

Durweston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 19th January at Durweston Village Hall starting at 1900 hours.

Present: Councillors: C Newton (Chair), E Corry, H Galpin, T Hewson, J Hosford, T Marks.

In Attendance, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk) 0 member of the public.

Apologies for Absence: DC Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Cllr S Spiller.

- 1. Declaration of Interests:** None received.
- 2. Granting of any Dispensations:** None received.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes from 17th November:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 4. Democratic Period:** Nothing raised.
-Dorset Councillor Report:
-The Clerk reported that DC have prepared their budget for 26-27, Council Tax will increase by 4.9%.
- 5. Matters Arising:**
-Cllr Spiller has stated that he would like to step down from the PC, DPC to look into co-opting a new councillor.
-The PC had agreed to offer 50% funding towards a new gate to ensure that the children are safe when playing in that area of the field. This had been relayed to the VH Committee that the PC would fund 50% towards the new fencing and gate. VH Committee are obtaining quotes for new fence and gate, this item to be put onto the next agenda for discussion once the quotes have been obtained.
-The PC had obtained permission from the landowner to replace the stile to the VH field, Clerk to instruct DC Ranger to proceed with this work.
-The gate to the field, which was broken has now been reinstated, DPC had agreed to pay up to £30.00 towards the cost of reinstating the gate. The Chair to check whether there has been a padlock placed on the gate.
-Wessex Ground Services had contacted the Clerk to state that they would not be looking to renew the contract to cut the grass verges. DC Rangers have agreed to cut the grass verges in the future, Cllr Marks had obtained a quote from a contractor who will carry out any additional cuts required.
-Cllr Marks had agreed with the resident of Portman Lodge that they would have the hedge cut back which is overhanging toward the highway, forcing drivers to travel further out to the middle of the road. The resident has now decided that they will not go ahead at present.
-The noticeboard had not yet been put up in the VH, the Chair to chase Cllr Spiller.
- 6.. -Officers Report:**
-Rights of Way: No current update.
--Highways:
There had been further road accidents/ incidents in recent weeks involving road closures through the village. DPC would like to remind all that it is important to report any car accidents or near misses on the DC website, so that they have a record of all incidents that happen on our roads.

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--Play Areas:

-Den Corry and the Chair met to take measurements for the new bucket swing that he is making to replace the broken one. New chains need to be purchased, Den thinks that the bucket should be ready to be installed in the March.

-The newly replaced grass around the goal areas on the playing field are doing well, Den advised that it would be best to wait until spring to reinstall the goal posts to give the chance for the grass to become established. Cllr Marks will power wash the goals before they are reinstalled.

-The recent play inspection report has highlighted several pieces of play equipment that need some attention, the Chair to approach Den to find out whether he would be interested in taking on this work, DPC agreed that they would pay him for his work.

-For safety reasons the seat to the zip wire is to be removed until the mechanism can be inspected and any necessary work completed.

-DAPTC :

-Simon Hoare MP hosting a roundtable at the Corn Exchange in Blandford on the 30th January between 10am-12pm.

-Village Hall:

-Quiz Night scheduled for Friday 30th January, 7pm.

-Open Mic evening planned for 27th February.

-Allotments- No current update.

8. - Speed Watch update: Rain has prevented speed watches.

9. – Finances: The Clerk had sent out the December Report:

-The following payments were approved: Clerks wage at agreed rate/ HMRC PAYE/

- DPW approved an increase in the Clerk's hourly rate.

10. Any Other Business:

-DPC thanked Cllr Hewson for doing a reading behalf of the PC at the Christmas Carol Service at St Nicholas Church.

-The Chair reminded the PC of the importance of observing the Code of Conduct, being civil, polite and treating others with respect at all times, this is following recent complaints regarding several interactions with local residents by a serving cllr that fell short of observing the code.

Date of the next meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Monday 16th March, 7pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed 8.11pm

Signed _____ Dated _____