

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th January 2021
at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs Catherine Langham (CL) (Acting Chairman) Justine McGuinness (JMcG) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Marion Walbridge (MW) George Sotiriadis (GS), Unitary Councillor J Haynes (JH)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Northover. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 1st December 2020 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** CL declared an interest in relation the 'Save Hardy Vale' correspondence.
4. **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** A written report had been received in advance of the meeting, and is attached. JH commented that the new lockdown was clearly a serious situation and was concerned about the impact of this on families with children and consequently the implications for care requirements. JH advised that Dorset County Hospital is managing the staff situation but there is a concern to ensure that there are enough training personnel to deliver the vaccination programme and maintain other services. JH raised a concern with regard to potentially isolated people in the villages, though was told that in the parish those known to councillors are checked on as far as is possible. CJ enquired in relation to possible help for self-employed businesses who may not have received any assistance; JH advised that no formal update has been provided yet but any information will be forwarded in due course. CL enquired in relation to consultation regarding the Local Plan; JH noted that the consultation period had not yet commenced, but would do so shortly; it is hoped that the agreed plan would be in place by the end of the year; CL queried the land supply situation, JH advised that this is an issue because developers were often sitting on land they had acquired many years before, where planning permission had been granted but had not commenced any building work beyond infrastructure work and the value of the land had increased substantively in the intervening period. JH noted that the main issue is that all development is being diverted away from the AONB towards North Dorset, with a major problem being the absence of a good North-South route.

5. OPEN FORUM:

There were no members of the public present and no questions were raised.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 Sewerage – Mains connection working group report

SJ reported that the Working Group has made progress in discussing the format and content of a consultation questionnaire be sent/delivered to householders and is in the process of drafting a final version. SJ wished it to noted that the completion of the s101a form is a public process and involves the gathering of signatures. At the moment the plan is for this to be distributed by hand and there are 210 addresses to reach, though some thought has been given to making an electronic version available perhaps using Survey Monkey. The paper versions of the questionnaire could be collected, perhaps at the Post Office and porch of All Saints Church Hilton with agreement, to save postage costs. GS is drafting an article for the Village News. SJ suggested that the Parish Council needs to receive a significant response to the survey to take the issue forward; SJ also advised that the process is

complex and whoever takes on the application must be well supported. The Council agreed that the questionnaire should also be distributed in throughout Melcombe Bingham and Melcombe Horsey. There was some discussion as to whether the questionnaire should ask householders for details of sewage existing systems or be restricted to a single question enquiring as to whether they would support a viability study for a mains connection. This will be considered further by the Working Group. CL requested that the working party questionnaire be circulated to councillors before the next meeting.

6.2 Phone box - update and next steps

CL reported that Paul Calver had agreed to install display racking and a pin board in the phone box to hold tourist information and advised that the PC would pay for materials. CL noted that Paul was happy to take part in the resumption of the tourism sub-committee.

6.3 Ash die-back

CJ reported that work had begun on dealing with trees previously reported at Ansty Cross. He is also watching other trees on the road near Combe Hill Farm, some near Bulbarrow and a few in Melcombe Bingham.

6.4 Ansty Fibre progress

CJ had been advised by Wessex Internet that installation work will commence in Ansty and Higher Ansty in late January/early February.

6.5 Burning plastic report

CJ had received a report of an incident of burning plastic west of Rawlsbury in September which had been attended by the fire brigade. There was some speculation as to who owns the land on which the incident occurred and whether anyone could be held responsible. The Parish Council wished it to be noted that it is illegal to burn materials producing 'dark smoke' and any incidents should be reported to the fire brigade and the Environment Agency.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

There were no new planning applications to consider. Suitable comments in support of the application had been made in relation to the Conegar Knapp proposal.

There were no updates in relation to existing applications to report.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

8.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the general reserve stood at £ 9,655.12 and the finances were in good order.

8.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Method	Payee	Reason
03/12/2020	£ 500.00	PCC - Hilton Church	Grant agreed
05/12/2020	£ 60.00	Clive & Linda Jones	Xmas Tree (MB)
17/12/2020	£ 50.00	Richard Wood	Xmas Tree (Hilton)
17/12/2020	£ 39.00	DAPTC - Course (S Jaques)	Planning course
31/12/2020	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay & Allowance

CL thanked the PC for the Christmas trees provided.

8.3 Budget and Precept finalisation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and request a precept of £ 5,450.

9. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

CJ reported that Cllr Northover had noted that there were blocked drains on the route from Higher Ansty to Hatherley. The Clerk advised that these should be reported using the online reporting tool directly to Dorset Council. It was noted that there were many potholes particularly on the Dellcombe road which will be briefly closed for repairs, as will the Milton Abbas road.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk has received an email from the 'Save Hardy's Vale' campaign group concerning the proposed solar farm development. He agreed to circulate this following the meeting. It was noted that the Parish Council will only comment on proposal this if asked to as a consultee.

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

- 11.1 Sewerage Working Group update
- 11.2 Ansty Fibre update
- 11.3 Ash die-back update
- 11.4 Tourism working group consideration
- 11.5 Website update

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.05

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 2nd February 2021, by Zoom

Signed(Chairman) Date

Report to the parish council December 2020

Jill Haynes Chalk Valleys ward

Dear Councillors

I hope you managed to have a nice Christmas, despite the challenge of not being able to see many family or friends.

At Dorset Council we now face three concurrent risks, COVID, EU Exit and pressures upon services as a result of winter weather conditions. The senior management team has been meeting virtually on a daily basis between Christmas and new year, things are changing very quickly and there are many changes that we need to get in place quickly.

COVID Impact

As you will know the government announced that, as of today (Thursday 31 December), we are now in [Tier 3](#) and BCP Council is in [Tier 4](#). Unfortunately, we've seen a significant increase in both the number of cases and rate of infection in Dorset (Dorset Council 154

cases per 100,000 population and BCP 271 cases per 100,000 population) and sadly we expect this number to increase in the next couple of weeks, which is why it's so important that we act now to contain the virus and prevent it from spreading further. The key advice from our colleagues in Public Health Dorset is:

- Don't travel unless you absolutely have to and walk or cycle where possible
- Avoid sharing a vehicle with anyone not in your household
- Local means staying within your town or village where you live
- Stay at home as much as possible.

The guidance says people must not travel to or from a Tier 4 area unless it's for a permitted reason, such as work if they cannot work from home. If people find themselves in this position, the advice is to continue to follow the guidance in place with regards to measures such as hand washing and face coverings to help protect everyone. [You can see more details about the exemptions on travel between tiers on the government website.](#)

Although there will be a staggered return for most secondary school pupils (apart from vulnerable or critical worker children for whom schools remain open), school transport will continue as usual from 4 January. We recognise that it may not be as busy, but we cannot risk children being left stranded by the roadside because their parents/guardians have not received the messages that school openings have changed. BTec vocational exams will still be going ahead as planned we understand. Primary schools will also be open as well as middle schools for year 4 and 5 pupils only for those areas of Dorset that have a three-tier education system.

You may also find latest advice on visiting Care Homes useful, now Dorset is in Tier 3 the guidance is that outdoor visiting and 'screened' visits are permitted. See [section 2.3](#) in the updated government guidance. All care homes in Tier 1, 2 and 3 – except in the event of an active outbreak – should also seek to enable indoor visits, where the visitor has been tested and returned a negative result – see [section 2.1](#) in exceptional circumstances, such as end of life, visits should continue to be allowed ([section 2.4](#)).

EU Exit Impact

Our regulatory teams remain at the forefront of ensuring that the new arrangements with regard to the movement of goods, works efficiently and that trade can continue under the new legal provisions which now apply. For Dorset this is particularly significant in terms of the work relating to our fishing industry, where a number of new procedures and processes will come into force from 1 January. Our Port Health team in particular will be very busy ensuring that the various import controls are complied with. In a number of cases these new arrangements will come into force through a phased process between 1 January and 1 July 2021 in fulfilment of the legislative requirements. Our regulatory teams are of course also heavily involved in supporting the Covid restrictions and in particular advising businesses about measures needed to comply with the restrictions which, of course, continue to change, therefore continuing to create a range of enquiries to these teams.

Based on the latest information which we have it would seem that despite all of the communications which the council has done, the take up of the EU Settlement Scheme by Dorset residents remains lower than anticipated. You may be aware that it is an offence for anyone other than a registered person to assist with an application under the scheme. Dorset Council has funded the CABs to provide this support and I would therefore ask you to encourage those who wish to register under the scheme to do so before the deadline to apply of 30 June 2021 passes.

Winter Pressures

More so than normal our social care services are under pressure, due to winter conditions, combined with the impact of Covid regulations and on-going outbreaks within some care homes. Social Care teams continue to work daily with their Health Service colleagues to facilitate the safe exit from hospital, patients who no-longer need medical attention but may need specialist physical or mental health needs accommodated. This is increasingly difficult with an exhausted social care workforce, Covid restrictions in place and not enough home care specialists available at the present time. We continue to work on the sufficiency of supply, but it is a challenge and will get more challenging if more people enter the hospital system – again the general message of staying at home is also to prevent people being involved in other accidents or incidents that put further strain on NHS services.

While 2020 was certainly not the year any of us could have predicted, there was some positive news this week about the Oxford vaccine, which will start to be rolled out from Monday alongside the Pfizer vaccine. This will hopefully bring us a step closer to some kind of normality as we move into a new year,

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy and Safe New Year.

