

MOSTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Robert Fry Clerk/RFO: Leanne Way

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of Mosterton Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 commencing at 7.00pm at The Village Hall, Main Road, Mosterton DT8 3HG.

Councillors Present: R. Fry, A. House and G. Paget.

Officers Present: L. Way (Clerk/RFO)

Public Present: 6 members of the public

2024/09/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C.Lamb, Cllr C.Monks (Dorset Council) and PCSO Alex Bishop.

2024/09/02 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2024/09/03 Minutes

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th of July 2024.

2024/09/04 Matters Arising

- Update on the CCTV in the Play Area

A final decision needs to be made on the position of the mast and then the cameras will be installed.

- Community Heartbeat Charity

A course has been arranged for Saturday 19th October at the Village Hall starting at 11am. All welcome to attend. Please contact clerk@mostertonparishcouncil.org to book a place.

2024/09/05 Public Forum

The electrical charging point was raised, and some residents expressed a few points of concern at the proposed area of Axe Valley Close. There was concern that it could hinder or obstruct anyone leaving or entering their driveway – Cllr Paget assured them this would not be the case. School traffic was raised and the parking of vehicles in that area twice a day and this would also be the case when there is an event in the village as Axe Valley is used as an overflow as the nearest place to park.

It was also asked if Mosterton was definitely getting a charging point as it was felt that most residents have off-road parking and would therefore have their own charging point. Cllr Paget pointed out that it would be for passing through traffic as it is a main route coming down from the A303. All concerns will be expressed to Dorset Council.

Chairman:

Date:

2024/09/06 Dorset Council Matters

Cllr Craig Monks sent a report in his absence. See Appendix A.

2024/09/07 Dorset Police Matters

PCSO Alex Bishop sent a report in his absence. See Appendix B.

2024/09/08 Planning Matters

Application No: P/CLE/2023/02814

Location: Moonridge Farm, Main Road, Mosterton. DT8 3HP.

Concerns were raised about the commercial aspect of this application as its agricultural Land and the access to the site is not great, this could make moving plant machinery on and off the site dangerous. Cllr Fry will contact the landowner for further comment.

2024/09/09 Financial Matters

The following payments list was approved for payment.

Payments	
C.Russell – Play area repairs	50.57
Salary Clerk – 2 Months	577.24
HMRC – 2 Months	131.80
Fry’s Commercials	189.00
DCC Parrett Axe	250.00
Footprintz	130.00
Kenneth Hussey – Play area	280.00
David Landscapes	396.00
Village Hall	40.00
Dog Bags	32.17
Jamie Ayers – Volunteers	106.98
Total	2183.76

Receipts	
Interest – 2 Months	25.10
Playgroup Loan	1114.10
Total	1139.20

The bank reconciliation was approved and signed.

Total of Accounts £ 24,944.57.

2024/09/10 Volunteers Update

Cllr Paget gave an update on the good work carried out by Jamie Ayers and his team of volunteers.

See Appendix C.

Chairman:

Date:

2024/09/11 Other Council Matters

- Update on the electrical charging point was discussed under item 5 public forum.
- The overgrown paths at the playing fields will be dealt with by the volunteers.
- We will investigate who owns the hedge running up the road to the village hall.

2024/09/12 Correspondence Received

All correspondence was discussed and will be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

2024/09/13 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th November 2024

Meeting Closed 7.50pm

Appendix A

Dear Chair and Members of Mosterton Parish Council,

I regret that I am unable to attend this evening's meeting due to a prior commitment to attend a Cabinet meeting. I will be raising important questions regarding two key issues: water quality and the rumoured cuts to highways services, particularly the potential scrapping of the budget for gully and ditch clearing.

This is a deeply concerning development. As we all know, clearing ditches and gullies is a vital service that plays a crucial role in flood prevention across our ward. While no Councillor or Council would want to see cuts to public services, the impact of this particular cut could be significant, especially for areas like ours that are prone to flooding.

