

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 1st May 2018

Memorial Hall, Christchurch Road, West Parley.

Present: Councillors: Philip Bamborough (Chairman); John Dinsdale (Vice Chairman); David Allen; Matt Curley; Mary Court; Cllr Barbara Manuel (District); Diana Penwill; District & County Cllr Andrew Parry; 3 representatives from Bournemouth 7s Festival. Approximately 20 Parishioners

Apologies: Apologies received prior to the meeting for County Cllr Steve Lugg.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed parishioners, District and County Councillors. He informed residents that the previous chairman, Jonathan Heath, had moved out of the area and that Kay Bundy stepped down due to increased work at the MS Centre and offered the Parish Council's thanks to both for their contribution whilst on the Council. He introduced Cllr Curley who has joined the Council with a lead area of the environment and introduced each of the Parish Councillors, mentioning their Lead Area they each cover, along with the Parish Clerk. The Chairman also acknowledged 2 former Chairmen who were in the audience and thanked the WI for providing the refreshments.. He remarked that this is the opportunity for residents to share their vision of further improvements along with Council sharing everything it undertakes.

2. Confirm & sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st April 2017

The minutes had been circulated and published in draft format prior to the meeting and with the minor amendment of the name 'Kala' homes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Guest speakers from Bournemouth 7s Festival – Mr Craig Mathie, Mr Paul Ahshurst & Mr Andy Edwards

Mr Mathie explained that he had met with the Clerk and Chairman to discuss issues from last year's event along with improvements made to accommodate the increase in attendees; and progress would be closely monitored. The success of the event offers critical funding for Bournemouth Sports Club and is organised by Diamond Sporting Group. The festival started in 2008 and has increased in popularity and success but the main focus remains to be sport. Whilst there is entertainment, 402 teams take part in 6 sports, seeing over 1600 matches taking place. Mr Mathie explained that he is conscious of the impact of the event on the local community, which sees an influx of people 5 times the population of West Parley. Whilst the maximum attendee numbers has been increased to 19,999 per day, attendance is tracked and will gradually reach that number of attendees however may be portrayed differently for marketing purposes. Mr Mathie explained that he is a local guy and welcomed the opportunity to speak with residents and explained their commitment to residents to limit disruption (extended litter pick, improved communication for complaints, encouraging individuals to walk to the event etc). Mr Mathie confirmed that as in previous years, contact details will be provided to the Council, to share on their usual communication channels, so residents have the information easily accessible should the need arise. Mr Mathie provided an overview of the schedule for the weekend at the end of the month, the steps taken to remedy previous year's concerns and steps involved for noise monitoring. Mr Mathie explained that there is always a debrief following the event to start working on issues ahead of the next event. Mr Mathie then responded to residents' questions and concerns. The Chairman thanked Mr Mathie and colleagues for their presentation and stated how impressed he was with the work they do to promote the event and keep it safe. The 3 WI representatives & the 3 Bournemouth 7s representatives left the meeting at 7.41pm & 8:05pm respectively.

4. Housing Update – Cllr Manuel (District)

Cllr Manuel explained the process for the recent submission by Wyatt Homes, following the public Exhibition which was extremely well attended. Applications like this take 13 weeks, unlike smaller proposals having 8 weeks. However, the Planning Officers have said there is insufficient information to move forward and have requested additional information from the developer, so 13 weeks will be extended. Cllr Manuel explained the issues with the link road and its funding; the wider road improvements to ease traffic at Parley Cross; the western development behind Ridgeway; and the expectation of social housing. Numerous questions followed, responded to by Cllr Manuel.

Confidence in the County surveyor was questioned and it was requested to seek clarification on what action was taken by Wyatt to do an impact assessment on surrounding roads. The Chairman added that following the public meeting, the Council provided detailed submissions on both applications for EDDC to consider and informed them that they should expect an equally large turnout at the EDDC Planning Committee when discussed, so a large venue should be booked.

District & County Cllr Parry provided an overview of the wider Highway network issues in the South of England, regarding improvements needed on the A35 and A31. He also questioned the Canford Bottom roundabout 'improvements' which see unacceptable delays and requested the light sequence be revisited. He added that he was aware of other more local issues and that a West Parley Traffic Working Party will be dealing with local issues and anyone interested in joining, please let us know. A series of questions followed which were responded to.

5. Appearance of West Parley – Cllr John Dinsdale

Cllr Dinsdale, with his WPRA hat on, stated that West Parley is a fantastic community and thanked all the various West Parley Resident Association (WPRA) volunteer groups who contribute in the village.

NeighbourCar started in 2013. Kate Ward received the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2017. They have now recorded 3300 journeys and are always looking for new drivers. Contact Clive Butcher if interested.

Litter pickers co-ordinated by Diana Penwill (WPRA). The 'wombles' do a tremendous job keeping the village tidy and we have sadly seen several occasions of fly tipping and ask that these are reported on 101 to Dorset Police.

Newsletter Distribution is co-ordinated by Marianne Parker who liaises with many volunteers to circulate communications to every house in the village, within a matter of days.

Millennium Garden in the Recreation Ground is maintained by Lin and John Chesshire – with thanks.