Best wishes, Jill

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021
at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) (Vice-Chairman) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Marion Walbridge (MW) George Sotiriadis (GS)

IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Northover and Unitary Councillor Haynes. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 5th January 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** CL declared an interest in relation to Hawkes Field under 'planning'.
4. **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** A written report had been received in advance of the meeting, and is attached.
5. **OPEN FORUM:**

No questions were raised.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 Sewerage – Mains connection working group report

SJ advised that the final draft survey had been circulated, a notice had been included in the Village News and posters prepared; SJ explained the plan for printing and distributing the survey. Permission has been given for ballot boxes to be located at the Brewery Farm shop and in the Church; these will be secured by zip ties and will be checked regularly. It was agreed that the survey would end on 26th March and the results collated. Following this Wessex Water would be consulted as to whether there were sufficient responses for a viability survey to be conducted. The Chairman suggested that the draft survey should be re-circulated again for any comments to be made.

6.2 Phone box - update and next steps

Paul Calver explained his ideas for the conversion of the box into a tourist information facility. He suggested that it should include a relief map and an advertising notice using QR codes; leaflets would not be included due to the litter risk. The roof could incorporate a star map, and a digital display could also be considered perhaps using a solar panel. It was noted that the box firstly requires re-painting. Paul agreed to draw up plans and submit these to the PC for discussion at the March meeting.

6.3 Ash die-back

CJ reported that the removal of trees at Ansty Cross had been completed. He is keeping an eye on a few other trees on the left-hand side of the road up the hill towards Bulbarrow and some near Combe Hill Farm.

6.4 Ansty Fibre progress

CJ had met Wessex Internet and agreements with landowners had been mostly finalised. Installation work take place in the first two weeks of February. SJ reported that Wessex

Internet had advised that in Hilton there have only been 14 'registrations of interest' and only 9 of these have approved issued vouchers. The scheme apparently requires a minimum of 32 sign-ups to be viable; only if the minimum signup number has been met will Wessex start the process of securing land access. CJ noted that business sign-ups are essential otherwise the scheme in Hilton may not get off the ground before the scheme expiry date in March. CJ agreed to contact Wessex Internet.

7. ANNUAL LITTER PICK

CL was hoped that the annual litter pick would commence in March before the verges grow. CL considered that the pick can be arranged in a socially distanced way, with volunteers collecting litter pickers from her home and bags either dropped off or collected. CL will contact Dorset Council with a view to borrowing sufficient litter pickers and provide a progress report to the Council before the next meeting.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

Application reference P/HOU/2020/00393 8 Hilton will be considered at the March meeting after consultation with neighbours. The Clerk has requested an extension to the reply by deadline set by Dorset Council Planning.

A resident summarised the history of his recent contact with Planning enforcement and raised the issue of the possible submission of Certificates of Lawfulness in relation to both the dwelling and the commercial use of Hawkes Field farm. The Chairman noted that an application had not been received by the Parish Council at this stage and therefore no decision could be taken. It was noted that a Certificate of Lawfulness would require the continuous occupancy of a dwelling over a 10-year period to be demonstrated by the applicant. It was commented that Parish Council minutes in 2012/2013 may indicate that there was no permanent occupancy of the property at that time. The Clerk will look back over historic minutes.

The Chairman noted the Local Plan consultation process. Councillors expressed concern in relation to permitted development rights for agricultural buildings being converted into dwellings in an AONB, the extension to Dorchester and the potential for the re-use of former retail premises in town centres which had been vacated because of Covid-19.

It was agreed that Councillors will individually make comments to the Clerk who will collate these and the contents of consultee comment will be discussed at the March meeting before submission.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT:

9.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stands at £ 11,920.56 and the general reserve is £ 9,492.06 following the receipt of funds from the closure of the Nationwide Business Savings account. The Clerk does not propose to move funds at this stage due to the very low interest rates on offer at present with other accounts. This matter will be deferred for the time being. The Chairman thanked former Clerk Sam Smith for her assistance in closing the account.

The Clerk noted that the precept request had been made and acknowledged by Dorset Council

9.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason
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12/01/2021	£ 165.00	HMRC - PAYE	PAYE
01/02/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay & Allowance

10. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

MW had received a report of some large potholes along Aller Lane, and reported that repairs made had failed within a day. CL reported an issue of a road potentially subsiding into a stream on a corner at Aller Lane. CJ will report these issues. The Chairman noted an issue at the Knapp in Hilton.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk has received this correspondence which has been circulated:

- i. Email from the 'Save Hardy's Vale' campaign group concerning the proposed solar farm development near Hazelbury Bryan. It was noted that the Parish Council will only comment on proposal if asked to do so as a consultee.
- ii. Email from Dorset Council re parking working groups.
- iii. Emails from two residents complaining about glass and general litter in the Parish and the inappropriate disposal of dog waste. CJ had recently collected 2 armchairs that had apparently been dumped in Delcombe Wood. CL & GS enquired as to whether additional signage could be introduced. SJ suggested that consideration be given to installing additional dog waste bins. The Clerk noted that these dealt with by the Dorset Waste Partnership and are not without cost, probably around £400 to install and maintain. Ideas concerning possible locations to be brought to the next PC meeting and the subject should be mentioned in the Village News.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

- 12.1 Sewerage Working Group update
- 12.2 Ansty Fibre update
- 12.3 Ash die-back update
- 12.4 Phone Box re-use proposal & Micro-tourism website
- 12.5 Dog waste bin suggestions
- 12.6 Local Plan comments
- 12.7 Budget review

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.28

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 2nd March 2021, by Zoom

Signed(Chairman) Date

Dorset Councillors Report

I hope you are all still keeping well.

COVID update

The current case rate for the Dorset Council area is 277 per 100,000, and the case rate for BCP area is 621 per 100,000. While the case rate is falling, this is happening more slowly than we would expect or like to see, bearing in mind we have been in national lockdown for three and a half weeks now. Colleagues at Public Health Dorset are working closely with Public Health England to try and work out why the rate isn't falling more quickly.

We must all continue to play our part and strictly follow the lockdown rules to prevent spread of the virus. Please help to reinforce this message within your communities.

Particularly worrying is the ongoing pressure on our health and care services locally. A number of local care homes are dealing with outbreaks affecting both residents and staff and there are currently over 500 patients in Dorset hospitals with COVID, so the pressure on beds is huge. [Please read our statement on how Dorset Council is supporting care homes providers at this time.](#)

Our health and social care colleagues need our support now more than ever, and we're redeploying colleagues to support hospitals with making calls and administrative tasks, and are also considering what else we can offer.

Due to the number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 in Dorset throughout January, the NHS is also facing tremendous pressure including on mortuary provision. It has therefore been agreed to [activate the Mortality Support Facility at the Poole port site](#) to help with the number of deaths that they are seeing.

Vaccinations

In more positive news, the roll out of COVID vaccinations in Dorset is going well, with over 70,000 people in Dorset now vaccinated, so making good progress to reach everyone in the top four priority groups.

Feedback on the payment of business grants

We have some great letters from both local and national businesses to Dorset Council has been the fastest and most efficient council at distributing the grants that they have dealt with in addition that the website content on how to claim the grants has been incredibly useful. Last week we paid out over £23million of government grants to support local businesses, which is great news.

North Quay and Weymouth Bowl proposals

We are often asked about what we are doing with various vacant properties and sites owned by the council. This week, Cllr Tony Ferrari publicly launched some initial proposals to use two such sites in Weymouth: North Quay, where the old Weymouth & Portland Borough Council building still stands, and Weymouth Bowl, on the other side of the harbour. You can [read more about the proposals](#) to build housing, including affordable housing, on these sites. There is a tremendous amount of work still to be done in the Asset Review and I think what we do with our properties either sale or redevelop will continue for the rest of this term of the council.

Budget

While we have set a balanced budget for the year 2021/22 with the current lockdown the overspend in the current financial year is not reducing. Not unexpectedly we are receiving large drops in income from both council tax and business rates and additional cost in all social service areas. Current estimate is £18M overspend which can be covered from reserves but puts additional pressure on next year's budget to ensure all savings targets are met.

Looking Forward

While we are still in the height of the problems with the pandemic now is the time we must find extra time and effort to see what we need to be doing in the future. One area will certainly be learning and skills, for those who have lost jobs in hospitality and retail and also for those young people leaving school. It is early days yet but some very positive conversations are happening with a variety of organisations to make this happen. As you see in the paragraph about Weymouth we are looking to see where we can work to get more affordable housing across the council area. What we must not lose is the greater co-operative working across a whole plethora of organisations and the stronger communities that have been built during this time. Also, the IT skills agenda which is developing and expanding all the time.

