

# The Orchards and Margaret Marsh Group Parish Council

The minutes of the 156<sup>th</sup> meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Manston Village Hall.

**These minutes do not constitute a true record until ratified at the next meeting of the Parish Council**

**Present:** Cllr M Bone, Cllr T Cox, Cllr B Dawe-Lane, Cllr T Craven, (Chairman), Cllr Mrs V Stokes.

**In attendance:** R Jacques (Clerk), Mr R Bell (Dorset Council Highways) and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** County Cllr J Stomper.

**31. Declaration of Interests:** The following declarations were made:

- Cllr T Craven: Submission of a planning application (minute 36. f)
- Cllr Mrs V Stokes: Receipt of Parish Warden expenses (minute 37. vi)

**32. Highway Matters:**

Cllr T Craven (Chairman) welcomed Mr R Bell from Dorset Council Highways to the meeting and thanked him for his prompt attention to the recent road repairs in East Orchard. The Chairman invited Mr Bell to provide an update on the local highways' situation. Mr Bell reported that the very wet weather over the winter period has resulted in many local roads being affected by superficial short-term flooding caused by blocked gullies and crushed verges. The flooding has resulted in the tarmac lifting in places and pot-holes forming. He advised that the major repairs to be done locally will be on Kit Hill and at Guys Marsh and that tar and chipping will take place on the local C and D roads during the summer to cover minor road repairs. He expressed concern about the situation at Pipers Mill where a complete upgrade of the system is required, which is a capital project, and one that Dorset Council has not scheduled yet. It is now becoming urgent.

With regard to the flooding at Margaret Marsh, Mr Bell reported that he will investigate to establish if there is anymore that Highways can do to resolve the issue.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bell for attending the meeting.

**33. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019:** Cllr T Cox proposed **“that the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 should be approved as a correct record of that meeting”**. Cllr B Dawe-Lane seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

**34. Matters Arising:**

Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Parties May 2020 nominations: The **Chairman** informed the Council that the nomination of a local resident provided by **Cllr Mrs V Stokes** at the last meeting had been submitted to DAPTC but it could not be processed as nominations of local council members only are accepted by them. However, their advice was to contact the Lord Lieutenant's Office, this was done and the nomination has been submitted to his office for consideration for the 2021 Garden Party.

**35. To receive the Dorset Council report from Councillor Jane Somper:** Cllr J Somper had sent her apologies prior to the meeting. The Clerk had not received a report from her.

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### 36. **Planning Applications:** a – d applications had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and no objections had been raised.

- a. Arthur's Barn Cottage EO 2/2019/1743/CPE closing date 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (circ. 17/01/20). Lawful development certificate to continue using as a dwelling.
- b. Spreadeagle Cottage, Hartgrove 2/2020/0034/MODPO closing date 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (circ. 22/01/20). To transfer Agricultural Occupancy Condition from Hartgrove Farm to Spreadeagle Cottage.
- c. Steps House EO 2/2019/1119/LBC closing date 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (circ. 22/01/20). Internal and external alterations and structural repairs to enable rethatching.
- d. Orchard Farm EO 2/2020/0003/CPE closing date 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (circ. 29/01/20). Lawful development certificate for existing use.

e-f applications were received after the agenda deadline and were tabled at the meeting: The Councillors discussed both applications and no objections were raised.

- e. The Old School EO 2/2020/0113/HOUSE closing date 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Erect self-contained log cabin as annex to main dwelling.
- f. Lakers Church Lane EO 2/2020/0120/HOUSE closing date 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Erect 2 ground floor extensions (Demolish conservatory).

*Mr R Bell left the meeting at 8.00pm*

### 37. **Finance:**

a. To approve the following gross payments:

- (i) Manston Hall Hire £14
- (ii) DAPTC Clerk's Conference £70
- (iii) Payment to Normtech as agreed 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 £700 (paid Dec)
- (iv) Clerk's Net Salary from September 2019 to February 2020 inclusive £378.90
- (v) Clerk's expenses from September 2019 to February 2020 inclusive £46.43
- (vi) Parish Wardens expenses for the current Financial Year £225
- (vii) Vision ICT £54

Cllr M Bone proposed **“that cheques to the gross value of £788.33 should be approved for payment today and the £700 paid in December 2019”**. Cllr B Dawe-Lane seconded and the vote was unanimous.

