

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly**  
**Held Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, the Village Hall, Sixpenny Handley.**

Item	01
	<p><b>Attendance</b> – 25 members of public present plus Parish Councillors and Guests listed below.</p> <p><b>Parish Councillors:</b></p> <p>Cllr Colin Taylor (Chairman of the Parish Council)  Cllr James Reed (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council)  Cllr David Adams  Cllr Rosalie Adams  Cllr Bea Boyland  Cllr Jane Henry  Cllr Stuart McClean  Cllr Andy Turner</p> <p><b>Guests:</b></p> <p>District Councillor Toni Coombs (Vice Chairman East Dorset Council)  District Councillor Simon Tong (Handley Vale Ward)  Simon Parker – Chairman Community Land Trust  David Lockyer – Chairman CCIO  Carole Wyatt – Chairman Village Hall Committee  Dr Hawdon – Sixpenny Handley Surgery</p> <p><b>Also in Attendance:</b></p> <p>Mrs Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)  Mrs Ciona Nicholson (Assistant Clerk)</p> <p><b>Apologies received from:</b></p> <p>Cllr Derek Burt (Chairman East Dorset Council)  Cllr Christian Baker-Smith  Cllr Gemma O’Brien  County Councillor Steve Butler (Cranborne Chase Ward)</p>
01	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present and explained the Annual Parish Assembly is not a Parish Council Meeting, the Parish Council reports to its electorate on what it has accomplished in the preceding year.</p>
02	<p><b>Confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.</b></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Bea Boyland and seconded by Carole Wyatt that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the last Annual Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017. <i>Resolved that the minutes be signed by the Chairman.</i></p>
03	<p><b>Matters arising from the last Annual Parish Meeting.</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
04	<p><b>Annual Report of the Parish Council presented by Cllr Stuart McLean.</b></p> <p>I need hardly tell you that the effects of financial cuts and the continued imposition of austerity measures on local government have continued to exercise your Parish Council throughout the year. However we have made only a small increase in the precept to ensure that we can carry out our work.</p> <p>Without doubt the biggest issue facing us as a Parish Council has been the matter of local government reorganisation following the recent announcement from the Secretary of State for Local Government that the 9 County, District and Borough Councils currently in operation in Dorset are to be reduced to 2 new unitary authorities with effect from April 2019.</p>

Our County Councillor, Mr Steve Butler and our District Councillor, Mr Simon Tong, will be giving you more details on these proposed changes immediately after this annual report.

Your Parish Council has continued to robustly represent the views of members of the Parish in a number of issues of concern which over the past twelve months have included the cessation of the Saturday Bus service; the ending of the Mobile Library service and the closure of the Post Office. We continue to represent those views put to us over the issue of the Roebuck Inn.

The Planning Committee continues to scrutinise all planning applications within the Parish. Your Parish Council is keen to see further appropriate housing development within the village and recently agreed to support one development on land to the rear of 28 The High Street for the construction of 10 houses, subject to a number of conditions. However the East Dorset District Council Planning Committee rejected the application, in part on concerns about ground water and sewerage flood risk issues. Wessex Water objected to the application and it is clear that an upgrade to the sewage system will be required if the village is to continue to develop.

As you know the Mobile Library service stopped operating in December 2016 and in partnership with Community volunteers, we introduced The Sixpenny Handley Library. In a corner of the Parish Office we have created suitable shelving to accommodate a wide selection of books which can be accessed by members of the Parish at various times, particularly during the Wednesday Coffee mornings held in the Parish Office. The Village 'Library Service' is maintained by volunteer 'Librarians' Bea Boyland, Stella Olsen and Gill Martin, to whom we are most grateful.

