

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
THE LOWER WINTERBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2007
AT WINTERBORNE KINGSTON**

- 1. ATTENDANCE:** Mr. T. Ives (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Hughes (Parish Clerk)
Mrs. H. Cox (District Councillor)
Mr. M. Cox (County Councillor)
Mrs. D. Jones MBE (County Councillor)
Mrs. R. Burden
Mrs. C. Smith
Mr. S. Rogers
Mr. M. Cook
Mr. R. Thorne
Mr. M. Griffin
Mr. D. Holden
Ms. J. Guest (General Manager Community Services NDDC)
Mr. D. Milsted (County Councillor - Gillingham)
4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Mr. M. Meaden
Mr. P. Baker

2. TOUGH CHOICES / LOCAL DELIVERY

The Chairman introduced Ms. J. Guest (General Manager Community Services NDDC) and Mr. D. Milsted (County Councillor - Gillingham) who attended the meeting to make a presentation on the Local Delivery Project and outline plans for it in the future. Background to the project was given and the meeting was reminded that the Government had restricted increases in Council Tax to 5%; Dorset ranks the 6th lowest Council tax in the country, historically housing stock money and reserves were spent to keep the tax low. The meeting was advised that the national average Band D council tax payment is currently £158.67 whilst in Dorset it is £92.40. It was reported that there is now a spending gap between income and expenditure as the Council is under pressure to fund the introduction of new services and still maintain existing services. Ms. Guest stated that all Council services had been reviewed for cost savings and joint working (with other councils) was underway but despite this the Audit Commission have advised that in four to five years the Council will be unable to fund the provision of any discretionary services. The Council's savings target for FY 2008/09 was announced as £470k; this would represent the loss of the Youth Groups in Blandford and Shaftsbury; the Outreach sports service; the closure of all public toilets and the withdrawal of all funding to the CAB. Phase Two of the Local Delivery Project will be the transfer of discretionary services to providers other than the Council, a letter is being sent to all Town and Parish Councils regarding funding and service provision for FY 2008/09. *After note: this information has now been received and will be circulated to all Parish Councillors.* The Chairman opened the floor to comments and questions. Mrs. Cox stated that the County Council was seeking ways to work more closely with District Councils on waste reduction. Mr. Griffin asked how much the Local Delivery Programme would cost per household, he was advised that at present it was £11.84 per Band D property however it was made clear that this figure was unconfirmed as decisions regarding services need to be made first. Mrs. Burden stated that she felt the system was unfair as not all Parish Councils were or would be contributing. Ms. Guest advised the meeting that she would be visiting all Parish Council's to request their support but that the Council has no legal authority to obtain monies from them. It was reiterated that if Dorset Council had not been capped by Government then Council Tax payments would be much higher. Mr. Holden asked for some more background on how the situation had been reached, Mrs. Guest reiterated the background to Dorset's low Council Tax and advised that the plan had been to increase it however it was capped before this could be done. Mr. Milsted stated that capping had taken away democracy, however town and parish councils are not subject to capping regulations. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Cook both expressed an interest in seeing the service breakdown for FY 2008/09 and felt it important that residents were involved in the decision making process. Mr. Cox stated that it was impossible to pick and choose between services. There followed some discussion cost reduction by joint working with neighbouring Councils to which there was general public agreement. The public present questioned the £80k provided by County Council to maintain the running of some bus services.

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Mrs. Cox advised that this had been done to keep the service going whilst a review takes place although it was clear that it was not going to be possible to keep all busses running on all routes. Ms. Guest pointed out that the NORDCAT Service was for anyone's use, not just the elderly. Mr. Cox suggested that bus revenue could be increased by advertising on the vehicles. The Chairman thanked Ms. Guest and Mr. Milsted for attending the meeting. Ms. Guest, Mr. Milsted, Mrs Cox and Mr. Cox left the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15th May 2007 had been circulated to all members and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mrs. Burden. Carried with two abstentions.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

5. NON AGENDA ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

None.

6. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman thanked Mr. Cook and Mr. Meaden for preparing and printing the Parish Council insert for the Red Post Magazine. There followed some discussion regarding the Connecting Dorset Project; the location and use of the equipment. It was confirmed that the Parish Council and Winterborne Zelston Village Hall Committee had signed up to the project and that Winterborne Kingston Village Hall was not participating. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council's broadband connection would be installed and maintained at the Youth Building. *After note: after re reading the Connecting Dorset documentation the Clerk has confirmed that the laptop and associated equipment and software offered to and accepted by the Parish Council is for use by the Parish Clerk for working on, maintaining and storing Parish Council business. The community element of the Connecting Dorset project is supported by the offer of identical equipment to village halls. The supply, acceptance and maintenance of this equipment by village halls will allow community access to the internet: Council web sites; planning applications etc.* The Chairman reported that all Councillors except Mr. Rogers and Mr. Thorn had read the North Dorset Draft Strategies Document. He requested any comments to be received by the Clerk by 28th June 2007. *After note: none received.*

- a. Weekly Playground Inspection and Risk Assessment Winterborne Kingston and Winterborne Zelston – Mrs. Smith reported no problems for Winterborne Kingston. The Chairman reported that the repair tools and spares for the play equipment had been received from Mr. Reed and were in his garage. It was confirmed that the rubber matting had been laid. Mrs. Burden reported that there was a lot of river weed in the river at Winterborne Zelston and that some tree boughs were in need of cutting.
- b. Cemetery / Churchyard – The Chairman informed the meeting that a tree in the churchyard was extending over a neighbouring property, he agreed to look at options to address this.
- c. Homewatch – Graham Hyde was not present to report. Mrs. Jones advised the meeting of a spate of minor incidents and recommended locking all possible buildings and vehicles. The Chairman informed the meeting of several reported incidents of vandalism to vehicles in an attempt to steal fuel. *After note: the Clerk spoke with PC Mullins (Community Policing) who apologised for missing the meeting but hopes to attend in July.*
- d. Winterborne Kingston Cricket Club (WKCC) – Mr. Rogers presented the meeting with a signed lease. He then reported an okay month with a full events schedule. The recreation ground was reported as being in good condition with some re seeding underway. There had been a request from Ms. Gale for the installation of a stile over the fence between the recreation ground and the paddock. It was agreed that the Parish Council would advise her that they had no objection to her going ahead with this.
- e. Highway Matters – Mr. Cook reported that the sign at the entrance to Winterborne Zelston was being repaired. He advised the meeting that he had spent some time in the Highways Department at Dorchester. He made specific enquiries regarding speed checks on the main road through Winterborne Kingston and had been told that the last checks done in 2002 produced

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acceptable results. Mr. Cook informed the meeting that Highways had a £20k budget for the year and the Lower Winterbornes ranked a low priority for any expenditure. It was agreed that the Parish Council would request a speed check to gauge the current situation. It was noted that there was still a cone on the drain cover outside the Post Office; Mr. Cook agreed to follow this up. A hole in the main road on the bridge in Winterborne Kingston was reported, it was agreed a letter would be sent to request its repair

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- f. Village Halls – Mr. Meaden was not present to report, in his absence Mrs. Nash advised the meeting that he had been supplied with the latest meeting minutes and an up to date set of accounts. Mrs. Burden had nothing to report for Winterborne Zelston Village Hall but did raise the issue of the new smoking ban coming into force on July 1st 2007.
- g. Rights of Way and Bridleways - Mr. Atkinson was not present to report. In his absence the Chairman reported on his behalf; Mr. Atkinson had contacted Mr. Williams re areas on Footpaths 12 and 8 and Bridleway 16 that were overgrown and requiring attention. The meeting was also advised of notification received from DCC regarding their intent to improve the visibility for riders and walkers by diverting part of Bridleways 10 and 22 at the A31. Both the Parish Council and Mr. Atkinson have responded supporting the change. It was noted that the bridleway at back of Kiddles Farm (to West Morden) and the footpath between West Street and Bagwood Lane were becoming overgrown despite a member of the public having cut back the latter. These require monitoring and the Clerk agreed to advise Mr. Atkinson for action to be taken.
- h. Dog Bins – The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent requesting three bins, along with an offer of a financial contribution toward the cost of their emptying but to date there had been no reply. It was agreed that this would be followed up.

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The Chairman requested a new agenda item: DT11 Partnership. Mr. Holden had nothing to report, however he advised the meeting that Mr. Shaxon was at a DT11 meeting and that he, Mr. Holden, would report in July

7. YOUTH BUILDING PROJECT

The Chairman reported that the project was on course; with the tress having been felled; the main section of the tractor shed removed; the excavation and concreting of foundations for the new building and tractor shed complete. He advised the meeting that the internal dismantling of the building at Canford School would begin on 25th June with the building moving to site on 3rd – 5th July. He informed the meeting that the finance was meeting the cost at present; with £39,280 received into Parish Council funds; £17k anticipated to be spent by the time the building is on site and electricity installed; the project has been costed at £55k and the outstanding financial requirement of approximately £15k has been applied for from several charities although this may be less with fundraising input from the community when the building is in place. Mr. Griffin questioned what contingency plans were in place to make up any financial shortfall if further grants were not received. Finally the Chairman advised the meeting that a Trade Account has been established with Jewsons in the name of the Lower Winterborne Parish Council for the duration of the project.

