

Minutes of High Stoy Parish Council Meeting Held, Hilfield Recreation Room

6th December 2022 6:00 pm

Present: Councillors Dave Whiteoak (Chairman), Colin Summerell (Vice-Chairman), Kevin Pescott, Peter Rowland, Dawn Griffin and Amy Sellick (Clerk).

Item Number	Item	Actioned By
1	Apologies: District Councillor Mary Penfold, Councillor Eveline Jones and Wendy Hounsell	
2	Minutes from the meeting held on 30 th August 2022 were agreed and signed by Chairman Whiteoak.	Clerk to upload signed copy to website
3	Present Councillors notified of any new Interests: No new interests.	
4	<p>Matters arising from the meeting held 30th August 2022:</p> <p>4.1 Proposal to extend 40mph speed limit, past Three Gates Farm: meeting with Road Safety Manager, Tony Burden occurred on 22nd September, attended by Councillor Summerell – it was agreed that Road Casualty Reduction Team from Dorset Police assess site, however they felt that the 40mph zone does not warrant extension. The police have no 'recent' record of any collisions with an injury. Chairman Alan Bennett of Leigh PC has requested a copy of the report. Road markings have now been refreshed.</p> <p>4.2 Collapsed drain and consequent flooding in Hermitage: Councillor Pescott reported that there has been some flooding in the village although not to the extent that it did last year. Chairman Whiteoak proposed having ditches dug.</p> <p>4.3 Power Cut Emergency Action Plan: Chairman Whiteoak met with Jeremy Cozens and John Damon to draft an Action Plan focusing on what we can do if power goes down for an extended period. John Damon is looking into buying a generator for the Hermitage and Hilfield Village Hall (funded by the village hall). In the event of an extended power cut the village hall will be opened. Chairman Whiteoak sent out an email asking who locally has a generator and who would be prepared for this to be used in the event of a power cut, with a good response. It's hoped the plan will be ready for circulation early in the new year.</p> <p>4.4 Hermitage Grit Boxes: Clerk confirmed that we are waiting for confirmation that the slabs are in place for this to be delivered</p> <p>4.5 Clerk CiLCA training: Clerk confirmed that Parish Council have been awarded a grant to cover the £235 DAPTC training fees. The CiLCA SLCC registration (£450) has now been paid and the Clerk has signed up and started the training.</p> <p>It was proposed that Parish Council cover costs of 4 physical training sessions (5 hours each totalling £62.50 per session). This was supported by Chairman Whiteoak and unanimously agreed.</p>	<p>Councillor Pescott to chat to Kevin House about digging the ditch and let us know cost implications. Also to re-contact District Councillor Mary Penfold about this.</p> <p>Councillor Pescott to meet with Kevin House to confirm box locations.</p> <p>Clerk to put payment through in January following 2nd training session.</p>
5	<p>Highway Matters:</p> <p>5.1 No road damage reported.</p>	

	5.2 No planned road closures.	
6	<p>Footpath Matters:</p> <p>6.1 Chairman Whiteoak reported that there are no problems to report in Hermitage. Chairman Whiteoak walked a number of footpaths in Hilfield with Lyn Cooch and identified a number of stiles needing maintenance in Hilfield. These have been reported to Dorset Council by Chairman Whiteoak.</p>	
7	<p>Planning Applications:</p> <p>7.1 WD/D/19/002710- Change of use of land and erection of luxury holiday lodges at The George Albert Hotel. PC: Objected DC: Under consideration.</p> <p>7.2 P/FUL/2021/03669 – Common Farm, Hermitage. Erection of butchery unit and conversion of existing outbuilding to office/staff room. PC Objection. DC: Under consideration. Chairman Whiteoak reported that this application will go to full Dorset Council Northern Area Planning Committee, however it's likely that we will have little notice of which meeting this will be addressed within. The next meeting is due to take place on 20th December. The Parish Council plan to attend the meeting and speak within the allotted 3 minutes.</p> <p>7.3 P/FUL/2022/02931 – Knapp Farm, Load Lane, Hilfield. Erect agricultural workers cottage. DC: Under consideration.</p> <p>7.4 P/HOU/2022/06085 – Coasters Cottage, Gunville Lane. Erect single storey rear extension. DC: Granted.</p>	<p>Chairman Whiteoak to continue to check when the application will come up at Planning Meeting. Councillors Summerell and Pescott to keep an eye on this will Chairman Whiteoak is away.</p>
8	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>8.1 Working Together Charter: Clerk informed Councillors of plans draft a charter/agreement between Town and Parish Councils and Dorset Council, with a view to guiding and improving relations moving forward. The Charter was supported.</p> <p>8.2 Councillor Digital Register of Interests: Clerk reminded Councillors of the importance of ensuring that this is complete and up to date.</p> <p>8.3 Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT) – Wriggle Natural Flood Management Project. Leigh Parish Council Chairman Alan Bennett and Chairman Whiteoak attended a meeting with Lorne Thomson (Chair of YRCT) to discuss how we can support this. YRCT will have a further meeting early in February '23 at The Friary todiscuss where leaky dams can be put in place to limit river flow upstream. Chairman Whiteoak intends to attend this meeting if available.</p> <p>8.4 Policies: Clerk circulated policies to Councillors ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>8.4.1 Review and approval of existing Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of Information Model Financial Regulations Standing Orders Code of Conduct Councillor Code of Conduct <p>8.4.2 Adoption of the following new policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Protection Disciplinary Equality Diversity 	<p>Clerk to resend invitation to complete to Councillor Rowland.</p> <p>Clerk to display all policies on Parish Council website</p>

