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|  | Minutes of a meeting of High Stoy Parish Council Held at The Friary |  |  |
| At 7:00pm on Tuesday 10th June 2025 |
|  | In attendance:  Councillors — C Summerell, Chairman. P Rowland, Vice-Chairman.  D Gordge. D Griffin. C Clough  Dorset Councillor – C Kippax  Clerk - C J Cook  Members of the Public— D Whiteoak. J Damon. Brother Hugh. |  |  |
| 1 | Apologies for Absence:  Cllr P Damon |  |  |
| 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 inform the meeting on Dorset Council matters and to bring the meeting up to date on the Batcombe flooding problems discussed at the last parish council meeting. Mr Kippax opened by informing the meeting that a number of parish councils he had visited had all raised with him the substantial amounts of the council tax levied on properties by Dorset Council. He had in turn contacted the finance director and asked for a detailed report of the expenditure and income budget for Dorset Council. The reasons for the apparent incomparability with many other councils included:  1.Underfunding of all rural counties, especially compared to more urban areas, like London boroughs. In 2019, when Dorset Council was born in its current format, the grant from central government was £3.1 million. This current year, the grant was £1.7 million. This compares to, for example, Newham receiving a grant for £45.8 million.  2.Demographics meaning greater demand for such services as care.  In the current financial year. Of Dorset Council’s total budget of £470 million, child and adult care and housing services takes up £254 million. These are of course, statutory requirements. |  |  |
|  | Councillor Kippax then reported to the meeting on his progress with the flooding matter that had been raised at the last meeting by the Batcombe residents. There was little to report as yet due to the very slow response of the highways team. Mr Kippax assured the meeting he was continuing to pursue the matter and had kept informed the couple who raised the issue. He is meeting a highways officer on Thursday about this matter and he has taken note of Councillor Goodge’s advice that the highways people insist that the upper part of the road in question is a byway not a highway. |  | |
| 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. The Chairman signed the minutes accordingly. |  | |
| 5 | Matters arising from the last meeting, not on this agenda:  None were raised. |  | |
| 6 | Highway Matters:  6.1 No new matters had been reported by members of the public. Councillor Gordge did however, report that the ongoing problem with the flooding in Batcombe has become a major problem to the occupants of The Yews. The road near that property has eroded at the edges to such an extent that it has become impassable to all but s.u.v.s with high ground clearance.  6.2 The Clerk reported that in most cases Dorset Council had acknowledged the complaint and promised correction works would take place staring 1st April.  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. Councillor Clough reported that she in turn posts the information to her local whatsapp group as soon as she receives it.  6.4 All faults reported had been on notification from Parish Councillors. The Chairman advised the meeting that he had reported worn road markings but had been informed by Dorset Council that until and unless the markings were 85% worn away, nothing could be done. He reported that he had subsequently challenged the calculation for this site as in his opinion, the markings were more than 85% erased. The defect has been reported again.  6.5 The Chairman informed the meeting that he had asked for a quotation for the proposed traffic warning signs but had not yet had a response. The intention was to place a single pole with 2 signs attached to each, at either end of Hermitage. The signs would be warning of pedestrians and of horses. | Clerk will report this to Dorset Council Highways Department on behalf of HSPC. | |

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| 7 | Footpath Matters:  Mr J Damon reported on the bridge behind the church in Hermitage. He deems it unsafe despite work he personally has undertaken to repair some rotten parts. |  |
| 8 | Planning Matters:   1. The Chairman addressed councillors on the latest application in relation to the land adjacent to the Hermitage Village Hall. Councillor Clough added that there was very strong feeling among the village residents against any development on that site. Dorset Councillor Chris Kippax informed the meeting that he had seen the site and the existing building and that he was astonished to have seen the application. 2. The Batcombe flooding problem is dealt with under items 3 and 6.1 of these minutes. | Clerk and Chairman to agree an appropriate and comprehensive response to the application. |
| 9 | Financial Matters:  9.1 The account balance was received, noted and approved unanimously.  9.2 The items for payment were unanimously approved.  9.3 The accounts for the year to date were accepted and approved unanimously.  9.4 (a) The Annual Internal Audit Report was received, noted and unanimously approved.  (b) The Annual Governance Statement was unanimously approved.  (c) The Accounting Statements were unanimously approved.  (d) The Certificate of Exemption was unanimously approved.  (e) The Annual governance Statement was then signed by the Chairman and The Clerk.  (f) The Chairman signed the Accounting Statements. The Clerk had already signed these prior to presenting them to the Parish Council.  (g) The meeting unanimously agreed that the commencement date for the Exercise of Public Rights would be the 16th June 2025.  (h) The Chairman and The Clerk signed the Certificate of Exemption. | The Clerk to post all relevant documents on the Parish Council web site. |
| 10 | Correspondence:  There was none to report. |  |
| 11 | Other Information: |  |
| 12 | Date and Location for the Next Meeting:  It was agreed that this would be at the Friary on Tuesday the 2nd or 9th of September 2025 at the friary at 7 p.m. | Clerk to arrange and notify all. |