

# Parish Council of Langton Matravers

[www.langtonmatravers-pc.org](http://www.langtonmatravers-pc.org)

## Minutes of a Council Meeting held in St George's Church on Thursday 9th January 2020 at 7 pm.

Present: Cllr W Knight in the Chair: Cllrs P Christie, P White, D Pearson, P Loudoun, A Bell, I Vaughan-Arbuckle.

There were 8 members of the public present. Dorset Cllr Brooks also attended.

Due to a technical problem, the meeting was not audio-recorded.

1. Apologies for absence: Christopher Hedley (RoWLO).

2. Declarations of Interest / Grant of Dispensations. None.

4. RoWLO's Report: Mr Hedley had said that there were no footpath issues to note for January.

5. Dorset Councillors' Report. There are plans to increase funding for **Adult Social Care and Children's Services** in the budget. The **Climate Emergency Panel** are working to stop employee use of single use plastics and have received over 200 responses to its request for **climate-friendly ideas** from the public. The deadline for **September school places** is the 15<sup>th</sup> January. The Dorset Community Fund are encouraging '**recycling**' of **winter fuel payments** to those in fuel poverty; to either bid for funding or to donate, call them on 01202 670815, or contact Purbeck Citizens' Advice to find out more. Cllr Christie asked whether the emerging Purbeck Local Plan's **2<sup>nd</sup> Homes Policy** is still effectively 'active'?. Cllr Brooks said that a recent planning application for appeal from developers of a proposed site in Lulworth had not been approved by the Eastern Area Planning Committee. The Local Plan Inspector will make a ruling on the Plan at the end of January. A decision has not yet been made about whether to refer the OMH and Crack Lane planning applications to the planning committee: Cllr Brooks will inform LMPC when the decision is made. **ACTION: Cllr Brooks**. Cllr V-A asked if there is a process whereby developers can 'buy themselves out' of affordable housing conditions on an application: **ACTION: Cllr Brooks to research and report back**.

3. National Trust Report. Tom Clarke announced that the Trust are carrying out **tree hazard safety work** in the area and surveying boundary trees. They are working closely with Langton Planet Action and hope to distribute trees for planting at the **open event on February 29<sup>th</sup>**. Cllr V-A thanked the Trust for recent work on the **Priests' Way**, but requested that the farm tenant at Spyway be asked to drive more carefully along there so as not to create additional trenches along the verges. **ACTION: Tom Clarke**. Cllr White noted that there had been less water at Coombe this winter. The issue of parking at Acton and **an abandoned car** will be followed up: **ACTION: TC**. Cllrs Christie and Loudoun, and Dr Spilling will meet with Mr Clarke shortly to talk about where to plant c. **100 trees** which are offered by the Trust. **ACTION: 'Tree group'** (as above). Mr Clarke will provide parking figures for the Clerk to help with an assessment of **visitor numbers** for the water dispenser bid. **ACTION: TC**.

6. Public Participation Period. The meeting was adjourned for this agenda item.

a) Barrie Mayes expressed concern that, despite much work by LMPC, Tree officers seemed to be rejecting requests for a site meeting to look at plans to fell numerous **trees on the Spyway Orchard site**. Furthermore, the Tree Officer in his report appears to have taken no notice of concerns expressed by LMPC and others.

b) Colette Drayson i) asked for a meeting with Cllrs Knight and Christie to discuss **Principal Residence/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Homes Policy**. ii) recommended Lyndsay Carrington's **Biodiversity report on Spyway Orchard**; it is unlawful to destroy the habitats she records there. iii) Suggested that the **Old Malthouse site** could meet many of the village's needs, including a sustainable garden space, sports facilities, car parking, educational opportunities and employment. She asked if a 'Phase 2' is planned. She asked LMPC to organize an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss these ideas further; could LMPC purchase the site ?

c) Beryl Mitchell said that the village 'needs some TLC': i) the **Old Cemetery wall** is still in a mess ii) **Crack Lane** now has no proper passing bays, and iii) the **Cemetery** needs attention.

d) George Crabb noted in relation to comments at a previous meeting that Purbeck Stone is too expensive for affordable housing, that Three Acre Lane, Capston Field and Abbascombe social housing was all built of Purbeck stone.

e) Jasmine Cattle asked when the village will be cleared ? The weeds need regular attention.

The meeting was reconvened.

#### 7. Matters Arising from the Public Participation.

a) Spyway Orchard Trees. The Clerk outlined past efforts to get a site meeting with a Tree Officer.

