

**ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th June, 2007 at 7.30pm**

Members Present:

Cllr Mrs V Bell	Cllr N.R. Hindmarch	Cllr Mrs A Warman
Cllr J Crow	Cllr I Maddock	Cllr R Warman
Cllr R Dudman	Cllr M. Packham	
Cllr. M. Dyer	Cllr Mrs S Smith	

In attendance: Mrs Ann Jacobs, two members of the public and Mr S Howard of DCC.

In the absence of a Chairman, the Clerk asked the Members to elect a Chairman for the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr M Dyer would Chair the meeting, proposed by Cllr Mrs Warman, seconded by Cllr Maddock.

Open Forum: Members of the Public were asking for the Council to support their request for a reduction in the speed limit on Horton Road.

The Council heard from Mr S Howard and Cllr Mrs Warman on the cycle lane proposal for Woolsbridge Road. The route would connect the two existing routes to Avon Heath and the Castlemain crossing. A number of residents on Woolsbridge Road appear to be in support. Cllr Mrs Warman had also received comments of support from a number of parents who take their children to St Ives School. The Parish Council had previously rejected the proposal on the grounds of safety. DCC had commissioned an Independent Safety Audit which found the proposal to be sound. Experience had shown that such lanes have resulted in slowing traffic. The proposal is for an advisory cycle lane which means cars can still drive in the area a mandatory lane would keep vehicles out of the area.

76. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council for the rest of the 2007/08 Municipal Year –

Cllr Mrs K Redknapp was nominated, proposed by Cllr Dyer, seconded by Cllr Dudman. There were no other nominations, Cllr Mrs K Redknapp was duly elected subject to her signing the declaration of acceptance of office on or before the next full Council meeting.

77. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Mrs Warman:

Item 14.1 Will report on the minutes for information only

Item 28.3 Will give a short report on urgent expenditure and leave before discussion.

Item 30 Prejudicial interest will leave the meeting.

Cllr Dudman: Items 28.3 and 30 Prejudicial Interest

Cllr R Warman: Personal Interest on item 21, Prejudicial Interest item 30

Cllr Dyer: Prejudicial Interest item 30

Cllr Hindmarch: Prejudicial Interest item 30

78. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs J House and Cllr Mrs Redknapp.

79. Cycle Lane Woolsbridge Road – The Chairman summed up the pertinent points discussed.

Cllr Mrs Warman moved that the proposal for the advisory cycle lane in Woolsbridge Road is supported by the Parish Council. The result of the vote was to support the proposal. Recorded as 5 in favour, 3 against and 2 abstained.

RESOLVED: To support the proposal by DCC to mark an advisory cycle lane in Woolsbridge Road.

80. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th May, 2007 -

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May, 2007, pages 1 to 4, were agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Dudman, seconded Cllr. Packham.

81. Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only):

Min. 14 - New Code of Conduct – The Clerk will draft a minor amendment to Standing Order 70 for the Council to approve at the next meeting, to clarify Members of the Public speaking on items on the agenda, to allow for dialogue/questions for the next meeting.

- 82. Meeting of Amenities Committee held on 2nd May, 2007-** The approved minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May, 2007, pages 101 to 102 were adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Dudman, seconded by Cllr Mrs S Smith.
- 83. Meeting of Finance Committee held on 2nd May, 2007-** The approved minutes of the meeting held on, 2nd May, 2007, page 103, was adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Crow, seconded by Cllr Mrs Smith
- 84. Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th April 2007-** The approved minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2007 pages no. 94 to 96, were adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Maddock, seconded Cllr Crow.
- Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24th May 2007-** The approved minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2007, pages no. 5 to 7 were adopted as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Maddock, seconded Cllr Packham.

85. Correspondence (for information only):

1. Dorset AONB consultation draft see www.dorsetaonb.org.uk deadline 1.8.07. Noted.
2. DCC Changes to the Highway Service. Noted.
3. Letter from resident – History exhibition throughout August at the Meeting House. Noted.
4. Copy letter from DCC to resident concerning Temporary Prohibition of Waiting Order. Noted.

- 86. Yellow Lines within the Parish** – Cllr Mrs Warman reported that she had received complaints about the all day parking at the entrance to St Ives Wood and would be requesting yellow lines for the area. Willow Close and Windsor Close should have yellow lines within 6 months.

The Chairman closed the meeting to hear from Mr Howard of DCC and members of the public on the request for a reduction in the speed limit on Horton Road.

8.10pm The meeting was reconvened.

