

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Full Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held On Wednesday 25th November 2015 at 7.00pm
in the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Members Present: Cllr R Adkins, Chairman

Cllr Mrs J Carter

Cllr M Dyer

Cllr N Hindmarch

Cllr M Hockley

Cllr C House

Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr Mrs A Warman

Cllr R Warman

Cllr Mrs B Waugh

Present: Mrs A Jacobs Clerk and County Councillor Peter Richardson.

Public Open Forum: None

294. County Councillor Peter Richardson – Cllr Richardson gave a short verbal report.

1. County Councillor Grant has been allocated for the wildflower meadow areas at Ashley Halt and Horton Road. Work should start in January, the seed mix is for bees and butterflies. A seat is also to be purchased.
2. A338 work is on schedule and 40% complete. Both lanes will be open for the Christmas period. Phase 2 will commence from January and phase 3 will commence February to March. Work is still on budget. Cllr Hockley asked if the central reservation was to be metal or concrete, Cllr Richardson thought it was to be concrete and carried out in phase 2.
3. Some diversion routes show an increase. Despite the increase it does show that the mitigation measures are working.
4. Youth Services are under review a public consultation is underway. Members can take part in this.

Cllr C House thanked Cllr Richardson on behalf of the Council for the wildflower meadow work and new bench.

295. Declarations of Pecuniary Interests: None

296. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Bryan; Cllr J Crow and Cllr B Goringe.

297. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th October 2015 pages 53-56 were agreed as a true and accurate record and duly adopted. Proposed by Cllr C House, seconded by Cllr R Warman. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th October 2015 pages 53-56 were agreed and adopted.

298. Matters arising from the Minutes:-

1. Min. 234 Yellow lines request declined unenforceable, prior experience outside other schools shows it does not work and due to budgets TRO have to be prioritised and this would be classed as a non-priority case.

299. Correspondence noted:

1. EDDC Agendas
2. DAPTC Annual Report
3. Copy of land search on 2 St Leonards Way – scanned to Mark Westwood
4. Min. 235.3 - FOI response despatched by email and post on Friday 5th November to Cllr M Hockley
5. Open Spaces Society appeal – put to next full council meeting

300. Committees: Members agreed to note the approved Minutes of the following Committee meetings:-
Planning 8th October 2015 – proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Waugh. (Cllr M Hockley abstained)
Amenities. 7th October 2015 – proposed by Cllr C House, seconded by Cllr Mrs J House. (Cllr M Hockley abstained)
Finance 7th October 2015– proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr R Warman, (Cllr M Hockley abstained).

301. Village Hall Management Committee –

- i) Minutes not yet received due to meeting schedule.
- ii) Community Day – A short verbal report was given by Cllr Mrs A Warman:- Almost £800 was made. It was noted that no Councillors attended the event which was disappointing when the hall is owned by the Parish Council. Both Cllrs Mrs J House and Mrs A Warman were ill on the day.

302. Precept Demand for 2016/2017– Members received the recommendation of the Finance Committee to submit a precept demand of £83,146, which equates to an increase of 2.6 % overall and takes into account the withdrawal of the Government grant of £1,533 awarded last year. Members considered the proposal and agreed to authorise the precept demand in principle subject to final ratification at the end of January 2016 due to current discussions in the media which might lead to further adjustments being required. Proposed by Cllr Mrs A Warman, seconded by Cllr Mrs J House, agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Subject to final ratification and further adjustments being made at the January full Council meeting, to submit a precept demand of £83,146

303. District Councillors' Update:-

Cllr Dyer reported: The District Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee has been discussing the Combined Authority and Unitary proposals. The Committee has recommended the Combined Authority to Cabinet on the Terms of Reference basis of Transport; Regeneration and Economy with a recommendation to join it, it will then go to full Council for a decision. On the Unitary I understand that Purbeck want strategic Planning excluded, for it to go ahead there has to be complete agreement between the participating bodies. They are looking at a number of different proposals, on the County idea they have amended it to a County wide group with all two tier Authorities across the County, with the exclusion of Bournemouth and Poole. Another option is a Bournemouth based Unitary with Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch and East Dorset in it. A further option put was for no change but that would negate the proposal so that failed. If Strategic Planning is out of the equation you could come to the view that there is nothing to object to.

Cllr Hindmarch asked if the Headquarters would be Dorchester if the County Combined proposal was successful. Cllr Dyer did not know.

Cllr Hockley asked if the public in Bournemouth, Christchurch and East Dorset would get a chance to put their views and have a vote on the Unitary proposals? Cllr Dyer pointed out that as the Combined has already been flagged up in the media on the Unitary there is a lot of debate in the media about what form this could take he recalled figures such as £250,000 to a £1 million for a referendum had been quoted just for Bournemouth by other Leaders. If it gets agreed, the plan is to decide in time for the next elections and if these proposals proceed East Dorset will not exist you will be voting for a new body in 2019.

Cllr Dyer: The emphasis is on strengthening Town and Parish Councils in line with the Localism Act, but there is still a lot more to be discussed. There are various forms of public consultation and it is possible that they may consult with various Stakeholder groups, but cost is cited as an issue.

304. Parish Councillors' Reports:-

1. EDEP – Meeting on 2nd December 2015 – the agendas will be distributed to Members, if there are any questions please put them to the Clerk who will forward them to Mr Willetts.
2. A338 – Cllr R Bryan – The diversion routes are unpredictable and some stats are not available.
3. Allotments report – Cllr C House: The letter to the Allotment Society has been despatched a response is awaited.
4. DAPTC – Cllr Hindmarch - All the motions were passed except for the Chideock one about Sat Navs directing heavy vehicles onto unsuitable roads in rural areas. West Moors asked for the Localism Act to be amended so that power is restored to Standards Committees to impose penalties upon Councillors who contravene the Code of Conduct this was supported unanimously. The main body speaker representing EDDC who was due to speak on the Unitary Authority could not attend and despite DAPTC best endeavours a replacement could not be found which did not prove popular with those present. Cllr Dyer was asked to respond. He believes that only Cllr Monks had the knowledge to be able to speak on the issue as he was unwell there was no one else able to take his place. A discussion did take place on the possibilities. Conspiracy theories develop in these situations and there was concern that it could lead to a County East and West situation.
5. Bournemouth Airport – A report had been circulated to Members. Unfortunately a number of contracts have been withdrawn. New business opportunities are being sought. Whilst the Airport is not doing well the business park is very successful. An independent contractor is offering offsite parking which is causing some

issues. Some jobs such as fire fighters and others will be lost as a result of losing flights. It does not look good for the airport, the worst case scenario would be the loss of the airport.

- 305. Car Park lining** - The Village Hall had responded to the request for a trial at allowing open parking for all groups for the whole car park. The response had been circulated to Members. The VHMC felt that the proposal was vague and not tenable, they suggest we go back to colour coding the spaces. This was discussed. Cllr Mrs J House proposed that the lining was done in blue at the front driveway and in the new area at the rear, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Waugh. Cllr C House, proposed an amendment which was accepted by Cllr Mrs House, to also include two signs stating: "Additional spaces at the rear are available and are lined in blue for users". A second sign will then be put at the rear as well saying "These spaces are reserved for users other than the village hall". The amended proposal including signs was proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Waugh. Carried 7;1 against (Cllr M Dyer) with Cllr Mrs A Warman and Cllr N Hindmarch abstaining.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the lining of the front driveway spaces and new rear section in blue and the erection of two signs.

- 306. Parish Newsletters** Finance Committee (4.11.15) recommend to Council to produce a newsletter once per year distributed by the Royal Mail, subject to a satisfactory EDDC delivery. Cost will be in the region of £740 per copy. If there were sufficient funds available a second copy could be considered. This was discussed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr C House. Agreed with one abstention, Cllr M Hockley.

RESOLVED: To proceed with compiling one newsletter per year using Royal Mail for distribution.

- 307. CCTV** – Members received a report and recommendations for consideration. Issues were with antisocial behaviour including drug use and dog fouling. It was noted that there was no allocated budgetary provision. This was discussed. Whilst the quotation for supply was considerably less than anticipated both lights and power would be needed for CCTV to proceed. Another option would be to remove the columns completely. It was agreed unanimously to investigate and obtain costs for commissioning and decommissioning the light columns, before considering CCTV further. A specification will be drawn up and quotations obtained. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House, seconded by Cllr M Hockley.

