

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 7pm at the Town Hall

Present: Mrs P Alexander (Chair), Mr M Ritchie, Mr J Oldham, Mr P Lock, Mrs M Lock, Mr R Biss, Mr C Laughton, Mr R Lockey, Mr J Edmonds and Mr T Watts

Also Present: County Councillor William Wallace
District Councillor Sarah Dyke-Bracher
Emma Curtis – Parish Clerk

Public Question Time

There were twelve members of the public in attendance.

Mr Fanning commented that he was present to represent Celia Byrne in regarding to the planning application at 69 South Street. Mr Fanning stressed that Ms Byrne was not opposed to the application but would ask for a few conditions to be considered. These conditions had been laid out in a letter and sent to the planning department at South Somerset District Council.

All other remaining public were present regarding the revised planning application for the Gainsborough Arms. Bob Walden spoke and stressed that it was imperative the Gainsborough Arms remained open as a public house as the village had already lost the Queens Head and the Tippling Philosopher being up for sale meant its future too was uncertain. Mr Walden stated that the Gainsborough Arms is a community asset and it was important that it stays. Mr Walden commented that he felt there was no requirement for a shop so near to the garage and asked that the Parish Council do their best for the community in fighting to ensure the Gainsborough Arms remains as it is.

Another man spoke to reinforce what Mr Walden had said and added that the Gainsborough Arms is now a viable business and the revised plans were purely cosmetic changes.

Mark Gay commented that he felt the allowance on the plans for the access for fixed axle lorries would cause major problems. He added that currently only articulated lorries deliver to the current Coop. Mr Gay went on to say that the new shop would look out of context for the surrounding areas and that a petition had been signed with over 1000 signatures to keep the pub open. Mr Gay stressed that with all the work the Parish Council were putting in to revise the Parish Plan he hoped that they would support members of the public who wished to keep the pub open as a vital part of the community.

Mr Ritchie commented that it was hard to keep pubs open in these times as supermarkets such as Sainsbury's had an impact on them as cheaper beverages were available so people were drinking at home. Mr Gay responded by saying he was disappointed by the Vice Chairman's comment as the public were simply stating their opinions, the comment was out of order and was not relevant to the proposed planning application.

Further comments from members of the public included that the pub is currently open and well used, the location is wrong for a shop and any new shop should be more centralised, potential parking and traffic issues, comments about the revised plans being minor cosmetic changes and a request for the Parish Council, who represent the village, to represent the people and what they want. Mr Watts replied to this comment by saying that the Parish Council has to represent the whole community, consider everyone's and not just a minority. A lady further commented that the village was dying on its feet and that potentially Milborne Port could end up with no pub in the village at all and that many people did not want a new

shop. Mr Watts replied to this that a number of people had told him they did want a new shop and that at the present time, probably the one location for the shop would be at the Gainsborough.

Mr Ritchie stressed that all members of the public who opposed the original plans should write again to the planning department at SSDC to inform them that their comments and opposition still stand which Mrs Alexander agreed was very important.

A further man commented that their feelings were not NIMBYISM.

The discussion concluded with a gentleman asking when the public would be able to question the Parish Council on their response to the planning application. Mr Lockey and Mrs Alexander confirmed that once Public Question Time had finished and the meeting opened that members of the public would not be able to partake in any further discussion or ask any further questions.

Receive reports from County Councillor William Wallace, District Councillor Sarah Dyke-Bracher and PCSO Thelma Mead

County Councillor William Wallace – No report received

District Councillor Sarah Dyke-Bracher – District Councillor Sarah Dyke-Bracher gave a brief report which included informing all present, in case they were not aware, that the planning appeal for the land at Gainsborough had been dismissed at appeal. Councillor Dyke-Bracher went on to say that this was a huge success for the village and congratulated all those who were involved in the fight to stop the application commenting that a strong case had been put together. Councillor Dyke-Bracher further added that she would fully support all those wanting to save the Gainsborough Arms and that she had already spoken with Mr Walden about arranging for the SSDC case officer to come to Milborne Port to speak to those residents opposed to the plans in order to put a strong case together. Councillor Dyke-Bracher went on to say that a new Careline website had been launched giving advice on the Careline service along with support. Councillor Dyke-Bracher concluded by stating that those not registered to vote in the EU Referendum had until midnight to apply to be on the electoral roll.

PCSO Thelma Mead – No report received

Receive any reports from Parish Councillors

Mrs Alexander: Mrs Alexander thanked all Parish Councillors who took part in this year's fete commenting that it was a huge success. Mrs Alexander confirmed that the hanging baskets were now in place and despite the Spirit of Milborne Port starting the activity it was now run by the Parish Council. To conclude, Mrs Alexander brought everyone's attention to the new tables and layout in the Council Chamber and commented that the Parish Council hoped the new layout would ensure the public would feel more part of the meetings.