Grievance
Risk Management

8.5 Report from PC Alex Bishop:

Between the 11th and 12th October, 3 locks were cut and 1 stolen to a field in the Batcombe area, possibly related to poaching.

31st October, a Buffalo trailer was stolen from the area of Papern Hill, Hilfield.

1st December there was a report of a 'Nottingham Knocker', selling household cleaning products in the Evershot area. It is likely they will be moving around the area (Nottingham Knockers is a name given to males, generally from the Nottingham (or Northern areas) area, who travel around the Country selling these items, often at an inflated price). There is no offence, providing the males have a Pedlars Licence and sell responsibly. If any such person is attempting to sell items at your door, they need to show you their Pedlars Licence on request. If you are not interested in buying any items, say no. If they persist, ask them to leave or you will contact the Police. If you purchase any items under pressure, contact the Trading Standards team via Dorset Council. If the males become threatening or aggressive, call us, at the time on 999.

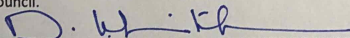
Slightly further afield across the Bridport area, in September there were four thefts of vehicles, two Land Rovers, a Range Rover and a camper van. Since September there have been five thefts of catalytic converters. Please be vigilant and consider your security. Most crimes can be prevented, if you know they're happening, when they're happening. This can be achieved with the use of alarms or CCTV/cameras with alert capability (such as doorbell cameras, etc). If anyone would like any advice, please contact us, or come and see me at my next engagement (date below). Please also be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us, at the time, on 101. Or if you believe a crime is in progress, call 999.

There have also been some scams to be aware of recently. This involves a caller stating they are a Police Officer (usually not of Dorset Police, which is the first sign it's not genuine) and they are investigating some kind of fraud relating to fake bank notes. They advise that they would like you to withdraw a large amount of money from your account and tell you to use a false reason, such as home improvements when the Clerk asks what the money is for. This is because Banks have safeguarding protocols to protect people from fraud and will cancel a transaction and call the Police, if they believe it to be fraudulent. They will then say they have arranged for an Officer to come and collect the money, so this can be checked over and ask you for a password for the attending Officer to use, so you know it's them. The Police do not operate in this way. Police and banks will NEVER ask people to verify your PIN, withdraw money or purchase high value goods. If you wish to check the identity of a caller from your bank, hang up and call the number of the bank on the back of your card, or on a number you have found, NEVER one given by a caller. If you wish to check the

Clerk to circulate Alex Bishop's email to Chairman Whiteoak

	<p>identity of a caller stating they are a Police Officer, you can ask for the Force they work for, the Station they are based at, their name and collar number. Again hang up and call 101 and choose the option to speak to the Force they said they were calling from. It is always a good idea to leave it for a few minutes before dialling out and always check for a dial tone, in case the caller has left the line open. Alternatively, use another line or ask a trusted neighbour or friend if you can use their phone. For further information and advice, you can look at the Dorset police website – www.dorset.police.uk. Or Action Fraud's website – www.actionfraud.police.uk.</p>	
9	<p>Financial Matters: 9.1 2022-2023 Precept: Vice Chairman Summerell proposed 5% increase based on Government recommendation for Unitary, District and local Councils. This was unanimously agreed. Therefore, proposed precept will be £5733 for 2023-24. 9.2 Account balance as of 5th December 2022: £8,091.85. Statements were made available for view. 9.3 Retrospective items for approval: Parish Clerk Pay October-December 2022: £650 Clerk pay adjustment 2021-2022: £138.84 Hermitage Village Hall Hire: £30</p>	Clerk to submit precept request to Dorset Council
10	<p>Any other business: 10.1 Chairman Whiteoak plans to put an item in the next Wriggle Valley Magazine updating council news into the next publication and will include within this that we are looking to recruit new councillors.</p>	
11	<p>The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 7th February 7.00pm, Hermitage Village Hall.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at 07:25 pm</p>	

These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman, following approval, at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed: 

7th Feb '23