

THROOP AND HOLDENHURST VILLAGE COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2021 at 7.00pm at Village Hall

Holdenhurst Village Road, Dorset. BH8 OEE

Present: Cllr S R Fisher (Chair), Cllr. L W Sabih (Vice Chair), Cllr T Blackmore, Cllr N J Corcoran, Cllr J-A Houldey and Cllr M J Waters

Daniel Lucas, Acting Town Clerk & RFO

Apologies, None

18. Apologies for Absence (018/21)

There were no apologies on this occasion.

19. Declaration of Acceptance of Office (019/21)

Cllr Sarah Fisher signed her declaration of office in front of the proper officer following the resolution of Council held on the 6th of May 2021 (minute No.4) where permission was given in line with the Local Government Act 1972 section 83(4)(c).

20. Declarations of Interest (020/21)

There were no declarations of interest declared on this occasion.

21. Minutes of Previous Meeting (021/21)

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Voting: Unanimous.

22. Announcements (022/21)

The Chairman conveyed her thanks for the work by the community where over 300 signatures were presented to the outgoing Bournemouth Borough Council to express the sentiment of creating a village council. Thanks, were also highlighted to the work of the Holdenhurst Meeting as well as acknowledging the work of Cllrs Sabih and Waters. The Chairman also identified the commitment of two electors for their help during this time.

A special thanks was conveyed by the Chairman to Cllr Waters for the preparation of the budget during the shadow council transition stage and his liaison work with the Shadow BCP Council at the time.

Thanks, was also conveyed for the Acting Village Clerk.

The Chairman concluded by stating that the Council was looking forward to working with the village and its community.

23. Public Participation (023/21)

There were no members of the public who wished to speak on this occasion.

24. Public Questions (024/21)

There were no public questions on this occasion.

25. Councillor Questions (025/21)

There were no questions from councillors on this occasion.

Voting: Unanimous.

26. Planning Applications (026/21)

Members were asked to consider the applications listed below and to comment:

Application: [7-2021-7824-C](#) Hicks Farm Throop Road and land East of Lavender Road and Taylor Drive Bournemouth

Change of use to Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) together with the formation of an associated car park. Access and infrastructure - Regulation 3 (Revised Application)

Cllr Houldey opened the debate and stated that the revised scheme did not overcome the original objections. She explained that she felt the movement of the car park and the addition of the banking/bund did not overcome the objections.

Cllr Blackmore agreed, and he felt that the Council should support the sentiment of the objections conveyed by the public in the response to the application.

Cllr Houldey then read out the decision notice dated 10th December 2020 and refusal to the original application. Cllr Blackmore assisted here and read out the salient reasons of refusal to the original application.

Cllr Waters stated that he was not convinced that the bulk of the objections seen on the Local Planning Authority's website portal will carry much weight. However, he was not swayed by the lack of rigour in investigating alternative sites and locations for this SANG. He stressed that as a new council it must address the planning issues in a clear way.

Cllr Houldey felt that this was part of a jigsaw of more things coming to the Throop and Holdenhurst communities.

The Chairman strongly stated that just because of the Winter Gardens scheme had been granted planning permission it should not follow that the current SANG proposal should be granted as a matter of course.

A question from the public interrupted the debate at this stage. The elector questioned that Bournemouth Borough Council does not exist anymore so queried why the proposal could not be located elsewhere.

Cllr Houldey explained that the Canford SANG had been agreed but the site involves monetary issues. At this stage the Chairman conveyed her worry in this regard.

A second intervention was then received from a different member of the public. The elector stated that in at least four areas the SANG proposal did not meet the guidelines required to be considered a SANG.

Cllr Sabih felt that the Council should endorse the original reasons for refusal as the current revised application did not overcome these objections. He summarised the reasons being Green Belt concerns and it is impacting upon the openness of the Green Belt, the harm to the Conservation Area, the design amendments not being enough to overcome the harm here to amenity and the impact of the scheme being detrimental to achieving sustainable travel objectives. He felt the Council should raise objection based upon the original reasons for refusal. Cllr Sabih also acknowledged the impact of the scheme on the environment and that he felt there was a lack of rigour in assessing the impacts of the scheme upon protected species and the impacts of the scheme on the environment as a whole. He **MOVED** that the Council raise objection based upon the original reasons for refusal as well as stressing concerns about the lack of rigour of the environmental aspects of the application before the Local Planning Authority.

