

THROOP AND HOLDENHURST VILLAGE COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 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, Cllr T Blackmore, Cllr B Storrs

49. Apologies for Absence (049/21)

Apologies received from Cllr T Blackmore and Cllr B Storrs.

50. Declarations of Interest (050/21)

There were no declarations of interest declared on this occasion.

51. Minutes of Previous Meeting (051/21)

Cllr fisher highlighted the following proposed amendments to the minutes. Minute No.45 should read "*Roi mar Home*" instead of "*Willow Mead*".

Minute No. 46 should read "*Burial Ground*" instead of "*Burial Grant*".

Minute No. 47 The Chairman wished to add all bullet points from the agenda into the minutes as follows:

- Infrastructure: roads, potholes, paths, and cycleways
- Installation of Fibre/ broadband to THVC
- Champion ecological and wildlife habitats within THVC.
- Safety and security within VC.
- Communications: develop web site for VC information
- Residents' surveys to inform THVC.

Cllr Waters wished to change the wording of minute 45 to be more accurate from "*Overarching say*" to "*Overarching role*".

Proposed by Cllr Waters that the minutes be received subject to the amendments above.

Seconded by Cllr Sabih.

Voting: Unanimous.

52. Announcements (052/21)

The Acting Village Clerk explained to Council and members of the public this was to be his last meeting. Both Council and members of the public thanked him for his time and efforts in assisting the Council during its formative months.

53. Public Participation (053/21)

The statement from the elector as appeared on the agenda was read out by the Acting Village Clerk which also asked a question of Council relating to the SANG planning permission resolution granted to Hicks Farm under application reference 7-2021-7824- C. The Question was taken during this item and was asked as follows: *“Are the parish council considering applying for a judicial review of this perverse decision?”*

At this stage Cllr J-A Houldey opened the debate by stating that at a meeting of the Throop Village Conservation Group some consideration was given to what the Village Council was going to do.

The Acting Village Clerk intervened and asked if Cllr J-A Houldey was a member of the Conservation Group and she confirmed she was. At this stage Cllr Corcoran also explained that he was too. The Acting Village Clerk advised the councillors that for transparency purposes it would be wise that they declared that they were Members of this group. The councillors agreed to do so and stated that they approached the matter before the Village Council with an open mind not having reached a concluded view on the matter at the Conservation Group meeting.

Cllr J-A Houldey continued and asked again whether the Village Council wished to support a judicial review and the Conservation Group wanted to canvass in open session for opinions.

The Chairman at this stage then went onto explain the decision coming from the Planning Officer’s report and in particular read the conclusions which the report at paragraph 193. The Chairman also re-iterated that the Parks Department at BCP Council at no point said anything about housing need for the area.

Cllr Corcoran explained that he did look into this issue and that the Winter Gardens scheme in Bournemouth does have low-cost housing which seems

smaller than the market value housing. He felt the low-cost housing was in the sum of circa 40% of the units on site. He stressed that there is no option however other than to review the decision and again echoed the sentiments of Cllr J-A Houldey in exploring whether the Village Council would support a judicial review if the Conservation Group were to consider commencing one.

Cllr Waters added to the debate by stating that there were no good reasons not to support a judicial review. He expressed that one-side of his thinking is exactly along these lines and the idea of supporting one is in line with the Council's objection and vision for the site. However, the other side of his thinking noted the cost and the possible distraction from other projects in terms of money and time which the community and council may wish to focus upon.

Cllr Phipps from the public gallery offered her views about the procedure of a judicial review and the Acting Village Clerk also added further detail from his experiences of being involved in numerous judicial reviews.

The Chairman then asked about a planning condition which appeared on the resolution to grant planning permission and contained in the Officer's report. The Acting Village Clerk gave details about conditions and those which are precedent conditions which may have to be discharged prior to commencement of development and how this was an enforcement matter. He mentioned that members and the public should be conversant and extremely familiar of the conditions on the consent so that any problems in the site coming forwards during development can be reported to planning enforcement.

