

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Martinstown village hall**

**Councillors Present:**

A Daw (AD) (*Chairman*)

K Delafield (KD)

M Usherwood (MU)

D Wiltshire (DW) (*Vice Chair*)

D Follett (DF)

D Read (DR)

N Hallett (NH)

7 members of the public

**22/03-1. Welcome and to receive any apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**22/03-2. To fill the current vacancies by Co-option**

Four applications had been received.

The Chair based on his understanding of the Parish Council standing orders asked each councillor present to vote for 2 candidates of the 4 using a paper vote. The 2 candidates with the most votes would be voted for in turn. The vote was carried out

Mark Pemberton co-opted onto the parish council by 7 votes to 0.

Noel Marsh was co-opted onto the Parish Council by 5 votes to 2.

Discussion followed, KD suggested that we should vary our standing orders to cover the initial sorting ballot this was supported by Councillor Tarr. DW proposed a variation to the standing orders to follow the procedure as proposed by the chair, seconded by NH.

Cllr Follett left the meeting.

**22/03-3. To receive declarations of interest and grants of dispensation**

There were no declarations of interest.

**22/03 -4 To receive an update about Green Martinstown**

Colin Tracey, a Director of the Green Martinstown CIC and the chair of the Core Group outlined the completed projects, including planting flowering bulbs by the bus stop, the platinum tree planting, the recycling of tetra-packs and aluminium and tablet foils, supporting the grounds at the village hall, community composting and the renovation of the phone box.

GM would like to work with the PC to support the declaration of the Climate Emergency by supporting the establishment and reduction of the parish carbon footprint. Colin explained the partnership working with Dorset Climate Action and the possibility of a solar array to serve the parish on land leased from Dorset Council. He also mentioned the Eco Open Homes event led by DCAN. GM are considering using the Sustainable Dorset Green Living Project. Colin also invited councillors to the GM core and member meetings.

The Chair thanked Colin and stated that working with GM would be considered as part of the response to the village survey.

**22/03-5 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting by 6:0  
Proposed DW Seconded NH

**22/03-6 Matters arising from the minutes for info only-**

There were no matters arising

**22/03-7 To formally approve the appointment of Joanna Ramsey**

Joanna Ramsey was recommended by AD and seconded by KD and appointed to the post of clerk.

Cllr Debbie Wiltshire left the meeting.

**22/03-8 Democratic forum 15 minutes**

1. One parishioner queried the procedure followed to co-opt new members onto the Parish Council. The parishioner considered the process used as illegal, that it was not transparent, that it was a secret ballot. It was agreed that Dorset Council Cllr. Roland Tarr would approach the DC legal team for their advice.
2. One of the applicants but not co-opted stated that the co-option was not open.
3. A parishioner asked if the Parish Council would actively support the development of smaller homes suitable for local young people to be able to live in the Parish. This was noted by the Chair.

**22/03-09 Verbal update Dorset Bus Back Better**

The chair informed the council that he continued to work with a parishioner to include the parish in any Dorset Council improvements. The Clerk is on a mailing list for transport issues. The Chair is in irregular contact with the Dorset Council lead Cllr Ray Bryan.

**22/03-10 Planning Consultations-****i. To consider any planning applications –**

P/RES/2022/01411 detail for 5 properties land north of Park Farm Close, no objection

P/FUL/2022/01365 Rylands Farm change of use to holiday accommodation, no objection

P/FUL/2022/01202 Grove Hill Barn, single story extension, no objection

**ii. To consider any other planning/enforcement or ongoing issues-**

19/00234 planting around biodigester has been completed

**22/03-11 Finance**

There has only been one payment since the last meeting back pay associated with the Clerk national agreed pay increase, back dated from April 2021 of £50.32  
The garage rent has been invoiced and this has been paid.

**22/03-12 Highways:**

**To receive / report any other highways issues-**

None were raised

**To receive the SID results-**

The results previously circulated were noted

**RoW and Footpaths: to receive a report**

Nothing to report

**22/03-13****To consider all correspondence received for decision, consultation, and information –**

1. Great British Spring Clean no action recommended
2. 2023 Hardy Half Marathon agreed AD would liaise with the organiser, Tony Howden

**22/03-14****Parish Council Property/responsibility reports**

No issues reported

**22/03-15****To receive any reports from community groups and reps:****Flood volunteers**

The Community Flood Plan was proposed by KD and seconded by AD and accepted 5:0 for forwarding to the Environment Agency. A number of small updates were requested by the chair.

The PC thanked the Flood Volunteers for their support of parishioners who needed support to clear the stream and the wider maintenance work undertaken by the group.

County Councillor Tarr asked Councillor Delafield to forward correspondence with DC regarding their riparian responsibility so he could chase action within DC.

**The Village Hall**

MU updated the PC on the slow but sure progress being made on the legal developments for the playground hand over. The PC were told that new equipment had been commissioned. The PC congratulated the Village Hall committee on their successful VIP bid for a kitchen upgrade.

Cllr. Delafield left the meeting, As previously advised due to health reasons and after the standard meeting period had elapsed.

**22/03-16****The Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 26 April in Martinstown Village Hall at 8pm. Ruth Bardon from Wessex Water has accepted an invitation to speak at the meeting about the work of Wessex Water.

**22/03-17****Democratic Forum**

1. The procedure used for the co-option was again criticised by one of the applicants. The process was considered secret and designed to keep people out. The procedure would be passed to the Dorset Council legal team for their guidance.
2. A parishioner questioned the ownership of the Reading Rooms. The Chair offered to investigate.

Meeting closed at 10.12