**HILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th September 2020**

**at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Catherine Langham (Acting Chairman) (CL) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Rodney Northover (RN) George Sotiriadis (GS) Marion Walbridge (MW)) Justine McGuiness (JMcG), Unitary Councillor J Haynes (JH)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. David Green, Clerk

In addition, there were 11 members of the public in attendance

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings held on the 7th and 21st July 2020 were agreed and signed by the Cllr Jaques on behalf of Cllrs McGuiness and Langham.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Jones declared an interest in relation to ‘the Heathers’ planning application, noted below.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST PC MEETING/CLERK’S REPORT:**

**4.1 Fibre to village:** CJ noted that progress had been made in relation to the delivery of services to the villages. Wessex Internet have attracted a number of potential subscribers to superfast services in Ansty and Melcombe Bingham, although only two people have registered an interest in Hilton. An article will be appearing in the Village News drawing attention to the scheme.

**4.2 Village busing:** CJ had drafted a letter commenting on national policy to M.P Simon Hoare which he felt should be sent personally. The Chairman asked Glen Brice (GB) who runs a community bus if he could comment. GB suggested that contact be made with Dorset Community Transport, who operate a pre-booked weekly service from some nearby villages to the larger towns, to discuss the feasibility of running a service. Cllr Haynes noted however that it was important to establish if a service is actually viable, given that Covid-19 has required the passenger capacity of buses to be reduced. Cllr Jones will draft a suitable article for the Village News.

1. **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** A written report from JH had been received prior to the meeting. JH noted that Dorset Council had held its first full remote meeting on 3rd September and that she now has additional responsibilities including customer services and community activities. JH noted that financial worries amongst residents were rapidly increasing, particularly in locations affected by seasonal trading, such as Weymouth. JH has received many queries concerning the completion of benefit claim forms. JH advised that Dorset Council were looking at improving training opportunities and apprenticeships to support the employment situation. JMcG expressed concern in relation to the impact of the situation on rural areas. JH noted that the majority of Dorset Council employees continue to work from home and they are looking at ways of improving customer contact. The Chairman noted that the Blandford DC Hub was not operational, and JH said she would take this forward.
2. **OPEN FORUM:** the residents of Yew Tree and Brock Cottage, Hilton, provided an overview of the plans for a joint two-storey extension to both cottages, in advance of a making a formal planning application. There were no objections to this proposal although the view was expressed that the design appeared to be not particularly sympathetic to the existing building. The Clerk noted that additional drawings would have been helpful. The applicants suggested a site visit could be made, but it was agreed that this would only follow the submission of a formal planning application.

CJ noted the ash die-back mapping had identified 4 trees at Ansty which are blackened and possibly in danger of falling on the road this winter. The Chairman would endeavour to locate the landowner in order to explain the situation.

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**7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES:**

**7.1** Application2/2020/1080/FUL - Heathers, Part Garden, Village Road Hilton DT11 0DE, a proposal for a new 3-bedroom house.

The applicants and residents of neighbouring properties attended the meeting. The applicant explained the proposals in detail. The residents of neighbouring properties raised concerns in relation to the possible flood risk, the possibility of being overlooked and the general visual impact of the proposed dwelling in the village. The view was expressed that a bungalow would be acceptable at this location but not the building proposed.

The Council agreed to support the principal of a dwelling at the location but has concerns regarding the proposed design and suggests that a bungalow design would be more acceptable. The Clerk will make appropriate consultee comments.

**7.2** Further update re Hawkesfield. The Clerk noted that issues were with Planning Enforcement and a report had not yet been received. The Chairman invited the Mark and Pippa Gillard to make any representations they wished to in relation to Hawkesfield. They advised that the Footpaths officer and the Enforcement Officer had both noted that the footpath was now free from obstruction. It was advised that the recycling business now operated mainly from a factory in Milton Keynes and that there were no longer bins on the site. They commented that the extension to the gallop may require retrospective planning permission and confirmed that they have been living on the site since April 2018, and not for 4 years as has been suggested. The Parish Council were invited to make a site visit. The Chairman noted that the planning application for the dwelling was still with Dorset Planning for consideration.

1. **Melcombe Bingham pollution report consideration**

The Chairman noted that pollution incident at Melcombe Bingham had generated some correspondence and reported that a pipe had been removed. The Clerk explained that under the ‘General Binding Regulations’ it is no longer permissible for septic tanks to be discharged into a watercourse, and generally a sewage treatment plant will need to be installed. The Chairman noted that if selling a house, it is a requirement that a system is suitably upgraded. An article would be drafted for the Village News.

1. **Speeding Issue consideration**

A resident had raised the issue of excessive speeding in the villages, but in the absence of correspondence, it was agreed to defer discussion of this matter until the next meeting.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT:**
	1. **Finance summary:** The Clerk reported that the bank balance stands at £ 7,060.80 general reserve stood at £ 9,114.89.
	2. **Retrospective payments authorised:** There were no retrospective payments requiring authorisation in August 2020.
	3. **PC Grants policy:** the council accepted that the proposed grants policy should be implemented and published on the website
	4. **Clerks pay rise**: the Council accepted the proposed Clerks pay rise in line with the national agreement.

**9. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:** RN advised that no issues had been reported to him.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk reported that there was no further correspondence other than that already discussed, except for receipt of an ‘e-newsletter’ from the DAPTC.
2. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:**
	1. Defibrillator use update
	2. Ash die-back reports progress
	3. Villages fibre progress

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.33

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING –** Tuesday 6th October 2020, by Zoom

Signed ………………………….…...…...……(Chairman) Date ……….………………………