Cllr Waters having heard the debate and turning back to the question posed by the elector and when considering the financial resources of Council proposed that the Council does not consider pursuing a judicial review.

The Chairman seconded the proposition.

Voting: Unanimous

RESOLVED: That due to the financial resources of Council a judicial review shall not be considered at this stage.

Cllr Corcoran further proposed that if the Council is asked to support a judicial review without allocating financial resources that the resolution be re-considered and brought back to Council.

Cllr Waters seconded the proposition.

Voting: Unanimous

RESOLVED: If Council is asked to support a judicial review by a third-party and does not involve the allocation of financial resources that the matter be brought back to Council for further re-consideration.

54. Public Questions (054/21)

The Chairman took the elector's statement which also involved a question during the public participation session.

55. Councillor Questions (055/21)

There were no questions from councillors on this occasion.

56. Matters Arising (056/21)

Queen's Trees – Cllr Corcoran advised Council that he is working with BCP Council on this matter and that it seemed that BCP were not fully aware of the initiative. He also stressed that BCP were non-committal on the matter and given the Village Council has limited land-interests there were few options available to re-planting sites.

Cllr J-A Houldey stressed the point was to have a Jubilee tree in the parish whether that was a single tree or multiple trees.

Cllr Waters stressed that we should find some sites to help move this item along and suggested a site in Throop and Holdenhurst.

Cllr Corcoran agreed to find two sites and to bring the matter back at next cycle of Council.

Parish Website/Communications – Cllr Houldey advised Members that work is progressing with the Council's chosen contractor – Aubergine 262Ltd and the website was very close indeed to being launched.

The Acting Village Clerk also advised members of the public that Councillors now have “. gov.uk” Council email addresses which can be used for contact of councillors.

Noticeboard – Cllr Sabih had no developments to report and requested the matter be put back to next cycle of Council.

War Memorial – Cllr Corcoran stressed that quotes were provided at the last cycle, and it was simply a matter of progressing with a chosen option.

The Acting Village Clerk advised Members that quotes need to be in writing and that at the last cycle of Council the quotes were only verbally relayed via

Cllr Corcoran to Council. It was also stressed the quotes did not appear on the agenda for decision. He recommended that these quotes obtained by Cllr Corcoran be put in writing in formal detail for the design and installation of the memorial as chosen (including VAT) as necessary and the quotes be considered to illustrate best value as is usual practice.

Cllr Waters added that Council also resolved to call a Working Group so as to include members of the public so that their views and options can also be considered.

Cllr Corcoran agreed to convene a Working Group in line with the previous meeting of Council's resolution and to include the public and obtain quotes for consideration.

Response to Cllr Borthwick re: Footpath via BCP Council's Community Infrastructure Levy – Cllr Fisher agreed to send Cllr Borthwick the Village Council's minutes of the last meeting so that the Village Council's views are relayed accordingly.

57. Bus Service provision to Throop/Holdenhurst – Letter from an elector (057/21)

The Chairman opened the item having received the letter which appeared on the agenda from an elector. She explained that she had previously discussed this with Cllr Wilson when Bournemouth Borough Council existed. She stressed that the conversations intimated that there might be merit in pursuing the provision of a bus-service with BCP and/or Bus operators.

The Acting Village Clerk explained he has links with Yellows Buses through his other work and shall raise informally with Yellow Buses if a chance arises and to place the Chairman in contact with Yellow Buses.

