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**PIMPERNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Minutes for the above Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.  
7.00pm at Pimperne Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs P Slocombe (Chairman), A Argles, C Beckford, S O'Connell, M Strange, J Tanner.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk) 3 Members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Richley.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None received

**3. To consider granting dispensations as required:** None required.

**4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

-Cllr Tanner requested an amendment to the minutes, the inclusion of the revised annual grant to the Pimperne Sports Society to £1500.00 (Linked to inflation). **Clerk**

**5. HILLFORTS WARD REPORT:**

-Cllr Jespersen reported that she had made DC and the Neighbouring Policing Sergeant aware of the untaxed vehicles being parked in Portman Rd. They checked all vehicles parked in Portman Rd on 6<sup>th</sup> March to check for untaxed vehicles.

-The Planning Application for the Long House came to DC Planning Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> March and was approved. Cllr Jespersen had emphasised that this application went against the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan, but it was still voted through.

-The Vale Pantry in Sturminster Newton has moved and has now become a Family Hub, situated in Butts Pond Industrial Estate, this facility is open to the entire community and offers many services including soft play areas, breakfast clubs, CAB advice, Health Visitors, more information available on the DC website.

-DC are holding a consultation on Day Opportunities, all are invited to respond to the consultation as the facilities are up for review and may be lost if people do not respond.

-The new grass cutting schedule for verges is to be published on the DC website advising when the verges are due to be cut. Weeds on the road will only be sprayed once a year as there is a policy not to use too much glyphosate, operatives have been instructed to remove the weeds and remaining soil to prevent regrowth. Cllr Jespersen reminded all that if a hedge is on private property, it is the responsibility of the owner to cut it back.

**6. DEMOCRATIC PERIOD:**

-Jackie Vacher advised that she is holding a VE Day Celebration on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May in the VH from 2.30pm, where they will be serving afternoon tea, there will be live music playing war songs.

-It was raised that the Indoor Bowls equipment is available at the VH should anyone wish to start up an indoor bowls club. The Chairman suggested that this be advertised on the Pimperne Facebook Page. **Chairman**

-A resident of Berkeley Close raised that the road sweeper truck had only ever cleans the left-hand side of the road when it comes to Pimperne. Cllr Argles to investigate this. **Cllr Argles**

-A resident requested that should the date of a PC meeting be changed in the future that a sign be put onto the VH door. **Chairman/Clerk**

-It was raised that DC Planning Department had not changed the amended date on the Bolney Planning Application to the extended date of 21<sup>st</sup> March. This had been amended on the site, but there were concerns that people who wished to comment had not been able to during the period that the date had not been corrected. Cllr Jespersen requested that the Clerk forward the relevant emails over to her so that she can ensure that this does not happen again. The Clerk confirmed that PPC's objection to this application prepared by Dorset Planning Consultant would be posted onto the Planning website on 20<sup>th</sup> March. **Chairman/Clerk**

**7. MATTERS ARISING:** None raised.

**8. URGENT MATTERS:** None raised.

## **9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

### **a) New Applications:**

**-P/HOU/2025/00600:** Install Solar Panels to roof of garage block: PPC did not wish to object to this application, but to make comment that this property is within the Pimperne conservation area.

### **b) Approved Application:**

**-P/FUL/21021/05709:** The Long House, Land at Salisbury Road Pimperne, DT11 8FX: Application went to DC Planning Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025. At Planning Committee this application was deferred at short notice. Approved

### **c) Outstanding Applications:**

**-P/FUL/2024/06927:** Proposal: Erect 33 dwellings with garages and parking, form vehicular access from Salisbury Road, associated infrastructure and public open space. Carry out site preparation and ancillary works. Location: Land South of Bolney, Salisbury Road: Planning objection has been prepared by Jo Witherden also a lengthy objection by CCNL, who had not been consulted. Clerk to request that this application goes to DC Planning Committee, where the Chairman will speak, Cllr O'Connell has requested to speak as a resident, the Chairman thought it important that representation is made by a Letton resident.

**-P/FUL/2020/00411** Franwill, Erect 15 houses, 40% affordable with vehicular access. This application is now moving ahead towards an agreement S106 where the mix of dwellings and access has been finalized. They propose to create a public footpath to the school. **Clerk**

### **d) Other Planning matters:**

#### **-Woodbury/ Former Methodist Chapel:**

-The Chairman had written to the Director of Place but had not received any acknowledgement or response. The clerk to resend letter with a request for a response. **Chairman/Clerk**

**-S106 Homefield** –The schedule of monies outstanding to be sorted out in the next couple of months with DC officer Andrew Galpin. We have requested a quote for the completion of the basketball court by extending the Tarmac and installing an additional goal. **Chairman/Clerk**

-PPC needs to establish whether the S106 monies can be utilized to complete the resurfacing in the Junior play area. **Chairman/Clerk**

**-Franwill Site S106:** No current update. **Chairman**

**-EV charging station:** No current update regarding landscaping, however we have included this matter in the letter sent to the Director of Place, we await a response. **Chairman/Clerk**

-It had been raised previously that the hedge surrounding the EV Charging station should be maintained at 1.7 metres high, this should be measured from the pavement side of hedge but has been measured from the ground inside of the hedge which is lower. **Cllr Tanner**

**e) Tree Applications:**

-There had been an application to cut back a tree overhanging Church Rd from an address in Down Road, also to fell four Ash trees in Nutford, these were not for consultation. **Cllr Strange**

**-10. Former School Field:**

-Cllr Strange had recently met with the Community Wilding Officer to obtain her views on the hedging and the tree saplings in the former school field. She has been invited to speak at the PC Annual Parish Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7pm in the village hall and she is keen to hear from the villagers who live surrounding the field to obtain their ideas. **Cllr Strange**

**11. Finance:**

a) The Clerk had circulated the financial report for December 2024.

b) Payment Approval: The Parish Council approved the following payments.

Clerks Salary:	At agreed rate.
HMRC PAYE	£ 112.00
The Play Inspection Company	£ 216.00
Dorset Planning Consultant	£ 945.00
Pimperne Village Hall	£ 45.00
Azets Payroll	£ 252.00

-All the above payments were unanimously approved.

-PPC gave the Clerk their approval to approach Mr. Paul to conduct the Annual Internal Audit.

**12. Brief Update:**

**a) Tree Warden**

-A letter has been sent to the resident who severely cut back the hedge in the former school field requesting that he refrain from cutting the hedge in the future and that he removes the 2 non-native bushes he had planted in the field behind his property. **Cllr Strange/Clerk**

-The Chairman confirmed that a request to plant a tree at the corner of Church Rd and Bushes Rd had been sent to DC Highways, we await a response. **Chairman/Clerk.**

**b) Rights of Way-**

-Cllr Argles had cleared some of the pathway from Yarde Farm to the camp. **Cllr Argles**

**c) Flood Warden:**

-Though the tributary from Salisbury Road continues to strongly flow due to rising temperatures hence increased evaporation, the dangers of ground water flooding are diminishing. The degree of water from New Field Road has not yet posed the threat that has occurred in previous years. However, concern regarding flash flooding remains at an enhanced level due to climate change causing more heavier cloud bursts.

-Following an inspection sand and sandbags are being obtained to ensure the adequacy of materials in time for next winter.

-To end I look forward to the completion of the works to renew the culvert, we hope that the wait is not too long. **Cllr Tanner**

-Wessex water had to be called out as a resident reported that sewage was leaking into his garden as there was a blockage in the pipe. WW came to site with pumping equipment however it was not

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powerful enough to flush out the problem, they will need to reattend. Cllr Tanner wished to urge residents not to flush any sanitary products down the toilet. **Cllr Tanner**

**d) Highways:**

-SGN works in Anvil Rd have been delayed as they await ground water levels to go down.

-The Chairman had met with DC Highways officer, on 18<sup>th</sup> December where action was agreed for road markings to the bus stop at the former Farquharson Arms site, to date this action has not been carried out.

-PPC had received a response from DC Highways regarding the request for a crossing to be installed on the A354 to enable the safe crossing of residents to the nursery and the bus stop. The response stated that it would be an inappropriate position for an uncontrolled crossing and an alternative further towards the bus stop would be more appropriate. It was also recommended that the pavement be cleared of weeds to make it wider and more accessible for buggies, etc.

-In preparation for Blandford's new Waste Management Centre, more four-way traffic signals will be at Hilltop Roundabout in Pimperne between April 7<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> for drainage works.

**-White Gates:** The Chairman is now sending weekly emails to the DC Sign Shop to obtain the final quote for the white gates to be installed. CCNL have confirmed that they will be able to assist with the funding of the signage. **Chairman**

-DC are active in Pimperne checking the trenching that had been completed on the A354 as it is not adequate quality. **Cllr Tanner**

-Parishes have been approached by Hedgehog groups to install new Hedgehog awareness signage. DC have stated that they will charge each parish a £300.00 administration fee. This fee would not include the signs or the installation of the signs/posts. Hedgehog groups are in discussion to challenge this charge, we await further information. Cllr O'Connell to write to the CEO of the Hedgehog Society. **Cllr O'Connell/Cllr Strange**

**e) Village Hall:**

-PPC approved for the Chairman to approach Blanchard Bailey Solicitors to prepare a new licence between the Parish Council and Hamwic Academy Trust regarding permission for parents to park in the VH car park at school drop off and collection times. It was stipulated that Hamwic should be made responsible or part responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the car park or should be charged a fee for its use. **Chairman**

**-f) DAPTC:**

-Cllr O'Connell to attend the Northern Area Committee meeting next week. **Cllr O'Connell**

**g) Transport Officer:**

-Cllr Richley will be ensuring that the timetables on the bus stops are up to date. **Cllr Richley**

**h) Community Officer.**

-Cllr Beckford had issued a full report. The village benches had been inspected without any issues. Cllr Beckford cleaned the brick bus shelter on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and had swept and disposed of the leaves, she also pruned the overhanging brambles. The grit bins had been inspected and two had partially used the contents. PPC will leave until autumn when DC will refill the bins FOC. **Cllr Beckford**

**13. Speedwatch/ Homewatch.**

-A speed watch session had been conducted at Fiveways junction in Church Rd, 23 vehicles were travelling over the 20mph limit but not excessively so. **Chairman**

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## **14. Property checks**

### **a) General:**

**Cllr Beckford-**

### **b)-Play areas:**

-The Annual Inspection for both play areas had been carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> February by The Play Inspection Company. The report detailed some low-risk minor faults with the equipment which will be corrected, apart from the trampoline which is currently out of use and has been fenced off awaiting further action. The inspection confirmed that the play areas were muddy in places and needed more play bark.

-We request that parents and children refrain from moving the barriers around the trampoline while it is out of use.

We await Wicksteed's quote for the repair of the trampoline, we have been advised that special tools are required to complete the job.

**Chairman**

## **16. Items for the next Agenda:**

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-Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd April at 7pm in the VH.

**Chairman**

**-Date & time of next Parish Council meeting:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm – The Village Hall. Meeting closed:20.31 pm.