We continue to apply pressure for a replacement Saturday bus service and Parish Councillors have formed a Working Group to research the possibility of re-introducing a service on Saturdays with Dorset Community Transport. The interim trial of the Nordcat bus service unfortunately showed a low take-up which meant that it was not viable for the future. One of my Parish Councillor colleagues will update you later in the agenda of this meeting

The Parish Council has made financial provision of £25,000 over the past two years to support the major plans for the renovation of the Village Hall, which thanks to its most effective and energetic Committee continues to generate income from the use of the Hall. An update on the redevelopment of the Village Hall is to be given later in this meeting's agenda by Jenny Gordon.

In a similar vein we are pleased to be able to say that the Handley Sports Pavilion has developed a new lease of life since the start of the Penny Tap opened in March last year. This, together with income from the four sports clubs that use the grounds, has ensured that the Pavilion and grounds have broken even for the first time in several years. We are indeed fortunate to have in our village such excellent sports facilities. The continued development of the Pavilion has included recently the fitting of a new fire alarm system and following the receipt of a most generous donation from Mrs Dee Broadway in memory of her son Brian, we were able to replace the two broken clocks on the top of the Pavilion. A plaque recognising Mrs Broadway's donation has been fixed to the Pavilion.

The Community Land Trust continues to make progress to site affordable new houses for rent by local people on land purchased from East Dorset District Council on Common Road and recently held its AGM in February to update its members. A new architect has been appointed and revised plans drawn up. Members of the CLT Board are here this evening and will update us all later in the meeting.

Your Parish Council continues in its plans to reduce speeding in the village by the purchase and siting of a speed indicator device in the village. We have been surprised by the byzantine bureaucracy that has been imposed by the County Highways Department – but undeterred we have continued to make progress in this respect and following recent electronic surveys in the High Street and along Back Lane to establish suitable sites, we are pleased to be able to say that we qualify for a speed indicator device which you will see later this year.

We are proud of your Community Website which continues to operate with links to local groups, services and businesses, and which is well supported by the excellent Downsman publication, for which we are grateful to Naomi Booth as Editor and the many volunteers on the committee and from the Neighbourhood Watch Group who distribute the end product for the benefit of all.

The Waistcoat Festival of 2016 was a great success and was followed in 2017 by an equally successful Big Session event which was well supported and again our thanks to its many willing volunteers and organisers. It must be said that so much of the life of this village is maintained and enhanced by its volunteers who run the village hall; the sports pavilion; the Waistcoat & Big Session Festivals and the Sixpenny Session events; the annual rubbish and litter pick; hedge trimming; the Crossroads Café, which operates each week in the Parish Office. We thank Rob Jesse and Richard Dennett for their regular patrols around the village

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>03</b></p> <p>Without all our selfless volunteers village life would be significantly less worthwhile. The Crossroads Café was the first to be integrated into the new Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge Community Charitable Incorporated Organisation. You will be hearing more about the CCIO later.</p> <p>We would also like to thank Sarah Jesse for her postal deliveries around the village in all weathers, under difficult circumstances following the closure of the local sorting office facility in the post office. We await an update on this matter from the Royal Mail.</p> <p>We must further thank our District Councillor, Mr Simon Tong and our County Councillor, Mr Steve Butler for their continued attendance and support at our Parish Council meetings where they keep us updated on what is happening at the District and County level and for their advice and guidance on our deliberations.</p> <p>Finally on behalf of the Parish Council Chairman, Mr Colin Taylor and on your behalf, we must thank the 10 Parish Councillors who meet every month for the continued development and benefit of our village. If you want to have a say in the future development of the Parish do come and join us at one of our monthly meetings to see what it is that we do on your behalf. 2019 will be an election year and maybe you might even consider becoming a Parish Councillor yourself!</p>
	<p><b>Audited Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.</b></p> <p>The Audited Accounts for 2017 have been available for scrutiny on the Parish Council website and on the noticeboard at the Parish Office.</p>
<b>05</b>	<p><b>County Council Annual Review - Cllr Steve Butler</b></p> <p>No report.</p>
<b>06</b>	<p><b>District Council Annual Review – Cllr Simon Tong</b></p> <p>Cllr Simon Tong reported it is almost certain the Local Government Reorganisation to form one Unitary Authority for rural Dorset known as ‘Dorset Council’ will go ahead. April 2019 will see the end of a long relationship between Town and Parish Councils and East Dorset Council which will cease to exist. Cllr Tong will not be standing for election for the new Authority.</p> <p>Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge has a lively, enterprising Parish Council and is fortunate that it enables so much. After April 2019 this is required to continue and increase. The new ‘Dorset Council’ will be tasked with setting up a new form of Government with new wards and councillors. This unitary authority will work with Town and Parish Councils and it is clear this relationship will become of paramount importance to residents of Dorset. Sixpenny Handley &amp; Pentridge are well placed to take on a developing role as there is a great deal of community awareness and sensitivity. Parish Council’s will have to look at ways to take more responsibility at local level and will have to think carefully when setting the precept for this to ensure the health and wellbeing of the Parish. Parish Councillors will need to be keen to see the community flourish and willing and able to carry out these responsibilities. Over the next 12 months we must think how the Parish is represented locally. A short piece about LGR will be published in the next edition of The Downsman and quarterly reports thereafter to keep residents updated. Cllr Tong can always be contacted and will continue to speak up for Parish Councils over the next 12 months.</p>
<b>07</b>	<p><b>Healthcare Report by Dr Hawdon, Sixpenny Handley Surgery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new Dispensary is a change for the better with work in progress to improve service to everybody.</li> <li>• The Practice is becoming more Dementia Friendly with improved signage.</li> <li>• Sixpenny Handley is a lovely community that relies on volunteers. We are currently trying to increase the Carers Group to offer support, this is in the early stages but proving to be good networking. Speak to Hazel at Reception if you have any questions.</li> <li>• The Patient Participation Group provides community feedback on the Surgery.</li> <li>• Two staff have left, one replacement already recruited and looking to recruit another.</li> <li>• The Surgery is regaining a sense of balance since Dr Nodder retired.</li> <li>• Please read the Surgery Newsletter or website for up to date information.</li> </ul>

08

**Saturday Salisbury Bus Service No 20 Update by Cllr Andy Turner**

As you may have seen in the minutes from last year's parish assembly, the Number 20 bus was a focus back then and even with it seeing regular use each Saturday in the previous year as we were soon to find out the service would be cut back further.

It was also reported that the timings of its services were not perfect, and it could be overcrowded. The Parish Council requested information on passenger numbers which established that normal weekdays saw an average of 88 whilst Tuesdays was an average of 108 and 77 on Saturdays. It's important to note that all these numbers are for the whole route in both directions and so effectively could be 44, 54 and 36 in each direction. These numbers do bear out the challenge about overcrowding on a single deck bus.

However, as we all know the service was operating without significant subsidy from the County Council and that this was soon to be further reduced, due to the extensive funds needed for Health, Vulnerable people etc. This meant that the service could not be sustained by the county and therefore in July last year the revised Monday to Friday Service was introduced.

So where now?

I attended a DCC Transport Integration Workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> February, this covered all aspects of transport in the county, public buses, and Charity funded transport of which we will hear more on later. Voluntary transport such as Chase Community Friends and how DCC and NHS need to integrate non-emergency ambulance services with the aforementioned transport options. An example of the savings in this area were highlighted by Devon County Council who by using volunteer transport saved enough money with one journey normally completed in a non-emergency Ambulance to fund the voluntary vehicle for a year!

During lunch I managed to speak with the Managing Director of Damory coaches about the Saturday No 20 service to see what could be achieved. He was very positive and stated that if I emailed him, he would see what could be done. The outcome of this was an offer to provide the Saturday service on the same timetable as the Monday to Friday service for £12k per year. This is a £5k reduction on previous offers and I have it in writing but as the Parish Councils would have to find the money, it is currently not viable BUT I have his email address!

So, Plan B, in February, along with Pimperne Parish Council, we had positive discussions with Dorset Community Transport, this is a charity organisation providing transport for isolated communities that need access to essential services and facilities, highlighted at the transport integration workshop. DCT can provide two types of service

The first being a fixed timetable in line with the current No 20, for this a significant investment would be required as it necessitates standby vehicle and drivers as well as a manned phone. As DCT is a charity this would require additional individuals and vehicles being available outside their normal working week. It also needs assurance that the service would be heavily utilised. For these reasons it has currently been discounted.

The second option is to provide a dial up service, for this you would book a seat for either half or full day travel by 2pm on the Friday for travel the following day. Your seat will be guaranteed, the driver will only pick up passengers that have booked the service to ensure there is no risk of a seat being taken for a passenger getting on at a later stop.

Having identified there is a potential demand for Saturdays as mentioned just now, 77 individual journeys established the fact that people have a need to go to Salisbury. We therefore have a credible option to re-establish the Saturday service.

Pimperne Parish Council issued a survey which shows that at least 2 people would consider the service. So tonight, I am asking you what do members of the Parish need, before you answer I will outline the potential service.

The service is based on travel between Pimperne and Salisbury twice a day in each direction it would therefore be possible to go into Salisbury for a full or half day. This will be enabled by a 16-seater bus with wheelchair access.

The service will not access Blandford as this could be seen as competition to the weekly service and would also mean the criteria for enabling isolated communities would not ring true. It can only be used by people residing in villages and hamlets along the route.

