

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM IN
THE TOWN HALL**

Present: Mr J Farley (Chair), Mr M Ritchie, Mr C Laughton, Mr E Davis, Mrs P Alexander, Mrs M Lock, Mr R Lockey, Mrs W House, Mr R Biss and Mr J Edmonds

Also Present: Emma Curtis – Clerk
Lynette Osment – SSDC Enforcement Officer

Public Question Time

There were 7 members of the public in attendance, all present to object to agenda item 8.1 and the planning application for Land Off Higher Kingsbury Close. Letters of objection were passed to the Clerk prior to the meeting commencing.

One gentleman spoke to raise the three main issues of objection were the land being a natural habitat, transportation issues and access issues via a cul-de-sac.

Mr Edmonds commented on the state of the roads around Milborne Port being in bad condition.

Receive any reports from District Councillor Lucy Wallace, County Councillor William Wallace and PCSO Callum Davis

No reports received

- 1. Apologies for Absence were received from** Mrs R Douglas, Mr R Duckworth, Mrs S Shingleton, PCSO Callum Davis, District Councillor Lucy Wallace and County Councillor William Wallace
- 2. Declaration of Interest were received from** Mr Laughton, agenda item 8.1, resident of Higher Kingsbury Close and Mr Farley, agenda item 9.1, cheque payment for reimbursement of Christmas Tree.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th November 2013 were** agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

At this point in the meeting Mr Farley asked the Council if he could add an item to the agenda under item 9, Finance, to discuss the Precept. All agreed.

4. Dog Issues – Memorial Playing Fields

4.1 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk informed the Council that although six new dog waste bins had been ordered for the Memorial Playing Fields, the order had been cancelled as South Somerset District Council would not empty them, even if the individual bins were emptied and placed near the existing dog waste bin that they currently empty. Mr Davis expressed on behalf of the Playing Fields Committee that they were upset by this as they felt that some progress was being made. After a long discussion with members of the Parish Council offering to empty the bins, it was agreed to go ahead and order the bins, but at the reduced number of four, and try to find an alternative bin contractor to empty the bins.

Action – Clerk to order four new dog waste bins and seek contractor to empty them.

4.2 Lynette Osment – Enforcement Officer SSDC

Lynette attended the meeting to answer questions from the public regarding dog fouling at the Memorial Playing Fields and expressed her disappointment that no members of the public concerned about the issue were present.

Lynette explained that although the Parish Council would be ordering new dog waste bins, there was no guarantee that they would be used. She went on to say that at times when she was on duty and patrolled the playing fields, there was little sign of a dog fouling problem, however, she did acknowledge that she had been informed that some kind members of the public did go around the fields removing the faeces. In an ideal world she would ask that this kindness be stopped so that she could assess the issue accurately. The Council questioned the time of her patrols of the area, and asked that she be present in the mornings to witness the fouling.

It was also explained by Lynette that if the Parish Council were to seek an alternative bin contractor to empty the bins, that they should be an authorised waste carrier. She also stressed that for the Parish Council to have any sort of impact on the irresponsible owners, that they would need to enforce the dogs on leads requirement at the playing fields.

It was agreed at the end of Lynette's discussion for the Clerk to write to the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) to find out if the dog fouling issue is nationwide, in which case, this could be referred to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and finally central government to see if they could help.

Action – Enforcement Officer to patrol the playing fields early morning and the Clerk to write to SALC.

5. Highways Issues

5.1 Highways Improvements

Mr Laughton who had volunteered to lead this, confirmed that the Transportation Group would be meeting after Christmas and an update would be available at the January meeting. He gave a brief outline on what they would be concentrating on.

Mrs Alexander and Mrs Lock commented on the condition of West Hill and that Philip Lock had gained all the information and pricing required to cover it with mesh. It was proposed by Mrs Alexander and agreed by all to go ahead with the covering of mesh at West Hill and to complete any replanting of flowers when necessary.

