

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE
LOWER WINTERBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2006
AT WINTERBORNE KINGSTON**

- 1. ATTENDANCE:** Mr. T. Ives (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Hughes (Parish Clerk)
Mr. A. Reed MBE
Mrs. R. Burden
Mr. B. Venison
Mr. S. Rogers
Mrs. C. Smith
Miss. B. Bruce
Mr. M. Meaden
Mr. M. Cox (District Councillor)
8 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Mrs. H. Cox (County Councillor)
Mr. P. Baker
Mrs. D. Jones MBE (District Councillor)

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd October 2006 had been circulated to all members and were signed by the Chairman, Mr. Rogers had failed to receive his via e-mail. Proposed by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mrs. Smith. All voted in favour, with one abstention, carried.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr. Rogers declared his Chairmanship of Winterborne Kingston Cricket Club (WKCC).

4. NON AGENDA ITEMS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

None.

5. TOUGH CHOICES PROGRAMME

The Chairman ran through the list of local authority functions that could be covered by a commitment in principal on the Tough Choices Local Delivery Programme; he opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Reed stated his support for leisure centres, public toilet facilities and community development workers. He pointed out that there was no mention of The Information Centre. Mr. Rogers was in agreement and added his support for street cleaning / environment issues relating to dog fouling and a dog warden. Mr. Venison voiced concern over whether it is in the Parish Council's remit to include money in its precept for the District Council. He expressed support for leisure centres, public toilet facilities and The Information Centre. Mr. Reed informed the meeting that the legalities of the Tough Choices Programme are being dealt with by DAPTC and that in his view the Parish Council should continue with budgeting for the Programme to be included. Councillor Cox then stated that the legality of the Programme should not be a concern; Government South West is in favour as North Dorset is in line with the Government White Paper. Mrs. Smith was in agreement with Mr. Reed and also expressed her disappointment with the allocation of Development Contributions. There was some discussion on the allocation of any money provided to North Dorset and general agreement that it should only be provided if it is spent on what the Parish Council earmarks it for. Mrs. Burden stated that she was against the contribution of any money to North Dorset as it was an act of bailing the Council out for now with no consideration for the future. Councillor Cox confirmed that it is a four year Programme. Miss Bruce expressed concern and questioned what has happened in the last five years to stop North Dorset managing financially; North Dorset claim capping not mismanagement. Mr. Meaden commented that the information was not clear and was very subjective. He expressed concern over the whole principal. Councillor Cox provided some background; twelve years ago the District Council sold its housing stock and in consultation with the community regarding what the money should be spent on it was agreed to be used for the provision of leisure centres and a reduction in council tax.

ACTION

Over time costs have increased so when the council tax needed to be increased it was substantial and was capped. The Council is now asking for £11 per band D household for one year to maintain non statutory services and give North Dorset a break of time in order to plan its budget. The example of the TIC flourishing since its transfer away from the Council was given. Mr. Reed noted that £11 was a huge amount per household in the village; the council tax would increase substantially with no benefit to the community. Councillor Cox informed the meeting that if the money is not raised then non-statutory services will be lost and that if the council tax was at the national average then the Tough Choices Programme would not be happening. Mr. Reed proposed that further communication was required with NDDC asking for specific services the Parish Council can help with; clarification of what proportion of Parish Councils are supporting the Programme; when the DAPTC review will be complete. Councillor Cox suggested an e-mail would elicit a faster response than a letter. Councillor Cox stated that the money being requested is for a central fund not for specifics. There was general disagreement from the Parish Councillors and the general public. Councillor Cox stressed the importance of not getting hung up on minute detail. Mr. Reed suggested that the information received from the District Council has been confusing and that Town and Parish Councils are being treated in the same fashion. There was general agreement. Councillor Cox reminded the meeting that householders do not know exactly where every penny of the Council Tax they pay goes, again there was general agreement.