The bus will use the No 20 bus stops to pick up and would free run from the Dorset border into Salisbury so the last potential pick up would be Woodyates. If someone would benefit from pick up/drop off near their house this can be achieved as long as it does not over extend the journey time.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>05</b></p> <p>The cost of the service will be £5.00 return (paid on boarding), it is not possible to use concession passes on this service although those in Adult Social Care may be able to use their individual service fund/carers attendance allowance to cover the price. Remember this is for those who cannot utilise the weekday service.</p> <p>The next steps are to identify the likely take up of this service within the Parish and to engage with other Parish Councils along the route to establish whether they would like to participate in this service. We already know Pimperne have some interest, so we are looking for 14 more people for a full bus one way.</p> <p>It is a use or lose service and so more potential passengers the better, if successful it may be feasible to update the service to a time tabled route as the funding to support extending the DCT team would be established through the use of this service.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>If funds can be identified on an annual basis it could be realistic to approach Damory Coaches again to see if the regular service can be extended to Saturdays. We do already know that regular campers made use of the Saturday bus so it is not just about getting to Salisbury but also supporting local business keeping their trade.</p> <p>So in Summary – Dial up Pimperne to Salisbury services to enable half or full day in Salisbury, £5 return bookable by Friday PM and only available to those living in the Parishes identified for this route. The bus holds 16 people and has wheelchair access. We need to identify the current ask for this service and DCT have offered a trial period to confirm the take up.</p> <p>If this service is established, please support it as in addition to filling the gap since last July it may also provide evidence that there is a viable need for this route and therefore encourage Damory to invest in the route.</p> <p><b>Could you please talk to neighbours as well and let the Parish Office know whether you or they are likely to use this service?</b></p>
<p><b>09</b></p>	<p><b>Village Hall Update by Carole Wyatt, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee</b></p> <p>Sixpenny Handley Village Hall is well underway in its efforts to raise the money to both replace the roof and refurbish the building. In 2015 we began fundraising, looking to raise a total of £98,500 to cover all of the works needed.</p> <p>To date we have raised £66,676. This total includes a grant from the Talbot Village Trust for £30,000 which can only be drawn down upon raising our total amount within 18 months of the award.</p> <p>We have been looking at how to raise the remaining funds. We have met with Anita Henson at Dorset Community Action and looked at both the North Dorset Leader Fund (European money) and the Garfield Weston Foundation 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund.</p> <p>Having met with North Dorset Leader Fund the trustees took the view that this was a risky fund to apply for given our timeframe. The application was in two stages and the amount of work needed for the application was beyond the current capacity of our team. The application required a three year business plan with proof of economic growth and three year financial projections. The fund would also NOT cover all of our costs; some of our budget items were ineligible, meaning we would have to raise this elsewhere.</p> <p>The trustees have therefore decided to go for the Garfield Weston Foundation Grant, deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 with a one stage process and a decision in October 2018.</p> <p>In light of the remaining funds not being available until October 2018 and given the urgency of the roof repairs, the Village Hall are proposing that we split the works into two phases. Works must take place during August and Easter when it is possible to shut the hall without losing too much revenue and disrupting our regular users.</p> <p><b>Phase 1 – August 2018</b> We will replace the roof, the ceiling and any electrics in the roof that may be disturbed.</p> <p><b>Phase 2 – Easter 2019</b> Refurbish the rest of the hall and carry out all remaining works.</p> <p>In light of this plan we now must go back some of our contractors and get up to date quotes for Phase 1 and 2 and prepare a revised split budget. Given that we need time to meet with the contractors on site and wait for their quotes it is not possible to provide an updated budget for tonight's meeting. We are meeting with Rose Engineering (the roofing contractors next week and we also have a scheduled electrical survey with Wessex Electrics).</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>06</b></p> <p>We have approached the Talbot Village Trust to inform them of our rescheduling into two phases. This will need agreed by their trustees who meet in mid-April. At this point their Director doesn't seem to think it will be an issue. It is likely that the trustees will agree to us drawing down the £30,000 of funding in October 2018 and carrying out Phase 2 in Easter 2019. So we are awaiting this decision.</p> <p>As soon as our more up to date quotes are in we will forward the revised budget to the Parish Council. We continue to fundraise and get a little closer to our target every month. Last month we were awarded £1750 from the Community Fund. We estimate our Garfield Weston Foundation bid will be around £25,000 and given our high percentage of match funding (73%) we stand a very good chance of success.</p> <p>Jen Gordon has attended safeguarding training on behalf of the Village Hall and has now introduced its own Safeguarding Policies for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults. We have encouraged our user groups to develop their own policies and supported them to do so. Our Trustees will be DBS checked in April 2018 following confirmation of our board of trustees at our April AGM. Our Artsreach program is going exceptionally well and is now a good fundraiser for the village hall and we thank the Parish Council for supporting the work of Artsreach. With the loss of Rob's Auction sale we have been actively looking to replace this regular fundraiser with a series of car boot sales and we will be doing the cream teas at Wimborne St. Giles. Rob is however proposing a mini Auction in October 2018.