Cllr Corcoran **SECONDED** this proposition stating that he was not convinced much had been done to outweigh the original objections. He also felt that commenting on the environmental aspects was a good approach here to capture the sentiments of the public.

The Village Clerk stressed that given the detail of the motion here and that the exact wording would be difficult to capture in session he asked the proposer and seconder if they were happy to accept that the response be delegated to the Village Clerk in consultation with the Chairman. Cllr Sabih and Corcoran were content with this approach.

The motion was then put to the vote.

Voting: Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Village Council raise objection to the scheme based upon the original reasons for refusal as outlined in application 7-2019-7824-B and that the Village Council expresses its concern relating to the environmental impacts of the scheme and DELEGATES to the Village Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to write to the Local Planning Authority raising objection upon this basis.

27. BCP Council Consultations: Transforming Travel – Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Programme (027/21)

The Council considered the BCP Consultation document relating to the Merley, Poole to/from Christchurch travel corridor. Councillors' observations upon that section dealing with proposals for Castle Lane West- Parley Lane.

Cllr Houldey conveyed that it was not a safe route along Broadway Lane.

An elector at this stage stated that people do use the path and seemed to be scared of being run over by cars.

The Chairman added that the lane is used for school-runs and funerals, so it is busy.

Cllr Houldey felt there were strong ecological arguments which were still relevant given the amount of infrastructure any improvements will bring to this area of countryside. She felt it would overall be detrimental to the countryside at this location. She also explained that comments from Hurn Parish Council have also been received.

Cllr Sabih stated that it cannot be closed down as he felt people want more access to our countryside and open spaces for recreation, leisure, and transport purposes. He stated that perhaps a compromise was the best approach here where sections of busy use can be well-managed for example, sections where pedestrians and cyclists come into conflict. He stated that the countryside was a huge asset and that it should be preserved for exercise rather than it being endorsed as an attraction per se.

Cllr Corcoran had no real problem with what was being proposed in the consultation, but he did explain that it does become a problem when pedestrians and cyclists come into conflict. The inter-mingling between these two users was a safety issue. Overall, he felt that the proposal seems to make it safer to have designated places for cyclists and pedestrians to use, especially at pinch points along the routing.

Cllr Storrs raised the query that it would seem possible to build in the design zones for cyclists to dismount when approaching points of conflict at speed.

Cllr Houldey felt that cyclists should be asked to use the road bridge at Wessex Water as this seemed more sensible.

The Chairman also echoed the sentiments of other councillors especially concerning the speed of cyclists.

Cllr Waters explained that in his view having decent pathways is of benefit to the wider appeal of the countryside. He stated that it is difficult to stand in the way of progress here and felt that it was better to deal with the issues through proper design, regulation, and management. He agreed however, that Berry Hill Bridge/Lane seemed a better alternative in terms of routing.

An elector at this stage stated that Berry Hill Lane/Way, if possible, would be a better solution.

Cllr Houldey **MOVED** that the Council should send a narrative response neither supporting nor objecting to the proposals. She felt the response should capture the points that the council is in favour of cycling and roaming, that pinch points between cyclists and pedestrians should be safer by design and consider dismount zones, that an alternative river crossing at Berry Hill Bridge be explored and considered, but all the while highlighting the sensitivities of the countryside here so that it is the less intrusive route/design.

Cllr Blackmore **SECONDED** the proposition.

The Village Clerk explained if the proposer and seconder were happy for the response to be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman. Both the proposer and seconder agreed.

Voting: 5 in favour. 2 Against.

RESOLVED: That the Council responds to the BCP Council consultation by writing a narrative response endorsing the points conveyed and DELEGATES to the Village Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to write a narrative response echoing the points conveyed.

28. New Model Code of Conduct (028/21)

The Acting Village Clerk explained Members have adopted previously the recommended sector specific Code of Conduct (National Association of Local Councils). The Local Government Association has released a revised Code of Conduct which has been adopted by BCP Council. The Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils recommend that parishes look at also adopting this new Code. The LGA Code of Conduct appears at Appendix 2 to the minute book.

He recommended that Throop and Holdenhurst adopts the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct 2020 replacing the previously adopted NALC Code of Conduct.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Waters to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct 2020.

Cllr Blackmore SECONDED the proposition.

Voting: Unanimous.

