

SUTTON WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 8th March 2017
MINUTES

Present:

Chairman:	Iain McNeil
Councillors:	Claire Aartsen, John Ellis, David Smith
District Councillor:	Sherry Jespersen
Clerk:	Marianne Wheatley
Residents:	Gill Severn, Dick Hood, Martin Jelbart, Jane McNeil, Caroline Marsden

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Millard, County Cllr Croney and Christl Pearson apologised for their absence.

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

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and; having amended the same to include the apology received from Cllr. Jespersen; approved and following the meeting signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising**

i) **Speed Signs** – The Chairman confirmed that Mike Potter from Highways had confirmed that he was going to put the request for the sign discussed at the last meeting into next years budget. The other signs had been purchased and Iain McNeil and Dave Smith would install the same shortly.

ii) **A350/C13** – A series of consultation meetings have been held with the Town and Parish Councils directly affected by the A350/C13 traffic issues. Dave Smith and Iain McNeil attended one of these meetings. At the meetings Highways outlined their proposals to seek central Government funding through the Department of Transport's Challenge Fund to implement a medium term solution, whilst a strategic route solution is pursued in conjunction with Wiltshire and Bath and North East Somerset Councils.

The proposals put forward included:

In 2017 – remedial retexturing, resurfacing and some limited drainage works to the A350. In 2018/2019 – Traffic Regulation Orders to change speed limits, to create village gateways and to make the HGV one-way system permanent.

Since those meetings, the Government has announced a new funding stream for highway related projects, the National Productivity Investment Fund, through which DCC has received £2,492,000 which has been allocated to the A350/C13 project. DCC therefore have no need to submit a Challenge Fund bid in relation to this matter and can move forward in the knowledge that the funding is in place to complete the works in the coming financial year, with an anticipation commencement date in the Autumn.

DCC will be carrying out a full public consultation exercise but in the interim the Parishes were asked to forward their comments on the proposals. With regard to the proposals the one that affects Sutton Waldron the most is the proposed speed limits through the villages. The overall plan is to have consistency of speed limits; with the speed limits between villages on the A350 being 50 mph and through villages being 30 mph; with road colouring to denote the beginning of a village. At the moment the speed limit on the A350 through Sutton Waldron is 40mph. DCC were proposing to increase this to 50mph. At the meeting Dave Smith and Iain McNeil told DCC that this was not acceptable and that along with all the other villages the speed limit should be 30mph. Dave and Iain explained the dangers because of the bends, traffic turning onto the A350 from The Street and Sutton Hill and the bus stops. The Clerk has reiterated the concerns in writing and has now heard from the Project Engineer confirming that he is happy to discuss the speed limit with the PC. The PC will continue to monitor this situation and will continue to insist that an increase in the speed limit is not

acceptable. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite the Project Engineer to a site meeting to show him the problems.

5. Correspondence

- i) **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:

Local Government Reform - Local government reorganisation has now been rigorously scrutinised by North Dorset District Council and after carefully consideration NDDC unanimously adopted the position that option 2B would be best for the people of North Dorset. Option 2B consists of West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland, Purbeck, North Dorset and East Dorset in one 'Rural Unitary' and Christchurch, Poole & Bournemouth in another 'Urban Unitary'. Out of the nine councils; Purbeck, Christchurch and East Dorset voted for 'no change' with all the others voting for option 2B.

Cllr. Jespersen confirmed that the 6 councils who had voted for the proposal had submitted the proposal to the Secretary of State for approval. Assuming the Secretary of State approves the proposal this will be forced on the councils who voted "no". The reality is that the majority of councilors and a vast majority of the public who were consulted voted for the proposal.

County Council Budget 2017/18 Proposals - Because of the sustained reductions in funding, DCC decided that it has been and will continue to be necessary to increase council tax by 1.99% across the financial period which runs from 2016 – 2020. In addition it is proposed that the Adult Social Care Precept will increase by 3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and then zero in 2019/20. The flexibility in front-loading this increase delivers £6m additional funding over the three-year period, as set out in the January update report. This does not, however, mean that the Adult & Community Services budget simply increases by this amount. This budget remains the highest area of the Council's spend and clearly cannot be protected from either efficiency savings or other budget reductions, such is the continuing magnitude of the funding change. The proposals are still subject to the County Council's agreement which must agree council tax as part of the budget setting process.

