

MOSTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom

Present; Cllr. Neil Hickman (Chair), Cllr Rob Fry, Cllr Angela Bullock, Cllr Chris Lamb, County Cllr Rebecca Knox, Michael Potter, Dorset County Highways Dept and 3 members of the public.

Item No.		Action
	<p>PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF ITEMS ON AGENDA Residents raised concerns about the speed of vehicles travelling along the A3066, in particular the speed of motorbikes after they leave the village boundary heading south, and approach Whetley Cross junction. It was noted there have been a number of incidents when pedestrians and horse riders have had near misses with vehicles. It was felt that unless something could be done to slow down the vehicles there could be a serious or fatal accident in the area.</p>	
2020/035	<p>APOLOGIES / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jim Cooper & PCSO Alex Bishop. A grant of dispensation was agreed by all councillors present for Cllr Jim Cooper, who is unable to join virtual meetings due to the speed of internet connections in his area of the village.</p>	
2020/036	<p>REPORTS FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR AND LOCAL POLICE OFFICER</p>	
a)	<p>PCSO Alex Bishop sent his apologies for being unable to attend and the following report: “Fortunately, I have nothing to report crime wise in the Mosterton area. However, there has been a few thefts of quad bikes and power tools South of the patch, around the Burton Bradstock/Puncknowle area. I advise that people remain vigilant and review their security. If anyone sees any suspicious activity, or if anyone is concerned about their security and would like further advice, to call us on 101, or online at www.dorset.police.uk. I am hoping to begin face to face engagements such as the surgery at the Post Office soon. This will be advertised on the above website, under the Neighbourhood Policing banner. Regards to all, Alex.”</p>	
b)	<p>Dorset Councillor - Cllr Knox reported that she is investigating the issue of slow broadband speeds in areas of the village, particularly those where recently laid cables are running past properties but no spurs are being made accessible. Cllr Knox will request that Dorset Council liaise with BT Open Reach to review the situation. In the meantime, affected residents can email Dorset Council via Penny Sydall p.sydall@dorsetcc.gov.uk and send details to the clerk to collate an overall picture. Clerk will post on the parish council Facebook page about the matter.</p> <p>Cllr Knox reported that the levels of Covid19 remain low in Dorset, with one school so far having to take precautions due to a positive result. Cllr Knox reported that Dorset Council has robust planning in place to deal with localised cases through the Local Outbreak Management Plan.</p> <p>Cllr Knox reported that as a result of a subsidy by Dorset Council the Number 6 bus through Mosterton will continue. Cllr Knox is keen to hear if there are any gaps in the timetable. It was noted that there is no after school service returning from Bridport to Mosterton, which could affect employees and those children who choose to attend Colfox School.</p> <p>With an increasing number of people walking in the local area, Cllr Knox asked for people to</p>	VR

	feedback to her if they hear of incidence of gates being left open causing livestock to be able to escape, or intrusion by walkers onto private land.	
2020/037	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 14th JULY 2020 The minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Hickman, and seconded by Cllr Fry and will be signed by Cllr Hickman.	
2020/038	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JULY 2020 No items not covered elsewhere on the agenda.	
2020/039	<p>A3066 HIGHWAY</p> <p>Motorbikes and speeding vehicles</p> <p>Clerk reported that the parish council has received 11 emails from residents voicing concern about speeds of traffic through and either side of the village. As a result Michael Potter from Dorset Council Highways Dept has joined the meeting to discuss the issue.</p> <p>Bill Benge, Mosterton Speedwatch Coordinator was also invited to speak. Mr Benge noted that the community Speedwatch group has recently resumed sessions following the lockdown period. A number of volunteers have left the village or the group, and it is difficult for the remaining volunteers to operate as frequently as they would like. More volunteers would be very welcome. It was noted that the road coming into Mosterton from the southern end is quite wide, and then narrows significantly, on the approach to the pedestrian refuge near Fair oak Way. Mr Benge reported that quite often wider vehicles, especially caravans, mount the pedestrian refuge area when passing. It was noted that the Speedwatch team have 4 locations within the village they can currently operate from. They can only operate within the 30 mph speed limit, so cannot operate from the layout at the southern end of the village as this lies within the national speed limit zone.</p> <p>It was also noted at the northern end of village that the 30 mph signs are not visible until drivers are right at the start of the 30mph speed limit zone. The signage is buried on the hedge at the north end of the village. The parish council has previously requested that the 30mph signs be moved further out of the village boundaries, but this hasn't happened, Mr Potter explained, not through lack of trying, but internal processes. If the speed limit is to be moved significantly, then a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be required. However, it may be possible for the signs to be moved out a small distance, as the signs are current right on the speed limit border.</p> <p>Mr Potter will look into this matter further. It was noted that if speed limits are moved too far outside of the village border, they become less effective as drivers expect to see signs of habitation soon after entering a 30mph zone, and if they don't may start to increase speed again.</p> <p>It was asked whether additional Slow marking and bar marking could be installed. It was agreed to try to make the start of the 30mph speed limit more apparent to drivers.</p> <p>Mr Potter explained that the Highways Dept are undertaking a review of the village.</p> <p>It was noted that residents and drivers need to report any incidents and near misses to the police. Ideally if dashcam or mobile phone photos or footage can be captured this is helpful. Any incidents should be reported to the police via Dorset Police's Operation Snap. Clerk will put a note on the parish council Facebook page to let residents know about this.</p>	