b. To consider Section 137 Grant awards to the following organisations:

- (i) Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance
- (ii) North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau
- (iii) St John's Ambulance

The Chairman reported that previous minutes show the Council has awarded grants to 3 organisations in the past. He invited discussion as to whether the Council should award grants to all three of the above, two of them or other organisations not listed. He asked the members to note that Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) had received a donation from the Dorset Council. **Cllr Mrs V Stokes** asked if the donation was made to the Dorset area of CAB or to the North Dorset division. The Chairman believed it to be to the CAB nationally, not for a specific region. **Cllr Mrs V Stokes proposed “that Grant awards of £100 each should be made to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and St John Ambulance”**. Cllr M Bone seconded and the vote was unanimous.

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### 38. Correspondence:

Digital Champions: The Clerk issued promotion cards from Digital Champions, a Dorset Council IT support organisation, for the Councillors to distribute to any residents in the area that may need support with IT issues. The service is provided free of charge.

### 39. Educational Endowment Foundation: The Chairman reported that the fund had arisen from the sale of the East Orchard School House in the 1980s and that the Salisbury Diocese had been appointed trustees of the fund. The Clerk had contacted the Diocese to ask how the fund could be accessed by local residents. She read the following email reply that she had received from Catherine Griffin the Business Manager at the Salisbury Diocese...

*'I can confirm that this fund was closed by Order of the Secretary of State in 1990 and the funds were transferred to the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education for the benefit of the whole Diocese of Salisbury.*

*There is an East Orchard Sunday School fund, the trustees of which are the Vicar and Churchwardens of the parish and the income from this goes to the parish for Sunday School use.'*

The Council expressed disappointment with the outcome particularly at the lack of consultation or communication from the Salisbury Diocese about the Educational Endowment Foundation and that local children who could have benefitted from the fund are not able to access it. The papers relating to the Foundation were given to Cllr Mrs V Stokes who will deliver them to the Church Warden.

### 40. Councillor's Reports:

a. Chairman: Northern Area of the DAPTC Meeting: The Chairman attended the meeting in January. He reported that the following points were discussed during the meeting:

- Membership Fees of the DAPTC
- New DAPTC website
- The retirement of the DAPTC CEO
- Climate Emergency Declaration
- Neighbourhood plans
- Provision of adults and children social services

b. Cllr T Cox: Dorset Council Planning Event: Cllr T Cox attended the meeting in February and reported that the Dorset Council is encouraging local councils to have a Neighbourhood or Local Plan, but the cost of producing them is very high. Cllr T Cox expressed the view that, after discussion with other delegates at the meeting, a letter should be sent from the Orchards and Margaret Marsh Group Parish Council to the Planning Department at the Dorset Council outlining its position on limiting the type of planning applications that will be accepted by the Parish Council. Specifically, that the applications would be limited to small developments and infilling because of the lack of amenities and infrastructure within the Parish Council boundary. He felt that the letter should outline the Parish Council's views on development in advance of the Dorset Council imposing planning decisions on it because their own development targets had not been met in the larger towns and villages.

**Cllr B Dawe-Lane** asked if the lack of facilities e.g. school, village hall etc would be taken into account by the Dorset Council. **Cllr T Cox** replied that residential development should be within 15 minutes drive of a school and Fontmell Magna Primary School is less than that from the Parish Council boundary.

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Discussion took place about social and affordable housing and the Councillors did not reach an agreement about whether the provision of such housing within the Parish Council boundary would be appropriate or desirable.

The Chairman thanked Cllr T Cox for his report and asked him to draft a letter to the Dorset Council for approval by the Councillors.

**41. Matters Pertinent:**

- Novel Coronavirus: COVID-19: The Clerk tabled a letter that she had received from the National Joint Council for local government services, which gave website links where information and advice can be obtained about the virus.
- The Clerk confirmed that she had completed the Re-declaration confirmation from The Pensions Regulator.
- Accessibility Statement and Compliance: The Clerk confirmed that she had received confirmation from Vision ICT that an Accessibility Statement is now on the Parish Council's website and that the website is compliant with the Accessibility legislation.

**Date of next meeting-** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Closure:** The meeting closed at 8.23 pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman                      Date\_\_\_\_\_