

SUTTON WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 7th December 2016
MINUTES

Present: Chairman: Sandy Millard
Councillors: Claire Aartsen, John Ellis, David Smith
County Councillor: Deborah Croney
Clerk: Marianne Wheatley

Residents: Jane McNeil, Martin Jelbart, Dora Sheringham, Gill Severn, Fiona Severn, Alan Malsher, Rod Swift, and Dave McDonald

1. **Apologies** –Iain McNeil apologised for his absence. In the absence of Cllr. McNeil Cllr. Millard acted as Chairman.

2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of Interest.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and following the meeting signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising**

i) **Speed Signs** It was agreed at the meeting in September that the Parish Council would spend £460 on speed signs to be placed throughout the village and that the Clerk would speak to the new Community Highways Officer regarding any practical means of getting people to reduce their speed. As a result of Marianne's approach to the Community Highway Officer Highways have now erected signs at the junction of The Street and the A350 indicating that the speed limit on exiting The Street onto the A350 is 40mph. Martin Jelbart, Sandy Millard and Iain McNeil also had a meeting with Deborah Croney and Mike Potter from DCC Highways to discuss speed limits in the village. It was very positive and informative. It was agreed that speeding wasn't the main issue, although it was suggested that the Parish Council continued with its application to make Sutton Waldron a 20 mph Zone. In the interim signs could be erected to remind drivers to take more care when driving in and through the village. Mike Potter suggested that a sign on entering the village from the A350 could be a warning that approaching cars would be in the middle of the road. For vehicles coming from Vale Farm, a Triangle sign with an Exclamation mark and the word SLOW beneath could be erected on the corner just past Christl Pearson's drive, indicating an unknown danger ahead. The Chairman showed the meeting examples of the proposed signs. Mike Potter was aware that there were children playing on the roads and was going to revert to Cllr. McNeil in this regard. Deborah Croney commented that whilst driving round the country recently she had been keeping an eye out for signage used by other villages. Any signage should be specific to Sutton Waldron and should have the maximum impact on drivers whilst having minimum impact on the village environment. Deborah Croney also indicated that the budget for any signs was under discussion and she would scrutinise any quotes provided by Highways to ensure they were the best quotes possible and thereby obtain funds from the budget for the signs.

ii) The Central Line at the junction of Church Lane and The Street has been repainted.

iii) Dave McDonald and I cleaned and jet washed the bus shelter.

iv) A350/C13 Community Group - The Group met on 5th October 2016. A copy of the report of that meeting is available from Marianne. Deborah Croney has also circulated a report on the current position. Deborah Croney confirmed that since her last report matters had moved on. The tri-area study which had been done at a very strategic level had significant recommendations for the area and these would be shared with the communities shortly. The County council were also looking at practical measures for the short to medium term. Cllr. Croney was hoping to meet with the communities in January 2017 to discuss these measures. The proposed measures would form part of the Challenge Fund bid to go into the national funding bid program. The measures being proposed included speed limits, the road condition and where the routes could be widened or narrowed to increase safety. The next meeting of the A350 Community Group would be on 12th January 2017.

5. Correspondence

- i) **Consultation on council tax referendum principles** – The consultation paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) makes proposals to bring local councils in line with principal councils by requiring them to hold a referendum if they plan to increase their part of council tax above a certain amount. If the proposed rules are introduced this would mean that the Parish Council would have to hold a referendum if the Parish Council wants to increase the precept by over 2% or over £5.00 per every band D property. Unlike principal councils, local councils do not receive grant funding from central government or a share of business rates and are primarily financed through the parish precept. This would mean that if Sutton Waldron wanted to for example raise the precept by £1000 in order to carry out tree works it would have to hold a referendum. This in itself would mean more expense for the Parish Council. Accordingly after consulting the Parish Council the Clerk completed the Consultation Questionnaire and wrote to Simon Hoare opposing the introduction of the principles to Parish Councils. Deborah Croney confirmed that she did not think these principles would be imposed on Parish Councils.
- ii) **Telephone Box** – Purely by chance on 24th October, Jane and Iain McNeil saw a lady taking a photo of the telephone box. When asked why, she said that inside the box there was a notice that BT wish to remove it due to only a small number of calls being made. Despite so few calls being made, it is an emergency link to police, ambulance and fire services, as well as being an iconic landmark in the village.

Dave and Jan McDonald were instrumental in stopping the box being removed some years ago. As they still had all the papers and were familiar with the process, they are, once again, on the case. They have already established a direct contact with BT, as well as the making contact with the Helen Fradley in North Dorset Planning who is dealing with issues relating to the removal of telephone boxes by BT. Jan and Dave had prepared the appropriate paperwork to adopt the telephone box and the Chairman proposed that the Parish Council should adopt the same. Once the adoption has been completed the Parish Council would ask the village for suggestions as to how to use the box. Dave McDonald confirmed that Sutton Waldron did not fulfill the criteria that would mean the village could retain the box as an emergency call box. He also confirmed that he did not think that NDDC would object to the adoption of the box by Sutton Waldron. If Sutton Waldron adopted the box it would be acquire from BT for £1 and for the time being BT would maintain the electricity supply. It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council would adopt the telephone box.

- iii) **County/District Councillors Reports** Various reports from the County/District Councillors have been circulated to all of the councillors. In summary the main items that are relevant to Sutton Waldron are as follows:

October 2016

Planning Department Re-organisation

The Planning Department within the Dorset Councils Partnership has been re-organized to achieve greater efficiency and save costs. The department, headed up by Jean Marshall, will now work in two teams, Western and Eastern. North Dorset comes under the Eastern Team.

November 2016

Unitary Council

The local government re-organisation consultation for possible unitary council has now come to a close. The decision will be coming to the District and County Council during January. By the 1st of February DCC should know which, if any, proposal the Dorset councils will collectively submit to the Secretary of State for consideration, who will make the final decision.

Dorset Waste Partnership is running an information campaign called “Right stuff, right bin”. It is estimated that if everyone put the right stuff in the correct bin we could save £1m per year across Dorset.

DWP will be charging fixed penalty notices for fly tipping offences following a change of legislation in May 2016. DWP has opted for the maximum amount set out in the legislation. This is £400 fixed penalty notice with a 50% reduction if paid within 7 days.

December 2016

Consultation on Proposed Changes to Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme.

Local residents are asked to give their views on the proposed changes to the concessionary bus pass scheme in Dorset. The six week consultation opens on 1 December, and the County councillor is keen to hear from people who use the scheme, or may be affected by proposed changes.

The county council currently subsidises the scheme, which allows bus pass holders free concessionary travel before 0930 on services where the next bus is not until after 1030.

The proposed changes would mean concessionary bus pass holders would not be able to travel free before 9.30am on weekdays. No changes are proposed for the partially sighted and blind, who would still be able to travel free any time. The companion scheme for people with disabilities would still continue.

By ceasing to provide free concessionary travel before 9.30am, savings would be made that could enable the county council to focus financial resources more effectively. Following on from the results of this consultation, changes will be implemented to the service in April 2017. The consultation runs until **Friday 13 January**.

You can complete the questionnaire on-line at:

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/travel-dorset/concessionary-passes-consultation

6. Planning Applications

The Parish Council approved the following application:

- i) **2/2016/1407/FUL - West Farm Mower Lane To Farrington Bridge - Lane Farrington Dorset DT11 8RA** Demolish existing agricultural building and erect 1 No. dwelling, (accommodation for live-in carers) and provision of a swimming pool and hydrotherapy area. Form 6 No. parking spaces including 2 No. disability spaces, (1 disability bus space)

The Parish Council were also approached by Deborah Croney to ask if the Parish Council was aware that NDDC were planning to enforce the holiday let condition on Wobbly Barn at Vale Farm Sutton Waldron DT11 8PG. The barn is currently occupied by a disabled child and his mother. In the circumstances the Parish Council wrote to Sherry Jespersen, the District councillor, indicating that it did not want NDDC to enforce this condition whilst the current occupants are in occupation.

The Parish Council has also received an application for tree works from Sutton Waldron House. It was confirmed that the application in this regard was not currently available on the Dorset for You website. It was agreed that the Parish council would not object to this application provided the application confirmed that the Horse chestnut tree was diseased.

7. Finance

- i) **Audit** - Martin Jelbart has undertaken the half yearly audit for 2016/17 and had confirmed that everything was in order.
- ii) **2016/17 Budget/Precept** – the estimate of the expenditure for 2016/2017 had been circulated to all of the councillors.

This year's expenditure is expected to be in line with the budget. At present this year's expenditure includes £460 for the road signs approved at the last meeting. The budget next year also includes £750 being a reserve to assist Highways if we are able to persuade Highways to make the village a 20mph zone.

Given that:

- the responsibility for some Highway maintenance has been passed down to the Parish Councils and that more responsibilities may be passed down and
- the fact that the referendum principles maybe applied to Parish Councils

Now might be the moment to raise the precept by an additional £500. On last year's figures this will cost Band D houses an additional £4.85. Taking into account the circulated budget for 2016/2017 the Chairman therefore suggested that the Parish Council applies for a precept of £2900 for 2017/2018. This was proposed by Cllr Aartsen, seconded by Cllr. Smith and approved unanimously.

iii) **Bank Update** - Credit with Bank as at 6th December 2016 was £2,897.10

iv) **Bills to be Paid** – There are no bills to be paid.

8. **Any Other Business** – There was no other business.

9. **Reports**

i) **Church**

Rod Swift reported that the repairs to the church roof were now complete and the next project would be to complete the lighting and sound systems. There would be a family friendly service on 18th December 2016 at 6pm. The Christmas Eve procession would start at 3.30pm. A large turnout was expected and getting in and out of the village would be difficult. There would be various changes to the services next year as a result of the number of clergy available. In the 1st quarter of 2017 services on Sundays would commence at 9.30am instead of 10am so that the services in other villages could commence at 11am. The 8pm service on every third Sunday was being dropped. All of these changes would be detailed in the next newsletter.

ii) **Village Hall**

The Christmas lunch on 14th December 2016 was sold out. There was a film night on 20th December 2016 which was selling out fast. There would be a quiz night on 25th January 2017.

iii) **Footpaths** – The Parish Council had been made aware of the damage to the fingerpost on the bridleway to child Okeford and this had been replaced.

10. **Date of next meeting** - The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending the meeting and closed it at 8.10 pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Dated:.....