

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 7pm at the Town Hall

Present: Mr J Oldham (Chair), Mr M Ritchie, Mr R Tizzard, Mr R Douglas, Mrs A Flynn, Mrs M Lock, Mr P Lock, Mr C Laughton, Mr I Stewart, Mr T Campbell, Mr I Stewart and Mr G Crudgington

Also Present: County Councillor William Wallace
Emma Curtis – Parish Clerk

Public Question and Comment Time:

There were 24 members of the public present.

A lady commented that the Parish Council Standing Orders on the website were not accurate. The Clerk commented that she believed they were and asked which website the lady has been looking on. The Clerk confirmed she would check the link.

A gentleman read a statement in relation to the Parish Council's response to the amended Redcliffe Homes planning application which concluded with asking all Parish Councillors three questions. The gentleman formally requested that a copy of his statement be added to the minutes and requested Mr Oldham put a vote to Council that they are included. Mr Oldham stated that no vote would be taken as it was not an item of business on the agenda. The Clerk commented she would add a copy of the statement as an appendix to the minutes (Appendix A)

Another man stated he endorsed every word in the statement read out and that he had just attending a CPRE meeting in Sherborne where he had learned they would be objecting to both planning applications within Milborne Port. He commented that the village needed greenfield sites and that the traffic problem within the village was acute.

Another man stated that if the Conservation Areas within the village are changed then part of the Redcliffe Homes site would be within a Conservation Area and questioned whether the planned development would therefore be on appropriate land.

A representative from the PCC stated she was present in connection with agenda item 7 to explain that the churchyard pathways were treacherous and required maintenance work. The lady explained the two phases of the project and the specification and requested that the Parish Council consider both phases of the project when considering the tenders.

The gentleman who had read the statement asked Mr Oldham if he would get Parish Councillors to answer the three questions raised individually, Mr Oldham commented he would not. A man questioned why not, stating that the Parish Council should represent the whole village. A man clarified that it was not meant to ask councillors at the meeting to answer the questions. Mr Stewart suggested that the three questions be put as a matter of business on the next agenda to be considered. He went on to explain his frustration with planning law and regulations and that as SSDC had failed to meet its planning targets the limit for housing within South Somerset may be readjusted. Mr Oldham reminded the gentleman that the Parish Council makes decisions as a corporate body. The gentleman stated that the Parish Council must represent the residents of Milborne Port and that it was clear the residents did not want any further development and that the current written response from the Parish Council on behalf of Milborne Port was in his view not tenable. He

stated that he felt Mr Oldham was rude by responding “OK” to members of the public when he did not agree with them.

Mr Douglas commented that although he was personally wholeheartedly against any further development in the village he thought it was wrong to suggest that that majority of people oppose it as most people did not respond to the Parish Plan survey, so we are not aware of their views. The gentleman responded that it was incorrect to assume that people are in favour of development and that more data was required but based on the data available it was evident that people were not in favour of development. He requested to know whether the Parish Council would write to confirm they oppose the Redcliffe Homes development for clarity to which Mr Oldham responded it was not an agenda item so would not be discussed. Mr Douglas commented that the responses given by the Parish Council provided a strategy for the village coping with the plans if they did succeed and stated he felt the gentleman’s comment was hostile.

A further man mentioned that he wanted a feeling that the Parish Council were representing the people of Milborne Port as it was felt that they do not and although he was grateful for the work Parish Councillors conduct he was disappointed to feel they do not represent the village.

Mr Lock suggested that people researched who owns the different areas of land within the village, as they are owned by separate entities. He felt they were bound to come up for development at some point in the future and stated the village could not just have derelict fields. Mr Oldham commented that the review of the South Somerset Local Plan identified four areas available for development.

Mr Stewart expressed his frustration that the 800 new houses being built in Sherborne were not considered as they were within a different county. He commented that land available for industrial units within the village should be utilised.

At this point Public Question Time concluded and most people vacated the meeting.

Receive any reports from County Councillor William Wallace, District Councillor Sarah Dyke and Parish Councillors:

County Councillor William Wallace – Reported on the recent Ofsted inspection of Children’s Services at Somerset County Council stating that most areas had been graded as “good”. Councillor Wallace also reported on “bed blocking” within Somerset commenting that hospitals within the region had beaten their targets regarding the discharging of patients. To conclude Councillor Wallace confirmed that the SID programme was being withdrawn and suggested a cluster to share a SID with Henstridge and Charlton Horethorne. The Clerk confirmed she would contact the Clerk. Mr Oldham asked about the progress with the requested pedestrian (Puffin) crossing. Councillor Wallace responded that the application was in process and he was due to chase it up.

