

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th January 2021
at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Northover. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 1st December 2020 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** CL declared an interest in relation the 'Save Hardy Vale' correspondence.
4. **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** A written report had been received in advance of the meeting, and is attached. JH commented that the new lockdown was clearly a serious situation and was concerned about the impact of this on families with children and consequently the implications for care requirements. JH advised that Dorset County Hospital is managing the staff situation but there is a concern to ensure that there are enough training personnel to deliver the vaccination programme and maintain other services. JH raised a concern with regard to potentially isolated people in the villages, though was told that in the parish those known to councillors are checked on as far as is possible. CJ enquired in relation to possible help for self-employed businesses who may not have received any assistance; JH advised that no formal update has been provided yet but any information will be forwarded in due course. CL enquired in relation to consultation regarding the Local Plan; JH noted that the consultation period had not yet commenced, but would do so shortly; it is hoped that the agreed plan would be in place by the end of the year; CL queried the land supply situation, JH advised that this is an issue because developers were often sitting on land they had acquired many years before, where planning permission had been granted but had not commenced any building work beyond infrastructure work and the value of the land had increased substantively in the intervening period. JH noted that the main issue is that all development is being diverted away from the AONB towards North Dorset, with a major problem being the absence of a good North-South route.

5. OPEN FORUM:

There were no members of the public present and no questions were raised.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 Sewerage – Mains connection working group report

SJ reported that the Working Group has made progress in discussing the format and content of a consultation questionnaire be sent/delivered to householders and is in the process of drafting a final version. SJ wished it to noted that the completion of the s101a form is a public process and involves the gathering of signatures. At the moment the plan is for this to be distributed by hand and there are 210 addresses to reach, though some thought has been given to making an electronic version available perhaps using Survey Monkey. The paper versions of the questionnaire could be collected, perhaps at the Post Office and porch of All Saints Church Hilton with agreement, to save postage costs. GS is drafting an article for the Village News. SJ suggested that the Parish Council needs to receive a significant response to the survey to take the issue forward; SJ also advised that the process is

complex and whoever takes on the application must be well supported. The Council agreed that the questionnaire should also be distributed in throughout Melcombe Bingham and Melcombe Horsey. There was some discussion as to whether the questionnaire should ask householders for details of sewage existing systems or be restricted to a single question enquiring as to whether they would support a viability study for a mains connection. This will be considered further by the Working Group. CL requested that the working party questionnaire be circulated to councillors before the next meeting.

6.2 Phone box - update and next steps

CL reported that Paul Calver had agreed to install display racking and a pin board in the phone box to hold tourist information and advised that the PC would pay for materials. CL noted that Paul was happy to take part in the resumption of the tourism sub-committee.

6.3 Ash die-back

CJ reported that work had begun on dealing with trees previously reported at Ansty Cross. He is also watching other trees on the road near Combe Hill Farm, some near Bulbarrow and a few in Melcombe Bingham.

6.4 Ansty Fibre progress

CJ had been advised by Wessex Internet that installation work will commence in Ansty and Higher Ansty in late January/early February.

6.5 Burning plastic report

CJ had received a report of an incident of burning plastic west of Rawlsbury in September which had been attended by the fire brigade. There was some speculation as to who owns the land on which the incident occurred and whether anyone could be held responsible. The Parish Council wished it to be noted that it is illegal to burn materials producing 'dark smoke' and any incidents should be reported to the fire brigade and the Environment Agency.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

There were no new planning applications to consider. Suitable comments in support of the application had been made in relation to the Conegar Knapp proposal.

There were no updates in relation to existing applications to report.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

8.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the general reserve stood at £ 9,655.12 and the finances were in good order.

8.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Method	Payee	Reason
03/12/2020	£ 500.00	PCC - Hilton Church	Grant agreed
05/12/2020	£ 60.00	Clive & Linda Jones	Xmas Tree (MB)
17/12/2020	£ 50.00	Richard Wood	Xmas Tree (Hilton)
17/12/2020	£ 39.00	DAPTC - Course (S Jaques)	Planning course
31/12/2020	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay & Allowance

CL thanked the PC for the Christmas trees provided.

8.3 Budget and Precept finalisation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and request a precept of £ 5,450.

9. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

CJ reported that Cllr Northover had noted that there were blocked drains on the route from Higher Ansty to Hatherley. The Clerk advised that these should be reported using the online reporting tool directly to Dorset Council. It was noted that there were many potholes particularly on the Dellcombe road which will be briefly closed for repairs, as will the Milton Abbas road.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk has received an email from the 'Save Hardy's Vale' campaign group concerning the proposed solar farm development. He agreed to circulate this following the meeting. It was noted that the Parish Council will only comment on proposal this if asked to as a consultee.

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

- 11.1 Sewerage Working Group update
- 11.2 Ansty Fibre update
- 11.3 Ash die-back update
- 11.4 Tourism working group consideration
- 11.5 Website update

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.05

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 2nd February 2021, by Zoom

Signed(Chairman) Date

Report to the parish council December 2020

Jill Haynes Chalk Valleys ward

Dear Councillors

I hope you managed to have a nice Christmas, despite the challenge of not being able to see many family or friends.

At Dorset Council we now face three concurrent risks, COVID, EU Exit and pressures upon services as a result of winter weather conditions. The senior management team has been meeting virtually on a daily basis between Christmas and new year, things are changing very quickly and there are many changes that we need to get in place quickly.

COVID Impact

As you will know the government announced that, as of today (Thursday 31 December), we are now in [Tier 3](#) and BCP Council is in [Tier 4](#). Unfortunately, we've seen a significant increase in both the number of cases and rate of infection in Dorset (Dorset Council 154

cases per 100,000 population and BCP 271 cases per 100,000 population) and sadly we expect this number to increase in the next couple of weeks, which is why it's so important that we act now to contain the virus and prevent it from spreading further. The key advice from our colleagues in Public Health Dorset is:

- Don't travel unless you absolutely have to and walk or cycle where possible
- Avoid sharing a vehicle with anyone not in your household
- Local means staying within your town or village where you live
- Stay at home as much as possible.

The guidance says people must not travel to or from a Tier 4 area unless it's for a permitted reason, such as work if they cannot work from home. If people find themselves in this position, the advice is to continue to follow the guidance in place with regards to measures such as hand washing and face coverings to help protect everyone. [You can see more details about the exemptions on travel between tiers on the government website.](#)

Although there will be a staggered return for most secondary school pupils (apart from vulnerable or critical worker children for whom schools remain open), school transport will continue as usual from 4 January. We recognise that it may not be as busy, but we cannot risk children being left stranded by the roadside because their parents/guardians have not received the messages that school openings have changed. BTec vocational exams will still be going ahead as planned we understand. Primary schools will also be open as well as middle schools for year 4 and 5 pupils only for those areas of Dorset that have a three-tier education system.

You may also find latest advice on visiting Care Homes useful, now Dorset is in Tier 3 the guidance is that outdoor visiting and 'screened' visits are permitted. See [section 2.3](#) in the updated government guidance. All care homes in Tier 1, 2 and 3 – except in the event of an active outbreak – should also seek to enable indoor visits, where the visitor has been tested and returned a negative result – see [section 2.1](#) in exceptional circumstances, such as end of life, visits should continue to be allowed ([section 2.4](#)).

EU Exit Impact

Our regulatory teams remain at the forefront of ensuring that the new arrangements with regard to the movement of goods, works efficiently and that trade can continue under the new legal provisions which now apply. For Dorset this is particularly significant in terms of the work relating to our fishing industry, where a number of new procedures and processes will come into force from 1 January. Our Port Health team in particular will be very busy ensuring that the various import controls are complied with. In a number of cases these new arrangements will come into force through a phased process between 1 January and 1 July 2021 in fulfilment of the legislative requirements. Our regulatory teams are of course also heavily involved in supporting the Covid restrictions and in particular advising businesses about measures needed to comply with the restrictions which, of course, continue to change, therefore continuing to create a range of enquiries to these teams.

Based on the latest information which we have it would seem that despite all of the communications which the council has done, the take up of the EU Settlement Scheme by Dorset residents remains lower than anticipated. You may be aware that it is an offence for anyone other than a registered person to assist with an application under the scheme. Dorset Council has funded the CABs to provide this support and I would therefore ask you to encourage those who wish to register under the scheme to do so before the deadline to apply of 30 June 2021 passes.

