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|  | Minutes of a meeting of High Stoy Parish Council Held at Hermitage Village Hall |  |  |
| At 7:00pm on Tuesday 11th March 2025 |
|  | In attendance:  Councillors — C Summerell, Chairman. P Rowland, Vice-Chairman.  P Damon. D Gordge. D Griffin.  Dorset Councillor – C Kippax  Clerk - C J Cook  Members of the Public— S Jadavji. R Jadavji. W Hounsell.  D Whiteoak. J Damon. |  |  |
| 1 | Apologies for Absence:  Cllr C Clough |  |  |
| 2 | Registers of Interest of Parish Council Members (current meeting):  There were no declarations of interest. |  |  |
| 3 | Public Discussion Period:  The Chairman welcomed Dorset Councillor, Mr Kippax and invited him to commence this section by reporting on county developments and thereafter to respond to questions from the audience.  Councillor Kippax introduced himself and explained his commitment to visiting local parish and other councils to learn what really mattered to constituents. There are 8 parish councils he intends to visit regularly. If and when other commitments prevent his attending in person, he will provide a written report. He further explained that, as well as the several broader issues that had been and would be brought to his attention, he was also aware that there may be individuals with issues that it would be appropriate for him to become involved in. He went on to say that while he had “influence” on the council, he did not have “executive powers”. He therefore had to be selective and use that influence wisely.  Councillor Kippax gave a concise description of the internal organisation and structure of Dorset Council and provided some insight into which sections deal with what matters. He then went on to give a brief comment on the budget, The reasons the increase and the actual charges in Council Tax in Dorset are high is down to the low level of grant from central government. This in turn is due to the significant number of high capital value properties in Dorset. |  |  |
|  | The Chairman then invited questions to Councillor Kippax from the Parish Councillors and members of the public in attendance.  One question posed was as to why council tax had to be paid in 10 months rather than over the full year of 12 months. Councillor Kippax promised to raise this question with the appropriate person at Dorset Council.  Mr R Jadavji introduced himself and his wife, Mrs S Jadavji. He explained that they had moved into the area, into New Street, Batcombe, around 5 years ago. He handed out to councillors some photographs he had taken of the problems he was about to relate. There followed a lengthy presentation of the troubles and dangers arising from the continual flooding of New Street. In his report he mentioned how helpful Councillor Gordge had been at all times and informed that both he and Councillor Gordge had spent many, many hours physically labouring in attempts to clear the street of water and the washed down rubble. This has resulted in the banks on either side rising higher and higher as ever more rubble is added to the bank each week. Drains were being blocked and the street made impassable. Mrs S Jadavji contributed to point out that all the time these matters had been reported to Dorset Council but that no action had been taken by them other than an entirely inadequate laying down of some surface coating that had disappeared within weeks. Mr R Jadavji continued to explain the time, money, car tyres and effort that this situation was costing him.  Councillor Gordge explained that the problem arose from the very top of the street from where the water from Batcombe Down poured onto the street and then all the way down the street and out into Stile Way. He further informed that the water needed to be stopped at a point above the highest property on New Street. However, the street above that point is not owned or adopted by Dorset Council.  Both the Chairman and Councillor Kippax promised to inform their respective contacts at Dorset Council of these problems. Councillor Kippax took contact details from Mr R Jadavji and asked  Mr R Jadavji to contact him to arrange an opportunity for a dialogue between them. He further informed that he already had a meeting planned with the Highways Department next week. The dialogue would usefully be after that meeting had taken place. |  | |

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|  | Minutes of a meeting of High Stoy Parish Council Held at Hermitage Village Hall  At 7:00pm on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 |  |
| 4 | Minutes of last meeting:  The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed to accept the minutes as a true and fair record of the last meeting. |  |
| 5 | Matters arising from the last meeting, not on this agenda:  None were raised. |  |
| 6 | Highway Matters:  The Chairman informed Councillor Kippax of the process by which such matters were dealt with.  Mr D Whiteoak then informed the council that he had reported to the Clerk on some bridleway matters and that they had been dealt with within a couple of days. He suggested that therefore the route of approaching Dorset Council through the Clerk of the Parish Council was a better route than contacting Dorset Council as an individual.  6.1 No matters had been reported by members of the public.  6.2 The Clerk reported that in most cases Dorset Council had acknowledged the complaint but had merely informed the Parish Council that the matter was being investigated. However, in 3 cases:   1. The hedges on Badgers Moor Lane – The Dorset Council advised that the hedges were on private property and they (the Dorset Council) were therefore not liable to cut them. 2. Hilfield Lane junction – Has been repaired. 3. Junction of Gunville Lane and Hermitage Lane – Cul-da-Sac sign has been replaced.   6.3 The Clerk reminded the council that all planned road closures were reported to the councillors as soon as they were notified to the Clerk.  6.4 All faults reported had been on notification from Parish Councillors. |  |
| 7 | Footpath Matters:  Mr J Damon reported on the rotten gate post on bridleway N14/4 Hermitage to Lyons Gate. The clerk will report this to Dorset Council.  Mr D Whiteoak advised that he had been unable to walk and inspect the footpaths around Hilfield due to the excessively wet weather and its effect on those footpaths. He further advised that he hopes to make those inspections during May. |  |
| 8 | Planning Matters:   1. The Chairman advised on the planning permissions granted on appeal in relation to the land adjacent to Hermitage Hall. The permission granted on appeal was only for new cladding to be put on all the faces of the building. The Chairman invited thoughts from councillors as to the type and colour of the cladding that would be acceptable but no opinions were expressed on what an appropriate colour would be. 2. The Clerk reported that the conversion of 2 dwellings at Sunnyside Farm did not require prior approval according to the Dorset Council Planning Department. |  |
| 9 | Financial Matters:  9.1  9.3  The Clerk advised that all the financial information had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. He invited any questions and there were none.  9.2 The payment for approval was the new account maintenance charge introduce by the bank. It was approved unanimously.  In light of the cessation of a free banking facility by Lloyds Bank, the Clerk offered to investigate other banks to see if a better deal could be found at one of those banks. Various suggestions of alternative banks were made by councillors and members of the public. |  |
| 10 | Correspondence:  There was none to report. |  |
| 11 | Other Information:  The Chairman reported that a number of “Slow” signs had been painted but that they lasted only a matter of weeks. He then raised the matter with the road safety officer at Dorset Council. The defective slow signs have not yet been repaired with a more effective material. Discussion then followed as to whether alternative street signs could be erected to warn drivers of the potential for pedestrians, horses, etc., to be sharing the roadway with vehicles. The Chairman was asked to obtain quotes for appropriate signs for consideration. |  |
| 12 | Date and Location for the Next Meeting:  It was agreed that this would be at the Friary on Tuesday the 3rd June at 7 p.m. |  |