**ACTION: Clerk to send correspondence to Cllr Brooks who will request a meeting on LMPC's behalf.**

**ACTION: Clerk to send letter to DC Portfolio Holder for trees expressing LMPC's displeasure about the lack of action by officers, and asking why certain trees have been marked by developers for felling where they play no part in the proposed development (eg on the eastern boundary).**

Cllr Loudoun asked that any trees felled should be stacked in the site's Biodiversity area rather than burned. A site meeting is important. **ACTION: Clerk to report decisions in Dubber.**

b) i) Primary Residence/2nd Homes Policy. **ACTION: Cllrs Christie and V-A would be happy to meet Ms Drayson to discuss the matter.**

iii) OMH site. The Chair noted that LMPC has no privileged information on developers' plans for the OMH site, though as their representative had been unable to state at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 that there would not be a 'Phase 2', we should assume that there will be. Ms Drayson's proposal merits further consideration. It was suggested that private individuals might contact the developers regarding sites for the village such as the walled garden.

c) Village TLC. i) The Clerk reported on a meeting with Katie Black, DC Countryside services about **spraying of weeds.** There had been technical problems in 2019. The Chair proposed that we wait this year to see if the service improves: if not, the idea of a lengthsman could be re-considered. ii) Crack Lane. **ACTION: Further to Extraordinary Planning meeting 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, Clerk to set up meeting with Highways to discuss the state of the lane and necessary improvements.** The matter of the homeless person in Crack Lane was discussed: it appears that he is living there only temporarily at present, though van and caravan are in one of the passing bays. **ACTION: Cllrs Christie and Loudoun to talk to him about moving the vehicles/ finding a more suitable permanent home. Clerk to research Highways/Housing facts.**

8. Planning Matters. There were none.

9. Minutes of the Meetings held 12<sup>th</sup> December and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Following the addition of a date to Clause 6 on the 12<sup>th</sup> December Minutes, these were agreed to be a correct record and signed.

10. Matters Arising from the Minutes. Item 5.3.1.) Traffic Impact Policy. Cllr V-A has made a start.

11. The Clerk's Report for the period 4.12.2019 – 1.1.2020. Correspondence received and actions taken can be read on p.3 of the agenda. Report received.

C1. Dorset Local Plan Engagement Event. **ACTION: Cllr Pearson will attend on the Council's behalf.**

C2. Dorset Heathland Supplementary Planning doc. **ACTION: Clerk to respond.**

**The next final date for inclusion of correspondence-related agenda items received between meetings is 4th February 2020.**

12. Chairman's Announcements. i) George Crabb was offered a formal vote of thanks from the Council for his public-spirited work to clear the gully at Putlake, which stopped the flood across the road. ii) Cllr Knight will be away for the February meeting: Cllr Christie will chair.

13. White Line refreshment. The High Street from Coombe junction westwards will be refreshed as far as Kingston, after the gritting weather. **ACTION: DC Highways.**

14. Environmental Working Group (LPA) update. Cllr Bell reported that a plan for buying LED bulbs was impractical as it requires too much financial outlay. **RESOLVED: To apply to Wessex Water for a grant to fit a water dispenser at the Putlake toilets.** **ACTION: Clerk.** The Clerk had received a quotation from Harris and Sons for replacement LED lighting at the toilet block: she was asked to get 2 more quotations. **ACTION: Clerk.**

15. Cemetery Matters. Tom Clarke (NT) had seen Ms Duncan's letter noting the bad state of the (NT-owned) north access: **ACTION: NT to follow up.** Cllr Loudoun noted brushwood dumped in the cemetery

extension. He will make enquiries. Cllr Pearson will present a proposal regarding a woodland burial site in the near future **ACTION: Cllr Pearson. ACTION: Clerk to write to Ms Duncan.**

16. Purbeck Local Plan's 2nd Homes/Primary Residence policy. Cllr Christie read out a draft proposal for LMPC's approach. As Dorset Council are very supportive of the principle, he was asked to re-draft it in a more supportive way which acknowledges their stance. **ACTION: Cllr Christie.**

17. Parish Assembly. Cllr Knight proposed a change to the format this year to include just one or two themes, refreshments and displays. The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan could be presented by professionals, with time for discussion, and the Environmental group could share progress and ideas.

18. Policy and Governance Group report. Cllrs had already received copies of the P&G group notes with recommended minor changes to policies and documents. **RESOLVED: To accept all changes as proposed.**

15. Financial Matters: (1) Additions to Council funds since the last Council Meeting:

£ 500.00 Bequest from the late Gordon Tomes for the Old Cemetery Fund.

£ 770.00 Allotment fees 2020.

(2) Note the following Payments by cheque or cash to be made since last Meeting:

£ 894.20 Clerk's salary (December).

£ 24.18 HMRC – PC National Insurance payment (December).

£ 139.50 Elliott's Cleaning Co. Public Toilets. (December).

£ 60.00 DAPTC – Clerk Budgeting Course.

£ 600.00 Dorset Council – SID deployment April 2019-March 31st 2020.

£ 480.00 National Trust – Allotment rent 1.1.-31.12.2020

£ 20.46 WH Smith – Office sundries (cheque to Clerk)

£ 124.26 SSE – PC block supply 28 Sept – 19 Dec 2019

£ 156.03 SSE Unmetered electricity bill – Footway lights to end of Dec 2019.

(3) Payment by Direct Debit:

£ 61.13 XLN Telecom for phone and broadband (December).

£ 26.83 NEST - PC contribution to Clerk's pension (December).

(4) Any other Financial Matters: a) **RESOLVED: To approve the accounts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.** b) **RESOLVED: To request a Precept for 2020-2021 of £ 30,000.**

20. Confirmation of the date of the next Council Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7 pm, Village Hall.

21. Additional Items for future meetings: Possible changes to meeting/working group/committee structures / OMH site - future.

Closed 9.05 pm.

Signed..... (Chairman) Date.....