Winter Pressures

More so than normal our social care services are under pressure, due to winter conditions, combined with the impact of Covid regulations and on-going outbreaks within some care homes. Social Care teams continue to work daily with their Health Service colleagues to facilitate the safe exit from hospital, patients who no-longer need medical attention but may need specialist physical or mental health needs accommodated. This is increasingly difficult with an exhausted social care workforce, Covid restrictions in place and not enough home care specialists available at the present time. We continue to work on the sufficiency of supply, but it is a challenge and will get more challenging if more people enter the hospital system – again the general message of staying at home is also to prevent people being involved in other accidents or incidents that put further strain on NHS services.

While 2020 was certainly not the year any of us could have predicted, there was some positive news this week about the Oxford vaccine, which will start to be rolled out from Monday alongside the Pfizer vaccine. This will hopefully bring us a step closer to some kind of normality as we move into a new year,

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy and Safe New Year.

Best wishes, Jill

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021
at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) (Vice-Chairman) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Marion Walbridge (MW) George Sotiriadis (GS)

IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Northover and Unitary Councillor Haynes. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 5th January 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** CL declared an interest in relation to Hawkes Field under 'planning'.
4. **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** A written report had been received in advance of the meeting, and is attached.
5. **OPEN FORUM:**

No questions were raised.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 Sewerage – Mains connection working group report

SJ advised that the final draft survey had been circulated, a notice had been included in the Village News and posters prepared; SJ explained the plan for printing and distributing the survey. Permission has been given for ballot boxes to be located at the Brewery Farm shop and in the Church; these will be secured by zip ties and will be checked regularly. It was agreed that the survey would end on 26th March and the results collated. Following this Wessex Water would be consulted as to whether there were sufficient responses for a viability survey to be conducted. The Chairman suggested that the draft survey should be re-circulated again for any comments to be made.

6.2 Phone box - update and next steps

Paul Calver explained his ideas for the conversion of the box into a tourist information facility. He suggested that it should include a relief map and an advertising notice using QR codes; leaflets would not be included due to the litter risk. The roof could incorporate a star map, and a digital display could also be considered perhaps using a solar panel. It was noted that the box firstly requires re-painting. Paul agreed to draw up plans and submit these to the PC for discussion at the March meeting.

6.3 Ash die-back

CJ reported that the removal of trees at Ansty Cross had been completed. He is keeping an eye on a few other trees on the left-hand side of the road up the hill towards Bulbarrow and some near Combe Hill Farm.

6.4 Ansty Fibre progress

CJ had met Wessex Internet and agreements with landowners had been mostly finalised. Installation work take place in the first two weeks of February. SJ reported that Wessex

Internet had advised that in Hilton there have only been 14 'registrations of interest' and only 9 of these have approved issued vouchers. The scheme apparently requires a minimum of 32 sign-ups to be viable; only if the minimum signup number has been met will Wessex start the process of securing land access. CJ noted that business sign-ups are essential otherwise the scheme in Hilton may not get off the ground before the scheme expiry date in March. CJ agreed to contact Wessex Internet.

7. ANNUAL LITTER PICK

CL was hoped that the annual litter pick would commence in March before the verges grow. CL considered that the pick can be arranged in a socially distanced way, with volunteers collecting litter pickers from her home and bags either dropped off or collected. CL will contact Dorset Council with a view to borrowing sufficient litter pickers and provide a progress report to the Council before the next meeting.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

Application reference P/HOU/2020/00393 8 Hilton will be considered at the March meeting after consultation with neighbours. The Clerk has requested an extension to the reply by deadline set by Dorset Council Planning.

A resident summarised the history of his recent contact with Planning enforcement and raised the issue of the possible submission of Certificates of Lawfulness in relation to both the dwelling and the commercial use of Hawkes Field farm. The Chairman noted that an application had not been received by the Parish Council at this stage and therefore no decision could be taken. It was noted that a Certificate of Lawfulness would require the continuous occupancy of a dwelling over a 10-year period to be demonstrated by the applicant. It was commented that Parish Council minutes in 2012/2013 may indicate that there was no permanent occupancy of the property at that time. The Clerk will look back over historic minutes.

