

**MINUTES OF THE DEWLISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23RD JANUARY 2023
AT DEWLISH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs A Fisher, B Ross, J Booth, A Barnett and M Fell

Chair: Cllr C Uden

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 1 member of the public

Public Participation

Mervin Church gave an update on his dealing with Dorset Council regarding the works being undertaken at Shailes. He had served Dorset Council with a Freedom of Information request in 2022 asking for details of the costs involved in the project and their response had not been satisfactory. He subsequently wrote to Spencer Flower on the 3rd January 2023 but no response has been received. Another road closure has been set up for the 27th for tarmacking the area. Cllr Uden and Barnett have attended the site and noted that the ditch runs uphill to the outlet so will clearly be ineffective. In addition, there is a longitudinal rut alongside the road is 250mm deep – should a car go into it, it could well be damaged. It is known that five vehicles have recently suffered punctures as a result of the potholes along this stretch of road. Mr Church would like to know what works are due to be undertaken on the 27th and he understands that the work to date has cost in the region of £500,000. He would like some form of clarity on this.

1. To receive apologies for absence

22.140 Apologies had been received from Cllr Wendy Britton and Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes.

2. Declaration of pecuniary and other interests

22.141 No interests were declared.

3 Minutes of pervious meeting dated 28th November 2022

22.142 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Ross proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

4. Matters arising – for report only

22.143 All matters arising are covered by this agenda.

5. To receive the Dorset Councillor's report

22.141 Cllr Haynes was unable to attend the meeting. Her reports continue to be issued each month and are available on the Parish Council website.

6. To receive reports on the following matters and to agree actions

22.142 Planning

No applications had been received.

22.143 Police, Traffic and Roads

A copy of the Police report had been issued to all members with the agenda and is available on the Parish Council website as an Appendix to the agenda.

Residents are reminded that all crimes should be logged, with as much information as possible, on the Police website at www.dorset.police.uk/contact.

22.144 Parish Amenities and Rights of Way

- (a) Bus Service initiatives – A report was received from Cllr Clive Jones from Hilton Parish Council regarding an initiative to reinstate a limited bus service from Dorchester to Blandford, via the villages. However, Damory are not responding to any queries raised and the proposal is currently on hold.
- (b) The Green tree works – It is hoped that a contractor will be undertaking the necessary works in the near future.
- (c) Transfer of land from Dorset Council – Nothing further has been received. The Clerk will continue to follow this up with Dorset Council.
- (d) Upgrade of The Green – Cllr Uden had proposed that the area is upgraded in that some children’s play equipment could be put on the site. There is a picnic table ready to be installed and the Platinum Jubilee Committee have offered to give the Parish Council all the monies they have left from the 2022 event – this is in the region of £1,800. The site would have to be fenced to keep children from running into the road and care will need to be taken to allow ball games to continue on the area. Plans will be drawn up for the site and will be brought back to a future meeting for consideration.
- (e) Volunteer Working Party – Cllr Barnett reported that the high viz jackets have yet to arrive. The next step will be to decide what work the group should be undertaken. A basic list will be drawn up that could be undertaken on a rotating basis. This will consist of grass cutting, gulley clearing, cleaning road signs, amongst other things.
- (f) Grit bins – The grit bins need refilling and an additional bin is needed at Greenways. The Clerk will arrange for the existing bins to be refilled. Cllr Barnett will produce a map and mark on it the proposed locations for new bins. The Clerk will then contact Highways to ensure they are happy with the suggested locations.

ACTION: CLERK/CLLR BARNETT

- (g) Update on Dorset Council’s work to the culvert – This was covered in Public Participation.

22.145 Parish Surgeries

The café did not open during January.

7. Finance

22.146 To agree the payment of accounts and note any income received

The following payments had been requested:

Dewlish Village Hall	Hall hire during 2022 – 7 times	BACS014	70.00
DAPTC	¼ Clerk’s Conference fee	BACS015	11.25
A Crocker	Dec 22 & Jan 23 wages + expenses	BACS016	251.75
HMRC	PAYE January 2023	BACS017	50.00

A total of £383.00 payable from the Precept.

Cllr Fell proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett.

The only income received during the period was 22pence in bank interest.

22.147 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

A copy of both reports had been issued with the agenda.

Cllr Fisher proposed the reports are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Booth and agreed unanimously.

It was noted that the General Reserve currently stands at £9,870.93. Cllr Uden proposed that £5,000 is moved to Ear Marked Reserves for the upgrade of The Green. This was seconded by Cllr Fisher and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Uden reported that there had been a problem with the Christmas lights in that they had stopped working. He had subsequently taken advantage of the January sales and purchased new lights at a cost of £79.95. This cost was retrospectively agreed and will be put through with the February payments.

8. To consider the need for dedicated email addresses for Councillors

22.148 At present, most members use personal email addresses. This could result in sensitive information going astray or, possibly, personal emails becoming the subject of Freedom of Information requests. It was suggested that members could set up a dedicated email consisting of their name, followed by the Parish Council. This would have to be a gmail account. For example: Acouncillor.DewlishPC@gmail.com

Cllr Fisher proposed members adopt this initiative. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and agreed unanimously. Once members set up their account, they will contact the Clerk who will then amend the contact information held. The new emails will be quoted as contact points on the Parish Council website.

9. To review the results of the traffic surveys and consider the next step

22.149 The survey equipment was installed for the week ending 20th January 2023 and the results should be available in the next couple of weeks. This item will be brought back to the February meeting.

10. To review the insurance and asset register

22.150 The assets had been revalued before Christmas. The Clerk had subsequently checked with the Insurance Company who confirmed that the increase in value would have resulted in an additional premium of £137 for the last four months of the year. The renewal is due on the 1st June 2023 and Cllr Fell proposed that the increase in valuations should be submitted and take effect from the renewal date. This was seconded by Cllr Booth and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will contact the Insurers accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

11. To consider the making of an Eco Tree for Christmas 2023

22.151 Cllr Uden felt that the cutting down of a tree for a period of four weeks a year was not environmentally friendly and suggested that a 'tree' could be made. This could then be packed away each year ready for the next year. After some discussion, members requested further details and pictures in order to make a more informed decision. This will be brought back to the February meeting.

12. Parish Councillors reports on items not covered by the agenda

22.153 Chris Loder MP had offered to attend a Parish Council meeting but members felt it might be more appropriate if he were to attend the café as he would meet more parishioners.

SSE have offered to attend a meeting and discuss their Preferred Residents List. After some discussion, it was agreed that a copy of the leaflet would be put on the noticeboard.

Pound Lane Definitive Map Modification Order – A meeting will be held on the 7th March with residents to invite comment.

Wessex Water have contacted the Clerk and have confirmed that they will attend the February meeting.

13. To agree the meeting dates for 2023/24

22.154 A list of the proposed dates had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd May, prior to the start of the Parish Council meeting. The full list of meeting dates is available on the Parish Council website.

14. Agenda items for the February meeting

- 22.155 - Wessex Water presentation
- Traffic survey results
- Eco Christmas Tree
- The Green upgrade

15. Date of next meeting

22.156 Monday 27th February 2023, commencing 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:50hrs.