It was noted that there is a particular problem with vehicles leaving the southern end of the village, and quickly picking up speed, particularly motorbikes. The parish council raised this matter over the summer with the Highways Dept, in the hope of a temporary speed restriction being imposed, but the roads did not meet the necessary criteria. Mr Potter explained that even if the speed limit were to be permanently reduced, this does not always have the desired effect of reducing speed as has been found in a number of other locations, particularly with speeding motorbikes. However, the possibility of a permanent speed limit reduction can be considered once the Highways Dept assessment of the village has been completed. This matter would have to be referred to the Community Highways Dept and the Dept of Transport.

Other suggestions for the southern end of the village heading out towards Beaminster included Slow signs on the road and Max Speed signs, along with the possibility of Shiny Side Up signage. It was noted that there are currently some Slow signs on the road, at some of the key bends, and these will be reviewed. It was questioned whether the Bikes Slow signs and Shiny Side up campaign signs can in fact encourage motorcyclists to increase their speed? Mr Potter noted that he has heard this before, and will try to get some feedback on this. Mr Potter noted that speeding motorbike riders are notoriously difficult to deal with,

Mr Potter reported that the A3066 issue has been reported to the Dorset Police and added to the list of targeted enforcement areas, with regard to motorbikes in particular. Mr Potter reported that he will be speaking to the team later this week, and will again raise the concerns of the parish council again. The parish council are keen that speed enforcement action is taken by the police, in particular over weekends, as many of the motorcyclist use the route to get to the coast. The parish council is particularly keen that the police carry out speed enforcement outside of the 30mph speed limit to the south of the village. It was noted that with the summer coming to an end, any action would also need to be ramped up ahead of next summer.

Cllr Knox requested that the review of the A3066 runs right down to Beaminster as there have been a number of serious incidents on the road between Whetley Cross and Beaminster tunnel. Cllr Knox felt that the number of incidents would be significant. Mr Potter agreed that this would be taken into account by himself and Paul Eastwood when undertaking the review of the road, looking at the evidence, looking at existing layout, collision history, police reports and reviewing the measures in place.

It is hoped that the review by the Highways Dept will be completed by the end of September. It is difficult to say at this point what actions may then be taken until the analysis has been completed. Residents noted that it is positive news that the A3066 is being reviewed. It was noted that the junction at Whetley Cross was reviewed some years ago and the land owner adjacent was happy that measures maybe put in place to assist with road safety, but that the matter did not proceed due to lack of funds. Residents reported that the A3066 is notorious among bikes groups for being an exciting road to ride, and that there have been a number of incidences when motorbikes and riders have ended up on the floor, horses and pedestrians have been startled and the emergency services have had to be called. Residents asked if Somerset police attend an incident, is it logged with Somerset or Dorset Highways? Mr Potter confirmed that if the incident takes place within Dorset boundaries it will have been logged as within Dorset and will show up within the police figures. Residents asked if chevrons are deployed on a bend are these legally enforceable or a guide? Mr Potter explained that these are a warning to road users that they should be adjusting their speed accordingly. Residents asked if there is any point in videoing the motorbikes which are