The Chairman noted the Local Plan consultation process. Councillors expressed concern in relation to permitted development rights for agricultural buildings being converted into dwellings in an AONB, the extension to Dorchester and the potential for the re-use of former retail premises in town centres which had been vacated because of Covid-19.

It was agreed that Councillors will individually make comments to the Clerk who will collate these and the contents of consultee comment will be discussed at the March meeting before submission.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT:

9.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stands at £ 11,920.56 and the general reserve is £ 9,492.06 following the receipt of funds from the closure of the Nationwide Business Savings account. The Clerk does not propose to move funds at this stage due to the very low interest rates on offer at present with other accounts. This matter will be deferred for the time being. The Chairman thanked former Clerk Sam Smith for her assistance in closing the account.

The Clerk noted that the precept request had been made and acknowledged by Dorset Council

9.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason
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12/01/2021	£ 165.00	HMRC - PAYE	PAYE
01/02/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay & Allowance

10. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

MW had received a report of some large potholes along Aller Lane, and reported that repairs made had failed within a day. CL reported an issue of a road potentially subsiding into a stream on a corner at Aller Lane. CJ will report these issues. The Chairman noted an issue at the Knapp in Hilton.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk has received this correspondence which has been circulated:

- i. Email from the 'Save Hardy's Vale' campaign group concerning the proposed solar farm development near Hazelbury Bryan. It was noted that the Parish Council will only comment on proposal if asked to do so as a consultee.
- ii. Email from Dorset Council re parking working groups.
- iii. Emails from two residents complaining about glass and general litter in the Parish and the inappropriate disposal of dog waste. CJ had recently collected 2 armchairs that had apparently been dumped in Delcombe Wood. CL & GS enquired as to whether additional signage could be introduced. SJ suggested that consideration be given to installing additional dog waste bins. The Clerk noted that these dealt with by the Dorset Waste Partnership and are not without cost, probably around £400 to install and maintain. Ideas concerning possible locations to be brought to the next PC meeting and the subject should be mentioned in the Village News.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

- 12.1 Sewerage Working Group update
- 12.2 Ansty Fibre update
- 12.3 Ash die-back update
- 12.4 Phone Box re-use proposal & Micro-tourism website
- 12.5 Dog waste bin suggestions
- 12.6 Local Plan comments
- 12.7 Budget review

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.28

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 2nd March 2021, by Zoom

Signed(Chairman) Date

Dorset Councillors Report

I hope you are all still keeping well.

COVID update

The current case rate for the Dorset Council area is 277 per 100,000, and the case rate for BCP area is 621 per 100,000. While the case rate is falling, this is happening more slowly than we would expect or like to see, bearing in mind we have been in national lockdown for three and a half weeks now. Colleagues at Public Health Dorset are working closely with Public Health England to try and work out why the rate isn't falling more quickly.

We must all continue to play our part and strictly follow the lockdown rules to prevent spread of the virus. Please help to reinforce this message within your communities.

Particularly worrying is the ongoing pressure on our health and care services locally. A number of local care homes are dealing with outbreaks affecting both residents and staff and there are currently over 500 patients in Dorset hospitals with COVID, so the pressure on beds is huge. [Please read our statement on how Dorset Council is supporting care homes providers at this time.](#)

Our health and social care colleagues need our support now more than ever, and we're redeploying colleagues to support hospitals with making calls and administrative tasks, and are also considering what else we can offer.

Due to the number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 in Dorset throughout January, the NHS is also facing tremendous pressure including on mortuary provision. It has therefore been agreed to [activate the Mortality Support Facility at the Poole port site](#) to help with the number of deaths that they are seeing.

Vaccinations

In more positive news, the roll out of COVID vaccinations in Dorset is going well, with over 70,000 people in Dorset now vaccinated, so making good progress to reach everyone in the top four priority groups.

Feedback on the payment of business grants

We have some great letters from both local and national businesses to Dorset Council has been the fastest and most efficient council at distributing the grants that they have dealt with in addition that the website content on how to claim the grants has been incredibly useful. Last week we paid out over £23million of government grants to support local businesses, which is great news.