Best wishes Jill

Cllr Jill Haynes

Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Communities

Chalk Valleys Ward



Dorset
Council

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021
at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) (Vice-Chairman) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Marion Walbridge (MW) George Sotiriadis (GS)

IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Northover. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd February 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** CL declared an interest in relation to Hawkes Field under 'planning'.
4. **UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:**

Cllr Haynes reported that Dorset Council were concerned in relation to the impact on coastal towns of the partial release of 'lock-down' at the end of March, with a large visitor influx anticipated, particularly as the weather improves. The Council has no powers to stop vehicles or turn people away from the county after the 14 April, and the rules require that visitors can only stay in self-contained accommodation; it had been noted that 20 campervans had been seen at West Bexington, and 40 on the Fleet during the previous week-end. Cllr Haynes understands that static caravan parks in Weymouth are already 85% booked for the whole summer, and the concern is that visitors could be turned away from Bournemouth and arrive in other locations to find that there is nowhere to stay. The Councils role will be restricted to the management of expectations with signage and other measures. Cllr Langham raised the issue of 'wild toileting' which had been widely reported in the media. Cllr Haynes advised that public toilets will be kept open but there is a funding issue, and also noted that there are no public toilet facilities at Durdle Door which is a problem.

Cllr Haynes commented in relation to the new Local Plan, which is currently in its first consultation period, and which provides for an additional 32,000 homes in Dorset over a 20-year period. Cllr Haynes noted that saying no to all development will open the door for developers as permission will be granted on appeal. The 3 'tier' system proposed by central government could be imposed and would mean that virtually all development could be pushed into North Dorset for example, with the AONB being wholly protected having effectively 'National Park' status. Cllr Haynes stressed that it is vital that a plan is agreed to prevent a free for all for developers.

Cllr Hayes was concerned in relation to the lack of action regarding Hawkes Field Farm and proposed that a meeting between the Chief Executive, the Head of Planning and M.P Simon Hoare and the Parish Council be arranged. The Chairman noted that the present occupants of Hawkes Field are now on the Electoral Roll and queried how this was possible, and that it appears that rules apply to everyone else but not in this case.

A written report from Cllr Haynes is attached.

5. OPEN FORUM:

Ian Bryan of the 'Save Hardy's Vale' campaign provided an update in relation to the proposed solar farm at Hazelbury Bryan. He noted that an application had not yet been received, but understood that although plans had been slightly amended, they included

provision for 151 acres of solar panels, 14 inverter transformers, 9 miles of fencing and 130 security cameras. He noted the results of a recent survey conducted by the applicants which showed that 80% of respondents were opposed to the proposal. Ian Bryan noted that whilst Hilton Parish Council was not a statutory consultee in relation to this application, the scheme would be very near to the Hilton parish boundary and be visible from the parish.

A resident of Hilton explained that he has an old septic tank which requires replacing and enquired as to the likely timescale for any sewerage infrastructure scheme. The Chairman explained that the survey conducted by the Parish Council has been conducted in order for the necessity for viability survey by Wessex Water to be assessed. The Chairman explained that the timescale for any work would be several years. SJ added that the purpose of the survey is to evaluate whether or not there is sufficient interest in a scheme and advised that the regulations concerning septic tanks should be referred to. CL noted that there will be charges for any infrastructure scheme.

MW raised an issue relating to damage to the village green in Melcombe Bingham on two occasions, one caused by a bin lorry and another by an oil delivery vehicle. MW thought that the incident involving the bin lorry had been unavoidable due to parked vehicles and suggested that residents move their bins before collection to make the process easier. A local resident has offered to re-seed and restore the green where it has been damaged.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 Sewerage – Mains connection working group report

The Chairman thanked all those involved in the delivery of the questionnaires. SJ advised that 13 'yes' responses and 1 'no' had been received by email thus far and all the results will be collated after 26th March.

6.2 Ansty Fibre progress

CJ noted that the work is about two weeks behind.

6.3 Website updates

The Chairman noted that some website updates had recently been made.

6.4 Ash die-back

MW advised that Cllr Northover had reported that work on trees affected by ash die-back has resulted in a fallen branch destroying the grit bin near Bulbarrow. The Clerk will seek a replacement.

6.5 Litter pick

CL advised that the litter pick has been arranged for the 13th and 14th March. The Parish Council agreed to provide £ 50 to fund the cost of chocolate oranges for those participating.

7. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Chairman noted that recent monthly meetings have been rather lengthy and proposed that the meetings for April and June are not held and that this is reviewed in July, with a focus on written reports. CL expressed the view that bi-monthly meetings can be rather long and if a councillor misses meetings there is a very long gap. SJ noted that the Clerks hours should be considered and was in favour of a trial for bi-monthly meetings. The Clerk noted that bi-monthly meetings are usual for small parishes without responsibility for assets such as play areas, recreation grounds, allotments and burial grounds, and commented

that these are usually better focussed. The Council **AGREED** to this proposal for the specified trial period, to be reviewed in July.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

Application reference P/FUL/2020/00470 Aller Cottage, Aller Lane, Lower Ansty, Dorchester, DT2 7PX – proposal to erect a replacement two storey dwelling with a detached garage (demolish existing dwelling).

The applicants attended the meeting and explained the proposal. The proposal is for a contemporary building using materials (flint, brick, pan tiles and slate tiles) sympathetic to those used in relation to a nearby listed building and is much smaller than an earlier scheme. The applicant confirmed that the new dwelling will exceed the footprint of the existing dwelling by just over 50% but this was not been an issue when a pre-application submission was considered by Dorset Council planners.

The applicants have consulted near neighbours and no objections have been raised in relation to size or design. It was noted that the nearest neighbour is largely unaffected by the proposal having only one small side window which faces the development.

The Council agreed to **APPROVE** the proposal subject to confirmation by near neighbours that they do not have any objections.

Application reference P/HOU/2020/00393 8 Hilton – Erect two storey rear extension (demolish conservatory)

GS and CL had visited near neighbours and delivered letters to which there has not been any response. In view of there being no declared objections to the proposal, it was agreed to **APPROVE** the application.

The Clerk requested that councillors submit comments concerning the Local Plan which will be collated before submission. CL commented that Hilton Parish being within the AONB will be protected and only if the tie on agricultural dwellings is removed would there be any issues.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT:

9.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stands at £ 11545.08 and the general reserve is £ 9,116.58, and that the finances are generally in good order. Notes in relation to budget progress have been circulated.

9.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason
01/02/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay January 2021
18/02/2021	£ 143.88	Justine McGuinness	Zoom reimbursement
01/03/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay February 2021

10. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

CJ has reported potholes along Aller Lane and the road to Hatherley, these have been fixed but have rapidly reappeared.

CL reported that the road from Bulbarrow to Stoke Wake, which is not in the Parish, has subsided and is in poor condition. The Clerk suggested that this could be reported as an emergency directly to Dorset Council who would hopefully respond quickly.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk has received this correspondence which has been circulated:

- i. 17/02/2021- Email from the 'Climate & Ecological support group' – meetings update and responses to the Dorset Local Plan.
- ii. 23/02/2021 - Email from Dorset Council concerning the Community Governance review. This was considered to be relevant to points made by CL and SJ as to whether Stoke Wake, and possibly Melcombe Horsey, could be included in Hilton Parish at a future date. It was noted that there is a fingerpost in Stoke Wake which is in poor condition and requires repair.
- iii. 24/02/2021 - Email from a resident to SJ concerning a letter he had sent relating to accident damage to old style metal railings in Hilton and the possible replacement of these with a barbed wire fence. CL proposed that in view of the importance of these railings the Clerk should write to the landowner requesting that consideration be given to the re-instatement of the railings of the same type. The Council **AGREED** to this course of action.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

Sewerage Survey Questionnaire - results evaluation and next steps
Community Governance Review - Parish Boundaries consideration
Phone Box alternative use – tourist information centre proposals
Additional grit bin suggestion

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.22

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 4th May 2021, by Zoom.

Signed(Chairman) Date

Dorset Councillors Report to Parish council for February 2021

Jill Haynes Dorset Councillor Chalk Valleys

As we move into nearly a year of Covid 19 restrictions and a particularly hard time for many in this last lockdown my post bag, phone calls and emails have never been so busy. Some are perfectly valid issues and need my intervention, but many are people just being very frustrated and sometimes worried with the situation and finding somewhere to vent their anger. It is happening to all members and to council senior officers as well. So I apologise that my report is a little late but I do try to respond to individuals first.

This dry spell and in particular the sunny weather at the end of February made many people try to break the lockdown. Not just local people wanting to get out a bit further afield, but we have been getting a large number of day visitors to the coast from outside the county. It was reported that there were some 20 camper vans a West Bexington that weekend alone. It is of course not permitted to travel during lockdown apart from essential reasons, however the start of the reductions in restrictions coupled with most over 60's now having the first vaccination seems to have let off the handbrake in many peoples minds!! The volume of visitors that we are likely to receive in Dorset from Easter onwards, but particularly in the summer, is a big concern to the Council. We will have very little control over this influx or their behaviour, but lessons have been learnt after the terrible problems in the Purbeck area last summer. We have an officer group working with partners like the coastguards, fire brigade, police to name but a few. We will be putting in place additional signage, additional parking areas and places for overnight campervans, and additional waste bin emptying and toilet cleaning. However, with very few people looking to holiday abroad and many caravan sites already 85% fully booked I feel it will be a difficult time.

Looking at the visitor issues last year one was disposable barbeques, and in particular the terrible fire in Wareham forest. It is extremely difficult to ban the sale or use of these in open countryside but we are going to be working with shop owners, landowners, National trust and of course Dorset Council owns country parks and beaches, to try to get an agreement to stop the use on beaches and vulnerable countryside.

