

Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chair: David Redwood(DR), Peter Custard(PC), Andrew Lakeman(AL), Adrian Exton(AE), Anita Exton(ANE), Angela Stevens(AS), Mac Lafosse(ML), Roger Trevor(RT), Dee Trevor(DT), Jason Trevor(JT), Rose Figgins(RF), Peter Figgins(PF), Geoff Merrick(GM), Rosemary Redwood(RR), Emma Lidsey(EL)

Scribe: Patsy Merrick(PM)

1. Election of Chairman

DR asked if anyone other than himself wished to stand for Chair of Parish Meeting. No one else came forward. A vote was held and DR was unanimously voted in as Chair.

2. Welcome to our guest, Councillor Jane Westbrook

Conservative ward member for the Stours and Marnhull.

3. Apologies for absence

Peter and Helen Mera, Andrew and Jaqueline Duncan, Bill Bryson, Robin Longland, Sally Waters, Valerie Lafosse, Thomas Trevor, Jo Trevor, Chris Vallance, Karin Vallance

4. Declaration of interests

DR assured the meeting that he had no pecuniary interests to declare.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2017 were proposed by DT, seconded by ML and unanimously voted to be a correct and accurate record and were dated and signed.

6. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2017-18

Acceptance and approval of the Accounts

DR presented the accounts. The precept remains the same as last year. He pointed out that £50 might need to purchase a replacement pattress for the light bulbs in the phone box.

AL proposed, JT seconded and all unanimously approved the accounts.

8. Governance Statement

Acceptance and approval of the statement.

DR presented the statement, which remains unchanged since last year:

In my roles as both Chairman of Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer I am required to ensure that there is a transparent and effective system of internal controls that meet the needs of the Parish whilst safeguarding public funds in accordance with the relevant statutory financial regulations.

The controls are:

- *The Parish accounts are available for inspection, with prior notice, at any reasonable time throughout the year.*
- *All payments are endorsed by an authorised counter signatory.*
- *Accounts will be posted onto the Parish website.*
- *Estimated annual spending requirements (the Precept) will be agreed each year.*
- *The Annual Governance Statement required by the external auditors will be presented for approval at the annual Parish Meeting.*

Signed and dated.....

AS proposed and RT seconded. All unanimously approved the statement.

9. Cheque signatories and internal auditor

DR informed the meeting that Peter Mera, and Bill Bryson are current counter-signatories and Geoff Merrick is the internal auditor. All are prepared to continue in these roles. AL proposed, AE seconded and all were unanimously voted in to continue in these roles.

10. Village Matters

Solar Farm: The current situation is that Intelligent Alternatives have been informed by the NDDC Case Officer that they must include with their detailed plans, a Visual Impact Assessment and a Wildlife Mitigation Plan before anything can proceed further. This has not yet been done, so we watch and wait.

Highways: There is a great deal of muck on the road at this time of year. A small amount has been cleared by the council. DR had met with Mr Mike Potter (Highways) and discussed placement and type of road signs to make our lanes safer, this being our parish's part of a joint effort with our neighbouring parishes.

Signage and reduced speed: Possibly a pedestrian warning sign to drivers may be erected near RT's farm entrance. Possibly there will be road markings to warn of the dangerous double bend near Jane Grimes' chapel. A new 30mph (repeater) speed limit sign near Manor Farm, to replace one which is missing.

Byways: Jan Wardell, Ramblers - North Dorset Group Footpath Secretary has informed DR that a grant for £3000 has been applied for from the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust, for improvements to the footpath, which was a field drain, running alongside the Old School House.

A vote of thanks, from the meeting, is given to Andy Grey for tidying the footpath through the Millennium Copse; to Peter and Helen Mera for financing the cutting of the cemetery hedge, grubbing out old roots and reseeding bare earth and to Andrew Lakeman for grass mowing and hedge trimming in the churchyard.

Flyways: South Somerset District Council have granted planning permission for, among other things, aircraft up to 5000Kg and practice aerobatics of the Yakovlev Display Team at prescribed times and days above Henstridge Airfield.

Details: [Http://henstridgeairfield.com/planningdocuments/](http://henstridgeairfield.com/planningdocuments/)

Skyways:

DR reported that he has endeavoured to reduce light pollution of the night skies over the Henstridge industrial site. So far he has been gratified that following consultation and a site visit with Ms Clare McGall a Director of AJN Steelstock, the company has repositioned some lights and are now switching off lights during times when there is no work being undertaken. This has had an immediate effect for which DR is most grateful. Further dialogue with other bright light sources is on-going.

11. News from our guest, Jane Westbrook

Unity of Councils: This has now been achieved. There will be fewer, larger areas and therefore fewer councillors, which will save money. Graham Carr-Jones is head of the communications teams, which will ensure that the change will be seamless. This will commence on April 1st 2019.

Travellers: Enforcement Proceedings have been started against the travellers at Five Bridges lay-by. There are fewer of them now and there is police awareness of drug abuse and selling and alcohol abuse. These are problems that are increasing in Gillingham, Shaftesbury and the locale and the police will be putting more money and effort towards dealing with the problem. At Five Bridges, Wessex Water is keen for the travellers to move, as they are camping over a main sewerage pipe. Generally, people are not averse to travellers who are not in lay-bys but on land off the road that they are permitted to use. It is the drug problem and litter that is the main issue. David Walsh is head of the planning policy for travellers in North Dorset.

Councillor Jo Francis is pushing for action against the drug problem and associated crimes. Councillor Westbrook advised that all Parish Chairs should write to Simon Hoare MP and Martyn Underhill (Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset) expressing their concern about this problem and asking them to give their backing for NDCC to find a permanent site for the travellers. Miss Paula Clover, Gypsy and Traveller Liason Officer being the contact point.

12. Any other business

There was none.

13. Date of next meeting

Sometime in November.

Thanks were given to Jane Westbrook for attending and to DR for his ongoing work.

DR acknowledges the fine scribing by PM.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm