

## Minutes of the Winterborne St Martin Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the village hall 7.30pm

**22 members of the public were present at the meeting.**

**This included 5 members of the Parish Council, and Dorset Councillor.**

- 1. Housekeeping and to receive apologies for absence-** The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting and the new Ward Cllr Roland Tarr was introduced, each Cllr introduced themselves as the newly elected Cllrs for the PC.  
Apologies received from Martin Usherwood and Neale Hallett.
- 2. To approve the minutes of the Parish meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
Minutes were available from the meeting in 2018. These were accepted as an accurate record.
- 3. Matters Arising from the minutes-** None considered
- 4. Chairman's report for 2018-19**

We are again at the end of another year, and also the end of the Council's four-year term of office. I was enormously pleased that we got enough candidates with an interest in standing for the Parish Council to have an election. Especially in a year when few Parish Councils in Dorset had enough candidates for an election to place, and some had none at all. Thank you to all those that stood for election and a huge thank you to those that took the opportunity to cast their vote. The 54% turnout was one of the highest for a Dorset Parish this year and something we can all be very proud of.

Your newly elected Council will now serve for a term of five years, and I hope you will get to know them and raise any issues of concern with them during that time. Contact details will be available on the Parish Council page of the village website.

It was also pleasing to have four or five other residents who expressed an interest in standing for the Council in the future, so we know we have people to talk to in the event of any vacancies during this five-year term.

Three vacancies occurred on the Parish Council during the last year, one as a result of the sudden death of our friend and fellow Councillor Ann Priddle. Ann had been a hard-working Councillor since joining the Parish Council in 2015 and we miss Ann's valuable contributions to our meetings. 2018/19 has been a busy year and I must start by mentioning Stephen Slade for very many years the clerk to the Council, who took the decision to retire from his post at the end of April. Stephen has been a very long serving clerk who has been by the side of many Chairmen over the years to offer advice on procedure and ensure consistency in the work of the Council however the Members change over the years. We will miss Stephen's input as our clerk and thank him for his many years loyal service. Stephen will still update us at our regular meeting as the village flood warden and representative of the South Winterbourne Community Flood Action Group.

Following a recruitment process we have been very fortunate to appoint Michele Harding as our new Clerk to the Council. Michele is an experienced and qualified Local Council Clerk and is also clerk to both Burton Bradstock and Chesil Bank Parish Councils. We extend a very warm welcome to Michele.

During the last year the Parish Council has commented on 17 planning applications.

The Parish Council has been involved in discussions regarding the Washingpool and contributed a portion of the cost of some maintenance work undertaken by 'Land of Bone and Stone' to the stonework of the Washingpool. Discussions have also taken place with regard to the installation of an information panel which we are expecting to be completed soon.

As in previous years the Parish Council has received many complaints about the parking situation outside the McDonalds fast food outlet at Monkey's Jump roundabout with complainants regularly mentioning the unsightly appearance and danger to other road users caused by inconsiderate and dangerous parking on the Dorset Council owned highway verges. Although the premises is not within the Parish Council are this has a significant impact on the main entrance to our village and therefore the Parish Council has communicated with various stakeholders to try, so far unsuccessfully, to find a solution to the problems at this location. The Parish Council will continue with its efforts and has already agreed to engage with our new Dorset Councillor, Roland Tarr, in this respect.

The Parish Council undertook possibly one of its largest consultations ever in respect of a proposed term time only, weekday bus service to Dorchester in the early afternoon. Over 100 residents responded to the consultation and helped Councillors come to an informed decision about whether to fund this proposal. As approximately 85% of respondents did not consider the proposal as good value for money the Council came to the decision not to financially support the proposal. It is recognised that the offer from the bus company came after many years of hard work from the Winterbourne Valley Transport Group and the Parish Council thanks the group for their contributions to this work in recent years.

The Speed Indicator Device installed by the Parish Council in the Mallards Green area continues to receive positive feedback – especially since the upgrade to the model displaying the 'Thank You' message to drivers who are complying with the speed limit. Residents in this area of the village still have no safe footpath to walk to the centre of the village and we will continue to work with Dorset Council to do what we can to improve pedestrian safety in this area as well as the rest of the village. The SID serves as a visual reminder to drivers of their speed. It can be seen by looking at the data over the year that the impact is most noticeable on the drivers who were previously travelling between 30 and 40 mph. These are the drivers most likely to reduce their speed to within the speed limit – especially to achieve the 'Thank You' message. Drivers significantly exceeding the speed limit do not get a display – a protocol advised by the highways team. Every data download from the SID includes a number of vehicles exceeding 60mph – surprisingly some of these are in the daytime. The regular visits from the Dorset Safety Partnership Camera Van are more likely to impact on these drivers.

The Parish Council receives regular feedback regarding footpaths and bridleways within the village and first attempts to resolve issues with landowners or, if necessary, refer any issues to the Dorset Council who are the responsible authority in relation to footpaths and bridleways. There are many comments received about uncollected dog excrement and it is worth reminding dog owners that when walking our field and farm footpaths it is still necessary to pick up after your dogs. Dog faeces are a danger to farm animals and unpleasant for everyone. Please remember to always clear up after your dog, wherever you are walking them.

Residents joined some Members of the Parish Council in April to take part in the Great British Spring Clean – and it was pleasing to report that the main part of the village had only limited amount of litter to collect – I am sure due mainly to people picking it up and disposing of it rather than it not being deposited in the first place.

The formation in April of this year of the new Dorset Council replaces the previous West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council and we must thank our elected representatives to each of these authorities. Jean Dunseith, previously our Dorset County Councillor and Robert Freeman, previously our West Dorset District Councillor, were regular attendees at our Parish Council meetings and took up resident's issues with their respective Councils. We thank them very much for their support over recent years.

Winterborne St Martin is now part of a much larger ward of Winterborne and Broadmayne and our newly elected representative to the Dorset Council is Roland Tarr.

The formation of the new Dorset Council as a unitary authority will undoubtedly bring about many changes to what we as a Parish Council must consider doing – some of which are as yet unknown – but the Parish Council hopes to ensure it is well prepared for these changes and willing to consider taking on new responsibilities, even though this will also bring financial implications.

We welcome our two newly elected Councillors, Ben Carter and Valerie Cardall and hope to see many more of you at our Parish Council meetings in the future.

## 5. Finance

### a. To receive a report on the financial year 2018-19

The Accounts had been internally audited and PKF Littlejohn the external auditors had been appointed by NALC.

Annual gross income for the authority 2018/19: £8789

Annual gross expenditure for the authority 2018/19: £6966

All information is available on the PC website.

## 6. To receive reports from the following and invited guests

- a. **Waste watch representatives-** The same activities continue but is not as much as previous years. £20,000 pounds have been collected over the years. Two large bins sit by the village hall and by the reading room for people to deposit newspapers. The group could do with one or two more volunteers to help the collections which are every two to three weeks.
- b. **Village hall representatives-** The VH Chair gave thanks to the outgoing chair who has done incredible job for the benefit of the village hall. Thanks also to the booking secretary. A bug hotel is being built by the children’s playground, there have been arts reach events, the village hall committee hopes the open gardens event will happen again this year, stewards are required for the event. Also raffle prizes are required. The committee is working very hard but thank you to all the village for their support thank you also to the parish council.
- c. **Winterbourne Valley Community Fund-** The group took a decision to change the name to make it clearer what the group formerly known as the Blanchard trust was all about. Grants are made by an application process; this is for hardship or those in distress. It's available for anybody who lives in the valley including Abbas and Steepleton. This is all done in complete confidence and a subgroup consider any applications, it is very discreet. The group welcome any applications.
- d. **PCSO matters-** apologies were given as Sarah could not attend but supplied a report:  
 Reported incidents between 01-11-2018 – 01-05-2019 as follows  
 1 x criminal damage farmers fence – in Hardy’s Monument area  
 2 x suspicious vehicles – Rew lane area  
 2 x Road traffic collision – damage only  
 General – Reports of evidence and/or Poaching having taken place – we urge anyone to please report anything however small or insignificant you think it may be, all these calls helps us build a picture as to the poachers movements so when we do overnight operations we can use this information to tailor our patrols  
 Scam calls/e mail still prevalent in all guises and are forever changing. Main thing is NO ONE ( incl banks, police, HMRC ) will ever ask for any personal bank details over the phone, threaten you with arrest if you don’t comply, ask you to go to bank and withdraw money and they will collect so DON’T give them out unless you have instigated the call i.e Amazon, e bay etc. If any concerns put the phone down, leave for 5/10 mins then either call a recognized number or Police on 101.

