

## SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of Symondsburry Parish Council held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7pm by remote means during the COVID-19 Pandemic. **These minutes will be agreed at the January Parish Council Meeting.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Sir Philip Colfox, A Streatfeild, S Ralph, J Roddy, P Allen and N Mawditt. In attendance: Marilyn Stone, Clerk, Cllr K Clayton (Dorset Council) and three members of the public including a potential new councillor observing the meeting.

### **Democratic Half Hour during which members of the public are invited to raise matters of interest:**

Karl Rogers spoke following a recent communication he had sent to SPC regarding two issues: A sign that has been placed at the entrance of West Cliff stating 'Private Residents Access Only' on a footpath (approach to West Walks number W18/19 which passes alongside Cowleaze Farm). In 1961 and for public safety a stopping order was placed on this footpath and on the bridleway (28) known locally as Donkey Lane whilst the development at West Cliff was being built. The stopping order has not been lifted. The second issue was access to and use of Four Cliff Walks which connects the South West Coast Path to West Cliff Road enabling easy pedestrian access to and from the cliff. These walks have been used prior to the West Cliff development and after and have been used interruptedly by the public for many years. They do not appear on the Definitive Map. Therefore a Definitive Map Modification Order needs to be undertaken and he asked SPC if they would support this.

### **Information from DC Councillors and Dorset Police:**

.Cllr Clayton advised that the Climate Emergency Strategy Consultation has been extended to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. He advised that the Dorset Council cabinet met earlier today and the Draft Local Plan consultation will be available from mid-January; very little within it affecting the Bridport area. The final draft will go in front of the inspectors in September 2021.

**0099 To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Ainley and Cllr Bolwell which had been accepted.

**0100 To receive Declarations of Interest:** Cllr P Colfox offered his declaration of interest to item 0111 Vearse Farm. Cllr N Mawditt offered his declaration of interest to item 0104 Footpath/signage at Westcliff

**0101 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020:** The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were approved and arrangements made for them to be signed in person the following day.

**0102 Planning Applications and to consider any other planning/enforcement issues:** None.

**0103 Proposed Cycle Path:** No new information to be discussed although Cllr Ralph added that he has communicated with Dorset Council about potential funding. Cllr Allen observed that the land might be owned by the Dorset Council.

**0104 Footpath Report:** The footpath report (part of item 0111) was taken early due to the pressing nature of this enquiry. Cllr Mawditt recused himself and speaking as a member of the public by invitation advised that whilst signage advising 'Private Residents Access Only' had been placed on a gate at West Cliff by The West Cliff House Owners Association (WCHOA) the gate remains unlocked. He added that WCHOA objects to reconnecting the paths that were stopped in 1961 and wish to find a diverted way around the Estate rather than through it; as yet they have not engaged with Dorset Council on this matter. **Cllr Mawditt left the meeting.** Cllr Streatfeild felt that it was appropriate for Cllr Mawditt to make his statement. Cllr Ralph felt that the footpath should be there. It was added that Donkey Lane sits on private land and has been long used well before motor vehicles. It was felt that more visitors than usual have visited the area during the pandemic

due to holidays abroad being stopped which has impacted on more people walking through West Cliff, a private estate. Cllr Roddy felt that the WCHOA should not take advantage of an error (made by WDDC). It was added that the cliff path at the top of West Cliff has fallen into an ill state of repair. **On a proposition by Cllr Roddy and seconded by Cllr Allen it was agreed for the clerk to communicate with Dorset Council to ask that the stopped footpaths and bridleway (known as Donkey Lane) be reconnected to West Bay either through the West Cliff estate or by negotiation with other landowners.** Regarding the matter of the paths at Cliff Walks it was noted that SPC would become involved as part of the process if and when a consultation was initiated by Dorset Council. Cllr Mawditt re-joined the meeting at 7.50pm.

**0105 Finance:** a) **Bank Balances:** Current account: £10,191.76 Deposit: £25,557.63

b) **Payments of Account for approval:** i) Clerk's Salary ii) DAPTC Planning Training £39.00 iii) Dorset Council (signage) £7.20 **Proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Ralph, all in favour.**

**0106 Plans and Projects for 2021, Budget and Precept 2021/2022:** Cllr Mawditt suggested that SPC should look at working with other councils to create a network of new cycle paths. It was agreed that maybe this is an item for Steering Group of the JCC which includes the whole of the Bridport area; Cllr Allen will raise this with JCC..

**0107 Digital Connectivity and Digital Inclusion (engagement with parishioners electronically):** Cllr Allen reported that he had good discussions with Dorset Council around the lack of broadband in the Parish. Parishioners with poor connectivity are entitled to a voucher towards the cost and it was felt that we needed to encourage people to sign up to the voucher scheme. He wished to encourage 'champions' for local areas and will undertake this with the support of the resilience team. The next action for him was to get sight of the map provided by BT.

**0108 Bridport Leisure Centre – Grant Request:** The clerk had received recent correspondence from the Bridport Leisure Centre requesting a grant towards recent unforeseen costs: £2,000 to move on some travellers, £4,750 installation of barriers to deter them in the future and £9,000 to replace the main pool pump which blew up. **On a proposition by Cllr Streatfeild and seconded by Cllr Mawditt, all in favour, it was agreed to grant £5,000 on the proviso that the Centre be not at risk of financially collapsing and our money be wasted. Cllr Allen will satisfy himself on this point before the money is paid.**

**0109 Broadoak Village Hall – Grant Request:** The clerk had received communication from Broadoak Village Hall requesting a grant of £300 for maintenance having suffered financially due to lack of bookings during the pandemic. **On a proposition from Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Roddy, all in favour it was agreed.** The clerk will let them know that we would welcome them approaching us for further grants in the future if required.

**0110 Projects: Defibrillator at Eype Beach:** Nothing new to report. **Footpath from Dolton House:** Nothing new to report. **Bins:** Cllr Roddy thanked Symondsburry Estate for emptying the bins regularly for free.

**Noticeboards:** The relocation of the noticeboard at Symondsburry was discussed and a potential new place would be at the top of the steps to the church. Cllr Roddy has consulted the Parochial Church Council.

**0111 Reports from lead members had been circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read although the following amendments were agreed: DAPTC:** Cllr Allen will reply to the DAPTC consultation – Role of Area Committees. **Planning:** Cllr Allen raised the general issue of the councils response to planning applications and whether the councils views are being put to Dorset Council in the most effective way. Cllrs Mawditt, Roddy and Allen will look at this further.

Following communication from Dorset Council regarding Transfer of Assets it was agreed that the Clerk would re-send the list , previously sent in 2019, of various assets that SPC wishes to obtain during this disposal round.

CLlr Allen also asked the Council to pursue the possibility of requesting the re-designation of Hell Lane as a bridleway rather than an unclassified road. **The Clerk will communicate with Dorset Council.**

**0112 Items for our next meeting in January:** Climate Emergency Strategy Consultation (CLlr Mawditt will forward the response pages to councillors), Plan, Projects, Precept/budget . Would all councillors invite proposals for projects and activities and bring them to this meeting. February Agenda to include The Local Plan.

**0113 To confirm date of next meeting** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm. **Meeting closed at 20:55 pm.**