- 87. Speed Limit Horton Road** – The request for a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph was discussed. Mr Howard DCC reported that the statistical data collected does not meet the criteria to support the request. DCC have to adhere to the Government's traffic advisory rules which are that on setting the speed limit for a road it must be done for a specific danger and not purely for a junction. It has been agreed by DCC that some improvements can be made they are:- the 40mph signs off the A31 will be further highlighted; 40 mph roundabouts will be painted on the road; the overgrown foliage on the junction will be cut back to improve visibility and bollards will be installed to prevent the parking of HGV's on the grass near the junction. Cllr Mrs Smith asked about the basic matrix for these rules as there is a school and a bus stop on the bend and the visibility is poor.

It was proposed that the Council should support the residents request for a 30mph speed limit on the section of the Horton Road from the Ashley Heath Roundabout to the Speed Camera. Proposed by Cllr Packham, seconded by Cllr R Warman. Agreed (one abstention).

RESOLVED: To support the residents request for a reduction on the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on this section.

- 88. Purchase of SID's by Parish Councils** –The Clerk reported a positive response from West Parley. Further information will be obtained for the next meeting.
- 89. County Councillors Update:** Cllr Mrs Warman reported that she is now the Vice Chairman of Adult Services, DCC. A complete review and overhaul of Social Services and the Environment is scheduled.
- 90. District Councillors' Update:** Cllr Dudman reported that the EDDC Licensing Committee are currently undertaking an overview and scrutiny of the Licensing objectives. A consultation document is to be circulated shortly.
- 91. Parish Councillors' Reports -To receive reports from Parish Councillors including:-**
1. Avon Heath Liaison Panel – No meeting held.
 2. School Governor Report - Cllr. M.C. Packham reported that a fundraising summer ball is to be held on 7th July. Term ends 28th July and a new Headteacher will start in September.

- 92. Land at St Leonards** – Cllr Dyer reported that he had attended a recent presentation on the proposals for development at the St Leonards Hospital site. As a result of comments made by a Member of St Leonards South Land Owners Association and Member of Hurn Parish Council, the Clerk has made a Freedom of Information request to Hurn Parish Council as preliminary enquiries indicate that Hurn Parish Council discussed and allegedly made representations recommending development in the St Leonards Green Belt.
- 93. Parish Newsletter Production schedule** –The production schedule was accepted. Members were asked to consider compiling ideas and items for inclusion.
- 94. Appointment to Committees 2007/08** – Cllr R Warman had accepted the appointment to the Finance Committee. Cllr Mrs Warman accepted the appointment to the Finance and Amenities Committees. Cllr Crow accept the appointment to Amenities, Finance and Planning Committees.

95. Terms of Reference of Committees –

- i) Terms of Reference for Amenities and Finance Committees were agreed to be retained without change as recommended by the meetings held on 6th June 2007.
- ii) Planning Committee - The Clerk reported problems in meeting the quorum as specified in Standing Orders and ensuring meetings are held to provide comments within the 21 day consultation period. Different options were discussed. It was agreed that the Committee may call additional meetings to those on the official calendar immediately prior to any other Committee or full Council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Maddock seconded by Cllr Crow. These additional meetings will still be advertised as normal on the noticeboards.

RESOLVED: The Planning Committee will be empowered to call additional meetings as required immediately prior to any other Committee or full Council meeting.

Attention was drawn by the Chairman to the lack of attendance by Parish Council Members at EDDC Planning Committee by the Parish Planning Committee when an objection and recommendation from us to refuse has been given. If the Parish strongly objects then a Member should attend to put the Parish Councils case. The Clerk will make enquiries with Planning Department concerning the conflicting decisions.

- 96. Members Declaration of Acceptance of Office** –Receipt of the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Cllr Crow and Cllr Mrs V Bell was noted.

97. Annual Return–

- i) A copy of the Annual Return for 2006/2007 was circulated to Members, a copy of which appears as appendix A to these Minutes in the Minute book. The Annual Return was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Dudman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Bell.

RESOLVED: The Annual Return for 2006/2007 was approved as submitted and will be forwarded to the External Auditor.

- ii) The Statement of Assurance had been copied to Members and was accepted as correct. Proposed by Cllr Dudman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Bell

RESOLVED: That the Statement of Assurance is accepted and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

- 98. Youth Club** – Cllr Mrs Warman reported that currently the Youth Club is not functioning this is a waste of Parish resources to leave the situation to continue. Cllr Mrs Bell reported that she had heard of similar problems in Wimborne. These seemed to have been resolved by opening the Club as an afterschool drop-in and cafe and for sessions during the school holidays. The Clerk will write to DCC and put these suggestions to them and suggest that if the situation cannot be improved then another use will need to be found for the premises.

- 99. Footpath Varndean House** – A letter of complaint concerning closure of an undesignated path has been received. This was discussed. It was mentioned that to pursue this will require sufficient evidence and an assessment of demand to justify the possible legal costs. The Clerk will ask the complainant for permission to print their letter and details (without address) in the next newsletter to enable the Council to justify pursuing the matter further.

- 100. Land at 21 Barnsfield Road** – A Stop and enforcement notice has been issued however the appeal is by Public Inquiry. The Clerk will look back at the Parish Council's previous comments. It was agreed that the Council will object to the change of use. Proposed by Cllr Packham, seconded by Cllr Maddock.

RESOLVED The Clerk and Chairman will compile a response on behalf of the PC.

- 101. Clerks Committee** – The Chairman reported that the Clerk is currently not able to drive and is reliant on taxis and lifts to come into work. The office is on restricted opening hours and the Clerk is making up her hours by working from home. It was agreed that the Council will cover the £21 each way taxi fare for the Clerk when lifts are unavailable. Proposed by Cllr Packham, seconded by Cllr Maddock.

RESOLVED: To cover the taxi fare to or from the Clerks home and to work when lifts are unavailable, whilst the Clerk is incapacitated.

102. Village Hall

- i) Village Hall lease – The Clerk reported that DAPTC recommend that a solicitor draws up any amendment to the lease. The Finance Committee will discuss and recommend how financial aid can be given.
- ii) VHMC Minutes dated 8th June and accounts for end May 2007 were noted. Cllr Mrs Warman reported that the Committee currently have a serious cashflow problem partly due to problems with the Portman. In addition it has been recommended by the Police and Insurers that the locks are changed due to a series of recent events. A price of £472 for this has been obtained but the VHMC do not have funds available. Members of the Committee are meeting members from EDDC Grant Panel tomorrow, it is hoped that monies may be available. It was noted that historically the Council was given the Committee Room at no charge which prevents a commercial let for each of the Council meetings.

103. Prejudicial Interest - Cllr Dudman and Cllr Mrs Warman left the meeting for the next item.

- iii) Current financial position of the Village Hall – this was discussed. The Clerk reported that a sum of £3,000 had been set aside in the budget for grant aid for the VHMC, advice from DAPTC was that care should be taken to justify any monies granted in this respect. It was agreed that bearing in mind the serious cashflow crisis the grant of £3,000 should be granted subject to justification. Proposed by Cllr Packham, seconded by Cllr Crow. Cllr R Warman abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED: To grant the sum of £3,000 to the VHMC for the locks, urgent removal of the fire hose and in respect of rent not paid by the Parish Council, Subject to justification.

Cllr Dudman and Cllr Mrs Warman returned to the meeting

- 104. Indemnity Request Policy** –The Clerk submitted a draft policy for consideration of requests for an indemnity in respect of legal expenses for Members and Officers as per Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Statutory Order 2004. Compiled under guidance from EDDC, a copy of which appears as Appendix B with these Minutes in the Minute Book. This was discussed. It was agreed unanimously to adopt the policy without amendment. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Bell seconded by Cllr Packham.

RESOLVED: To adopt the draft policy as submitted for the handling of requests for indemnities in respect of legal expenses.

Cllrs: Mrs Warman; R Warman; R Dudman; M Dyer; Noel Hindmarch declared a prejudicial Interest in the next item and left the meeting.

It was agreed that Cllr Packham would Chair the Meeting for the next item:-

- 105. Indemnity request from a Member to cover Legal Expenses** – A request from a Member for an indemnity for legal costs was circulated to Members. This was discussed. It was agreed that the request did not comply with items 1 and 11 of the adopted policy. The Clerk will speak to the Cllr and suggest that if it was resubmitted in accordance with policy the Members would be willing to reconsider the request. It was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss this matter only, will be called immediately prior to the Amenities Committee meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th July, provided a revised letter is received. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Bell and seconded by Cllr Mrs Smith.

RESOLVED: The Member will be asked to resubmit their request in accordance with the agreed policy.

Cllr Dyer returned to close the meeting.

- 106. Exchange of information:** Cllr Maddock has received information on accessing the Hospital site. A security form is required if Members wish to visit the site. Cllr Maddock will complete and return the form listing all Members so that access will be permitted if required.

The meeting ended at 10.06pm.

CHAIRMAN