The good weather has also brought about many people doing work in the garden and having a spring clean this has cause long queues at the tip!! Because of the nature of the sites the need to be on the edge of housing and are often down rather narrow roads. It is causing particular issues on some sites for local businesses and householders. Like other councils we are now actively looking to put in a booking system for trips to the tip. It will take a couple of months, but I will let you know when that will start.

Many people will have noticed the horrible amount of litter on our roadside verges, particularly the main roads. The council does pick the litter along main roads but it always becomes more noticeable at this time of the year when the countryside division do a "back cut" to remove brambles and seeded tree saplings from the back of the verge. The chopped-up paper and plastic is then much more difficult to remove. I have been working with the portfolio holder for highways to see if we can use machines that collect the brash as well as the litter in future years. I would also like to give a big thank you to those who collect as individuals or as a village spring clean in our rural areas. It is a disgusting and unnecessary and costs the council taxpayer a large amount of money we need to change the culture and make it a shameful thing to throw litter.

To finish on a really good note Dorset Council bid to central government for capital funding to support our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. Apparently, our strategy was held up as an exemplar and we were awarded the massive amount of £19,000,000 to make changes to the heating systems and insulation to our buildings. This was the largest amount by far awarded to any council!! This will replace oil boilers with air source heat pumps, put solar on the roofs of buildings and will reduce the councils carbon footprint by about 10%, while making some £450K savings in fuel costs.

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) (Vice-Chairman) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Marion Walbridge (MW) George Sotiriadis (GS)

IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Cllr McGuiness welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Northover

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr McGuiness accepted the nomination to continue as Chairman for the forthcoming year, and the Clerk received the Acceptance of Office declaration.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Langham accepted the nomination to continue as Vice-Chairman.

4. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO VARIOUS POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

These were agreed as follows:-

Cllr R Northover – Highways
Cllr G Sotiriadis – Planning
Cllr Jones - Trees

The allocation of other responsibilities, including footpaths, will be agreed in due course.

5. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL RETURN, STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Annual Return, Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance statement were duly approved. It was noted that the Internal Audit had been completed and there were no issues reported. The Clerk noted that the Parish Council continued as an exempt authority.

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 by remote conferencing facility (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) (Vice-Chairman) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Marion Walbridge (MW) George Sotiriadis (GS)

IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES: Apologies were accepted from Cllr Northover. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. The Chairman noted that she had compiled an Annual Report which has been circulated and is published below.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd March and 8th April 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CL declared an interest in relation in the Hartwell House planning item.

4. UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

A written report from Cllr Haynes had been received and is included within these minutes.

5. OPEN FORUM:

A representative of the Save Hardy's Vale campaign raised the issue of the Pulham Solar farm and enquired as to whether the Parish Council would comment on this issue by the 31st May. It was noted that the solar farm was very large, at 190 areas, and would be visible from Bulbarrow, the Wessex Ridgeway and other parts of the AONB; some councillors had mixed feelings about the project, noting that whilst it was large development, all are users of electricity, there would be worse places in Dorset to locate a scheme, and technological change may render the scheme obsolete in the future. It was noted that a similar sized scheme had though been approved in Spetisbury. The Chairman commented that opinion within the Parish Council was divided and as the Parish Council was not a statutory consultee, it should not make a formal comment, although all were free to make written comments to Dorset Council as individuals in a private capacity. The Clerk advised that if councillors did wish to make written comments, they may wish to state that they are Parish Councillors but making their comments in a personal capacity.

The matter of the Ruins Campsite was raised but the representative for the venture could not attend the meeting as he had planned. The Parish Council agreed to send a series of written questions.

CL reported that the litter pick had been very successful and thanked the Parish Council for providing the biscuits.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

6.1. Footpaths:

CJ had discussed a damaged stile near Brewery Farm with Cllr Northover. Cllr Northover would like to discuss this and other issues with the Dorset Rangers. The Clerk will provide their contact details.

6.2 Ansty Fibre progress

CJ noted that the scheme installation had progressed particularly on the Fox side of the road. The Chairman noted that there had been complaints with regard to discarded cables, broken pipes and about the how sites had been left in some places. CJ noted similar issues including damage to a telephone line. CJ will take these issues up with Wessex Internet.

6.3 Ash die-back

CJ reported an issue with a tree on the corner of the road running up to Bulbarrow; this will be dealt with shortly. CJ is also keeping an eye on trees running up to Coombe Wood and will be updating the map shortly. CJ reminded the meeting that signs of the disease include a blackened trunk, falling branches and reduced foliage.

7. SEWERAGE SURVEY RESULTS EVALUATION

SJ had submitted a report following the conclusion of the survey. SJ has suggested, in light of the unsatisfactory response from Wessex Water, which indicated that the scheme would not be viable, that the scheme application would not be taken further. SJ suggested that individual property owners make want to take the matter further. CJ enquired as to whether

Brightsmead had been included in the survey returns. The response from Wessex Water indicated that the distance between villages would be an issue.

It was agreed that the outcome of the survey should be communicated by means of the Village News and the Parish Council website. If individual householders or groups wish to take the matter further, they should be advised to consult Wessex Water directly.

The Chairman thanked the Working Group and the village shop for their work in arranging and holding the survey.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

8.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stood at £ 13,246.91 and the general reserve is £ 10,818.41, and that the finances are generally in good order, with both the part precept and the VAT Repayment having been received.

8.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Method	Reason
01/03/2021	SO	David Green	£ 231.60	Pay Feb 2021
17/03/2021	BACS	Catherine Langham	£ 54.00	Litterpick expenses
30/03/2021	SO	David Green	£ 231.60	Pay Mar 2021
08/04/2021	BACS	HMRC - PAYE	£ 166.20	PAYE
16/04/2021	BACS	Came & Co	£ 218.00	Insurance
30/04/2021	BACS	David Green	£ 231.60	Pay April 2021

8.3 Clerks expenses for April 2021 for £18.00 were approved.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

Application reference P/FUL/2021/00174 Construct outdoor swimming pool and lightweight pool maintenance shed, Hilton House Village Road, Hilton, Dorset, DT11 0DD.

The applicant attended the meeting and explained the pool would be located away from the main dwelling house and screened by trees and shrub, which will baffle any potential noise. The Parish Council agreed to **SUPPORT** this application

Application reference P/HOU/2021/00649 Demolish existing garage & erect new garage, Hartwell House Hartfoot Lane, Ansty, Dorset, DT2 7PF

The Chairman noted that the proposal involves the use of materials sympathetic to nearby buildings, would be screened by a hedge, and would have little impact on neighbouring properties. The Parish Council agreed to **SUPPORT** this application.

Alterations to the Cellnex mast at Bulbarrow have been proposed. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council is not a consultee in relation to this application and any comments would be need to be made by councillors in a personal capacity.

10. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

There were no issues mentioned other than the generally poor condition of the potholed road near Bulbarrow.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk had received correspondence which has been circulated:

- i. 05/04/2021 - Email from a resident concerning a dangerous bend at Mappowder. This had been reported to the Community Highways Officer who had looked at the location and who had reported back that it was not a particularly hazardous junction. He has, though, made arrangements to clear a blocked drain.
- ii. 30/04/2021 – Circular from the DAPTC concerning the future of remote meetings and HM Government’s ‘call for evidence’ review. It was agreed that the Parish Council wished it to be noted that the possibility of holding remote meetings should be a choice, that there is a time and cost saving arising from these, and that being able to hold remote meetings, say, in the winter would be beneficial. However, it was noted that not all councillors can participate in a remote arrangement.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

Phone Box alternative use – tourist information centre proposals
Additional grit bin suggestion

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 6th July 2021, arrangements to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.45

Signed(Chairman) Date

Annual Report from the Chair - May 2021

The last financial year has been stable for the Parish Council, financially. However, it was an extraordinary year for our community – for many quite destabilising.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Hilton Parish Council, like other organisations, has held public meetings via the use of video conferencing. A licence for Zoom was purchased to allow us to meet virtually. The Council has received planning applications as a statutory consultee through the year, despite Dorset Council’s notifications of applications being intermittent. The Council has pursued residents’ complaints, including pollution incidents and planning issues but has found that Dorset Council has been slow in responding or completely silent. Some of these experiences have been shared with the local MP.

While we went through lock-downs, our community spirit seemed to expand with countless acts of compassion shown to neighbours and the Parish Council played a part often via social media or phone calls to encourage and (where needed) to enable this. Particular attention was paid to elderly members of our community and those who are less proficient with digital communications. One example was celebrating VE day 2020, marking the 75th anniversary of the surrender of Nazi Germany in a socially distanced matter. It was a lovely afternoon, with people having their own ‘tea parties’ on drives or in their own gardens. Similarly, Easter 2020 and 2021, children were invited to join in a socially distanced egg hunt, and at Halloween there was a socially distanced ‘trick or treat’. The Council for the first-time sponsored community Christmas Trees and decorations, with a locally sourced tree purchased for Melcombe Bingham and Ansty and a donation was given to help meet the cost of a tree for Hilton. Thank you to the neighbours who donated decorations/lights and decorated the trees. Local residents have asked for this to be repeated and developed for Christmas 2021, which is to be discussed by the Parish Council.

Looking to the future, I hope that we can further develop a strong community spirit as we are known already as a very friendly place to live, work and visit. We have given a commitment to improving information for visitors, including using the Phone Box at the Ansty/Melcombe Bingham boundary. It is hoped that this will support local businesses that rely on tourism. This summer there will be a socially distanced ‘Teas on the Green’ on Saturday 21 August 2021, to raise funds for the church at Bingham’s Melcombe, which the Parish Council is asked to promote.

UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT
Parish Report for April 2021 - Jill Haynes, Chalk Valley Ward - Dorset Council

The third Lockdown seems to have had the right effect in Dorset and the figures for the last week in April were 11.5 per 100K in the Dorset Council area. There was sadly one death and four people were in hospital. The rate continues to fall week on week through the month. Social distancing still needs to be maintained but the measures are gradually being relaxed. The government ruling that no longer allows councils to hold virtual meetings is very unsatisfactory. We simply do not have the spaces to have appropriate social distancing. For example, the large auditorium which is the county hall council chamber can only have 18 people socially distanced. For a cabinet meeting there are some 25/30 people without any members of the public so it looks as if we will have to have the 9 Cabinet members in one room and a video link to officers and clerks possibly a third room for the public. Wembley stadium isn't big enough for the full council!!

In Children's services there are some very positive results coming through from the new transformation work with children and their families. The numbers of children in the council's care, including foster children, has fallen from 525 before Christmas to 442 this month. Dorset Council purchased a private school, St Marys, in December. The school is based on the Dorset /Wiltshire border near Shaftesbury. After an 8 week consultation the council has been given the go ahead to turn the school into a centre of excellence for children with special educational needs. The school has superb facilities and is ready to go with virtually no alterations. This will give the council the opportunity to provide for these children locally and we hope to bring many of those who are educated out of county, and who have to travel very long distances for their special educational needs, into the school. Providing this in-house setting should make considerable savings for the council as the out of county private provision is extremely expensive. In some cases, as much as £15k per week for a child.

Dorset Council has just opened up a new Community and Culture fund the link for the grants is here [Community and Culture Project Fund - Dorset Council](#) Please share this as widely as possible in your community. There are some quite strict criteria so please read all the documentation through before making an application.

Cllr Jill Haynes

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7pm at the Green, Melcombe Bingham, DT2 7TY

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (Chairman) (JMcG) Catherine Langham (Vice-Chairman) (CL) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Rodney Northover (RN) George Sotiriadis (GS) Marion Walbridge (MW)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. David Green, Clerk

- 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the outdoor Parish Council meeting.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Langham and Cllr Northover declared an interest in connection with the planning application noted below.

3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

Application No: P/CLE/2021/01369

Location: Hawkes Field Farm Hilton Blandford Forum DT11 0DN

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to continue the use of the former equestrian storage & office building and its curtilage as a dwellinghouse with curtilage (Class C3)

It was noted that the Parish Council had received advice from a planning consultant that the property had in fact been in mixed use, being ancillary to an equestrian operation, between April 2015 and March 2018, and had not been used as dwellinghouse. There was no documentary evidence to support continuous occupancy of the property prior to 1st April 2019. The planning consultant had advised that the claimed use would be unlawful.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to OBJECT to the granting of a Certificate of Lawfulness in relation to the application and it was agreed that the Clerk would make appropriate comments to the Dorset Council Planning Officer.

4. TO APPROVE ASSOCIATED EXPENDITURE

The Parish Council agreed to the expenditure of £ 350 for the planning advice received.

The meeting closed at 7.20, there being no further official business.

Chairman:

Date:

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th July 2021 at the Fox Inn, Lower Ansty, Dorset, DT2 7PN

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Rodney Northover (RN) George Sotiriadis (GS) Marion Walbridge (MW); Unitary Councillor Jill Haynes (JH), by Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk (DG)

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Langham. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first 'in person' Parish Council meeting after a long period of remote meetings.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings held on the 4th May and 18th 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** RN declared an interest in relation to the Hawkes Field planning update.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

4.1. The Ruins campsite

The Chairman noted that questions had been asked of the site operators and a written response received. The Parish Council understands that the campsite is now in full operation.

4.2 Ash die-back

CJ had provided written reports in relation to the progression of the problem around the villages; it was agreed that CJ would draft an item for the Village News drawing the attention of residents to signs of ash die-back (which include black mottled patches, falling branches and disappearing foliage), and explaining landowner responsibilities. (CJ)

4.3 New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

The Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council has introduced a new Code of Conduct which all Parish Councils could consider adopting. There is also a new electronic Register of Interests which must be completed by all Dorset Councillors by 30th September. The Clerk will send a link when this is available.(DG)

4.4 Verge cutting

CJ had received a telephone call relating to concerns regarding reduced road visibility arising from the absence of public verge cutting. JH advised that public verges are now only cut once per year and work in this area will be started this week. JH advised if any residents have issues concerning overgrown verges at a particular junction, these should be reported using the online portal.

5. UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

A written report from JH had been received and is included within these minutes. This provided very detailed information in relation to Dorset Councils waste handling arrangements and issues arising. JH advised that Dorset Council is planning to arrange a

number of weekly webinars which could potentially be shared at PC meetings. JH advised that the future of Dorset Council meetings is under review, with only a limited return to 'in person' meetings being envisaged. JH noted that a considerable amount of Dorset Council work is now being conducted remotely. JH was asked whether central government policy will be changed to allow the continuation of remote meetings in parishes; JH commented that the nature of 'rurality' is still not actually well understood by central government which expects that local communities should still meet in unsuitable village halls.

6. OPEN FORUM:

Adrian Simmons (AS) was introduced to the meeting and offered to act as the local representative for flooding issues. AS noted that Cheselbourne has a PC representative, and though while the issues concerning Hilton Parish were not as serious, it would be useful to have a point of contact in relation to providing information concerning flooding issues. AS would contact the members of the PC who live in Melcombe Bingham in the first instance as they would be the most affected by any events relation to the flooding from the local brook. It was agreed to encourage residents to sign up to the national flood alert system.

The Chairman had raised a complaint with the Post Office concerning the missing frontage of the post box near the Village Hall. They had advised that because it was a Victorian box, a spare part would take some time to source. GS subsequently reported that he has been advised that the part will be replaced within two weeks.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked long serving members of the Village Hall Committee who have recently retired and sent good wishes to the new Committee which has recently been formed.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

There were no new planning applications to consider.

The Clerk provided an update in relation to the meeting he had held with Dorset Councils Director of Place, John Sellgren, the Head of Planning, Mike Garrity and Cllr Haynes, to discuss Hawkes Field Farm.

The Clerk had impressed upon the Head of Planning the dismay of Hilton Parish in relation to how the situation has been handled over many years. It appeared that this was now understood within Dorset Council and a separate complaint concerning this issue is being reviewed. Mike Garrity shared concerns in relation to both the concept of a new 2 storey dwelling at this location and potentially unauthorised uses of buildings with the AONB. The applicants have been asked to submit a further Certificate of Lawful Use (CLEUD) application in relation to the recycling business and a new planning application concerning the gallop track. It was also noted that a new case officer is now handling both the new dwelling application and the current CLEUD application. The Clerk will keep the PC advised of any developments.

8. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

8.1 Christmas Preparations

The Chairman noted the success of the purchase of Christmas trees in 2020 for the Village Green at Melcombe Bingham and Hilton and agreed to form a working group to develop any ideas for Christmas 2021, which will report at the September meeting. It was noted that the Christmas tree and decorations at Hilton had though been left in place long after the Christmas period (JMcG).

8.2 Other Events

The Chairman noted that it is the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022, and, following the success of the street part for VE Day in 2020, the parish should consider how this could best be celebrated. This will be taken forward with a small working group (JMcG)

The matter of the parish contribution to the Queens Green Canopy event was considered. CJ suggested that oak saplings could perhaps be planted by children where instances of ash die-back have occurred. MW noted that a new Conservation and Climate Group has been formed in Cheselbourne and it has been suggested that the local gardening club could buy saplings to plant. SJ suggested that planting along the Jubilee Trail could also be considered. JMcG will take this forward.

9. WORKING GROUPS

9.1 Tourism Promotion

The Chairman has received two offers to assist with re-painting the phone box. CJ will locate the correct paint codes and order the specialist paint (CJ)

10. FINANCIAL REPORT:

10.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stood at £ 12,242.3, the general reserve at £ 9,813.81, and that the finances were generally in good order.

10.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason
05/05/2021	£ 18.00	David Green	Expenses (mileage)
18/05/2021	£ 173.40	DAPTC	Subscriptions
21/05/2021	£ 350.00	Parsonson Planning	Planning advice
01/06/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay May 2021
30/06/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay June 2021

10.3 Clerks expenses for May 2021 for £ 9.00 were approved.

11. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

The Chairman noted that a pine tree blocking a bridleway had now been removed.

11.1 Grit Bin proposal

SJ proposed that a grit bin is installed at the Hilton Hill 'T' junction; SJ noted that this was a very dangerous spot and vehicles often slid off the road at this point in the winter. SJ has been voluntarily gritting the junction for several years but considered that it would be better to keep a stock of grit at the junction. SJ advised that 110 litre bin would fit in at the location near the fingerpost. The Clerk has asked the Community Highways Officer if there are any issues concerning the siting of a bin at this location, and is waiting for a response. It was **AGREED** that a yellow bin should be obtained, subject confirmation by the CHO that this is acceptable (DG)

RN reported a poor quality temporary road repair near Aller Green Farm, where there is a water leak, and suggested that this clearly needs further work.