North Quay and Weymouth Bowl proposals

We are often asked about what we are doing with various vacant properties and sites owned by the council. This week, Cllr Tony Ferrari publicly launched some initial proposals to use two such sites in Weymouth: North Quay, where the old Weymouth & Portland Borough Council building still stands, and Weymouth Bowl, on the other side of the harbour. You can [read more about the proposals](#) to build housing, including affordable housing, on these sites. There is a tremendous amount of work still to be done in the Asset Review and I think what we do with our properties either sale or redevelop will continue for the rest of this term of the council.

Budget

While we have set a balanced budget for the year 2021/22 with the current lockdown the overspend in the current financial year is not reducing. Not unexpectedly we are receiving large drops in income from both council tax and business rates and additional cost in all social service areas. Current estimate is £18M overspend which can be covered from reserves but puts additional pressure on next year's budget to ensure all savings targets are met.

Looking Forward

While we are still in the height of the problems with the pandemic now is the time we must find extra time and effort to see what we need to be doing in the future. One area will certainly be learning and skills, for those who have lost jobs in hospitality and retail and also for those young people leaving school. It is early days yet but some very positive conversations are happening with a variety of organisations to make this happen. As you see in the paragraph about Weymouth we are looking to see where we can work to get more affordable housing across the council area. What we must not lose is the greater co-operative working across a whole plethora of organisations and the stronger communities that have been built during this time. Also, the IT skills agenda which is developing and expanding all the time.

Best wishes Jill

Cllr Jill Haynes

Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Communities

Chalk Valleys Ward



Dorset
Council

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021
at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) (Vice-Chairman) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Marion Walbridge (MW) George Sotiriadis (GS)

IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Northover. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd February 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** CL declared an interest in relation to Hawkes Field under 'planning'.
4. **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:**

Cllr Haynes reported that Dorset Council were concerned in relation to the impact on coastal towns of the partial release of 'lock-down' at the end of March, with a large visitor influx anticipated, particularly as the weather improves. The Council has no powers to stop vehicles or turn people away from the county after the 14 April, and the rules require that visitors can only stay in self-contained accommodation; it had been noted that 20 campervans had been seen at West Bexington, and 40 on the Fleet during the previous week-end. Cllr Haynes understands that static caravan parks in Weymouth are already 85% booked for the whole summer, and the concern is that visitors could be turned away from Bournemouth and arrive in other locations to find that there is nowhere to stay. The Councils role will be restricted to the management of expectations with signage and other measures. Cllr Langham raised the issue of 'wild toileting' which had been widely reported in the media. Cllr Haynes advised that public toilets will be kept open but there is a funding issue, and also noted that there are no public toilet facilities at Durdle Door which is a problem.

Cllr Haynes commented in relation to the new Local Plan, which is currently in its first consultation period, and which provides for an additional 32,000 homes in Dorset over a 20-year period. Cllr Haynes noted that saying no to all development will open the door for developers as permission will be granted on appeal. The 3 'tier' system proposed by central government could be imposed and would mean that virtually all development could be pushed into North Dorset for example, with the AONB being wholly protected having effectively 'National Park' status. Cllr Haynes stressed that it is vital that a plan is agreed to prevent a free for all for developers.

Cllr Hayes was concerned in relation to the lack of action regarding Hawkes Field Farm and proposed that a meeting between the Chief Executive, the Head of Planning and M.P Simon Hoare and the Parish Council be arranged. The Chairman noted that the present occupants of Hawkes Field are now on the Electoral Roll and queried how this was possible, and that it appears that rules apply to everyone else but not in this case.

A written report from Cllr Haynes is attached.

5. **OPEN FORUM:**

Ian Bryan of the 'Save Hardy's Vale' campaign provided an update in relation to the proposed solar farm at Hazelbury Bryan. He noted that an application had not yet been received, but understood that although plans had been slightly amended, they included

provision for 151 acres of solar panels, 14 inverter transformers, 9 miles of fencing and 130 security cameras. He noted the results of a recent survey conducted by the applicants which showed that 80% of respondents were opposed to the proposal. Ian Bryan noted that whilst Hilton Parish Council was not a statutory consultee in relation to this application, the scheme would be very near to the Hilton parish boundary and be visible from the parish.

