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PIMPERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 10th July, 2013, at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs. P. Slocombe (Chairman), D. Andrews, A. Argles, A. Barker, D. Mackenzie, J. Tanner.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr Croney, District Cllr Oliver, S. Bamforth (Clerk), P. Scothern (DCC Children's Services Directorate and some 80 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received and accepted from Cllr Hart.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** No new interests were declared.
3. **DISPENSATIONS:** none required.
4. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th June, 2013 were approved and signed.
5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** was received by the Council.
6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** was received by the Council.

7. DEMOCRATIC PERIOD

District Cllr Oliver, as Chairman of the Pimperne School Governors, expressed his support for the new school being built. County Cllr Croney commended the community for its strength of spirit in defending the village's interests, but asked what would now happen if the transfer of land could not be agreed that evening and what hurdles remained to delay the construction of the new school. Mrs Gaulton spoke on behalf of school parents and urged the Parish Council to ensure the school could go ahead as soon as possible. Mr Toze said a new school was very much needed and suggested the Council should accept the DCC Deputy Chief Executive's letter and the County Councillor's assurances as adequate guarantee that it would proceed with the lease for School Field under the agreed terms. Mr Scothern, in response to questions, said that if all necessary legal agreements were signed in August, the school would be finished by late October, 2014. Further questions were put by members of the public and answered by Mr Scothern, the Clerk and Chairman. School parents made it clear they wished to be kept informed of progress and to know who was responsible for action at each stage.

The Council agreed to change the order of the agenda to consider the following item next.

8. NEW PIMPERNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

a) Cllr Tanner said that delays over the school were dividing the village and damaging Pimperne's reputation. He asked that there be a recorded vote of the Council's decision.. Cllr

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Andrews expressed reservations about proceeding without an agreement to lease School Field, Cllr Argles said that he did not want people to think the Parish Council had delayed the process; the Council seemed to have reached an impasse but he was prepared to accept Dorset County Council in good faith. Cllr Mackenzie agreed with him.

The following motion, drafted by Cllr Andrews, was proposed:

Whereas the Parish Council is firmly resolved to ensure that the agreement by the Cabinet of Dorset County Council to lease the current school field to the Parish Council once the new school has been constructed cannot be overturned and, given the advice provided by the solicitor to the Parish Council, reinforced by the legal department of NALC that a letter of intent by the Deputy Chief Executive of Dorset County Council cannot be held as legally binding, the Parish Council recognises that, on the further advice provided by Mr Paul Scothern of Dorset County Council Education Services [Children's Services Directorate] that a legally binding agreement to lease cannot be made forthcoming until the school field is formally declared surplus to requirements and, given assurances from our Dorset County Councillor that the County has no intention of reneging on its agreement, and, given the further advice of the Parish Clerk that an Agreement to Lease is not required, the Parish Council resolves to proceed with the transfer of the land in Newfield Road to the County Council without such a binding agreement being in place but in the firm expectation that the County Council will honour its agreement to lease the school field to the Parish Council.

The motion was carried. In favour: the Chairman, Cllrs Argles, Mackenzie and Tanner. Abstentions: Cllrs Andrews and Barker.

b) The Council confirmed its acceptance of the heads of terms for the lease of School Field as set out in Richard Walker's letter of 16th November, 2012. The Clerk would so inform Mr Walker and instruct the Parish Council's solicitor to act without further delay in drawing up the documentation for the transfer of land in Newfield Road.

9. MATTERS ARISING

- a) The Chairman reported that draft revised asset register, risk assessment and internal audit review would be presented to the next meeting. **Chairman, Cllr Mackenzie**
- b) Possible relocation of dog waste bin: the Clerk reported that the Dorset Waste Partnership was recording use of all the bins, but they would monitor further before reaching a decision.
- c) The Chairman reported that the shop owners no longer wished the noticeboard to be moved.
- d) The Clerk had backed the complaint to Go Ahead South about the recent temporary service but no response had been received by the Council or the complainant.

10. PLANNING

- a) The following application had been granted:
2/2013/0510/PLNG Barnview, Letton Close, Pimperne: to raise roof to the rear and install front and rear dormer windows to form a chalet style house (demolish conservatory).
- b) The Council considered the following new application:
2/2013/0621/PLNG 2, Parr Grove, Pimperne, Blandford Forum, Dorset: erect 1 single storey rear extension and 1.9m high screen wall. The Council objected as an overdevelopment of the site and noting that the proposed screen wall was out of keeping with the setting and streetscene.
- c) There were no applications for works to trees.

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d) The Council resolved to join Blandford Area Neighbourhood Planning Group in preparation of a neighbourhood plan. The Clerk reminded the Council that, under the new Local Plan, the default situation, in the absence of a neighbourhood plan, was countryside policy and that the Council could prepare its own neighbourhood plan if it wished. The Clerk would so inform the Group of the Council's decision. **Clerk**

11. FINANCES

a) The Clerk presented a written financial statement for June, showing details of income and expenditure, set against budget.

b) The Council approved the payment and instructed the signature of the following cheques:

1093	S Bamforth - Clerk's Salary June	At agreed rate
1094	HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's salary	At appropriate rate
1095	S Bamforth - Clerk's Expenses June	18.30
1096	Cllr Mackenzie - refund of website costs	10.80
1097	RBL Poppy Appeal - wreath	20.00
1098	Chris Miles Landscaping - play area repairs	643.00

12. OFFICERS' AND REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

a) **DT11:** The Chairman reported that a new site was being considered for a community resource centre.

b) **Tree Officer:** Nothing to report.

c) **Rights of Way:** Cllr Barker reported that FP11 was blocked by vegetation; the County ROW officer was pursuing this and the condition of FP9 with the landowner.

d) **Highways Officer:** Cllr Argles reported that a number of potholes by Chestnut Farm had been repaired and that the uneven drain cover at St Peter's Close had been repaired; another gully cover in Church Road was marked with a cone

e) **Pimperne Primary School:** Cllr Tanner reported on the very low absenteeism rate and the high number of club activities.

f) **Village Hall:** nothing to report

g) **Flood Warden:** Cllr Tanner noted that the stream was still flowing because of pumping

h) **DAPTC:** Cllr Andrews would attend the next meeting on 17th July.

i) **Homewatch:** Cllr Andrews reported the recent number of thefts, particularly from sheds, in the area.

13. BUS SHELTERS

The Chairman reported that he had recently had to remove human waste from the shelter on the Salisbury Road and so the need to replace it with the open shelter from Portman Road was all the more pressing. The Clerk would consult with Highways. Cllr Argles suggested using the Reading Room Fund for this purpose; the Clerk reminded the Council that the fund could only be used for a purpose defined as charitable at law. Cllrs Argles and Andrews wished to disregard this restraint and the Clerk reminded them of the need to act in accordance with the law. She would provide councillors with the details of the trust terms again and the matter would be considered at the next meeting. **Clerk**

14. WAR MEMORIAL

The Chairman reported that a response had not yet been received to the pre-application submission to the War Memorials Trust.

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15. VILLAGE AWARD

Cllr Tanner proposed making an award at Annual Parish Meeting in recognition of contribution to community life in Pimperne; he would prepare suggested rules for nomination and voting.

Cllr Mackenzie would advertise the idea in the next newsletter. **Cllrs Tanner, Mackenzie**

16. FOI PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Council noted the need to update its publication scheme required under Freedom of Information legislation; the Clerk would circulate draft for adoption at the next meeting. **Clerk**

17. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Chestnut Tree: Mr Lukins had offered to make a substantial contribution for the provision of a new mature tree. The Clerk would write to thank him for his offer, but would point out that DCC were responsible for the site and she would write to DCC to establish their intentions for the area. **Clerk**

b) Speeding at Letton; the Council had received photographs of skid marks on the footpath from Mr Hedgecock and details of recorded speeds from the police. The Clerk would write to Mr Hedgecock, noting the Council's intention of forming a community speedwatch team. **Clerk**

c) Free Congleton; councilors would respond individually to the e-mail proposing unspecified changes to the NPPF.

18. PROPERTY CHECK

The Council noted Cllr Argles' report; no action required at present.

19. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) To consider arrangements for a community service award
- b) To consider action over village bus shelters
- c) To consider next steps in preparation of a neighbourhood plan
- d) To hold a separate Reading Room Trust meeting to consider expenditure of funds

20. The time and date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7.00pm on Wednesday, 14th August, 2013, in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.5 pm.