Council Tax NDDC

NDDC has raised its council tax by £5 per year for a Band D property, bringing the District Council tax to £121.96 for a Band D property.

The council tax for a Band D property comprises: NDDC: £121.96, Dorset County Council: £1326.87, Dorset Police Authority: £194.58, Dorset Fire Authority: £70.59

The parish precept was £12.24 for a Band D property.

Keeping Hill Forts Tidy

Charges for new bins. From June/July Dorset Waste Partnership, who provide our refuse collection service, will be introducing a modest one-off charge for householders who request extra capacity bins or additional rubbish sacks. Containers for new developments and replacements for lost or damaged communal bins will also be charged for. There are no plans to charge for replacements for lost or damaged household bins or boxes.

Fly-tipping Penalty. A Dorset resident was recently fined after their waste was fly-tipped, even though they didn't dump the rubbish themselves. A lesson here to make sure we only use reliable services to clear away our rubbish.

6. Planning Applications

The Parish Council approved the following applications:

- i) **2/2016/1861/VARIA** Wobbly Barn, Vale Farm, Peggs Lane To The Street – Lane - Variation

of Condition No. 9 of Planning Permission 2/2004/0796 that restricts the use of the building to holiday accommodation. The Parish Council approved this application in order for the current residents to continue living in the premises.

- ii) **2/2017/0098/CATREE** Cleale House, The Street - Crown reduction, reducing branches by 2-3m in length of a Eucalyptus.
- iii) **2/2017/0236/CATREE** Summerlea, 45 The Street – to reduce the overall crown of an Ash tree by 3m to a formative shape and to reduce the height of a birch by up to 2m
- iv) **2/2017/0208/VARIA** - High Elms, Church Lane, Sutton Waldron, DT11 8PB Variation to Condition No. 3 from planning permission 2/2016/0981/HOUSE to allow UPVC windows.

7. Finance

- i) **Bank Update** - Credit with Bank as at 7th March 2017 was £2582.10
- ii) **Bills to be Paid** – Save for the Clerk's salary the only bill to be paid was £186.66 in respect of the signs purchased by Iain McNeil. A letter was received from the PAYE bookkeeper, Diane Malley, confirming that from 1st April 2017 she wished to put her fees up from £58 pa to £73 pa. She had undertaken a review of the time spent and had concluded she has been undercharging. The Clerk confirmed she was keen to retain the bookkeeper's services and accordingly this increase was agreed.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr. Aartsen commented that there appeared to have recently been an increase in the amount of dog waste in the village and asked whether a flyer could be circulated with the next newsletter asking people to pick after their dogs and to prevent their dogs roaming freely.

9. Reports

i) Church

A Lenten group has been meeting over the next 5 weeks at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at 5 Napiers Way. Sunday Church Services were now 9.30am instead of 10.00am. There was a Mother's Day service on 26th March 2017. There was going to be a service on Good Friday with everyone meeting outside the village hall at 9.30am. The service on Easter Sunday would be at 10.00am.

ii) Village Hall

The Sutton Hill walk was due to take place on 23rd April 2017 at a time to be confirmed. The Plant Sale was on 6th May 2017. The village hall had recently bought a new fridge and the kitchen and toilet were going to be painted towards the end of March.

iii) Footpaths

Jane McNeil commented that it would be helpful if the two stiles on the path to Fontmell Magna could be replaced by gates. The space between the stiles was slippery and the stiles were difficult to get over. Cllr. Jespersen said if the landowners were willing the Rangers might be able to install the gates. The cost of wooden gates was in the region of £177.00. Jane McNeil also commented on the footpath going to Pipers Mill in Fontmell Magna. There was no-where for the dogs to get through which made getting to the Millennium woods difficult. Cllr. Jespersen commented that the landowner was not obliged to provide access for dogs. The Clerk confirmed she would speak to the footpath officer at Fontmell.

- 10. **Date of next meeting** - The date of the next meeting which will also be the AGM will be Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 7.30pm.