Floral Displays – these are maintained on a rota by WPRA volunteers following a disappointing display in 2017 by the contractor. Volunteers are already undertaking the planting process for 2018, in red, white and blue, for the Royal Wedding and World Cup. The WPRA purchased a water bowser & trailer (with funding assistance from the Parish Council) to ensure ease of watering. Thank you to those who plant, water and dead-head the planters to keep them at their best. To add to this, a local garden centre owner donated 75kg of daffodils to be planted in the West Parley verges.

Christmas Decorations co-ordinated by Malcolm Plascott.

Dorset Best Kept Village Competition – achieved 3rd place this year and 2nd place for the 'people's project' for volunteer assistance with the Girl Guide's replica roundhouse project. Residents are asked to help in the competition by litter picking on their own doorstep. Articles in the press are submitted to evidence the work of the WPRA volunteers.

WPRA Volunteer work force – work in Parley Wood during the winter and are out on the verges in the summer, as well as supporting many of the groups above.

As a Council, the outside gym will be installed this year and we hope to see you all there. A donation was received, with thanks, from the Steve Bernard Foundation for one piece of disability equipment. In addition, the Council also commissioned a survey of all trees on the Recreation Ground. Of the 96 trees, 30 require no work, 4 or 5 need to be felled and the remaining 61 trees have minor work scheduled dependent on urgency for the coming 2 years. As the majority of the trees have Tree Preservation Orders, all appropriate permissions are obtained.

District & County Cllr Parry publicly offered his thanks and gratitude to the Volunteers and while DCC are looking into how to combat social isolation, the community spirit in West Parley has a dramatic impact on people's well being.

6. Financial Update – Clerk / Chairman

The Clerk provided a summary of the financial position of the Council, which can be viewed on the information boards, and included the areas of key expenditure, ring-fenced funds and future spends. The Chairman confirmed that whilst we try to keep it low, the precept has been increased by 7p per household per week. The biggest single expense is the Clerk and it's been necessary to increase her hours due to the ever increasing workload, planning and sadly issues with Parley Sports Club. The Parish Council are pleased with the soon to be installed outside gym, the majority of the funding came from generous benefactors, local businesses and funding channels, to limit the impact from the precept. District Councillors ward budgets were gratefully received by WPRA to kick start the project for the groundwork.

8.52pm – 1 resident left the meeting.

The Chairman said that he hopes residents feel they get value for money from their council tax contribution, which would be higher if it were not for the WPRA volunteers, who have an annual reception as way of thanks for the work undertaken in the village.

7. Work of the Council

The Chairman stated there are always issues for every Council and we have experienced some, particularly with current planning applications. He continued to state that he is keen for WPPC to apply for Council Award accreditation but that relies on the Clerk having the requisite skills and time to apply. The Council will continue to

work towards a paperless and more proficient service and seek to improve to show that under LGR, Parish and Town Councils will competently be able to take on more responsibility. Several questions followed pertaining to the airport.

8. Local Governance Review – District & County Cllr Andrew Parry

Cllr Parry informed residents of the £20m shortfall in Adult Social Care and the cost of £14m per annum for the 150 children in care. The reorganisation is necessary to streamline processes and costs. 2 new Councils will be formed : Weymouth Town Council and Christchurch Town Council. Cllr Parry explained the impact of LGR on wards and elector numbers and he feels it is a very healthy proposal for West Parley, potentially giving 1 full time County Councillor and those parts of West Parley covered by Ferndown currently to come to the West Parley Councillor.

The process will be that a shadow council will run parallel to EDDC / DCC to ensure there is no service interruption, with the Unitary Council being formed from the 2019 elections.

9.16pm – 2 residents left the meeting.

With regards to Planning, there are likely to be several ‘area boards’ and the Parish Council will still provide input on applications, but the decision making may be delegated to the area boards.

9. The Future

This was raised throughout previous points discussed above.

10. Meeting open for residents’ questions and points.

What’s the latest on the situation with Parley Sports Club?

The Parish Council is currently in litigation so can’t provide too much information at this moment, but it relates to the state of repair of the premises as the clubhouse and grounds need substantial expenses spent on it.

Who has the keys?

Members of the management committee have access. The Parish Council, through the Club’s solicitor, have asked for access to undertake various inspections, but access is not yet forthcoming. The Council feel the facility, for West Parley residents, should be a secure and safe venue to play sport.

When does the lease end?

The Club hold the lease from WPPC for 21 years, ending in July 2019. These days the lease would not be written in the same formation and any new lease would be subject to negotiation with the members of PSC.

Residents were asked to ignore any rumours heard in relation to the Council selling the land for housing. The land is greenbelt and the Council is duty bound to ensure the provision of sport for West Parley residents is maintained.

I’ve been a member since 1962 and they are breaking all the rules of the Club constitution and Rules.

The Council is equally frustrated to have to progress this through litigation, and monies having to be spent. However, we are grateful to the people who bought the land, allowing the Parish Council to own it for the benefit of residents and want to see a thriving community club under committed management. Issues should have been addressed many years ago, as there is just 14 months remaining on the lease, but following breaches and the fire on the roof there is an absence of trust and the Parish Council may consider being in control in the future.

With no further questions, the Chairman thanked residents for their attendance and invited them to direct any further questions to the council. He added that there are 2 vacancies currently so additional Councillors would help to share the significant workload each committed Councillor is currently experiencing in serving West Parley the best we can.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm.