

Manston and Hammoon Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 26th February 2024 at 6.00pm in Manston Village Hall

Present:

Councillors – L. Tandoh, N. Frampton, J. Hussey, P. Easter, D. Honeybun

In attendance:

Cllr Jane Somper, Dorset Council
J Ramsay (Parish Clerk)

Chair's Welcome

Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

23.72. Public Discussion Period

None present.

23.73. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Vestbirk and Poe.

23.74. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests in relation to the agenda

None were declared.

23.75. To agree the minutes of previous meeting on 13th November 2023 are a true and accurate record

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

23.76. Issues arising from the last meeting – Clerk's Report

- Clerk advised that she had made contact with Buckland Newton Parish Council regarding their painted road speed markings but it is not known how they achieved this.
- A letter was sent to the Village Hall Committee offering to take over running of the Village Hall, a reply was received stating that at the present time they did not want to follow this up, but would be in contact at a later date. Query was made over the safety of using the building and whether Parish Councils were allowed to meet elsewhere.

23.77. To receive report from Dorset Council (*report circulated prior to the meeting*)

Cllr Somper asked if there were any questions in relation to the report. Cllr Somper encouraged the Parish Council and individuals to complete the Dorset Council Local Transport Plan Survey which has been circulated.

Dorset Council has been awarded the best Unitary Authority award for recycling.

Cllr Somper raised that there is a community tree planting grant available to Parish Councils.

Chairman:

Date:

Council Tax – Cllr Somper wished to reassure the Parish Council that Dorset Council is not in financial difficulty, savings have been made and spend has been sensible compared to other Councils. Having said that Dorset Council have reluctantly put up the Council Tax by 4.98% this year which was agreed at the last Full Council meeting.

23.78. To receive a finance report (*report circulated in advance*) and to agree action in response to proposals and payment approvals

Clerk stated that the budget had reduced significantly this year and it was getting very close to the mark, Clerk therefore claimed the VAT back (£965.58) earlier than usual to ensure there are enough funds to cover until the first half of the precept is received on 30th April. A brief discussion was had about what large bills are due to come out in April/May and that we need to hold off on grass cutting/hedge trimming for a couple of months.

Councillors noted the below payments made under delegated powers by bank transfer out of Council:

20/11/2023	The Hill Magazine	Grant	£50.00
15/12/2023	Cllr Poe	Cllr Expenses (padlock)	£42.99
31/12/2023	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£18.00
15/01/2024	HMRC	PAYE (October to December 2023 payment)	£25.80
15/01/2024	A J Feltham	Hedge Cutting of Playing Field	£108.00
20/02/2024	ICO	Data Protection Fee	£35.00

Payments to be sanctioned:

26/02/2024	Clerk	Clerk Expenses	£37.80
26/02/2024	Vision ICT	Website Hosting for 24-25	£161.26

Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. ALL IN FAVOUR.

23.79. To discuss Defibrillator Community Funding

Clerk advised that the Department of Health recently had put out another email in relation to grant funding for defibrillators, provided the cost is match funded by the Parish Council. This means that we would need to raise approximately £1,500 to fund defibrillators for both telephone kiosks in Manston and Hammoon. It was agreed that the focus needs to be maintained on this and a discussion was had about fund raising, if every resident contributed £10, for example, a significant amount of money could be raised. Suggestion was made to hold a coffee morning and perhaps write to residents directly. It was noted that if an ambulance was to come from Shaftesbury, for example, it would take too long for the person to be saved. Agreed this needs to be revisited at the next meeting with the new Councillors.

22.80. To discuss Recreational Area maintenance

Cllr Honeybun stated that he had repaired the fence/gate which leads into the playground area with the assistance of a resident, James Rose. The Parish Council wished to thank Cllr Honeybun and James Rose for doing this. **Action: Clerk to write letter of thanks.**

Chair reported that unfortunately only 5 of the trees planted for the Jubilee Copse have survived due to the weather conditions. In light of the budget situation, Cllr Frampton suggested that maybe the Parish Council should not cut the grass on the playing field and leave it to re-wild, cutting only around the play equipment. Maybe a ‘S’ shaped path could be created to go around the re-wilding area, this could help reduce our grass

cutting costs which is one of the Parish Council's biggest expenses. Perhaps the playing field area could be cut for July and the school summer holidays.

