**MOSTERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at the Village Hall**

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm

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| **Item No.** | **Date: Tuesday, 14th March 2023** | **Action** |
| **(A)** | **Public Meeting to Discuss Road Safety in the Village Following the Tragic Incident on 8th February 2023**  The road traffic incident on the 8th February had greatly affected the village community and there has been anger about what are seen as current road safety measures not being able to cope with the current dangerous driving seen in the village. Approximately 40 or so residents attended this part of the meeting. They were informed by Cllr Robert Fry, Chairman, of the outcomes of the meeting/site visit on Friday 10th March, of the parish council members with Tony Burden, Dorset County Road Safety Manager and local MP Chris Loder, and others. They were both clearly engaged with the issues and are now awaiting more background information from the parish council and then will respond.  A lengthy discussion on the road safety issues in the village took place and the residents were encouraged to contact the MP (Chris Loder) and/or Dorset Council – Cllr Ray Bryan (Cabinet Lead Member for Highways), with their individual concerns and preferred courses of action. The role of the current provision of SIDs was outlined and discussed. Various future options were vigorously discussed:  1) At the northern end, moving back the 30 MPH signs to the brow of the hill, with new 40 mph signs further back still  2) At the Northern end, having in place a one-way chicane either with priority signs or traffic lights at either end  2) General - speed cameras – these can be applied for via Dorset Police, who advise that regular visits of the mobile camera vans can also be applied for  3) General - 20 mph signs in the village – these can be applied for online via Dorset Council Highways  4) At the southern end, “School” signs, in recognition that children are at risk as many cross the road at the island, which is very narrow, to get to and from the school, whilst secondary aged children gather at the centre of the village by the pumping station, waiting for the bus to Beaminster School.  Whilst the parish council members were keen to ensure that the road speed signage was moved back with a new accompanying 40 MPH sign placed even further back, the majority of residents present favoured having a chicane; however, these were not considered to be mutually exclusive options.  The Parish Council would provide background information to both the local MP, Chris Loder and the Dorset County Road Safety Manager, Tony Burden, and will submit a formal request for urgent road safety improvements on the A3066 in Mosterton. | Council Members/  Clerk |
| **(B)** | **Regular Meeting:**  **Present:** Cllr. Robert Fry, Chair; Cllr. Chris Lamb and Cllr. Andrew House, with the Clerk and initially seven, later six, members of the public in attendance.  **Apologies and Resignation:** Cllr. Angela Bullock had given apologies and has had to resign from being a parish councillor for personal reasons; grateful thanks were given for her contribution to the village in the role over many years.  **Observing:** Leanne Way, new Clerk starting 1st April.  **Declarations of Interest, Grants of Dispensation:** None. |  |
| **2023/013** | **Report from Local Ward Councillor, Dorset County Council**  Cllr. Knox sent apologies. She had attended the meeting/site visit with County Highways and the local MP on road safety in the village on 10th March. |  |
| **2023/014** | **Report from Representative of Dorset Police**  PCSO Alex Bishop sent apologies and a brief report stating that there had been no significant incidents to report affecting the village, but some residents in neighbouring villages and towns had been victim to scammers; PCSO Bishop had added some advice on scams in the light of this. |  |
| **2023/015** | **Minutes from previous meetings**  The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair. |  |
| **2023/016** | **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023**  **Minute 2023/004 Allotment plots:** As requested, the Clerk had written to the 17 allotment plot holders with a reminder to let the council know whether they intended to retain their plots into the April 2023 to March 2024 year. The Clerk had also written to the plot holder who had queried the rise in fee to £25 to confirm that the new fee would stand. The Clerk was asked to send a reminder to plot holders on fee payment by the end of March.  **Minute 2023/004 SIDs:** The Clerk had reported the missing solar panel to the County SIDS Team and Bill Benge, attending, had filed a Police report. The SIDs Team will replace the panel at a cost of £175.00 + VAT. The Clerk was asked to check whether the council’s insurance policy would cover this.  A resident present mentioned ongoing occasional vandalism and despoiling of the metal shelter in the playing field used by older children. It was suggested that a coat of black paint could be applied and that the Mosterton Volunteer Group might be happy to undertake this, claiming back the cost of any materials and equipment needed from the council. The Clerk was asked to write to Jamie Ayers, the group’s organiser, with this request.  It was commented that there was a need to keep the verges by the white lined part of the northern end of the A3066 clear, also a possible task for the group.  **Minute 2023/004: Play Area Replacement Multiplay item:** This had now been delivered installed and paid for and was now in use, with positive comments from families with children.  **Minute 2023/004: Village maintenance:** The new village volunteer group had now been set up and had undertaken work in the last three weeks.  **Minute 2023/004: Insurance:** The Clerk, having contacted the insurer again confirmed that all the fixed assets of the council were covered by the insurance policy, including in respect of public liability, as and where relevant, for personal injury, injury to others and accidental damage. With the removal of the old multi-play item and installation of a new multiplay item, the total value had risen by £10,000, with no additional premium to pay in the current year.  **Minute 2023/004: Coronation Tree:** The Clerk had found red cherry trees available at Groves Garden Centre in Bridport at around £50.00. Emma House, a resident present, agreed to purchase and transport a suitable tree to the village where the chairman, with others, would plant the tree in anticipation and celebration of the King’s Coronation later in the year.  **Minute 2023/004 Reviewing the Policies:** The Clerk reported that this was in hand and would be completed shortly**.**  **Minute 2023/004: Broken road sign, “*Fairoak Way*”:** The Clerk had reported this to County Highways in January and again in early March with only an acknowledgement of the latest email in reply.  **Minute 23/007: Budget:** The Clerk reported that the agreed precept request, for £14,295, had been sent to Dorset Council and acknowledged prior to the end of January as required.  **Minute 2023/009: Risk Assessment:** The Clerk reported that the arrangement to cover business continuity in the extended absence of a clerk had been sufficiently covered in earlier discussions and were no longer pressing, given the recent appointment of a new clerk to start in April. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Emma House/  Cllr Fry |
| **2023/017** | **Consideration of issues raised regarding future road safety in the village**: It was felt that the public meeting discussion at the start was sufficient in itself. |  |
| **2023/018** | **Contribution to Village Hall Initiatives:** Bill Benge, present, reported that he had spoken with the Village Hall Committee Chair; there was concern regarding the ability to let out the hall at certain times, including the Monday afternoon Post Office session, where the Post Office did not contribute whilst the Village Hall paid the energy costs and relinquished the letting fee. The parish council Chair referred to the charitable support from the council and individual councillors, and explained that resources were tight this year, following the necessary purchase of a replacement for the condemned (in the latest external inspection) old multi-play item. He requested that the issue be considered again in a year’s time | Clerk |
| **2023/019** | **New Noticeboard:** The Chair reported that the new noticeboard would be put in place next Sunday 19th March 2023. |  |
| **2023/020** | **Finance Report:**  The clerk as RFO had earlier circulated the report. For this meeting, the fourth quarter (January to March) 2023 was not fully possible given the date of the meeting, but a bank reconciliation was nevertheless included with the opening and closing bank balances reconciling with the period’s payments and receipts for the period 1st January to 7th March 2023. Total payments for the quarter were £26,731.31, including the significant cost of the replacement multi-play item. Receipts were £1,275.55 in interest and loan payments received on the Bank Amenities Account. The end total of the balances in the two bank accounts was £17,207.93. Following discussion, the report was accepted by the Council. |  |
| **2023/021** | **CCTV for Play Area and Field:** The Clerk tabled a quotation for a system from a supplier, Zodiac Ltd. He reported that several suppliers, including some who had provided CCTV to other parish councils for their play areas, had been contacted and had outlined what they could provide with average costs, mostly above £10,000. Only one supplier had visited and had subsequently sent in the quotation, Zodiac Ltd, for just under £5,000. Following discussion, regarding monitoring, which could be undertaken remotely via smart phone, and the budget for this - within the Amenities Account £12,231 – the main issue would be obtaining permission from the Village Hall Committee to allow a cable (within a protecting conduit) up to the Hall to access electricity. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Committee Chair to request this and to let Zodiac Ltd know that, whilst the council is interested in the quotation, the question of power supply has to be investigated first. | Clerk |
| **2023/022** | **Planning Report:** There had been no planning applications for Mosterton since the last meeting |  |
| **2023/023** | **Correspondence Report:** The Clerk had previously circulated the report, which was now accepted. |  |
| **2023/024** | **Update on New Clerk to the Parish Council Appointment:** Leanne Way, observing, having been interviewed the previous week, had been offered and had accepted the appointment. She would be commencing on 1st April 2023. |  |
|  | **Public Discussion of Items for AGM and next meeting, Tuesday 9th May 2023:** No items were discussed |  |

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**