RN proposed that the Parish Council resume responsibility for cutting the grass around the War Memorial; apparently an offer to undertake this had been made and will be followed up. (JMcG)

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk had received correspondence which had been circulated, and specifically mentioned:

- i. 23/06/2021 Dorset Council – Community Governance review

This relates to the forthcoming upcoming Community Governance Review (CGR) which takes place every 10-15 years. Cllr Langham had previously proposed that Hilton Parish considers requesting amalgamation with Stoke Wake Parish, which is not represented by a PC or by a Parish Meeting. It was noted that Stoke Wake has only some 25 residents and they would probably be required to pay any precept raised by Hilton. The Clerk has made an initial enquiry with Dorset Council in relation to necessary procedures and whether the consent of those living in Stoke Wake would be required. A response was awaited. (DG)

The Chairman also raised the matter of the split of Melcombe Bingham into two parishes, which had been a long-standing issue. It was proposed that discussion of this matter should also be considered under the review.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

Community Governance review proposals
Christmas arrangements proposal
Queens Platinum Jubilee proposals
Speed Indicator Device consideration

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 7th September 2021, at the Fox Inn, Lower Ansty.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.13

Signed(Chairman) Date

UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Parish Report for June 2021 - Jill Haynes, Chalk Valley Ward - Dorset Council

This month I have done a number of councillor webinars in my portfolio role looking at our waste collection and where the waste goes after we have collected it. I thought that this month some of these facts and figures would be of interest to you.

The budget for waste collection at Dorset Council is around £32M. Just over £15M of this is in disposal of the waste. The collection vehicles and staff are operated from six depots across the county. As of this month all homes in the county have the same service, a weekly food waste collection and a fortnightly black bin collection and recycling collection with a separate glass and battery collection on this week.

We collect about 190,000 tons a year, and over 60% of this is recycled. We are proud to be in the top five for our waste services in the country and would even reach the top spot if our collections were not more expensive than urban authorities due to our rural area. All our waste is collected and taken to transfer stations where it is bulked up and taken in larger vehicles for processing.

Black Bin Waste

A normal dustcart can hold ten tons of compacted black bin waste. Each full lorry costs the council approximately £1200 to dispose of the contents after the costs of collection. After bulking up the waste is delivered to a site near Wimborne operated by New Earth Solutions. Here the waste is treated and any compostable materials like food waste, garden waste and dog poo are removed and treated in a high temperature plant to sterilise. The residual from this process is then used to back fill large quarries like the china clay quarries in Cornwall. Any tins are taken out for recycling and the residual matter including film, nappies, and you know what else you put in the black bin!! is compacted and wrapped like big bale silage. These are then taken for refuse derived fuel, large incinerators that create electricity and which also use the heat in other outlets. Currently the bulk of or waste goes to Europe where the plants are very efficient. However, from September this will go to a new state of the art plant at Bridgewater and the heat is going to be piped to the Muller dairy close to the site.

Recycling/green bin

The current contents of our green bins are

73% Newspaper, mixed papers and cardboard

7% plastic bottles

6% mixed plastics

4% ferrous cans

3% aluminium cans

7% residue we don't want like film and food waste

Dorset council could save £1.5M a year if we could stop the food waste contaminating the recycling bins!!! The cost for this recycling can range from -£50 to +£10 per tonne depending on quality and markets. Currently we are being paid for materials as there is a shortage of quality plastics. Again, the material is bulked up and taken to a very specialist plant in Shotton North Wales. It goes this far as they have the ability to recycle the bulk of our materials and pay us the best price. Much of this is because Dorset still process a lot of newsprint and this along with the mixed card and cardboard goes directly to a huge paper mill next door for reuse. Your milk bottles, plastic bottles and cans are all put back into the process to be used again.

We have a continuous programme of Right Stuff right Bin to try to get people to ensure that packaging is clean if put into the recycling and does not include food waste. It is a battle as many packaging producers put on their packaging that it is recyclable when in the form that they provide it is not. For example, plastic lined or wax lined cardboard containers have to be removed to as currently they cannot be processed at the mill.

Glass

The technology has improved considerably in recent years and can now sort the various colours of glass down to 6mm. All our glass goes into making more glass bottles. However, we only want glass bottles we don't want broken wine glasses, window glass or Pyrex as this is a different grade and cannot go back into the system. Please put these other types of glass into the black bin, wrapped in paper or film if broken. Yes, leave the metal tops on the bottles or jars the process easily deals with them and recycles them too.

Garden Waste

The brown bin garden waste is again bulked up at the transfer stations and the household recycling centres and mostly taken to Eco Solutions at Parley for Windrow composting. There are two other small facilities at Stourpaine and Weymouth. The material is put through a massive shredder and laid out in long lines to compost. The whole site is about 8 acres but does wood recycling as well. It is quite a scientific process with probes regularly monitoring the temperature ups and downs to

determine when the heap need to be turned. The material is then sold in bulk to landscapers and the like.

Food Waste

The food caddy collection again is taken to depot to be bulked up and then goes to the anaerobic digester at Piddlehinton. This is a top end facility which feeds energy back into the grid from the process and well as using the spare heat generated to supplement the nearby grain store. The end product is a sludge that can go back on agricultural land.

Batteries - We will recycle all kinds of domestic battery, **but they must be kept separate!!** Every week somewhere in the country there is a fire either in the lorries or at a plant because batteries have been put in with the waste. In particular the lithium batteries are lethal as the still have so much energy left in them.

So, a quick run through about waste and what happens to it, it's a complex subject so rather a longer than normal report. Please let me have you comments, questions or feedback. Best wishes, Jill

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at the Fox Inn, Lower Ansty, Dorset, DT2 7PN

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Clive Jones (CJ) Rodney Northover (RN) George Sotiriadis (GS) Marion Walbridge (MW); Unitary Councillor Jill Haynes (JH), by Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE: Five members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk (DG)

- 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings held on the 6th July 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 4. MATTERS ARISING:**

4.1. Telephone Box

The Chairman noted that the telephone box has been prepared for repainting. It was agreed that 'Information' signs and the Tourist Information 'logo' would be displayed. The back of the box will be used to show maps of the area.

4.2 Ash die-back

CJ reported that the Village News article concerning ash-die back had been recently published. CJ was keeping an eye on several problem trees: one near the Village Hall, one near the Fox Inn, at Coombe Wood Hill and one in Aller Lane near the Church. MW and CL agreed to contact affected landowners to discuss the issue.

4.3 Post Box

The Chairman reported that the door of the Victorian post box had still not been repaired despite complaints to Post Office Customer services. It was suggested that social media be used in order to draw attention to the issue and to encourage the Post Office to resolve the problem.

4.4 Verge cutting

It was reported that cutting of the War Memorial verge has now resumed.

4.5 Defibrillator

Status reports had been registered by GS and there were no issues.

5. UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

A written report from JH had been received and is included within these minutes. JH discussed the planning issues relating to Church Row noted below.

6. OPEN FORUM:

A resident raised the issue of uncut hedgerows and dangers of these on road bends particularly at Ansty Cross. It was noted though that this is a landowner responsibility.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

7.1 New Application: **P/LBC/2021/03141 and P/HOU/2021/01937** **Hambleton Cottage, The Knapp, Hilton, DT 0DG**

Formation of a new access and parking area & replacement of a septic tank

The applicants attended the meeting and explained the necessity for the work which serves the purpose of both improving road safety and allowing a new water treatment plant to be installed. The proposal involves constructing a bridge across the stream which will allow off-road parking in front of the property. At the same time a new water treatment plant will be installed to replace a failed and expensive septic tank, this would be impossible without creating a bridge access. The visual impact of the alteration will be minimal and the application also includes provision for the installation of a post mounted electric vehicle charging point. A 40-year-old cherry tree, which is nearing the end of its life, will be replaced by the same species and wooden gates will be installed to match those of neighbouring properties. Letters of support for the scheme had been received from all near neighbours.

The proposal was unanimously **SUPPORTED** by the Parish Council.

7.2 Existing applications related **P/HOU/2021/00854** (15 Church Row, Hilton) and **P/HOU/2021/00850** (Old Brock Cottage, Hilton)

SJ noted that the Parish Council understands that these applications are likely to be refused by the Planning Officer, on the basis that only a single storey proposal is suitable for the area, the properties having been designated as 'non designated heritage assets'. SJ asked JH to explain the term 'non designated heritage asset' and to explain why Planning do not seem to make site visits to review applications.

JH explained that 'the term non designated heritage asset refers to the lowest category of properties 'of note', but it does not mean that they have to be of any particular construction. JH explained that Planning Officers make extensive use of Google Earth when reviewing applications to minimise the need to make visits; only if it is apparent that a proposal is still unclear after a remote view would a site visit be made.

JH is unhappy with the conclusions the Planning Officer has drawn in relation to both of these applications, and understands that without these two-storey alterations for family reasons, houses of this type are likely to become holiday lets and will not be permanent homes for local people. JH will be requesting that both applications are considered before the Planning Committee and is waiting for the necessary forms to submit the request for a committee hearing.

The applicants, who attended the meeting, explained that the Planning Officer appeared to not have taken account of the fact that the extensions cannot be seen from the road or from a near public footpath.