	<p>above 30 mph as they enter the village, or above national speed limit as they approach Whetley Cross junction? Mr Potter confirmed that it is worthwhile, particularly if make, model and registration number can be captured, and that if repeat offenders can be identified, the details can be passed on to the police to take the matter forward.</p> <p>Pedestrian Crossing Cllr Hickman reported that the parish council has been in contact with Dorset Council Highways Dept to discuss the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing near the entrance to Fair Oak Way, near to the site of the existing pedestrian refuge. It was agreed previously that this would be requested once the new housing development at Naomi Close was fully occupied, as there are now more children walking to the school in Fair Oak Way and more vehicles moving through the village. The process is to ensure that there is community support for a pedestrian crossing, then a feasibility survey will be carried out by the Highways Dept to look at the traffic and pedestrian volumes. The survey will produce a report which will determine what type of crossing is most appropriate for the site. Should the survey not support a pedestrian crossing, there are other measures which the Highways Dept can give advice on.</p> <p>The parish council may be able to contribute some funds towards a pedestrian crossing, particularly if this may speed up the installation. The feasibility survey will take place in the next few weeks once commissioned. However, timeline is quite lengthy for the overall process. All councillors and members of the public present at the meeting were in favour of the feasibility survey going ahead.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mr Potter left the meeting</p> <p>Cllr Knox noted that she will also be taking the matter forward, and is happy to support the parish council with the request for a pedestrian crossing and further speed calming measures along the A3066 once identified by the Highways Dept survey as feasible. It was noted that it is important the parish council is recognised for what has been achieved so far, in particular the Community Speedwatch team and the installation of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) but also that residents are aware of the limitations of what the parish council alone can achieve.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Knox left the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Hickman reported that a local lengthsman could be employed in the future to help with cleaning road signs and cutting back hedges to maintain visibility.</p>	
2020/040	<p>PLAYAREA</p> <p>Fencing - There is an area close to the river in the play area where the fence is in poor repair. Cllr Fry agreed to seek quotations to have the fence repaired or if necessary replaced.</p> <p>New benches – Three new benches have been purchased and assembled in the play area. It was agreed to bolt down the circular one on the tarmacked area, close to the fence and grassed area. It was agreed to consider the purchase on an additional circular table in the next financial year.</p> <p>The two new rectangular tables will not be fixed to the ground to allow families to move them to different spots. One will be moved to the other side of the fence close to the new fitness equipment once it has been installed.</p> <p>Action Plan Clerk reported that the action list is being worked through, with the majority of the jobs now either</p>	RF

	<p>actioned or booked for the near future. It was agreed to purchase one more dumpy bag of play bark for the area under the play structure.</p> <p>New Fitness Equipment The clerk reported that the new fitness equipment has been ordered and will be installed before the October half term</p>	
2020/041	<p>VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>Position of replacement bench It was reported that the bench opposite the shop was damaged in a driving incident. The cost of a replacement bench has been met by the driver, and a replacement bench purchased. It was agreed following some discussion that the replacement bench would face the same way as previously, towards the shop.</p> <p>Mosterton Stone planting The area has been cut back and tidied, and new planting is due shortly.</p> <p>Additional waste bin An additional bin has been ordered and will be installed shortly close to Naomi Close. The bin will initially be emptied on a 4-weekly schedule. Once the bin has been installed Cllr Hickman will put up additional signage about dog waste.</p>	
2020/042	<p>ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>Waiting List, Maintenance and rent review The Clerk reported that there are currently 3 residents waiting for plots. At the moment the rent for a plot is £10 per year, and this has not been increased since 2011. Average allotment rent is around £30. Currently all the rent received is paid as donation to St Mary's PCC. No funds are retained by the parish council for maintenance or repairs to the fencing.</p> <p>It was agreed to write to allotment holders to advise that from 1st April 2021 the rent will increased by £5 per year, until it is line with national rent rates (currently £30)</p> <p>It was agreed that the parish council will retain the increase in rents to accrue funds to carry out any maintenance and repairs to the fencing of the allotment, ensuring that the donation to St Mary's PCC is always greater than the sum retained by the parish council.</p> <p>It was agreed to write to the landowner to see if additional allotment plots could be created, subject to additional fencing.</p>	<p>VR</p> <p>VR</p>
2020/043	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Clerks & Councils Direct 11 x Emails from members of public expressing concerns at vehicles speeding through or either side of the village 1 x email from member of public expressing content at vehicles speed as they travel through or either side of the village Email from resident about poor broadband speeds in the village Email from Chris Loder MP about slow broadband speeds</p>	