RESOLVED: The LGA Model Code of Conduct 2020 was adopted.

29. Insurance Provision (029/21)

Members were provided with two quotations for insurance provision which appear as Appendix 3 to the minute book. The quotations came from Came & Company and Zurich. The Town Clerk highlighted the budget for insurance provision being Allotment Insurance £500 and Property, Public Liability Insurance £250.

Members considered the quotations, and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Sabih to incept a policy with Zurich. This was SECONDED by Cllr Corcoran.

Voting: Unanimous

RESOLVED: That the Council DELEGATES to the Village Clerk to accept the quotation from Zurich for insurance provision for the allotments, property, public liability on the basis that the Council shall pay: £709.07 (inclusive of any insurance premium tax) for the policy term 5/7/2021 to 4/7/2021.

30. Website Design and Construction (030/21)

The Clerk reported that he had investigated website provision with a sector specific website provider (Aubergine 262 Ltd) to provide website design and IT infrastructure for the Council going forwards. The details of the quotation

provided appear at Appendix 4 to the minute book. The Clerk summarised the quotation:

Basic set up & year 1 consists of:

- 1) One-off set up: £700 + VAT (SLCC member discount)
- 2) Annual SSL-protected hosting & basic support (2 hours support annually): £199 + VAT pa
- 3) Quarterly WCAG compliance website monitoring scan & reports: £299 + VAT pa
- 4) Registration of .gov.uk domain £100 + VAT pa
- 5) Set up of MS O365 email service (9x accounts)
£290 + VAT (email mailbox service paid directly to Microsoft and is charged at £4 per mailbox, per month).
- 6) Set up of MS Office and cloud storage for clerk based on 3 hours IT remote support £210 + VAT + monthly subscription fee paid directly to Microsoft at £9.40 + VAT per month, per user.

Total fees for year one: £1798 + VAT + monthly subscription fees for Microsoft

The Clerk also explained that optional extras and enhanced functionality could also be added and “bolted-on” to the website provision and that the Village Council budget allowed for £2000 for the “one-off” cost of website purchase and design.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Houldey that the Council agree to commission aubergine for website and email construction based on the quotation provided. This was SECONDED by Cllr Corcoran.

Voting: Unanimous

RESOLVED: That the Council agrees to the quotation provided as appears in the minute book at Appendix 4 for Aubergine 262 Ltd to design and provide a Village Council website and email accounts and that it DELEGATES to the Village Clerk to agree the sum of £1798 +VAT with Aubergine 262 Ltd accordingly.

31. **Queen’s Trees (031/21)**

The Village Clerk updated Members about possibly marking this occasion. He explained [The Queen’s Green Canopy \(QGC\)](#) is a tree planting initiative

to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. In anticipation of the tree planting season (October-March) Members' attention was drawn to whether the Village Council should apply to the Woodland Trust and order sapling trees:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

The Clerk explained site shall have to be identified and a day set-aside in the tree-planting season to bring together families, volunteers or associations to assist in the initiative. At this stage however the Clerk was canvassing for an "in principle" decision where Members were simply asked whether the Council wishes to progress with the scheme and to 'ear-mark' a potential site where sapling trees could be planted. The Clerk stressed future Council meetings shall deal with the planning of a community day or similar if Members were so minded.

Cllr Waters explained we would need to consider details such as landownership and possible consents with BCP Council.

Cllr Houldey Conveyed the same sentiments however expressed it seemed a good initiative.

Cllr Waters PROPOSED that the Council should re-visit this and that it should be brought back to Council with further detail. Cllr Sabih SECONDED the proposal.

Voting: Unanimous

RESOLVED: That the issue of the Queen's Trees commemorative event be brought back to Council with further detail.

32. Social Media Policy (032/21)

The Village Clerk reported that Members were keen to engage with the community. He presented to Council a Social Media Policy for Members which appears at Appendix 5 to the minute book to consider and adapt and change according to their needs. The Clerk commented that this policy will direct any online engagements and Members were reminded that the Code of Conduct applies to online presence when acting in the capacity as a councillor.

Cllr Houldey thanked the clerk for preparing this and PROPOSED that the Council adopts the policy as set-out. Cllr Corcoran SECONDED the proposal.

Voting: Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Social Media Policy which appears as Appendix 5 to the Minute Book be adopted by the Council.

Meeting Ended 8.46 p.m.

Chairman

SIGNED