Beauty Spot thefts are continuing so again please report any cars or persons acting suspicious, but we do try and patrol as and when we can display posters and advising drivers accordingly.

There have also been breaks to businesses in and around the Dorchester area with thefts of tools, garden machinery etc so just to make all aware or securing their sheds, containers, business premises and if any security advice needed then I am happy to visit.

- e. **Flood Warden-** report from the Flood Warden-Please keep your sections of the stream clear, especially for the best village competition, riparian owners need to be regularly reminded to do this.
- f. **Updated from invited guests-**  
Cllr Roland Tarr spoke to the meeting as the newly elected Dorset Councillor for the area. He has been in the area for the last 40 years. He has been the heritage coast officer and involved with arts reach. He was originally from Exmoor. He explained that he has been looking into the parking issues at McDonald's and hoping to meet with the Duchy about the tenant farmer regarding the adjacent land and hoping to make this a car park. The area is in Winterborne Monkton parish, but it affects Winterbourne St. Martin much more. He has also been talking to the Council with regard to the radio station and possibly doing a land swap with highways England, but he wouldn't know anymore until September. Cllr Tarr also spoke about the dog wardens and the issues of stealing dogs from car parks. Cllr Tarr is happy to receive any issues he could take to Dorset council on behalf of the village.

Book of Martinstown- the PC had received a cheque for £900 which was the original cost of the printing paid for by WSMPC. The book has sold very well. The book has taken some time to write, and grateful thanks were given to the enormous effort made by those who wrote the book for the community.

## 7. Your issues/Comments

- a. Thank you for all that you have done over the last year, but what are the priorities for the coming year? KD commented that she was new to the Council and historically we react to issues that have come up but hope the PC will be more proactive during the course of the year.  
BC explained that common sense should prevail, and communication should be a key issue for all of the village.  
VC explained that she is very new to this role and happy to be approached and has worked historically for WDDC. She explained she is passionate about waste and plastics.
- b. PJ commented on the use of the Church, shop and pub and encouraged people to use them as these facilities will only exist if they are used less than a 1/3 of the village use them regularly. Comments were made on the shop and how to stock it as capital is needed to hold enough stock. It was noted that they will always try to get in what people want, a campaign was suggested on a use it or lose it basis.
- c. Green agenda- it was suggested that a carbon footprints initiatives need to be considered and a community policy.

- d. Parish Magazine- It was noted that June/July will be the last issue unless someone stepped forward, the current volunteer has been doing this for the last 7 years. The Martinstown website will still be maintained, but this is not the same as the village magazine.
- e. It is hoped to be a defibrillator at the village hall soon.
- f. The Poppy collections are no longer happening due to the issues of going house to house in the evening, it was suggested they could be sold at the shop and the pub.
- g. Questions around how the PC should be contacted with only 15 minutes in the democratic forum, it as explained that it is 30 mins in total but split into 2 sessions at beginning and end. Residents were encouraged to speak to Cllrs face to face, when possible, with their issues. Can the duties of the PC be made clearer?
- h. Some Footpaths and styles are in a poor state, these can be reported to Dorset Council or to the RoW rep.
- i. Bus service- there were comments on the lack of a bus service, it was noted that a service was explored by the PC, but the village rejected the options following a survey.

The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Thank you for voting in the new Council

## **8. Closure for refreshments**

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.38pm