58. Report on Review of BCP Planning Committee Structure. (058/21)

The Chairman introduced Unitary Cllr/Chairman of Hurn Parish Council Cllr Margaret Phipps. Cllr Phipps explained how the Planning Committee at BCP Council worked including its 15 Members and the political make-up. She explained that the membership of the committee comes from 6 Members from Bournemouth Wards, 6 from Poole Wards and 3 from Christchurch. She stressed that decisions are made in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and the 3 separate legacy local plans from the former Borough Councils. She highlighted that the new unitary authority BCP Council has been directed to create a new Local Plan for planning purposes and this is anticipated in late 2022. Cllr Phipps also stated that the call for sites had already been completed and that the Regulation 18 *Issues and Options* document has been slightly delayed due to having to complete a

Housing Needs Assessment. Cllr Phipps also explained how other parishes have started the journey of completing Neighbourhood Plans and how these plans/documents hold weight with the Planning Authority.

In concluding her presentation, she felt strongly that a Planning Committee should command the confidence of the residents and communities it serves.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Phipps for her presentation which she felt should be noted by Council and residents.

59. BCP Transforming Travel – Throop/Hurn Link (059/21)

The Chairman opened the debate by stating that a partnership approach with Hurn Parish would be the best way forwards here. She felt that due to the Water Meadows falling into Hurn Parish it made sense to have a joined-up way of working on this issue. The Chairman introduced Cllr Phipps on this item too in her role as Chairman of Hurn Parish.

Cllr Phipps explained the concerns Hurn Parish have with the proposal. She stressed that if you head to Throop Mill, turn left and head across the fields by Muddy Lane into MerryTown onto Parley Lane it is proposed that a 3.5m tarred service is to be introduced. She recalled that Dorset County Council had looked at this proposal and specifically remembered its Regulatory Committee rejecting it. She explained that reasonable alternatives could be considered by Riddles Ford but BCP have flatly decided against considering it. Cllr Phipps that this history and context has been conveyed to BCP. She explained to Council her concerns about 3.5m wide tarred paths and how this will attract all-users, especially anti-social motorbikes. She commented that the upgrade looks like a road and was urbanisation of the countryside and area. In her concluding remarks she considered that given the SANG now resolved to be granted planning permission at Hicks Farm the Village Council area may well become a destination site, where traffic and parking will be issue. She also made passing comment about the rear of MerryTown Farm which was also a problem.

The Chairman explained that the Village Council had responded to the consultation and asked the Village Clerk to read the Village Council's response. The Village Clerk read out the Council's response to BCP.

60. Village Clerk's Report (060/21)

The Acting Village Clerk advised Members that no financial transactions occurred since the last cycle of Council. The Bank Statement was shared with the Chairman, and she confirmed that the account was accurate and reconciled with the previous cycle of Council as reported then.

The Acting Village Clerk confirmed that the Council had received a cheque on the evening of the meeting from the now closed Parish Meeting account in the sum of £3,383 which needs to be paid into the Village Council account. The cheque was placed into the custody of the Chairman and at this stage the Clerk handed back to the Chairman the Council's Paying-In Book and Cheque Book due to his departure.

61. Stour Valley Park Partnership and Strategy (061/21)

The Chairman introduced the item by referring to the BCP Council Cabinet decision of 14th April 2021 and circulated to Members a printout of that decision which appears on BCP Council's website.

Cllr J-A Houldey highlighted to Members that there were areas of the Village Council's jurisdiction which had not been highlighted.

The Chairman explained that she had been pressing hard for proper consultation on this matter and that she was working still on seeking further input from BCP here. She noted that BCP were working on a Landscape Strategy which was due to be placed back before cabinet for about this time (Autumn 2021). The issue needed further work and she explained to Council that this was on the agenda for noting and information at this stage.

62. Resolution to exempt members of the press and public (062/21)

The Chairman read the following out:

"To consider passing a resolution to exclude the press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the following matters relating to the personal information of living individuals and pending legal negotiations and emerging policy"

It was proposed By Cllr Waters that Members of Council pass the resolution as per the agenda.

This was seconded by the Chairman.

Voting Unanimous.

RESOLVED: Council excludes the press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the following matters relating to the personal information of living individuals and pending legal negotiations and emerging policy.

The meeting ended after conclusion of exempt

SIGNED by

Chairman

SIGNED