As Transportation and Highways issues have been an ongoing project for so long, and many options have been rejected by the Parish Council, Mrs Alexander expressed her concern that the Parish Council was alienating people in the village who want and are prepared to help make the village a better place, in particular Philip Lock who had completed hours of research and dedicated time to the project. It was requested that the Clerk formally thank him for his help.

Action – Work to commence at West Hill and Clerk to email Mr Lock

5.2 Community Self Help Scheme/Warden

The Clerk gave a brief introduction to the Community Self Help Scheme and passed all information over to Mr Laughton for possible use within the Transportation Group.

6. Disabled parking spaces near the High Street

Mr Farley informed the Council that he had been approached by a member of the public requesting that there be some parking provision along or near to the High Street for disabled drivers. After a discussion about suitable places it was agreed to reinstate the disabled car parking space already allocated on South Street by relining it and placing a sign to indicate its use, and also to introduce a new disabled parking space in the Weighbridge car park outside the garages which belong to the Commonalty Trust, again with a marked out space and sign on a pole.

Action – Clerk to request Highways mark out the allocated spaces and provide appropriate signage

7. Cricket Pavilion Update

Mr Farley informed the meeting that the contract had been let too a local contractor who would be using local suppliers and work on the new Cricket Pavilion would commence on 15th January 2014 and would take approximately 16 weeks. Mr Davis commented that there may be a problem with the drains not being deep enough and confirmed that the area surrounding the site would be fenced off. Mr Farley asked the Council for permission to add an extra cheque to agenda item 9.1 for the amount of £5,038 to Viridor Credits who are helping to fund the project. This cheque payment is for match funding. All agreed to sign and send the payment.

8. Planning

8.1 The following **Planning Application** was considered:

As a declaration of interest had been made, prior to the following planning application being considered, the Chairman allowed Mr Laughton to make a speech on the application which gave background and history of the site dating back 31 years. All background applications had been objected too by the Parish Council and planning refused. Mr Laughton took no further part in the discussion and did not vote on the matter.

13/04830/OUT Outline planning application for 10 dwellings with all matters reserved except for means of access, layout and scale
Land off Higher Kingsbury Close

The Council requested the Clerk respond to this planning application as follows:

The Parish Council objects to the application mainly on access and transportation issues as there is no adequate access through the close and development on the designated plot of land would exacerbate transportation issues. The Parish Council wishes to add they unanimously support local residents in their objections to this proposal. The original permission granted for the development of Higher Kingsbury Close provided clearly that it would be a close and it is essential that it remains so. The Council strongly requests this application is refused."

8.2 The following **Agricultural Application** was noted:

13/04551/AGN Creation of road between Old Bowden Way and Everlanes Cover to create access to woodland
Land off Old Bowden Way
For information only – Prior Approval is not required

9. Finance

Precept – Added to the agenda with prior approval

Mr Farley gave details of the estimated figures for the Council Tax Benefit Grant and Tax Base and on the basis of these figures Mr Davis proposed the precept was confirmed at £55,000 this was seconded by Mr Lockey and agreed by all.

Action – Clerk to request precept of £55,000

9.1 The following Payments were approved:

Mr J Farley – Christmas Tree reimbursement	£260
Mrs E Curtis – Petty Cash	£50
Lifestyle Landscapes – Gardening Labour	£143.93
Wessex Water	£63.71
KM Dike – Ground maintenance contract	£944.12
Crackmore Garage	£20.67
Wessex Water	£370.72
Viridor Credits	£5038

9.2 The following **Direct Debit** was noted:

Plusnet Broadband	£9.99
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9.3 Bank Transfer Request

The Clerk was given permission to transfer electronically £15,000 from the Parish Council Savings Account to its Current Account.

10. The following **Correspondence** was noted:

- Email from George Crudginton regarding Footpaths and use of Shotguns
Clerk to follow this up with SSDC
- Response from Phil Poulton, SSDC Tree Officer, regarding felling of Cypress Tree
- Consultation – Proposed Main Modifications to the Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan 2006 – 2008
- South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report and request for funding

11. The date of the next Full Council Meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 21st January 2014.**