7.3 **Hawkes Field**

The Clerk reported that there was no update in relation to either the new dwelling or the Certificate of Lawfulness application.

The Head of Planning had reviewed the complaint as to how the Hawkes Field situation has been handled over a number of years. He had acknowledged a communication failure on the part of Dorset Council and had advised that it is usual to use Certificate of

Lawfulness process to test evidence of occupancy claims but little can be said publicly in relation to enforcement activity.

8. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk advised that a submission in relation to the forthcoming Community Governance review must be made by 28th October.

There is a proposal that Stoke Wake should be included in any boundary change on the basis that the community is not well served in terms of representation and there are ongoing issues relating to road maintenance in that parish.

There is also the proposal that Melcombe Horsey parish is brought into Hilton Parish because the village of Melcombe Bingham is effectively 'cut in two' by the parish boundary, which is not a satisfactory situation.

The Council agreed that probably two additional councillors would be required with these boundary changes to fully represent the new parish. Councillors will discuss any possible name change before the application is submitted.

9. PARISH SPEED SURVEY AND SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE CONSIDERATION

SJ reported that there is a perception in the villages that excessive speeding is a problem.

SJ noted that there have been suggestions that introducing a 20-mph limit in the parish under the '20 is Plenty in Dorset' campaign may be worth considering. However, the process whereby a Traffic Regulations Order (TRO) is implemented is both expensive and complex; it would be at least 18 months for a TRO to be in place even if approval could be obtained.

SJ and the Clerk had met the Dorset Council Road Safety Team and assessed 'hotspots' where speeding may be an issue. The Road Safety Team have suggested that surveys be conducted at 4 sites in Hilton and Lower Ansty/Melcombe Bingham and provided a quote for conducting the surveys. The Clerk reported that Melcombe Horsey parish have indicated that they would be prepared to contribute to a quarter of the cost of these. The net cost to Hilton Parish of the surveys (assuming a contribution from Melcombe Horsey) would be around £581 plus VAT.

The Clerk advised that the cost of the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) is around £1,500 each plus £300 to £500 for the necessary poles and solar chargers. The Council may require two SID's on rotation to cover any problem areas. The Clerk noted that SIDs are widely considered to be a very effective tool for influencing driver behaviour when installed on rotation, which can be carried out by volunteers.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **APPROVE** the commissioning of the surveys; the issue will be reviewed when the survey results are known.

10. REVIEW OF PC MEETING FREQUENCY AND VENUE

The Parish Council agreed to continue meeting on a bi-monthly basis at the Fox Inn venue.

11. NEW CODE OF CONDUCT ADOPTION

The Clerk explained that the new generic Code of Conduct, as adopted by Dorset Council, and based on the Local Government Association model code, was an improvement in terms of detail regarding Councillor responsibilities on the previous Code agreed some 10 years earlier.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct forthwith. The Clerk advised that the new electronic Register of Interests will be launched on 20th September and he will send a link when this is available. This must be completed by 30th October 2021 at the latest. The new electronic Register will enable any changes to be rapidly notified.

12. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

12.1 Christmas preparations

The Chairman noted that the Christmas Trees provided in Hilton and Melcombe Bingham in 2020 were a great success and proposed that the Parish Council provide the same this year.

It was agreed that £50 would be donated to Hilton Church for a tree in the village. The provision of a tree for Melcombe Bingham would be considered at the next meeting

12.2 Queens Platinum Jubilee Tree planting and Queens Jubilee weekend 2022

The Chairman noted that 2022 marks a historic occasion, with Queen Elizabeth II being the only British monarch to be on the throne for 70 years.

The Chairman suggested a public meeting be held towards the end of September to consider how best to mark the week-end. Preparations already being made include the production of bunting by the sewing group. The Chairman suggested that items likely to be in short supply – such as Union flags should be bought in advance. CL suggested that a marquee be reserved for use by the Parish and a flower festival could be considered.

CJ advised that he may have up to 500 oaks that could be planted under the Queens Green Canopy initiative.

13. FINANCIAL REPORT:

13.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stood at £ 11,391.42, the general reserve at £ 8,962.92 and that the finances were generally in good order.

13.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason
12/07/2021	£ 166.20	HMRC	PAYE
30/07/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay July 2021
30/07/2021	£ 30.00	DAPTC	Course - CoC
18/08/2021	£ 73.97	Clive Jones	Paint for Tel Box
31/08/2021	£ 231.60	David Green	Pay August 2021

13.3 Agreed Payments

The Church clock donation of £ 50 was agreed.
A donation to the coffee morning of £ 30 was agreed.
Clerk's expenses for June & July 2021 for £ 37.45 were approved.

13.4 External Auditor

It was confirmed that John Paul would be appointed as External Auditor for 2022 and a fee of £70 would be payable.

The Parish Council expressed thanks to Pamela Rees-Boughton for completing the audit over the past few years.

14. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

SJ reported that the grit bin had arrived and would be installed with the assistance of Cllr Northover.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk had received correspondence which had been circulated, and specifically mentioned:

i. 13/08/2021 Dorset Council – Parking Strategy review

It was noted that this provided for the introduction of parking permits for shoppers which were probably a good idea in terms of encouraging visits to Dorset towns.

15. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

Budget 2022/23 proposal
Queens Platinum Jubilee event
Speed Survey progress
Hawkes Field update
Phone Box progress

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 2nd November September 2021, at the Fox Inn, Lower Ansty.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.45

Signed(Chairman) Date

UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Parish Report for August 2021 - Jill Haynes, Chalk Valley Ward - Dorset Council

August is always a quieter month for us councillors and there have certainly been a lot less meetings as staff take annual leave and try to spend some down time with their families. However, for many members of staff this month has been very stressful managing the considerable numbers of visitors to our county having a UK holiday while not being able to travel due to the pandemic. Everything from traffic and parking management, pop up campsites and extra rubbish, particularly in our costal areas. There has also been some very poor behaviour, much alcohol induced, at night. So our highways and regulatory staff have been flat out dealing with the influx.

We have been working in a much more collaborative way with our police and blue light colleagues, this started at the first lockdown but as continued and grown into a strong partnership which each organisation understanding the issues of the other much more clearly now and able to support where necessary.

During the summer month with the better weather, we try to progress with road maintenance. In the very busy holiday season, we try to keep away from the main roads and work on the smaller side streets and rural roads to avoid large disruption. At the beginning of the Dorset Council a survey was done of all the highway surfaces. There needed to be a programme of work to return the network to a good order after insufficient investment in prior years. The good surfaces were marked up for treatment with chip and tar in order to preserve the quality of the surface. This preventative work can add years to a surface life if done at the right time and is very much cheaper

than replacing the tarmac. For example chip and tar costs about £2.50 a square meter and a light top resurface is about £8 a square meter with dig out and replace being between £18 and £20 a square meter. So if people say why are they doing that road when this road is so much worse you know why, its preventative so that we can spend the money on the roads that need our proper attention. It will take a number of years to get back on track, but we need to slow the deterioration on the good surfaces while we replace the bad surfaces.

September always feels a bit like starting back at school with a lot of work to be done and a work programme going through until mid 2022. We still don't know when we will be back to face to face meetings but I'm sure many informal meetings will continue to be held virtually. In my area I am working on three big strategies - libraries, customer services and community engagement along with a review of our leisure services. All of these will include at least one public consultation along with the due process of overview committee and Cabinet. In other Cabinet portfolios there is the Local Plan, National bus strategy, Climate Change, affordable housing, SEND Children, safeguarding of adults, and the building better lives programme for older people. On top of all this we will be entering into the process for setting the budget for the next financial year, so its eyes down and lots of work to do.

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at the Fox Inn, Lower Ansty, Dorset, DT2 7PN

PRESENT: Cllrs Justine McGuiness (JMcG) (Chairman) Catherine Langham (CL) Shulla Jaques (SJ) Rodney Northover (RN) Marion Walbridge (MW); in addition, Unitary Councillor Jill Haynes (JH), Clive Jones (CJ) George Sotiriadis (GS) attended by Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public and Mr. David Green, Clerk (DG)

1. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 7th September 2021 were agreed and signed the Chairman.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs Langham & Northover in relation to Hawkes Field Farm.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

4.1. Telephone Box

The Chairman noted that the telephone box has now been repainted and thanked Marc for his excellent work. 'Information' signs will be ordered shortly and gold leaf will be applied to the top of the box; cork tiles will be installed inside for displaying posters and an encased map will be fitted on the exterior of the box.

4.2 Ash die-back

The Chairman noted that a new ash-die back map had been recently produced by CJ. This will be added to the Facebook page.

4.3 Post Box

The Chairman confirmed that she had made a forceful complaint to the Post Office concerning their failure for over a year to repair the door of the Victorian post box located on what is a listed and locally significant building.

4.4 Speed Survey

SJ reported that the speed survey equipment had been installed in several locations and results are awaited; this will be followed up.

4.5 Old Brewery Hall refurbishment

The Chairman thanked the Village Hall committee for their work in repainting and refurbishing the hall.

5. UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

JH has been allocated a new portfolio of 'Corporate Development and Transformation'.

Dorset Council is in the process of discussed budgets and how best to address the £ 22 million funding shortfall. Much of this has arisen in Adult Social Care (ASC) with patients being more rapidly discharged from hospital which has put pressure on services.