Mr Oldham: Mr Oldham commented that he had been in touch with an auction house in Sherborne regarding the old George 3rd meeting table. The auction house had stated that as it was damaged it could fetch in the region of £100 - £300. Mr Oldham suggested that the table be added as an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting so it could be considered what to do with the table.

Action – Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

Mr Edmonds: Mr Edmonds stated that as the old table had been at the Town Hall for over 100 years that new Parish Councillors had no right to want to get rid of it. Mr Edmonds went on to say that the Village Hall Management Committee had had a recent change and that

John House who had been Chairman for a number of years was no longer Chairman. Mr Edmonds requested that the Parish Council write to Mr House and thank him for all his hard work over the years. Mr Edmonds went on to say that the Parish Council were spending too much money and that the previous Chairman Mr Farley had put up the precept which had then been increased again and now Milborne Port pay the highest rates in the area. Other Councillors disputed this fact and Mrs Alexander reminded Mr Edmonds that he was talking about Parish Councillors when he himself was one.

Action – Clerk to write a letter to Mr House thanking him for his hard work

Mr Watts: Mr Watts mentioned the table idea was not a new idea and that the layout had been trialled before and failed as people couldn't hear and that if too many people were present at the meeting it would be chaos. Mr Watts stressed that he felt it was too premature to get rid of the old table in case the new layout failed. Mrs Alexander replied that the new tables were modular so could be set up in many different layouts. Mrs Alexander also mentioned that the Parish Council would be getting a microphone system and hearing loop.

Mr Biss: Mr Biss mentioned that there were overgrown trees and hedges at the boom of Wheathill Way and at the junction of Newtown and Gainsborough and asked the Clerk to write to the home owners to ask them to cut them back. Mr Biss also questioned why the voting room at the Village Hall had been moved to the Camelot Suite and was no longer in the main hall. Mr Oldham confirmed that this was a decision of the Returning Officer at SSDC as he felt it was of adequate size so would trial it.

Action – Clerk to write to homeowners regarding hedges

Mr Oldham: Mr Oldham confirmed that the Village Hall Management Committee had held its AGM the previous Monday and that the new Chairman was Cathy Lancaster but that Mr House was still on the committee. Mr Oldham gave feedback on a planning course he had been on recently commenting that it was informative and gave advice on how Parish Councils should base their observations by considering various material items on a planning application.

Mr Watts: Mr Watts as District Councillor Dyke-Bracher whether she thought the dismissed planning application for land at Gainsborough would be resubmitted. Councillor Dyke-Bracher commented that she did not know but would try to find out but that the decision would be entirely up to the developers. Mr Oldham stated that the report said it had been mainly refused on heritage grounds and that this impact would be the same no matter how the plans were changed.

Mrs Alexander asked for permission to move agenda item 11.1 up the agenda to after agenda item 3. This was agreed by all.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Received from Mr I Stephenson and Mrs A Flynn
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Received from Mr R Lockey, agenda item 13, *neighbour of Mrs Stringer*
- 3. Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016** were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

11.1 The following **Planning Application with Amended Plans/Additional information** was considered:

15/00232/FUL Demolition of existing Class A4 public house and redevelopment of site to provide a Class A1 convenience store including ATM with dedicated external

servicing, refuse and plant area, associated car parking, access and landscaping (as appropriate)

Gainsborough Arms, 74 Gainsborough

After a long discussion detailing the pros and cons of the application the Parish Council concluded to reply as follows “The Parish Council object to this planning application and stand by all comments and observations submitted to the earlier planning application. However, the Parish Council would also like to add to these comments by stating that there is a play area close to the location and the increased amount of traffic could pose a danger to users of the play area and also the doctor’s surgery. The Parish Council also understand that members of the community have a viable business plan which if obtained may be able to help retain the pub. To conclude, the Parish Council opposes these plans and reiterates prior observations submitted.”

4. **Actions from the last meeting:** The Action List was reviewed and updated accordingly. The Clerk was asked to amend and distribute following the meeting.
5. **Note draft minutes from Committee Meetings:** The Finance Committee meeting minutes from Tuesday 17th May 2016 were noted.
6. **Co-option of new Parish Council member:** As the resumes for each candidate had been circulated prior to the meeting for Councillors to digest the Clerk distributed voting slips with the names of the three candidates who had put themselves forward for co-option. The Chairman asked that all put one cross in the box alongside the name of the person they wished to co-opt. Once votes had been cast the Clerk collected the voting slips and with a tie over two candidates the Chairman had the casting vote and Martin Lancaster was duly elected as the new Parish Councillor.
7. **Security and lighting improvements at the Village Hall Car Park:** Prior to the meeting Mr Oldham circulated a document which detailed the issues at the Springfield Road Car Park and proposed solutions along with possible costs. Mr Oldham asked that this proposal be considered and for permission from Councillors for the project to be pursued in order to continue gaining accurate quotations in order to be considered at a future meeting. A detailed discussion took place regarding ownership and responsibility of the car park being the Parish Council’s and the possible sharing of costs with the Village Hall and Playing Fields Management Committee’s following a longstanding agreement that all costs were shared three ways. However some felt that consideration needed to be made regarding the reclaiming of any VAT. To conclude, a vote took place and the majority voted in favour of Mr Oldham pursuing quotations and being considered at a future meeting.
Action – Mr Oldham to continue pursuing project and gaining accurate quotations to be considered at a future meeting.
8. **Consider response to Post Office Consultation:** After a detailed discussion regarding the Post Office closure and possible move to Crackmore Garage the Parish Council decided to respond to the consultation as follows: “Although not an ideal location, Milborne Port Parish Council supports the proposed location of the new Post Office as this would ensure that the facility remains in the village. However, due to the busy A30 highway, the Parish Council would like to see a pedestrian crossing put in place.
Action – Clerk to pass comments to the Post Office consultation team

9. Parish Council Insurance Renewal: The Parish Clerk read out three quotations; A at £3,003.89, B at £2303.29 and C at £2933.26. These quotations were received from Insurance Broker Came and Company. Mr Ritchie proposed the Parish Council opt quotation B, this was seconded by Mr Lockey and agreed by all. The Clerk was asked to make necessary arrangements with the insurance broker.

Action – Clerk to make arrangements with insurance broker

10. Consider quotation from Townsend Timber for repairs to the damaged bus shelter: Following the damage caused to bus shelter along the High Street from possible vandalism, Councillors considered a quotation for repairs from Townsend Timber of £396.00. Mr Ritchie proposed that the quotation was accepted and repairs went ahead. This was seconded by Mrs Alexander and agreed by all.

Action – Clerk to instruct Townsend Timber to complete repairs

11. Planning

11.1 – This item was moved and considered earlier in the meeting.

11.2 The following **Planning Applications** were considered:

16/01805/FUL Erection of single storey front extension to dwellinghouse
7 South View Road

No Objections

16/01968/REM Reserved matters application following approval of 15/04380/OUT
(erection of two houses and vehicular access)

Land At Junction of Station Road, Springfield Road

No Objections

16/01917/FUL Erection of double storey rear extension. Removal of existing single storey extension and conservatory

69 South Street

No Objections

11.3 The following **Planning Approvals** were noted:

16/01275/LBC Internal alterations to restore original character and reverse modern alterations within west of ensuite, east bathroom and west vestibule. External alterations, weatherproofing and replacement exterior lighting

Ven House, London Road

16/01272/FUL Internal alterations to restore original character and reverse modern alterations within west of ensuite, east bathroom and west vestibule. External alterations, weatherproofing and replacement exterior lighting

Ven House, London Road

Ven House, London Road

16/01282/FUL Erection of two storey front extension and single storey rear extension

13 Limerick Close

12. Finance

12.1 The following **Payments** were approved:

Midwest Office Supplies – Stationery	£230.68
Battle VA – Website support	£240.00
KM Dike Nurseries – Grounds maintenance contract	£1006.82
Pet Waste Solutions – Dog bin emptying	£182.00
SALC - Affiliation Fees	£722.09
Crackmore Garage – Lawnmower fuel	£28.37
Fireline Ltd – Fire extinguisher inspection	£67.00
Emma Curtis – Petty cash	£50.00
Emma Curtis – Reimbursement for dog signs	£6.36
SALC – Planning training	£85.00
K Manning/B Williams – Groundworks	£500.00
Steve Davis – Handyman hours Sept 15 – May 16	£769.39

It was agreed by all the following payments could also be approved

N Dungey – Toilet cleaning	£130.00
KM Dike Nurseries – Grounds maintenance contract	£1006.82
Wincanton Print – Leaflet printing	£110.00
Midwest Office Supplies – Stationery	£45.48
Blandford Office Furniture – New tables for Town Hall	£2833.50

12.2 The following **Income** was noted:

Cheque from Marion Oya for memorial bench in The Ball Court	£120.00
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13. Consider response to the following **Correspondence**:

- Mrs Stringer – Letter regarding Parish Council use of Roundup weed killer – Councillors considered the use of Roundup and other weed killers and their possible effects. It was agreed for Philip Lock, Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee and the Clerk to visit the new owner and manager of KM Dike Nurseries who undertake the grounds maintenance and revisit the grounds maintenance contract and ask them to consider other options and proposals for the removal of weeds. The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Stringer to inform her of this and arrange an appointment with the new manager of KM Dike Nurseries.
- Note the receipt of Village Hall Management Committee Financial Statement – Noted.

14. Parish Council Newsletter and Communications: It was agreed to publicise the following items in the Parish Magazine and on the website; planning application at the Gainsborough Arms, Parish Plan stand at the village fete, new Parish Councillor, Post Office consultation and the damaged bus shelter.

15. The date of the next Full Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 5th July 2016.**