

Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 7.00pm

Chair: David Redwood (DR)

In attendance

Peter Mera, Helen Mera, Chris Vallance (CV), Karen Vallance, Valerie Burnham, Jeannie Lakeman, Pat Hopkinson, Neil Hopkinson, Angela Stevens (AS), Andrew Duncan (AD), Thomas Trevor (TT), Rosie Belsham (RB), Rosemary Redwood (RR), Geoff Merrick, Patsy Merrick scribe

Agenda Item 1: Declaration of interests

DR declared that he had no pecuniary interests.

Agenda item 2: Apologies for absence

Pat and George Wallace, Rose and Pete Figgins, Alixe Brooke, Andrew Lakeman, Roger and Judith Grix, Bill and Fiona Bryson, Jacqueline Duncan, Dee Trevor, Jo and Roger Trevor.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the previous meetings of 21st May and 17th November 2014

The minutes have been available for inspection and are posted on the parish website. It was therefore agreed that they did not need to be read out in full. Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved. And there were no matters arising from them

Agenda Item 4: Legislative changes

DR read out the salient parts of new legislation that will be applicable to our parish.

Transparency code for smaller authorities

1. This Code is issued to meet the Government's desire to place more power into citizens' hands to increase democratic accountability. Transparency gives local people the tools and information they need to hold local public bodies to account.
2. The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sets out a new audit framework for local public authorities which are currently covered by the Audit Commission regime. Under the new audit framework smaller authorities, including parish councils, internal drainage boards, charter trustees and port health authorities, with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 will be exempt from routine external audit. In place of routine audit, these smaller authorities will be subject to the new transparency requirements laid out in this Code. This will enable local electors and ratepayers to access relevant information about the authorities' accounts and governance.
3. The Government considers that publication of the items in this Code will provide the local electorate and ratepayers with a clear picture of the activities of these smaller authorities. Most of this information is already produced by the majority of smaller authorities with a turnover not exceeding £25,000, and the Government therefore considers that compliance with this Code will not place a significant burden on these authorities. **The full text of the Code may be found [here](#).**

Agenda Item 5: Current Finance

DR read out the accounts as they stand at present. They may be inspected by any member of the parish at any time with prior notice. The year-end audited accounts will be available at the next meeting and will be posted on the parish website.

Agenda Item 6: Proposals for 2015/16 precept

- a) Donation of £50.00 to CAB. Proposed by AS, seconded by TT, unanimously agreed.
- b) Village Hall. In previous years £300.00 has been donated to the Village Hall. CV, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, thanked the village for the past donations, which had been used for specific improvements to the Hall, but stated that there were no such projects in hand during the next financial year, so no donation was needed from the precept.
- c) Cemetery. Payment of £600.00 to the PCC for cemetery gardening and maintenance. Proposed by RR, seconded by RB. CV questioned whether comparative quotes had been sought before a contractor was chosen to do the work. He was informed by AD that comparative quotes had been sought and the correct contractor had been chosen. The donation was unanimously approved.
- d) Henstridge Airfield Action Group. AS asked what progress had been made by the solicitors. DR read the most recent correspondence received by our solicitors (it being a response to a letter they had sent) from SSDC. Clearly this will be a continuing process which may require additional contributions by HAAG but for the time being it seemed unlikely that another donation would be needed from the Parish.

Taking the above expenditure plus the subscriptions to DATPC, AEF and CAPLC, it was unanimously decided that the precept for 2015/16 should be set at £1400.

Agenda Item 7: Highways and byways

- a) Drains. DR stated that in spite of a lengthy exchange of email correspondence with the Highways Dept of NDDC we are no closer to having the drains properly pressure cleaned. It would appear that promises made by the Authority are simply a holding tactic. However, DR will continue to pursue the matter.
- b) Signage. DR was pleased to note that the recently installed HGV notices were being obeyed and very few HGVs now pass through the village. The promised new parish signs had not materialised due to lack of funds in NDCC's budget. DR stated that he had received quotations from three manufacturers of village signs, which he presented to the meeting, and asked if the meeting would agree that he should proceed. The meeting were in accord with this idea and it was unanimously agreed that the contract to supply and deliver three signs should go to Double Image at a cost of £331.20 inclusive of VAT. The order will be placed in the new financial year. DR will do the work of replacing the old signs with new himself. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Agenda Item 8: AOB

AD raised the problem of dogs running wild near the church and venturing on to Trill lane by the sharp bend. Neither he, nor DR, who have both pursued the problem with the Dog Warden and the Police have received satisfactory assurances from the dogs' owner.

AD advised the meeting that a talk by Mark Sidwell CMG, a former Ambassador in Afghanistan and now Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, will be held in the church at 15.00 hours, on Sunday 22nd March. Tea and cake will be served. Entry by donation.

Agenda Item 9: Date of next meeting

This meeting, the AGM, will be held around the middle of March, the date to be circulated nearer the time.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Accounts as they stand at 24 February 2015.

Note that the accounts are due to be audited at the end of March 2015

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Date		Chq	Recpt	Payments	Receipts	Balance	Chq Cleared
01/04/2014	Opening Balance					1,522.85	
04/04/2014	NDDC General (precept)				700.00	2,222.85	04-Apr
14/05/2014	Village Hall Refurbishment Project	241	2014/1	300.00		1,922.85	20-May
02/06/2014	Hire of Village Hall for 2 x Parish Meetings	242	2014/2	9.00		1,913.85	03-Jun
02/06/2014	Dorset Assoc of Parish & Town Councils - 2014/15	243	2014/3	46.73		1,867.12	13-Jun
30/09/2014	NDDC General (precept)				700.00	2,567.12	30-Sep
28/11/2014	Battens Solicitors - Henstridge Fighting Fund	244	2014/4	500.00		2,067.12	05-Dec
15/01/2015	North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau	245	2014/5	50.00		2,017.12	
18/01/2014	PCC - Contribution to Cemetary Maintenance - 2014	246	2014/6	600.00		1,417.12	
18/02/2015	Aviation Environment Federations - 2015 Subscriptions	247	2014/7	36.00		1,381.12	
				1,541.73	1,400.00		