A resident of Hilton explained that he has an old septic tank which requires replacing and enquired as to the likely timescale for any sewerage infrastructure scheme. The Chairman explained that the survey conducted by the Parish Council has been conducted in order for the necessity for viability survey by Wessex Water to be assessed. The Chairman explained that the timescale for any work would be several years. SJ added that the purpose of the survey is to evaluate whether or not there is sufficient interest in a scheme and advised that the regulations concerning septic tanks should be referred to. CL noted that there will be charges for any infrastructure scheme.

MW raised an issue relating to damage to the village green in Melcombe Bingham on two occasions, one caused by a bin lorry and another by an oil delivery vehicle. MW thought that the incident involving the bin lorry had been unavoidable due to parked vehicles and suggested that residents move their bins before collection to make the process easier. A local resident has offered to re-seed and restore the green where it has been damaged.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 Sewerage – Mains connection working group report

The Chairman thanked all those involved in the delivery of the questionnaires. SJ advised that 13 'yes' responses and 1 'no' had been received by email thus far and all the results will be collated after 26th March.

6.2 Ansty Fibre progress

CJ noted that the work is about two weeks behind.

6.3 Website updates

The Chairman noted that some website updates had recently been made.

6.4 Ash die-back

MW advised that Cllr Northover had reported that work on trees affected by ash die-back has resulted in a fallen branch destroying the grit bin near Bulbarrow. The Clerk will seek a replacement.

6.5 Litter pick

CL advised that the litter pick has been arranged for the 13th and 14th March. The Parish Council agreed to provide £ 50 to fund the cost of chocolate oranges for those participating.

7. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Chairman noted that recent monthly meetings have been rather lengthy and proposed that the meetings for April and June are not held and that this is reviewed in July, with a focus on written reports. CL expressed the view that bi-monthly meetings can be rather long and if a councillor misses meetings there is a very long gap. SJ noted that the Clerks hours should be considered and was in favour of a trial for bi-monthly meetings. The Clerk noted that bi-monthly meetings are usual for small parishes without responsibility for assets such as play areas, recreation grounds, allotments and burial grounds, and commented

that these are usually better focussed. The Council **AGREED** to this proposal for the specified trial period, to be reviewed in July.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

Application reference P/FUL/2020/00470 Aller Cottage, Aller Lane, Lower Ansty, Dorchester, DT2 7PX – proposal to erect a replacement two storey dwelling with a detached garage (demolish existing dwelling).

The applicants attended the meeting and explained the proposal. The proposal is for a contemporary building using materials (flint, brick, pan tiles and slate tiles) sympathetic to those used in relation to a nearby listed building and is much smaller than an earlier scheme. The applicant confirmed that the new dwelling will exceed the footprint of the existing dwelling by just over 50% but this was not been an issue when a pre-application submission was considered by Dorset Council planners.

The applicants have consulted near neighbours and no objections have been raised in relation to size or design. It was noted that the nearest neighbour is largely unaffected by the proposal having only one small side window which faces the development.

The Council agreed to **APPROVE** the proposal subject to confirmation by near neighbours that they do not have any objections.

Application reference P/HOU/2020/00393 8 Hilton – Erect two storey rear extension (demolish conservatory)

GS and CL had visited near neighbours and delivered letters to which there has not been any response. In view of there being no declared objections to the proposal, it was agreed to **APPROVE** the application.

The Clerk requested that councillors submit comments concerning the Local Plan which will be collated before submission. CL commented that Hilton Parish being within the AONB will be protected and only if the tie on agricultural dwellings is removed would there be any issues.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT:

9.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stands at £ 11545.08 and the general reserve is £ 9,116.58, and that the finances are generally in good order. Notes in relation to budget progress have been circulated.

9.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason
01/02/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay January 2021
18/02/2021	£ 143.88	Justine McGuinness	Zoom reimbursement
01/03/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay February 2021

10. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

CJ has reported potholes along Aller Lane and the road to Hatherley, these have been fixed but have rapidly reappeared.

CL reported that the road from Bulbarrow to Stoke Wake, which is not in the Parish, has subsided and is in poor condition. The Clerk suggested that this could be reported as an emergency directly to Dorset Council who would hopefully respond quickly.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk has received this correspondence which has been circulated:

- i. 17/02/2021- Email from the 'Climate & Ecological support group' – meetings update and responses to the Dorset Local Plan.
- ii. 23/02/2021 - Email from Dorset Council concerning the Community Governance review. This was considered to be relevant to points made by CL and SJ as to whether Stoke Wake, and possibly Melcombe Horsey, could be included in Hilton Parish at a future date. It was noted that there is a fingerpost in Stoke Wake which is in poor condition and requires repair.
- iii. 24/02/2021 - Email from a resident to SJ concerning a letter he had sent relating to accident damage to old style metal railings in Hilton and the possible replacement of these with a barbed wire fence. CL proposed that in view of the importance of these railings the Clerk should write to the landowner requesting that consideration be given to the re-instatement of the railings of the same type. The Council **AGREED** to this course of action.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

Sewerage Survey Questionnaire - results evaluation and next steps
 Community Governance Review - Parish Boundaries consideration
 Phone Box alternative use – tourist information centre proposals
 Additional grit bin suggestion

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.22

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 4th May 2021, by Zoom.

Signed(Chairman) Date

Dorset Councillors Report to Parish council for February 2021

Jill Haynes Dorset Councillor Chalk Valleys

As we move into nearly a year of Covid 19 restrictions and a particularly hard time for many in this last lockdown my post bag, phone calls and emails have never been so busy. Some are perfectly valid issues and need my intervention, but many are people just being very frustrated and sometimes worried with the situation and finding somewhere to vent their anger. It is happening to all members and to council senior officers as well. So I apologise that my report is a little late but I do try to respond to individuals first.

This dry spell and in particular the sunny weather at the end of February made many people try to break the lockdown. Not just local people wanting to get out a bit further afield, but we have been getting a large number of day visitors to the coast from outside the county. It was reported that there were some 20 camper vans a West Bexington that weekend alone. It is of course not permitted to travel during lockdown apart from essential reasons, however the start of the reductions in restrictions coupled with most over 60's now having the first vaccination seems to have let off the handbrake in many peoples minds!! The volume of visitors that we are likely to receive in Dorset from Easter onwards, but particularly in the summer, is a big concern to the Council. We will have very little control over this influx or their behaviour, but lessons have been learnt after the terrible problems in the Purbeck area last summer. We have an officer group working with partners like the coastguards, fire brigade, police to name but a few. We will be putting in place additional signage, additional parking areas and places for overnight campervans, and additional waste bin emptying and toilet cleaning. However, with very few people looking to holiday abroad and many caravan sites already 85% fully booked I feel it will be a difficult time.

Looking at the visitor issues last year one was disposable barbeques, and in particular the terrible fire in Wareham forest. It is extremely difficult to ban the sale or use of these in open countryside but we are going to be working with shop owners, landowners, National trust and of course Dorset Council owns country parks and beaches, to try to get an agreement to stop the use on beaches and vulnerable countryside.

The good weather has also brought about many people doing work in the garden and having a spring clean this has cause long queues at the tip!! Because of the nature of the sites the need to be on the edge of housing and are often down rather narrow roads. It is causing particular issues on some sites for local businesses and householders. Like other councils we are now actively looking to put in a booking system for trips to the tip. It will take a couple of months, but I will let you know when that will start.

Many people will have noticed the horrible amount of litter on our roadside verges, particularly the main roads. The council does pick the litter along main roads but it always becomes more noticeable at this time of the year when the countryside division do a "back cut" to remove brambles and seeded tree saplings from the back of the verge. The chopped-up paper and plastic is then much more difficult to remove. I have been working with the portfolio holder for highways to see if we can use machines that collect the brash as well as the litter in future years. I would also like to give a big thank you to those who collect as individuals or as a village spring clean in our rural areas. It is a disgusting and unnecessary and costs the council taxpayer a large amount of money we need to change the culture and make it a shameful thing to throw litter.

To finish on a really good note Dorset Council bid to central government for capital funding to support our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. Apparently, our strategy was held up as an exemplar and we were awarded the massive amount of £19,000,000 to make changes to the heating systems and insulation to our buildings. This was the largest amount by far awarded to any council!! This will replace oil boilers with air source heat pumps, put solar on the roofs of buildings and will reduce the councils carbon footprint by about 10%, while making some £450K savings in fuel costs.