</p> <p>We would like to thank the Parish Council and the community for their continuing support and guidance and look forward to getting the job done!</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Community Land Trust by Simon Parker, Chairman</b></p> <p>Simon Parker explained that the CLT is a body that is able to carry out community projects. One of which is the Housing Project which is moving forward at pace. The land is secured and pre-application work with East Dorset Council is underway to assess feasibility of the build. Practical ground survey/environmental work is complete. A Community Event is intended to be held in the Village Hall once the final submission of the Architects Plans are complete.</p> <p>The CLT framework allows the body to buy a community asset. There is quite a campaign within the village to retain The Roebuck Inn. The CLT is moving forward with this to establish a Project Team who are already investigating how to do this. It is likely a questionnaire will be prepared.</p> <p>Q: How is the village sewerage issue likely to impact on the proposed housing development?  A: More information on this will be available from Wessex Water during the application process but is a concern that must be addressed.  Q: Would it be possible to talk informally with Wessex Water as so much hard work has already gone into the project?  A: Wessex Water are at some point going to have to invest to support development in the village.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>CCIO Update by David Lockyer, Chairman</b></p> <p>The Community Charitable Incorporated Organisation stemmed from the Community Fund to distribute grants within the Parish. Now the organisation is much more than that, accountable to the Charities commission. The organisation can do anything charitable within the law and now has the infrastructure to do almost anything wanted in the community including fundraising. Other community groups under the umbrella can benefit by the administration of policies, procedures, legislation and insurance. The CCIO has distributed £5000 over the past year with a Distribution Committee to consider applications for which 2 further members are required.</p> <p>David Lockyer reinforced the need for community development and the only weakness is the Parish Council does not have the General Power of Competence because not enough people stood for election. The Parish Council needs a strong fully elected membership.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Questions/Comments</b></p> <p>Q: Could the CCIO assist the Village Hall in applying for funding?  A: Cllr Colin Taylor - The difficulty with the Leader Fund mentioned earlier, is it is too convoluted a process without any guarantees.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>07</b></p> <p>Q: Could East Dorset Council not assist with funding for the Village Hall following the recent sale of the Furzehill site? A: Cllr Simon Tong - The Village Hall Committee should approach East Dorset Council for funding.</p> <p>Q: Where did the Parish Council get to with a Neighbourhood Plan? A: Cllr Colin Taylor - Members felt that with the potentially increased responsibilities of the Parish Council and the commitments by the CLT there would not be enough volunteers to see the lengthy, costly process through. Members considered the balance of the extra benefit against the cost and commitment.</p> <p>Q: What does a Neighbourhood Plan involve? A: Cllr Colin Taylor - A detailed investigative body of work involving expert advice, reports and surveys for the wider parish not just the village.</p> <p>Q: Might a Neighbourhood Plan retain the current good community feel? There is concern if we grow too much we will lose the feel. A: Cllr Simon Tong - The strength of a Neighbourhood Plan puts you in a position to negotiate with a developer and potentially to entice Wessex Water to invest in resolving the drainage issues.</p> <p>Q: A Neighbourhood Plan would be referred to by the Community in the future. Perhaps we should seek the views of the wider community take it up and look at in more detail. Perhaps we could set up a Working Group to assess feasibility as there is a lot going on in the community not just the pub issue. A: Cllr Colin Taylor – noted for the Parish Council to consider.</p> <p>Q: Raw sewerage flooded Frogmore Lane in the past due to rising groundwater. The bottom of the village is particularly effected and this will need to be addressed before any further development. A: Cllr Colin Taylor - we would need to know from Wessex Water how many houses would justify investment.</p> <p>Q: This is a fantastic village and as a newcomer, the idea you might destroy or weaken the village that is so at ease is a concern. Improvements by Wessex Water would be welcome but not at the cost of the atmosphere of the village. A; We must bear in mind that the infrastructure of the village is key.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>Cllr Toni Coombs found it absolutely fascinating to hear how the community pulls together to face challenges, working together about what you care about most to be resilient and self-reliant. Sixpenny Handley is a beacon to the rest of the District and far wider. Take part in your Parish Council elections, it is fascinating what you learn and how you can make a difference. Cllr Coombs took the opportunity to pay tribute to Cllr Simon Tong who is a real credit as a District Councillor and East Dorset Council is better for the work he has put in. Cllr Coombs offered her support to keep a local focus.</p> <p>The Chairman, Cllr Colin Taylor thanked everyone for attending who have given the Parish Council clear guidance. It is hoped you feel the Parish Council is doing its best. Members will pursue the return of the Post Office to the village and will be considering taking ownership of land currently owned by East Dorset Council before the Local Government Reorganisation.</p> <p>And finally, the Chairman took this opportunity to award Cllr Stuart McLean with the gift for the best attendance record over the past year.</p> <p>Cllr Stuart McLean thanked the Chairman on behalf of everyone, as he has in fact attended more meetings and for his time and effort.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting closed 8:46pm</b></p>

**These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman after approval at the next Annual Parish Meeting**

**Signed;**..... **Date:** .....