2020/044	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>a) Applications handled since last meeting - WD/D/20/001680 MOSTERTON CROSS, MOSTERTON, BEAMINSTER Erection of 1 building for light industrial storage and distribution use (B1 & B8) Comments submitted expressing concern about additional traffic with no additional employment opportunities</p> <p>b) Decisions notified by WDDC since last meeting</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="354 363 1451 1360"> <tr> <td data-bbox="354 363 626 606">WD/D/20/001190</td> <td data-bbox="626 363 902 606">AXBRIDGE, MAIN ROAD, MOSTERTON, BEAMINSTER, DT8 3HG</td> <td data-bbox="902 363 1175 606">Erection of a single storey rear extension</td> <td data-bbox="1175 363 1451 606">Approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="354 606 626 873">WD/D/19/003050</td> <td data-bbox="626 606 902 873">PADDOCK COTTAGE, CHEDINGTON LANE, MOSTERTON, BEAMINSTER, DT8 3HL</td> <td data-bbox="902 606 1175 873">Erection of a single storey rear extension</td> <td data-bbox="1175 606 1451 873">Approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="354 873 626 1140">WD/D/19/003051</td> <td data-bbox="626 873 902 1140">PADDOCK COTTAGE, CHEDINGTON LANE, MOSTERTON, BEAMINSTER, DT8 3HL</td> <td data-bbox="902 873 1175 1140">Erection of a single storey rear extension</td> <td data-bbox="1175 873 1451 1140">Approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="354 1140 626 1360">WD/D/20/000876</td> <td data-bbox="626 1140 902 1360">THE MILL HOUSE, MAIN ROAD, MOSTERTON DT8 3HG</td> <td data-bbox="902 1140 1175 1360">ERECTION OF TWO DWELLINGS</td> <td data-bbox="1175 1140 1451 1360">Approved</td> </tr> </table> <p>c) New application to be considered - None d) Tree applications - None e) Other Planning Matters – None</p>	WD/D/20/001190	AXBRIDGE, MAIN ROAD, MOSTERTON, BEAMINSTER, DT8 3HG	Erection of a single storey rear extension	Approved	WD/D/19/003050	PADDOCK COTTAGE, CHEDINGTON LANE, MOSTERTON, BEAMINSTER, DT8 3HL	Erection of a single storey rear extension	Approved	WD/D/19/003051	PADDOCK COTTAGE, CHEDINGTON LANE, MOSTERTON, BEAMINSTER, DT8 3HL	Erection of a single storey rear extension	Approved	WD/D/20/000876	THE MILL HOUSE, MAIN ROAD, MOSTERTON DT8 3HG	ERECTION OF TWO DWELLINGS	Approved	
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2020/045	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>Acceptance of Certificate of Exemption for Annual Accounts to 31.03.2020 The clerk reported that the external auditors have accepted the parish council's Certificate of Exemption. No further action for the 2019-2020 financial year is required.</p> <p>Treasurers account</p>																	

Payments made since last meeting	
Play area & Village Green maintenance	377.99
Play area improvements (picnic benches)	858.00
Replacement bench	366.00
Zoom subscription for meetings	28.78
Clerk salary & Pension (July & August)	338.24
Clerk's expenses (mileage to attend extra meetings)	5.40
Income Since last meeting	
Mosterton Preschool – Loan repayment	1104.10
Mosterton Preschool – Loan Admin fee	10.00
Bench replacement cost	366.00
New cheques/payments for consideration	
Play area maintenance	188.75
Play area repairs	81.12
Bank balance as at 4 th August statement	£29,581.66
Balance after above items approved	£29,888.99
Next PWLB payment due on 1 st October 2020. Mosterton Preschool has already made the repayment to Mosterton Parish Council	
Amenities account	
Balance as at 9 th June 2020 statement	£6,092.60
Interest accruing at rate of approximately £0.05 per month.	
2020/046	INITIAL DRAFT OF 2021-2022 BUDGET
<p>It was noted that large play structure, which was installed in 2000, is coming towards the end of its life. The annual inspection is identifying more issues each year. In the provisional budget circulated ahead of the meeting, the clerk has included £5,000 towards a replacement piece of equipment. It is likely that a similar amount may need to be included in the budget for the next 2 to 3 years in order to build sufficient funds to replace with a similar sized piece of equipment.</p> <p>Cllr Hickman asked the councillors to also consider including £5,000 in the 2021-2022 budget towards the installation of the pedestrian crossing as discussed above, in the basis that should the funds not be needed they could be offset against future budget for the play equipment. i.e. should</p>	

	the funds not be need towards a pedestrian crossing, then the following year no funds would be requested in the budget towards the replacement play equipment.	
2020/047	<p>REVIEW OF CLERK'S TERM AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated a report detailing current and proposed changes to Terms and Conditions. The parish councillors agreed unanimously to the following amendments: Working from home expenses to be increased from £50 to £75 per quarter with effect from 1st October.</p> <p>Clerk's salary to move from SCP 9 to SCP 10, back dated to 1st April 2020 in line with new NJC rates.</p> <p>Clerk's paid hours to increase to 24 hours per month with effect from 1st October 2020</p>	
	<p>PUBLIC DISCUSSION TO RAISE ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS</p> <p>It was requested and agreed that the A3066 will remain on the agenda for the next meeting. Residents noted that they would be keen to become Speedwatch volunteers but can't always due to work commitments.</p> <p>Residents voiced concern that they cannot automatically speak during the Parish Council meeting and have to be invited by the Chairman. It was explained that this is standard at council meetings, hence the reason for the Public Sessions before and after the meeting.</p> <p>Residents felt that more people would have attended the meeting to discuss the issue of the A3066 had the meeting been held in person in the village hall. It was noted that the current Covid19 guidelines are for meetings to be held virtually, but that any residents are still very welcome to join the meetings.</p> <p>Residents raised the possibility of sponsorship for police speed camera enforcement. It was noted that the police have now added the A3066 to their list of areas for enhanced speed enforcement.</p>	

Date of next meeting Tuesday 10th November 2020. It is likely that this meeting will also take place via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.04 pm.

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Mosterton Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020

Signed

Date

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