A 'spend to save' initiative has produced some cost savings with children's services with the acquisition of St Mary's School near Shaftesbury.

The Council is working on a 'hedge to hedge' initiative to improve the co-ordination of utility services working along the county's roads.

It was noted that Dorset has some of the highest Council Tax charges in the country, primarily due to town 'add ins', and because of high police and fire service costs.

JH has not seen the Local Plan report for the North Dorset area but there will be briefings for councillors in the spring before the review is conducted.

6. OPEN FORUM:

It was noted that the new committee is now in place at the Old Brewery Hall and the management of the facility had improved after a period of stagnation. The Badminton Club though has ceased due to an absence of willing participants and very few younger players. The requirement for CRB checks had been an obstacle to attracting anyone to run the youth section and work commitments appeared to be dissuading others. GS and MW will discuss with the committee if the Parish Council can assist.

The issue of a possible car sharing scheme was raised. The Chairman noted that the issue of Community Transport had been looked at the past but the demand was limited, though she thought that informal arrangements were not uncommon.

The issue of overgrown and missing road signs was raised – photos of locations will be submitted for referral to the Community Highways Officer.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, DECISIONS & ISSUES

7.1 Application No: P/CLE/2021/02893 Hawkes Field Farm Hillside Hilton DT11 ODN - Certificate of Lawfulness to use land and buildings for parking of heavy goods vehicles and vans Hawkes Field

A representative of the applicant attended the meeting and explained that equestrian activity at the site had commenced in 2009 and this involved the parking of one large vehicle on the site and several smaller vehicles (3.5 tone vans), which were not considered to be heavy goods vehicles; in addition there were visiting vehicles such as farriers and straw suppliers; she explained that the textile recycling business also now operates from the site and involves the parking of one large vehicle at the premises for textile collection, plus several smaller vehicles.

It was noted that the Vehicles Operators licences, produced as evidence of continuous use of the premises to park heavy goods vehicles, in fact showed Sandhills Farm, Holwell, as the 'operating centre'. The applicant's representative, when asked to explain this said that the situation had been 'complex'. The applicants representative when asked what would happen if vehicles could not be kept on the premises said that the business would have to close.

It was also noted that a large van is frequently parked at the road entrance to the premises overnight which looks very out of place. The applicant's representative said this was only occasional for delivery purposes for stock to be taken to Reading or Milton Keynes and the vehicle was parked by the road to prevent light disturbance to residents and horses when the van leaves very early in the morning.

It was also noted that the application concerned premises in the centre of the AONB which had caused considerable disquiet to local residents.

The Clerk noted that the application does not appear to be supported by the evidence presented in the application and that this would have to be considered by the case officer. The Council agreed to raise an Objection to the application and the Clerk would respond to the comment's deadline of 3rd November.

In relation the Certificate of Lawfulness application P/CLE/2021/01369 – to continue the use of the former equestrian storage & office building and its curtilage as a dwelling – the Clerk confirmed that has been refused by the planning officer. The applicant's representative advised that this application had only been made because they had been asked to submit this by Dorset Council.

8. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

8.1 Queens Platinum Jubilee event

The Chairman reported that over 50 people had attended the meeting to discuss arrangements for the Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend. It had been agreed will be three activity 'hubs':

- i) Hilton Church – there will be a flower festival and a music event
- ii) Old Brewery Hall – there will an exhibition celebrating the 70-years of the Queens reign
- iii) The Green at Melcombe Bingham – marquee events

In addition to this there will some lunches, garden events and the Fox will be holding a 'Race Day'. There may also be a beacon lighting event at Bulbarrow. The Chairman said the weekend will aim to involve the whole community including Melcombe Horsey parish.

The event will require the purchase of some flags and hire of exhibition stands to be funded from Parish Council reserves.

9. BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2022/2023

The Clerk has proposed that the precept be raised by £ 162 from £ 5,450 to £ 5,612 for 2022-2023. The Clerk explained that there are considerable inflationary pressures in the economy and the Parish Council is not immune to these. The effect of setting this budget on Band D Council Tax would be an increase of 91 pence for the year.

It was agreed that an incremental pay increase for the Clerk should be back-dated.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT:

13.1 Finance report:

The Clerk reported that the bank balance stood at £ 13,824.92, the general reserve at £ 11,396.42 and that the finances were generally in good order, the precept instalment having been received. A contribution of £ 193.75 towards the cost of the village speed survey had been given by Melcombe Bingham parish.

13.2 Retrospective payments authorised:

Date	Amount	Payee	Reason
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08/09/2021	£	50.00	H & A Church (clock)	Grant
08/09/2021	£	37.45	David Green	Expenses
3009/2021	£	231.60	David Green	Pay Sept 2021
12/10/2021	£	166.20	HMRC - PAYE	PAYE

13.3

Grant Application

A grant application by Hilton PCC was considered. This related to proposed expenditure of £ 2,150 relating to new lighting and an upgraded power supply provision, the annual cost of the churchyard gardener and the repair of the church roof alarm.

It was noted that no supporting financial information had been provided in relation the application, although the Parish Council understands that the PCC does have substantive reserves. CL explained that these are really retained for emergency repairs and would not ordinarily be used for new expenditures such as new lighting.

It was agreed that the PCC should be asked to provide documentary confirmation of the level of their reserves and to explain how the cost of the proposed expenditures would be met if the Parish Council agreed to a partial grant towards some of these costs, with a matching grant being a possibility.

It was noted that Hilton Church is a widely used community facility and is not only a place of religious worship; CL noted that the church organises many fund-raising events in order to meet the annual diocese charge.

11. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY:

11.1 Grit Bin

RN reported that the grit bin had been installed. The Clerk advised that this bin has been classified as a 'community' rather than a 'strategic' bin and therefore would not be filled free of charge. The Clerk will arrange for a salt delivery to RN for distribution around the parish.

11.2 Signage at the Ford

It was noted that several vehicles had recently become stuck in the ford and the suggestion had been made for the signage to be improved to dissuade people from using this route.

The Clerk advised that signage at the ford at Devils Brook had been checked by the Community Highways Officer and had been found to be satisfactory. Dorset Highways have said that they would not give permission for any additional signage at this location.

It was noted that users of the ford do so at their own risk and should be more vigilant before proceeding to cross. It was agreed that this issue should be closed.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk had received correspondence which had been circulated, and specifically mentioned:

- i. **20/10/2021 – email Dorset Local Access recruitment** – relating to the recruitment of volunteers for a rights of way/open spaces forum.
- ii. **27/10/2021 – email Dorset Council Comms** – concerning local parish interest in the possible installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. It was noted that this should be kept under consideration, if for example, there was a request for an EV charging point at the Village Hall. The Clerk noted that it was likely that in a rural area such as Hilton it is likely that interested householders are likely to require their own installation for which there are HM Government grants of £350 towards the cost available. CJ noted that the costs of installing EV points on commercial sites are not inconsequential.

- iii. **27/10/2021 – email from the DAPTC and reply by Dorset Council** – these concerned Local Plan consultation, Neighbourhood Plans and provided confirmation that Dorset Council will no longer send 'neighbour notification' letters for planning applications, unless these are required by legislation.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

Budget 2022/23 finalisation and precept request
Speed Survey progress
Queens Platinum Jubilee event progress

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 4th January 2022 at the Fox Inn, Lower Ansty.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20.40

Signed(Chairman) Date

Report to the Parish Council October 2021

Jill Haynes, Chalk Valleys Ward

Dear Councillors

This will be a brief report this month as I have been given a new portfolio role and have been frantically meeting people and reading up in order to get up to speed. I am very pleased to have been given the area of Corporate Development and Transformation. This includes the Broadband superfast and gigabit roll out. HR for the whole council, performance management and most particularly the oversight of the spend to save schemes that will make a big difference to the quality of service that the council provides to the public. I will provide an update on those next month.

We are currently, like the towns and parishes, moving into the budget setting process for 22/23. The council has come out of the pandemic with a considerable overspend not covered by Government funding. We will be holding two all day workshops with officers and all councillors to discuss how we close the £22M current gap. We do have plans for the medium term which will make a big difference going forward but there still needs to be reductions to resolve the short-term deficit.

The budget does seem to have helped a bit and certainly we were expecting further cuts to our funding which now do not look like happening. We will probably be taking the two percent inflationary council tax rise and will be debating the additional one percent for Adult Social Care. We have considerable pressure in that area at the moment and some £14M of the overspend comes from ASC. This is due to a number of factors: Not enough people to do the work and hence a rapid rise in the price we are having to pay both for care at home and in care homes. In Dorset a very large number of people who pay for their own care and quite frankly a lot of greed larger care home businesses putting up the prices which everyone has to pay as there is no alternative. Finally, to create the perfect storm the hospitals needing to get people out of hospital much sooner than they normally would do to try to catch up on the operation backlog and so those coming out into Council care need more care and cost more. More on that budget setting process next month too.

Lastly, I would like to say a massive thank you to all those who went out yesterday in the terrible storm and flooding to help people in their neighbourhood. It came with such force there was little anyone could do at the time to stop damage just try to keep the water running and clear the trees. It's horrible for those poor people who had water in the house let's hope for some better days to help with the drying out. It is import to let the council know if you did get flooded as this will allow us to use the data to work with other agencies to try to work up schemes of work to stop it happening in future.