

**Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm  
HOLT PARISH HALL**

<b>324</b>	<p><b>Attendance &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts (Vice Chairman) Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Celia Moore (Chairman) Cllr Guy Reynolds Cllr Andrew Wilson Cllr Robin Cook (Dorset Councillor Stour &amp; Allen Vale Ward Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)</p> <p>2 members of public present.</p> <p><b>Apologies received from:</b></p> <p>Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres Cllr Janet Wallace</p>
<b>325</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest &amp; Requests for Dispensation</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>326</b>	<p><b>Dorset Councillors Report</b> – Please see <b>Appendix A</b> for Cllr Robin Cook’s report which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman asked Cllr Cook how Dorset compares in its costs for Adult Social Care with other counties. Cllr Cook responded that there are a higher percentage of over 65’s in Dorset, people like to retire here. Staff recruitment in Adult Social Care is difficult particularly as house prices are high here and people cannot always afford to buy. Cllr Cook added that a new Government paper is due to set out how community beds will be made available to support patients to leave hospital and enable hospital beds to be freed up.</p>
<b>327</b>	<p><b>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>14<sup>th</sup> December 2022</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
<b>328</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising (not included on the agenda) from the meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b></p> <p>None.</p>

<p><b>329</b></p>	<p><b>Public Open Session</b></p> <p>2 Members of public were present to discuss their concerns with Planning Application for The Old Sawmills at Clayford. There is already constant traffic using the bridleway to access the site from 5:30am into the evenings.</p> <p>A resident put a number of questions to Cllr Robin Cook in respect of Dorset Council's lack of action with outstanding enforcement at Clayford and why Dorset Council is not overly concerned with the number of motor vehicles using the bridleway to access businesses at Clayford. Cllr Robin Cook did not wish to comment on a specific case but would be happy to speak directly with the resident regarding the enforcement process and appreciated the frustration that processes are slow.</p>
<p><b>330</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Applications &amp; Enforcement Matters</b></p> <p><b>P/FUL/2022/07556 The Old Sawmills, Clayford, BH21 7BJ</b> Proposal: Retain change of use of buildings to B2 general industrial use. Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal as per P/FUL/2022/07557 and the apparent industrial site in this inappropriate location. The application documentation shows a low level of use of the site in the 2002 photograph, 2022 shows many HGV's on site. We are concerned about the environmental impact on the protected Holt Heath, the likely detrimental impact on a SSSI and also on the amenities of the neighbours from the high number of HGV's operating at unsocial hours/speed etc. The bridleway is over private land and not in the ownership of the applicant, we query if notice has been served and if the application site boundary is all within the ownership of the applicant. We also question the legality of vehicular access to this site over the bridleway as per Title Deed DT95887. We request this application is referred to the Planning Committee if the officer's recommendation is at variance to the above.</p> <p><b>P/FUL/2023/00094 Linwood Sawmills, Willow Farm, Holt Road, Mannington BH21 7JY</b> Proposal: Continue use of the site as a sawmill. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal in its existing form but would be concerned with any further expansion of the business/buildings beyond the red boundary because there is a history of buildings built without consent on the site.</p> <p><b>P/FUL/2023/00104 Jubilee Farm, Burts Lane, BH21 7JX</b> Proposal: Retain use of out-buildings to mixed B2 and B8 use. Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to this application. We continue to be concerned with type and number of businesses operating in this locality and the impact on local residents. The location is inappropriate for the high frequency movements of HGV's along Burts Lane and using the dangerous junction onto the C2 Horton Road at Clump Hill and this country lane is deteriorating due to the volume and size of the traffic.</p> <p><b>P/FUL/2022/07745 Land to rear of Vicarage Farm Cottage, Harts Lane, Holt, BH21 7DH.</b> Proposal: Demolition of existing asbestos barn (approved under class Q for conversion) and erection of 1.5 storey dwelling house and detached 3 car garage barn. It was resolved, 6 members in favour of NO OBJECTION to this proposal, 1 objection.</p> <p><b>P/PAAC/2022/07601 Barn at Land off Bakers Lane, Holtwood, BH21 7BY</b> Proposal: conversion of agricultural building to domestic dwelling house. Members notified for information purposes only. <i>Noted.</i></p>