8. PLANNING

Results Received:

Application No. 2/2007/0309

Gilrudding Cottage, 2 Muston Lane, Winterborne Kingston

2 storey extension – permission granted subject to three conditions.

Application No. 2/2007/0322

Eden Haven, Bagwood Lane, Winterborne Kingston

2 single storey extensions, install one dormer window, erect porch, demolish existing porch – permission granted subject to two conditions.

Application No. 2/2007/0360

39 North Street, Winterborne Kingston

Erect first floor extension – permission refused on grounds of significant loss of amenity to neighboring properties.

Applications Received:

Application No's. 2/2007/0609 (general application to carry out development) and
2/2007/0610 (application for listed building consent)

Riverside Cottage, Winterborne Zelston

Single storey extension to rear of existing garage to form playroom, with timber cladding walls and slate roof – Mrs. Burden proposed that the Parish Council support the application, seconded by Mr. Holden, all in favour unanimously carried.

A further letter received by the Parish Council regarding the Dunbury School Planning Application was read out by Mr. Thorne.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Dorset Police – Reply re policing priority concerns

Dorset AONB Partnership – Landscape Character Assessment: consultation draft. (*This has been passed to Francis Shaxon*).

Signpost – Re land at Broad Close / Receipt of £176.25

DCC – Changes to Highway Service

Connecting Dorset – Planning Information

NDDC – Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act: Core Strategy Consultation

Environment Agency – Change in Winterborne Watercourse Management

Dorset Police: Chief Inspector Ayres – Response to concerns re policing priorities. (*The Chairman read this correspondence out to the meeting*).

NDDC – Child Okeford Village Design Statement Consultation Draft

Robert Walter MP – Acknowledgement of copy re policing priorities

Jewson – Trade Cashcard & benefits package x 2

DCC – Pre Application Consultation for Public Path Diversion (bridleways 10 and 22)

Signpost – Request for Easement to lay electricity cable on land at Broad Close; Deed of Grant and Official Copy Entries

10. FINANCELWPC Payments

Grasskeep Services (April)	£360.00
Grasskeep Services (May, plus; grave repair, strimming, gate adjustment, tree stump removal and disposal)	£420.00
NDDC 1 st Local Delivery Payment	£350.00
Clerks Salary & Expenses	£411.59 / £85.76
Redlynch Leisure (matting)	£411.25

YBP Payments

Signpost Housing	£176.25
NDDC Planning Building Control	£266.73
Ian Pitman	£450.24
Tree Lions	£188.00
A.T @ V.L Blake	£4,582.50
Scottish & Southern Energy	£3,643.91
A Tanks	£655.06

YBP Receipts

Proceeds from 50/50 Fundraising Auction	£1,083.00
Youth Capital Fund Grant	£34,000.00
Donation	£100.00
Donation	£15.00

Parish Plan Receipts

May Pop-In	£36.77
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The Clerk informed the meeting that the Audit had been submitted on time, she thanked Mr. Griffin for his time and help in achieving this. She also reported that a VAT refund claim had been submitted and a payment was anticipated.

The Chairman informed the meeting that a letter had been received by Mr. Reed from Traill and Co. for an outstanding balance of £381.88 in relation to work done over two years ago on the Cricket Club Lease. Mr. Griffin stated that an explanation for the delay and a breakdown of the work claiming to have been done was required. Both Mr. Rogers and Mrs. Burden expressed their opinion that it was nonsense to receive a bill so overdue. It was agreed that a reply would be drafted and e-mailed to all Councillors.

11. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A member of the public advised the meeting that a hosepipe had been seen attached to the cemetery tap.

12. VOTING

10) Finance - Mr. Rogers proposed to accept the finance. Seconded by Mr. Cook, all in favour unanimously carried.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Smith queried the overhanging hedges in Winterborne Kingston obscuring visibility; it was agreed this would be reported. She also advised the meeting that there would be a meeting of the Youth Club on Friday 22nd June. Mrs. Burden asked for an update on the behaviour in the play park, the Chairman stated that it had been okay although underage drinking was still taking place the smashing of glass and general littering had stopped.

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14. NEXT MEETING

7.30pm THURSDAY 26th JULY 2007 WINTERBORNE KINGSTON