



DROXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

6.00pm Thursday 18th July 2024

Droxford Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors: Paul Cooper, Louise Hudson, Colin Matthissen, Janet Melson (Chair), Peter Richardson and Lewis Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Ailsa Duckworth – Parish Clerk/RFO

PUBLIC: None

24.117 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Matt Avison.

24.118 Declarations of Interest: None received.

24.119 Requests for Dispensation: None received.

24.120 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20th June 2024.
The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

24.121 Public Session: No members of the public were present.

24.122 Response to Public Participation: None required.

24.123 Reports from County and District Councillors: Written reports had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. District Cllrs Danny Lee and Suzanne White sent their apologies. County Cllr Malcolm Wallace provided an update on grants available; noted that there was a governor vacancy at Droxford Junior School; reported that an on-site meeting regarding U189 would take place over summer; and confirmed that HCC cuts would be directly affecting the SEN and transport provision at schools in the county.

24.124 To review Actions List: The following actions were discussed and prioritised:

- a. Chairs for the Pavilion had been delivered and required assembly. Cllr Cooper offered to do this.
- b. The emails relating to the funding amount for the permissive path had been forwarded to Mr Chris Horn, at his request, to follow up and respond to the Parish Council.
- c. The metal edging for the Garden of Reflection has been retrieved and requires installing.

d. Cllr Matthissen is to recommend an additional savings account.

24.125 Clerk's Report including updates on previous decisions: A new defibrillator battery had replaced the expired one and the defibrillator had been included on The Circuit again; a replacement battery for the Temporary Speed Indicator Device had been ordered; and a refund for the brown bin at the cemetery had been requested, with a bin to be delivered there by Biffa shortly. All other updates were included under the agenda.

24.126 Finance Reports: Received and Noted.

- a. **NOTED:** Financial Status and bank balance.
- b. **APPROVED:** Payments as per approval list.
- c. **NOTED:** Cllr Matthissen reported he had encountered difficulties in discussing alternative bank accounts because of the lack of understanding as to what a Parish Council is. A further update will be provided at the September meeting.

24.127 Planning Report: Received and Noted.

- a. **RESOLVED:** An application for 112 solar panels was discussed (SDNP/24/02785/FUL) and it was agreed to make a comment. Cllr Cooper would draft a response for review.
- b. **NOTED:** The current open and closed enforcement cases were noted.
- c. **NOTED:** No update.
- d. **SDNP Local Plan Review:** No update
- e. **Sale of the White Horse Inn & The Bakers Arms:** Previously the Parish Council had been asked to re-apply for the White Horse Inn to be recognised as an Asset of Community Value. Following this, the pub was put up for sale, however there was no interest in taking forward a community bid. As the Bakers Arms is now the only pub in the Village, there was a discussion around whether an application should be made for listing it as an Asset of Community Value too. Residents had not formally expressed an interest in creating a community venture to run the pub and so an application will not be made.

24.128 Green Spaces Report: Verbal report Noted.

- a. **Pavilion:** Further quotes for storage are being sought.
- b. **Use of Recreation Ground by Waltham Wolves:** Cllrs Melson and Richardson had met with Kevin Doe and James Duckworth from Waltham Wolves FC to discuss the recreation ground being used as a training and match venue by the club. The purchase of the new goals had been put on hold until a recommendation was made for goals that were FA approved. The Club would require use of the ground every Saturday during the season and will confirm whether they are interested in pursuing this option.
- c. **Play Equipment:** Playdale Playgrounds had provided 3 options for consideration, following feedback from the previous on-site meeting. It was agreed that a sub-group including Cllrs Hudson, Matthissen and Richardson would convene, along with the Clerk, to review the options and finalise the quote, once any queries regarding the contract terms and conditions had been resolved.

24.129 Footpaths and RoW: Verbal report Noted.

- a. The fallen tree on FP 14 had been cleared, however, the bridge was now unsafe. It was agreed that Cllr Richardson would liaise with Cllr Wallace and the landowner regarding HCC surveys and action required.
- b. Cllrs Hudson and Richardson had met with County Cllrs and the landowner to further discuss U189. County Cllr Wallace had hoped that a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) could be placed

on this stretch of the river, but had been informed that the surveys looking at the quality of the Chalk stream had raised no major concerns.

- c. Cllr Cooper reported that the Environmental Land Management scheme was being rolled out by DEFRA, which will help pay farmers for permissive access through a Countryside Stewardship scheme. The PC is to consider whether a more formal agreement is required for the permissive access at School Field.

24.130 Highways Report: Verbal report Noted.

- a. Cllr Smith reported that the White Gates had been installed according to the agreed Highways plan. In addition to the many communications of support and thanks from residents, there had been some confusion as to how the decision was made on location. It was agreed that a statement would be published to reassure those concerned about cost; location; inclusivity to the Village; etc. The Chair, on behalf of the Parish Council, congratulated Cllr Smith on his diligence and dedication in getting this initiative implemented. Cllr Smith is to meet with the District Cllrs to discuss what steps can be taken next to further improve road safety in the Village. A strategic meeting will be set up in the Autumn to prioritise future proposals and projects.
- b. The quote for the works at Union Lane had expired. Cllr Melson is to speak to the contractor to request a requote.
- c. A replacement battery for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been ordered. Cllr Smith will review the previous s72 agreement and confirm whether the SID can be placed on Hacketts Lane.

24.131 Sustainable Droxford: Verbal report Noted.

Cllr Hudson attended a WeCAN event in Winchester. Future WeCAN email communications will be forwarded to the Sustainable Droxford email list, and a meeting will be set up in due course.

24.132 Installation of EVCPs in The Square: Cllr Melson reported that negotiations were progressing regarding installation of EVCPs, however the company had requested a Non-Disclosure Agreement, which was at odds with the requirement for Parish Councils to be transparent and accountable. The Clerk is to look whether HALC/NALC have a view on this. It was also confirmed that any EV charging bays can only be used by Electric Vehicles.

24.133 Correspondence received: None.

24.134 Meetings and Events: None.

24.135 Agenda Items for next Full Council meeting: None. Cllr Matthissen will chair the meeting in Cllr Melson's absence.

24.136 Date of the next meeting: 6.00pm Thursday 19th September, Droxford Village Hall.