	<p>An Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision by Dorset Council refusing permission at P/FUL/2021/04317 The Croft, Burts Lane, Mannington, BH21 7JX to erect 6 camping pods.</p>
331	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p><b><u>Highways Working Group – update from Cllr J Cutts following discussions with Dorset Council:</u></b></p> <p>A response is being prepared to Dorset Council. There is a problem with retrieving the data from the original Speed Indicator Device, if this cannot be repaired, a new device may have to be purchased.</p> <p><b><u>Community Speed Watch Holt &amp; Gaunts Common</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Jonathan Cutts will be arranging further dates to run sessions and the Clerk will notify volunteers.</p> <p><b><u>Other Highway matters</u></b></p> <p>Consultation by Dorset Council on the proposed closure of Grange from 30<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 09:00 – 16:00 to repair sections of the road. A diversion route will be in place.</p>
332	<p><b>Cemetery Matters</b></p> <p>Members approved memorial applications for D81 Besant, D43 Kerley and D44 Kerley.</p>
333	<p><b>Rights of Way Matters</b></p> <p>None.</p>
334	<p><b>Parish Hall Matters</b></p> <p>The committee is still investigating the extent of the structural repairs needed which appear to have been caused by the paving slabs not allowing water to drain away from the building. No quotations yet for the works.</p> <p>The Bookings Secretary is working hard to increase bookings.</p>
335	<p><b>Correspondence – circulated to members in advance of the meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resident has made some suggestions on how to help protect Furzehill Stores and particularly the Post Office from robberies. Members felt this needed some consideration but would welcome the idea to set up a cascade system to contact members of the community who could help. It might also be helpful to discuss ideas with the Community Police Officer.</li> <li>• Guest Speaker, Geoff Taylor from the East Dorset Antiquarian Society has confirmed for the Annual Parish Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>• The Chairman has accepted an invitation to attend the Wimborne Minster Town Mayor's Civic Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk has put a resident in contact with the Closed Churches Commission as they have expressed an interest in the future of Holt St James.</li> <li>• Update on the Financial Settlement for 2023/2024 from NALC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>336</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Matters &amp; Expenditure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were provided with account balances.</li> <li>• Members considered the quotation by C Hiscock to cut back the overhanging hedge to the front of St James Church to keep pedestrian access along footpath unobstructed and agreed the Clerk will contact the Closed churches Commission first.</li> <li>• Members prepared and approved the Budget and resolved to make a Precept Demand for 2023/24 of £27.00 per band D household totalling £18,227. <i>Clerk to submit request to Dorset Council by 31<sup>st</sup> January.</i></li> <li>• Members approved the following items for payment including Clerks Salary:</li> </ul> <p>ONLINE CLERK Reimbursement of expenses Sept-Dec 22 <span style="float: right;">£83.11</span></p>
<p><b>337</b></p>	<p><b>Information for Report only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk will contact Stewarts Garden Centre about flowers for the Broomhill BT Box again this year.</li> <li>• Cllr Geoff Chopping picked up an error with declaring interests on the DAPTC course which will be rectified for future courses.</li> <li>• The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in Holt Parish Hall, <u>15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm</u></li> </ul>

Meeting closed 21:23

**These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman after approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.**

Signed: ..... **15<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

## **Appendix A**

### **Council Tax proposals 2023/2024**

We propose limiting the council tax increase to just under 4%. This is less than the 5% increase made possible through the Government Spending Review and is well under the current rate of inflation.

However, organisational changes are possible at Dorset Council during the year as the authority works to balance its books. We are protecting frontline services: Our careful management of Dorset Council's budget means no proposals for cuts to services (and no mass redundancies) over the coming year, unlike many other councils across the country.

The council's total net budget for 2023-24 will be £348 million. Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents. The proposals are in contrast with many other councils nationally, which face the prospect of cuts to services, such as library closures and reduction of road maintenance, to balance their budgets. The council is required by law to set a balanced budget which means its expenditure must be balanced by income without unsustainable use of one-off, or short-term sources of finance. This year's budget setting exercise once more takes place against a national background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and the continued growth in need for social care services because of the ageing population.

The council proposes to increase council tax next year by just under 2% and to levy the adult social care precept of 2%. This is less than the maximum 5% increase outlined in the Government's Spending Review in December 2022. The increase would be equivalent to £1.41 extra per week for a Band D property.

Since becoming a unitary council in 2019, we have made efficiency savings of £76 million, and this money has been reinvested to protect frontline services, including funding the growing need for adult social care with our ageing population. Our prudent budget management has meant that Dorset has not faced the same cuts to essential services as many other areas. However, we continue to lobby Government for fairer funding for Dorset so that we can reduce the burden on local taxpayers in future.

The budget setting process will complete in Full Council at 6.30pm, 14th February for final approval.

### **Grants to Dorset Council**

Central government has confirmed that Dorset Council is to receive around £4.5m over the next two years to continue several key programmes, as well as launch some new initiatives. They have approved local spending plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which matches and succeeds EU funding, while giving local leaders greater say in how the money is spent.

A new Investment Plan for Dorset, led by Dorset Council with input from a wide range of contributors, has been approved by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and will see the county benefit from £4.5m of UKSPF money. The flexible approach to the Investment Plan also means Dorset Council will have the opportunity to adapt its plan to reflect new economic priorities over the period to 2025.

The £4.5m will be focused on building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment, and productivity growth, and increasing life chances across the county. All of these are key objectives for Dorset Council over the coming years, especially as we tackle post-pandemic financial challenges and offer help to our residents. The council aims to launch the first elements of the Investment Plan shortly and will be providing more details on how businesses and individuals can access this support.

### **Do you qualify for financial assistance?**

Qualifying for benefits can not only unlock income but could lead to additional assistance where outgoings become reduced. Even if you think you are not entitled to any assistance or have previously applied, you should still check if you haven't done so recently. It takes a few minutes and could have an impact on your day-to-day life. Below are just some examples of where our Welfare Benefits Team has helped residents.

An older council resident who did not qualify for Pension Credit due to his assets, was entitled to the highest rate of Disability Living Allowance where once he had a lower amount. The rebanding of this benefit unlocked £92 a week in income, which in turn allowed him to claim Pension credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support totalling £220 a week. The entitlements also led to a free TV licence, reduced tariff utility bills, assistance with glasses, dental treatment, and hospital transport. The resident also got access to technological devices in his home to notify others if he fell.

In another example, a resident with a learning disability who was assisted with a benefit check when her circumstances changed, was owed tens of thousands of pounds due to previous unanswered claims from the Department of Work and Pensions. This led to an additional £180 benefits which unlocked Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, assistance with glasses, free dental treatment, and prescriptions as well as hospital transport.

The children of families with changing circumstances may be able to benefit from free school meals if they qualify for certain benefits. In addition, school holiday activities may become available and some after school activities become free.

### **Illegal Parking**

Dorset Council, Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner and BCP Councils have asked central government for higher fixed penalty fines for those who ignore parking restrictions – especially in areas close to beaches.

It comes after several summers where motorists abandoned their cars on double yellow lines, roundabouts, verges and even blocked residential drives – some taking the view that a penalty, shared between a carload, was as cheap as paying for parking and saved the bother of trying to find a vacant car park space. We await government's response.

### **Rubbish and Recycling Collections**

There have been some difficulties across the County in collections. The refuse vehicles are (obviously) large and not particularly manoeuvrable. If entering a dead end - the vehicle will normally reverse in. Residents can help by ensuring that vehicles are not parked on the corner any of these entrances, or in parking spaces that restrict access or prevent free movement. Thank you.

### **Disposal of furniture**

New guidance recently introduced by the Environment Agency means Dorset Council must treat upholstered furniture differently when it is being disposed of from now on. Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating – mainly furniture with cushions and/or fabric – is often treated with fire-retardant chemicals known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). These chemicals have not been used since 2019 but can remain intact in the environment for a long time if not dealt with properly and need to be incinerated safely. This means that all Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating will be separated from other waste types at our household recycling centres (HRCs) from now on, with a separate skip for these items. Residents using our HRCs may see the following being set aside, sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, kitchen and dining room chairs, stools and foot stools, home office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor and sofa cushions.

All these items can still be dropped off at any of our 10 sites free of charge. Visitors to our HRCs can help by following on-site guidance on where to place their waste and speaking to on-site staff if you have any

questions. The new rules only apply to furniture when it is being disposed of, and we strongly encourage everyone to consider whether their old items can be sold or donated for reuse instead of being thrown away.

If your furniture cannot be reused and you're looking to pay someone for its removal and disposal, please ensure you are handing your items to a licensed waste carrier. Always ask how your rubbish will be disposed of and get an invoice or receipt for the waste they're taking, including their contact details. If someone unlicensed were to fly-tip your furniture, you could end up paying a fine or being taken to court.

### **SSEN £2.2M investment in Dorset**

MORE THAN two million pounds is to be invested in low-carbon technologies across Dorset. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution has announced £2.2million of funding to replace nearly 3km of cable. That will create an extra 7.2megawatts of capacity for low carbon technologies which, they say, could be harnessed for electric vehicle charging points.

**CLlr Robin Cook**  
**18<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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