The Dorset Council recently published a financial report indicating a £10.7 million deficit in the budget within the first four months of the financial year. While these are still early days, I believe this may be a contributing factor to the proposed budget cuts. Rest assured, I will do my utmost to advocate for the protection of these essential services.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to report that the first Community Forum was held last month in Beaminster and was very well received. The next forum will take place in Mosterton Village Hall next month. I am delighted to announce that our guest speaker will be Police and Crime Commissioner David Sidwick. David will provide an update on his work and will be available to answer questions from residents. It would be fantastic to see you all there, and I encourage you to spread the word among your networks.

Additionally, I have a scheduled meeting with the Community Ranger to discuss the possibility of rewilding certain spaces within the ward. This conversation stems from complaints about the lack of maintenance in some areas. I am aware that Mosterton benefits from a fantastic team of volunteers who do an excellent job maintaining the village. Should funding become available for rewilding initiatives, I would greatly appreciate the input and collaboration of the Parish Council and our volunteers. While I am not overly optimistic about securing funds, I am committed to exploring all possibilities.

Chairman:

Date:

Thank you for your understanding regarding my absence tonight. I look forward to updating you on the outcomes of the Cabinet meeting and discussing any further actions we may need to take.

**Cllr Craig Monks Beaminster Ward
Dorset Council**

Appendix B.

Please find my apologies and a report as follows:

Fortunately I have nothing to feed back this month, in relation to the Parish, but just wanted to advise that there has been a series of thefts of quads and trailers in the Somerset area recently, with a few straying over the border into Dorset. We had a Trailer, quad and tools stolen from a farm in Pilsdon (Trailer has been recovered) and a trailer and quad stolen from Halstock. The quad has been recovered with other items with were being stored in an isolated field in Somerset. This was because the quad bike stolen in Halstock was fitted with a tracker and they were able to locate it.

Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us on 101, at the time, or report online at www.dorset.police.uk. If anyone is concerned about their security and would like further advice, please contact me.

My next engagement will be at the Post Office on Monday 16th September at 1.30.

Regards,

Alex Bishop
PCSO

Appendix C.

I thought it may be an idea to have a short report each meeting on the activities of the Mosterton volunteers that work around the village on a weekly basis.

The aim of the volunteers is to make our lovely Dorset village stand out among the rest.

As most of you will know, the volunteers meet on Tuesday morning weather permitting, from 10:00 to 12:00. The main goal on Tuesday, is litter picking, attend to the flower beds and planters, mow and strim around the stones on the village green, the grass verge next to the shop, around the pumping station and grass area on the other side of the river to the pumping station, plus any other jobs that come to their attention, and they have enough volunteers on the day to undertake the tasks.

Additional work carried out so far this year

Himalayan balsam removal from the riverbanks

Maintenance of road signs including washing and line of sight hedge trimming

Public footpath maintenance including strimming and distribution of wood chips to surfaces

Fence painting around park and village hall

Chairman:

Date:

River maintenance including removal of obstructive plants

Added flower troughs

Assisting at village events such as village hall and bands on the green

Painting and ground clearance at the church

Tree management around the village

They also undertake, using the ride on mower, purchased last year from funds donated, cutting all the grass verges within the village on a regular basis. This is done over and above the work carried out on a Tuesday, as is, the curb side weed control throughout the village.

The mower we have is not a heavy-duty machine, therefore, the mowing must be done regularly, to allow the mower to cope, even then, sometimes the mowing is hard going, (due to the length of the grass) therefore, it is thanks to Robert Fry and his team that keeps this mower in good working order.

It is obvious what a difference this work has made to the look of village, and how much people appreciate what the volunteers have achieved and continue to, by the many good comments and thanks they received from many residents.

I believe there are also some unforeseen benefits.

Keeping the grass verges mowed from the start of the 30 mile an hour restriction, is another clear indication to drivers they are entering a built-up area.

Several small grass verges are now being cut by residents, that were not cut before, and perhaps even some gardens are being attended to more regularly.

More volunteers are needed to keep up this good work, and they do not necessarily need to be available on Tuesday morning, tasks can be undertaken at any time during the week, an hour here and there is all that is required.

Chairman:

Date: