li> </ul>	
16	<p><b><u>PARISH MATTERS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Parish Council meeting was suspended at 9.02pm whilst the Planning Committee took place. See minutes 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for details.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Parish meeting re-convened at 9.22pm</u></b></p>	
17	<p><b><u>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u></b> – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm</p> <p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.24</p> <p>Signed _____ Chairman 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.</p>	

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