RESOLVED: To investigate and obtain costs for commissioning and decommissioning the light columns.

To be put to the January meeting.

- 308. Youth Club** - Nothing further to report on the Trustee status as the Youth Club's next meeting is not until 12th January 2016. The Youth Leader has repeated a request to use the Club premises by the Youth Service for meetings. Cllr R Warman has reported this previously and the Council has previously agreed. Cllr Warman asked the Members to confirm whether they would have any issue with sub-letting to the Youth Service in return for a fee. Members confirmed that they would have no issue as any income would offset maintenance costs. Cllr Mrs House proposed that permission was granted, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Warman. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To agree to the subletting of the Club premises to the Youth Service.

- 309. Social Media and how Councillors present themselves and discuss issues on social media.** This follows recent threads on Streetlife by Cllr Hockley and a direct response made for further information to the Council. The Chairman and Clerk had met with the Monitoring Officer for advice. DAPTC have mentioned using social media as a method of communicating with a wider area of the electorate. Advice was that guide lines were set prior to use. The Chairman suggested that this should be discussed by Amenities as how/who could input and promotion of it would need to be discussed and agreed. Members discussed the issues that could arise. The Chairman raised the issue of recent threads raising historic events, investigations that had been made and accusations unsubstantiated. It was important that members took into account the requirements of the Code of Conduct when conducting such dialogue on social media and maintained standards required in public life and how a Councillor acts on a public forum. The Code gives guidelines but does not define how to act on such media. Recent posts had been self-promoting and raised past unsubstantiated allegations. The Chairman invited Cllr Hockley to explain what was meant in the thread about the Stassi etc as such posts bring the Council into disrepute.

Cllr Hockley responded that he felt that public opinion of standards in public life was very low due to the media reports of the behaviour of MP's etc. The Chairman asked that Cllr Hockley kept his response to

the Parish Council level. Cllr Hockley responded that this was censorship and challenged why the Chairman had refused permission for the release of a document to which he was entitled to see due to his knowledge. Cllr Hockley repeated that a dossier was prepared. The Chairman reminded Cllr Hockley that he had been promising the dossier for 4 years. The Chairman informed the meeting that the request for information had been tested against the FOI and Data Protection. It is third party data. The Chairman also pointed out that on the Register of Interest form Cllr Hockley had put Emergency Planning as one of his interests and yet he does this as part of his employment and it was therefore a commercial interest. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Hockley check his completion of the form with the Monitoring Officer. Cllr Hockley was informed that he had the right to request a review of the response to his FOI request to the Clerk but that this should be put in writing to her. He also had details of the FOI Commissioner. Cllr Hockley stated that he was preparing a legal document and those refusing release of the document requested were conspiring against him. The Chairman asked Cllr Hockley to confirm what he wanted the information for as he had previously suggested he would circulate it. This was disputed by Cllr Hockley. The Chairman pointed out that if an issue needed discussing it needs to go on the agenda but it was unclear exactly what Cllr Hockley's issues were. This was discussed further.

It was agreed to pursue with the Monitoring Officer, looking at and strengthening the Code of Conduct to include how we deal with and represent ourselves on social media. Proposed by Cllr C House, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Waugh.

RESOLVED: To pursue with the Monitoring Officer, looking at and strengthening the Code of Conduct to include how we deal with and represent ourselves on social media.

Motion carried 8:1 (Cllr R Warman abstained, Cllr M Hockley against).

The Chairman also asked the meeting if they wished to refer a complaint against Cllr M Hockley because of the content of the threads on the site. The consensus was not to bring a complaint against Cllr Hockley on this issue at the present time but would reserve the right to reconsider the matter.

310. Exchange of information:

1. Next meeting Full Council 27th January 2016
2. The Chairman reported that the Clerk had filed an official complaint against Cllr Hockley which was currently with the Monitoring Officer.
3. The Monitoring Officer had also advised that the District Council would be reviewing the Code of Conduct to make it a clearer and more useful document.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman