Minutes for the meeting on 26th July 2021,

7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall.

Present – Cllr Caesley, Cllr Smith, Cllr Paley, Cllr Coverdale, Jodie Carter (clerk), Dorset Council Cllr Penfold, 6 members of public.

26.07.01 To acknowledge the resignation of the chairman and appoint a new chairman/vice-chair.

Due to personal circumstances Paul Wells has resigned as a member of the parish council therefore we must propose a new chairman – we would like to thank him for all his efforts on the parish council and as the chairman over his duration. Cllr Caesley is prepared to stand as chair until Easter 2022.

Chairman – Roger Caesley - proposed by Cllr Coverdale, seconded by Cllr Smith.

Vice-chair – Richard Paley - proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Coverdale.

26.07.02 To accept apologies.

None.

26.07.03 To approve the draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th May 2021 and the extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 29th June.

10th May – approved and signed by the chairman.

29th June – approved and signed by the chairman with one amendment (Cllr smith noted that the spend over £100 has not be put on the website since 2017)

26.07.04 Open Meeting

Report from Dorset Council Cllr Penfold

Dorset council still have virtual meetings. There is a delay in land searches as house sales are high. We have help available for people regarding bills if they wish to contact the council or CAB. Low number of covid cases in our area at the moment.

Who is responsible for stiles on footpaths - it was believed that the landowner is responsible.

Footpaths – an article was read regarding landowners and states that any pre 1949 rights of way not registered before 2026 can be shut off, it was suggested that the new officer takes this on board.

**Following the Open Meeting the Public will be encouraged to remain but shall not take part in subsequent discussions unless expressly requested by the Chairman.**

26.07.05 Matters to be discussed:

* Update on Telephone Kiosk and Complaint to the LG&SC Ombudsman.

Unfortunately, the ombudsman has declined to get involved as this is not part of his remit. Therefore, as Dorset Council are not prepared to take this further, we are now left without a telephone kiosk.

* Update on Covid-19.

No news to report. The support infrastructure is still there if needed.

* Update on MOPC response to proposal of a Dorset National Park

We have not heard back from this after our response. No decision has been made to date. Several parish councils and Chris Loder himself are not happy with this. **Cllr Penfold to enquire.**

* Agenda and Minutes (Cllr Smith)

The council and clerk have agreed to the handbook that Cllr Wells circulated regarding the time frame for minutes and agendas. It was also suggested that councillors respond/acknowledge emails within 1 to 2 days as this helps the clerk and other councillors.

* Playground - ROSPA Report & Actions (Review Paper to Be Circulated)

The last ROSPA report stated that the main swings need replacing, Paul Wells came across a company called Caledonia Play – a quote was received for installing the new swings with metal legs for £2045 + VAT. It was suggested that the council remove the two sets of swings and replace with one set with one toddler swing seat and one normal swing seat – **it was decided that providing the work can be done for the cost of £2250 or under (excluding VAT) that this project can go ahead. It was agreed to take a vote, 3 members voted in favour, 1 member voted against. It was also agreed that a fundraiser will be held to raise funds for this – clerk to organise this.**

* Footpaths Officer - Resignation of Barbara Harris & new appointee.

Mrs Harris has resigned as footpaths officer; we would like to thank her for her efforts during this duration. David Armstrong has done a survey of the paths and is prepared to take on the role – **Clerk to contact him.**

* To agree on the location of the September PC Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting would be postponed for a week and will be held on 20th September, being held in Reading Room (pending Covid rules).

* Tennis Club bench – Update

The bench is arriving tomorrow for the tennis club. It was agreed at the last meeting to purchase a bench for the boules although this has not yet happened, the clerk has asked Mr Evans to contact the company for a new quote and forward the details.

* Highway Faults – letter from Mr Evans

Items 1,2 and 3 are closed. Item 1 – they did fill in the hole but failed to remove the debris. 2 and 3 – wrong time of year to complain about flooding although they have been here to remove the grit from the drains. There is a running down Barton Hill which most likely means they are filled with mud – Mr Evans/Cllr Paley will continue to press to sort out the issues.

Regarding the hedges near the Reading Room – it was agreed that the clerk would contact Mr Evans and ask him to contact the landowner or report this online via Dorset Council.

To discuss tractor traffic throughout the village – the clerk has spoken to Oliver Adderley regarding traffic, he has kindly offered to contact the clerk when traffic is likely to increase – **it was agreed to put this on the website, Cllr Coverdale and Cllr Paley to do a leaflet drop to the entire village and ask them if they wish to be informed to contact the clerk and information will be provided via email.**

The clerk would like to make residents aware that any items can be reported to Dorset Council – the more reports, the better!

26.07.06 Finance

* To approve the financial statement

Approved and signed.

26.07.07 Planning Applications

No applications received.

26.07.08 Correspondence

* DAPTC E-News 25th June 2021
* Climate and Ecological Emergency Support Group meeting notes from 16 June and next meeting information.
* DAPTC E-News 2nd July 2021
* Latest news and information from Dorset Council, Friday 02 July
* Notes from extraordinary meeting - 04/07/21 – Letter from Mr Evans
* DAPTC E-News 9th July 2021
* DAPTC 2021 Annual General Meeting
* Oliver Adderley – letter regarding trees

26.07.09 To clarify decisions made during the meeting.

Highlighted in bold.

26.07.10 Date of the next meeting

20th September 2021 (venue to be confirmed due to Covid restrictions)

Agenda items –

Queens Jubilee

Meeting finished at 21.14