Action – Clerk to contact Henstridge and Charlton Horethorn Clerk

District Councillor Sarah Dyke – No report received.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Mr Lancaster and District Councillor Sarah Dyke. Reason for absence approved.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Received from Mr Douglas, agenda item 5.1, *neighbouring resident* and Mrs Flynn, agenda items 5.1 and 14.3, *neighbouring resident and cheque payment for spouse's business*.

3. **Minutes of the Full Parish Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 2nd January 2018** after proposal by Mr Stewart and seconded by Mr Campbell, were agreed by all, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. Circulation of the draft **Planning and Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee** minutes dated **Tuesday 16th January 2018** was noted.
5. **Planning**

5.1 The following **Planning Application** was considered:
17/04795/FUL The erection of 2 dwellings with new rear access and parking
Gainsborough Corner, Newtown
No Objections (Mrs Flynn and Mr Douglas abstained from this decision)
- 5.2 The following **Planning Approval** was noted:
17/04383/LBC Carrying out of internal and external alterations to include refurbishment of the old stables, old butler's accommodation, scullery and garage and the erection of an extension to form media/games room
Ven House, London Road
6. **Review and update Action List:** The Action List was reviewed and updated accordingly, and the Clerk was requested to update and circulate following the meeting.
7. **Churchyard pathway update and consider quotations:** The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had £4,000 in the 2017/18 budget for maintenance of the pathways and that the Church had agreed to make up the difference. After thorough consideration of the specification, plans and quotations provided prior to the meeting Mr Lock proposed that the contract be awarded to contractor C. This was seconded by Mr Ritchie and all voted in favour of hiring contractor C to conduct the work. Mr Campbell abstained from this vote. It was therefore resolved to award the contract to contractor C.
Action – Clerk to contact contractor C and ask them to conduct the work once permission from the Diocese has been received.
8. **Consider options for working with Parish Magazine:** Mr Oldham stated that the aim of working more closely with the Parish Council magazine was to try and improve communications within the village by circulating the magazine to all residents. Mr Oldham confirmed that he had been invited to a meeting by the magazine editor but was unable to attend so requested another Parish Councillor to attend the meeting. Mr Lock volunteered to be present at the meeting and report back to the Council. It was therefore resolved that Mr Lock would attend the meeting.
Action – Mr Lock to attend meeting and report back to the Parish Council
9. **Re-election of Parish Council nominated Trustee on Commonalty Charity Lands Committee:** After discussion Mr Lock proposed that to ensure continuity Mrs Alexander was re-elected as a trustee but suggested that she report back to the Parish Council on Commonalty business. This was seconded by Mr Stewart and all voted in favour of re-electing Mrs Alexander. Some Councillors voiced concern that out of the five Parish Council nominated trustees none were Parish Councillors and suggested a meeting be held with the Commonalty Committee to discuss this. It was stated that in the fullness of time it was hoped there would be at least one Parish Council representative on the Commonalty Committee. Prior to this the Clerk was

requested to confirm the names of the other four trustees and when their re-election was due. It was resolved to re-elect Mrs Alexander.

Action – Clerk to inform the Commonalty Charity Lands Committee of Mrs Alexanders re-election and request feedback from Mrs. Alexander following Commonalty meeting. Clerk also to confirm names and re-election dates of other trustees.

10. **Consider Councillor attendance at Church House Meet and Greet Event 10th March 2018:** Mr Oldham requested volunteers to attend the Meet and Greet event and help to update the Welcome Pack information which would be distributed. Mr Oldham, Mrs Lock, Mr Laughton and Mr Douglas volunteered to attend the event with Mrs Flynn and Mr Stewart volunteering to help update the leaflets for the Welcome Pack. It was resolved Mr Oldham would distribute the leaflets for updating and Councillors would attend the Meet and Greet Event.
Action – Mr Oldham to distribute leaflets requiring updating.
11. **Consider Somerset Library Service Consultation:** Mr Oldham referred Councillors to the consultation documents circulated prior to the meeting. The statistics provided by Somerset County Council were considered and it was suggested that the Friends of Milborne Port Library were asked for their data for comparison. The pros and cons of community led libraries were discussed along with where a mobile library may park. To conclude it was resolved to invite the officers from Somerset County Council and the Friends of Milborne Port Library to the next Full Parish Council Meeting.
Action – Clerk to invite Somerset County Council and Friends of Milborne Port Library to the March Full Council Meeting and ask FOMPL to bring any statistics and data.
12. **Update from meeting with Mr Falbo:** Mr Tizzard updated Councillors on a meeting held with Mr Falbo attended by himself, Mr Oldham and the Clerk concerning the piece of land at Springfield Road. Mr Tizzard explained that Mr Falbo was still interested in purchasing the piece of land and the Parish Council had an opportunity to gain financially which may not exist in the future. Mr Tizzard commented that as the land in question was leased to the Playing Fields Management Committee (PFMC) that they should be consulted to seek their agreement and consider how any proceeds may be split. It was felt that a meeting with the PFMC should happen prior to contacting the District Valuer for an accurate valuation. Mr Tizzard proposed that the Parish Council engage with the PFMC prior to contacting the District Valuer and report back to Council. This was seconded by Mr Ritchie and all voted in favour. It was resolved to meet with the PFMC.
Action – Clerk to write to the PFMC to arrange a meeting
13. **Consider options for adverse possession and related matters:** Mr Oldham referred Councillors to the briefing paper he had circulated prior to the meeting outlining the situation to date along with a considerable amount of recent correspondence directed to Councillors from a resident. Mr Oldham stated that following the last meeting the resident had at first been accepting of his offer to meet to discuss their objection to the adverse possession application but that this had since been rejected due to the resident's distrust in Mr Oldham. Mr Oldham commented that the planning application was still in process and that the Clerk had recently submitted new to scale plans. Mr Oldham said he felt it would be worthwhile negotiating with the resident regarding the adverse possession as he did not