6) MATTERS ARISING

a) Weekly Playground Inspection and Risk Assessment Winterborne Kingston – Mr. Venison reported that the church wall adjacent to the back gate was still badly cracked; the Chairman confirmed that the PCC had been informed and no response had been received. Mr. Venison went on to report that the bonfire at the cricket ground was still smouldering; there were some loose capping stones and there is an overhanging tree which needs attention from Signpost, a letter to them is required. Mr. Reed described a more secure method of displaying the Parish Council's disclaimer notices and offered to make and erect them at a cost of less than £50. Mr. Morris had asked for a key to the gates, there was unanimous agreement that he should have a set. Mr. Reed asked if there had been any progress with the river bed. The Chairman read a letter from the Environment Agency sent in response to the Parish Council's enquiries. He confirmed that he had received quotes for clearing the river bed: £650 + VAT.

b) Cemetery – Mr. Reed informed the meeting that Banyards are still not lifting bare root plants, however he had been informed that when they are the Parish Council's job is first on the list. The Chairman advised the meeting that Mr. Morris had been working at the cemetery, Mr. Rogers offered to look into having the stumps ground. It was noted that the main fence on the eastern side of the recreation ground is wobbly and that there is no longer an inner fence to the paddock. It was agreed that Mr. Gale was to be informed.

c) Progress on RoSPA Recommendations – Mr. Reed reported that he was waiting for quotations from Record for: the supply and fit of grow through matting; the supply of matting and fixings for DIY fitting. Mr. Reed informed the meeting that he had lubricated all the swing bearings however as some of the eyebolts on the senior swings are quite rusted they may need to be replaced at some point; the roundabout had proved more difficult to lubricate and he was still attempting to do this. The Chairman advised that Mr. Morris was dealing with: replacing the rotten fence post and two damaged rails and the protruding gate bolt.

d) Homewatch – Mr. Hyde reported that it was quiet at the moment although there had been a theft at Winterborne Tomson. He was due to meet with the police this month, for the first time since July. Mr. Reed advised that there had been reports from Shapwick of a man in a red Cavalier behaving suspiciously near the nursery school.

e) Winterborne Zelston Risk Assessment – Mrs. Burden reported that the river was still dry and that the river and pond banks had been tidied. Miss Bruce requested that the work on the willow coppice go ahead, consent has been received from NDDC.

f) Winterborne Kingston Cricket Club (WKCC) – Mr. Rogers reported that the club had had a good month with well attended events. He advised that a start had been made on clearing the inherited accounts and he provided financial statements for August to October 2006. The Chairman agreed to pass on a copy of the lease to Mr. Rogers, Mr. Gale, Mr. Leaper, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Reed. Copies would also be held by himself and in the Parish Council's records. It was noted that new signatories are now required. The Chairman passed on his thanks to Mr. Rogers and the WKCC team for all their hard work and the progress that has been made.

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g) Highway Matters – The Chairman confirmed that he was going to follow up on the status of the road where resurfacing work is required between 10 Broadclose and the play park.

h) Dog Fouling – It was reported that since the posting of the notice at the recreation ground and the locking of the gates that the ground is cleaner. The Chairman confirmed he would check on the times that the gate is being locked and unlocked. NDDC have requested a map marking the exact locations that the dog waste bins are to be sited, Mr. Reed agreed to supply the Chairman with a map.

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7) PLANNING

No applications or results had been received. There was some discussion re Elderton, Stony Lawn (2/2006/1033), two objection letters had been received by the Parish Council and these had been sent onto NDDC. The Chairman advised the meeting that a response had been received from Mr. Lytton – Trevers regarding Broad Close in which he states that he had made an error and was in fact referring to number 29 not 22.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) NDDC – Trees and Development Guidelines Booklet.
- 2) DAPTC – AGM (*Chairman unable to attend*).
- 3) Clerks and Councils Direct - September.
- 4) NDDC – Reply to request for weed killing to verges stating they are unable to do this due to resource constraints. *Note: this work has subsequently been done and a letter of thanks will be sent.*
- 5) NDDC – Reference request for dog bin at recreation ground.
- 6) NDDC – cancellation of Waste Forum Meeting on 13/11/06.
- 7) Environment Agency – Reference pollution of River Winterborne – *it was suggested that once the Parish Council has cleared the hump they write and request a silt trap.*
- 8) NALC – November edition.
- 9) NDCAB – Donation appeal.
- 10) NDDC - - Advanced notice of Minerals and Waste Planning Consultation, draft statement of community involvement.
- 11) NDDC – Corporate Plan for Improvement, 2006-2009
- 12) NDDC – Tough Choices Declaration of Interests Clarification.
- 13) DAPTC – Chief Executives November Circular.
- 14) North Dorset People and Places Awards.
- 15) NDDC – District Budget Consultation. Presentation on 15th November at Blandford Corn Exchange, 2-7pm.
- 16) Pastures New – rebuilding landscapes for people and nature, Lulworth Castle 28th November 10am – 4pm.
- 17) Clerks and Council's Direct – November Edition.
- 18) Countryside Alliance – Love Your Post Office.

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9) FINANCE

a) Finance

LWPC Payments

Mr. Morris – Grasskeep Services (September)	£332.50
Mr. Morris – Grasskeep Services (October)	£337.50
NDDC – 2006 RoSPA Inspections	£51.70
Air Ambulance	£50.00
CAB	£50.00

LWPC Receipts

Burial fees (Grassby's Dorchester)	£276.00
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Parish Plan Receipts

Pop-in October	£42.13
Dorset Community Action	£100.00

Mr. Reed suggested that the Pop In money be managed in a separate account of its own. The Chairman presented a letter from Mr. Shaxon detailing the £100.00 received from the Community Action Fund after hosting lunch for Mr. Ridell (Department for

Communities and Local Government). The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr. Shaxon for his excellent presentation and to Mr. Tory for the excellent lunch.

b) Precept

The 2006 precept review was discussed. Mr. Venison questioned the % increase, it was discussed and noted that as there are five months of the financial year remaining the real budget increase is not yet clear. Mr. Meaden suggested a %, cost of living, increase for Grasskeep Services. Mrs. Smith queried the £1,000 inclusion for the Tough Choices Programme and suggested that it would be of no benefit to the village. It was agreed that a once a reply was received from Stephen Hill at NDDC the information with which to make a decision on this would be clearer. Mr. Venison suggested taking the precept for LY and adding 5%. Mr. Reed asked for clarification on whether the Parish Council would be receiving a bill for legal work on the WKCC lease, if it was then provision should be made.

10) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The Chairman was asked if there was any progress on the raised drain cover on the pavement in Broad Close (close to Sackville Street Bridge), he confirmed that he is looking into who is responsible. There was a general discussion regarding the Tough Choices Programme and discrepancies between Parishes and which do and don't contribute, it was felt that unless it is on an equal footing the whole scheme is unfair. The recently reported re-banding of properties was raised and the questioned asked if this had been taken into account within the Tough Choices Programme. It was confirmed that there had been no mention of it in any of the documentation received by the Parish Council to date.

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11) VOTING

5) Tough Choces Programme - Mr. Reed proposed that further communication was required with NDDC asking for specific services the Parish Council can help with; clarification of what proportion of Parish Councils are supporting the Programme; when the DAPTC review will be complete. Seconded by Mr. Meaden, all in favour unanimously carried.

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6a) Weekly Playground Inspection and Risk Assessment Winterborne Kingston - Mr. Rogers proposed to accept Mr. Reed's offer to make and erect new Parish Council disclaimer notices at cost of less than £50. Seconded by Mr. Venison, all in favour unanimously carried.

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6a) Weekly Playground Inspection and Risk Assessment Winterborne Kingston - Mr. Reed proposed to accept the quote for £650 + VAT to clear the river bed. Seconded by Mr. Rogers, all in favour unanimously carried.

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9) Finance - Proposed by Mr. Venison, seconded by Mrs. Burden, all in favour unanimously carried.

12) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Reed made the proposal for the wreath of remembrance, seconded by Mrs. Smith, all in favour unanimously carried. The Chairman confirmed he would be placing it at the war memorial at 10.50am on Sunday. The Chairman presented the template for the River Winterborne plaque. Mr. Reed announced two events to be held in the village hall at Winterborne Kingston : Quiz night on 23rd November, 7.30pm, in aid of St. Nicholas Church, £3 / head including supper; Craft Group Sale on 25th November, 10.30 – 3.30, with proceeds to local charities. Mr. Rogers informed the meeting that there was a fallen tree on the green at Broad Close, it was reported that Banyards were responsible for knocking it over. A letter is to be sent to Signpost Housing regarding this. The Chairman volunteered to do the Winterborne Kingston Risk Assessment for the next month. Mr. Venison presented the Back Blandford Campaign petition to the meeting for signatures. Mrs. Burden informed the meeting that she and Mr. Hyde had attended the Flood Wardens Meeting which had been very interesting and a good flood plan had been supplied.

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13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2006 – 7.30pm
AT WINTERBORNE KINGSTON**