23.81 To receive an update on SID deployment

Chair stated that he had tried to collect the data off the SID, but the app and the Bluetooth connection did not seem to work, so there is no data as yet on what speeds the SID is recording. Councillors agreed that the SID seems to be working when it is placed at the entrance to Manston from Sturminster Newton, however when placed outside the Village Hall it is less effective. This maybe because it is placed on a straight line and you have no sense of where the village starts. Perhaps it is time to ask the Police to park a car by the side of the road again (as they have done before) to deter speeding. Cllr Somper asked if a Speedwatch had been set up, Clerk advised that Cllr Vestbirk had started the ball rolling, but you need 8 volunteers and must undertake Police training before starting which requires completing/returning forms. Clerk so far has only received 1 form from a willing volunteer so the project has not really got off the ground.

23.82. To receive an update on Hammoon Bridge & Flooding

Cllr Frampton reported that the gates seem to be shut more than open at the moment due to the wet weather. Cllr Frampton wished it noted that the point of the gates is to save lives, they are not shut every time water crosses the road. At present if the water level is over 2.56 metres the gates are shut. Each time the emergency services are called to retrieve a vehicle in flooded water it costs at least £3,000 and if people are stuck in a flood they will call the emergency services even if they are able to escape the vehicles themselves. The emergency services are there to rescue people not vehicles and these will be left.

The Flood Group who open/shut the gates have a protocol for doing this and when other residents not aware of the protocol get involved it can make the situation worse. Padlocks have been broken again. Decisions are made at 8.00am and 8.00pm based on water level data which is live. Although Cllr Frampton is stepping down from the Parish Council he will continue to help with the Flood Group. Cllr Frampton also stated that he had been in contact with Highways regarding signage for the gates as many have been destroyed, to include a sign that says about unauthorized usage.

A discussion was had about the water levels and that there should be a clear, defined limit at which the gates will be closed. It was agreed that the flood gates will be closed if the water level is 2.3metres or higher. **Action: Cllr Frampton to send to the Whatsapp Flood Group.**

It is hoped that by setting this level it will reduce those vehicles who still try to pass through when they should not, due to the camber of the road any flooding can be deceiving and the water is often deeper than expected in certain areas.

23.83. Discussion on any highway issues in both villages (to include traffic and speeding)

- Speedwatch Update – covered under item 23.81
- Dorset Police Pilot Scheme – nothing to report

Chair raised that the drains on Hammoon Lane have become blocked and that there appears to be no ditches alongside the road in Manston anymore by the land by Fitelstones. **Action: Clerk to raise with the Community Highways Officer or on the Dorset Council portal.**

23.84. Next year's Town & Parish Councillor Elections Process

Chair stated that with Cllrs Poe and Frampton stepping down from May, a Vice Chair will be needed and a signatory for the bank. Cllr Hussey stated that she would do it, to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Regarding the elections, the next stage is to get the forms handed in and hopefully accepted so we can form a Council on 13th May.

23.85. To comment on any planning applications

- P/FUL/2023/07149 - Change of use of land to station 1 No. mobile home for an agricultural worker. East Farm, East Farm Lane, Hammoon, Dorset, DT10 2DB

Cllr Frampton provided a background history to the site and Chair raised the points that Cllr Poe had sent in prior to the meeting for discussion. It was noted that it was hard to tell if the existing mobile home was moving or another mobile home was being put in. On discussion it was felt that the application is to move the existing the mobile home which should have already been removed off site under permitted development. A secondary discussion was had about the vacant holiday let on the site and why that could not be used for agricultural worker accommodation. Councillors agreed that there are no objections to the proposal itself but there are concerns about the collective buildings on the site that the Planning Office should be aware of.

Action: Clerk to create a response and circulate for comment before sending to the Planning Office.

23.86. Confidential Matters (public and press to leave the meeting)

23.87. Items for the next meeting

- Defibrillator Community Funding
- Grass Cutting of Playing Field

23.88 Date of next meeting(s)

Monday, 13th May 2024 at 6.30pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 19:37 hours.