understand their objection as gaining ownership would allow the area to be tidied up with the option of moving the shelter. Mr Oldham outlined three suggested ways forward detailed in his briefing paper and these were considered by Councillors in detail. At this point a member of the public asked whether all Councillors had seen their letter of negotiation and offer and asked Mr Oldham to articulate this offer out loud. Mr Oldham refused, stating that councillors had seen the letter. The resident continued that their letter had made it clear which Councillors they would meet with and that they were not prepared to meet with certain Councillors due to their fairly abusive behaviour toward them. Mr Oldham responded that this was not accurate, and the resident had not made clear who they would meet with (post meeting note, resident did define who she would not meet with) and that he took objection to the fact they did not consider his offer to meet and negotiate as sincere. To conclude it was resolved that Mr Stewart and Mr Douglas would meet with the resident to commence negotiations regarding the adverse possession application.

Action – Mr Douglas to arrange meeting with resident

At this point the meeting reached its 2-hour limit as per Standing Order 1Y and Mr Oldham sought approval from Councillors to conclude the business on the agenda. This was agreed by all.

14. Finance

14.1 Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Certified Annual Return for the year ended **31st March 2017** and comments made by the auditor were considered and noted by Councillors. With exception of comments made regarding the shelter, it was noted the audit was satisfactory.

14.2 Circulation of current Financial Statements dated **30th December 2017** was noted.

14.3 The following **Payments** were approved:

Emma Curtis – Burial Fees (Warren)	£20.00
Mrs E Francis – Town Hall Cleaner (December)	£80.00
SSDC – Annual playground inspections Inv: 04510095741	£188.40
Mrs E Francis – Town Hall Cleaner (January)	£100.00
Grant Thornton – Audi Fees Inv: 8776712	£810.00
SSDC – Dog bin emptying Inv: 06000034618	£254.40
Emma Curtis – Microsoft Office OneDrive Subscription	£79.99
K M Dike Nurseries – Grounds Maintenance Inv: 263	£1,006.82
Midwest Office Equipment Ltd – Stationery Inv: 00048871	£42.82
SSDC – Dog bin emptying Inv: 06000034912	£254.40
SSE – Town Hall Electricity Inv: 0012	£26.76
J A Plant Hire – Cemetery paths Inv: 2275	£370.00
SLCC – Membership fees	£147.00
Milborne Port Computers – Domain hosting Inv: 13512	£93.60

14.4 The following **Direct Debits** were noted:

Water 2 Business (Allotments)	£88.75
Water 2 Business (Town Hall)	£45.18
BT – Mobile Phone	£18.00
BT – Broadband and Telephone	£248.47
BT – Mobile Phone	£18.00

15. Correspondence

15.1 The following **Correspondence** was considered:

- Email regarding the Old Telephone Exchange – Clerk to respond
- Letter from the Playing Fields Management Committee regarding Springfield Road Car Park – Clerk and Mr Oldham to draft a response
- Letter from the History and Heritage – Clerk to respond and direct to Mr Lock
- Email from lady wishing to undertake a barber's business at the Town Hall – Clerk to respond with approval

15.2 The following **Correspondence** was noted:

- Speed Indicator Device (SID) results Oct/Nov 2017
- Confirmation of termination of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) Programme
- Letter from Land Registry confirming negotiation period
- Letter from resident regarding Parish Council draft minutes
- Email from Spirit of Milborne Port with accounts and treasurers report

16. **Newsletter and Communications:** It was agreed to publicise the maintenance to the churchyard pathways, cessation of the SIDS programme, library consultation, new barber at the Town Hall, the History and Heritage Group maintaining the cemetery chapel and the public presence at the meeting regarding the planning applications.

17. Confirm the date of the next **Full Parish Council Meeting** as **Tuesday 6th March 2018.**