

WEST MOORS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on Tuesday 13th May 2008 in the Council Chamber, Pavilion, Fryer Field, West Moors at 2.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. Mrs C. Holmes – Chairman
 Cllr J Bartley Cllr A Clarke Cllr P Gausson
 Cllr. J M Price Cllr. B. E. Wye Cllr. J. Young

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. J. Weedon (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs M Hall Cllr P Holden Cllr. M. Shine
 Cllr K Warren

ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES: Cllr. R. Watson Cllr Ms S Zyga

08/022 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

08/023 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

08/024 TO DISCUSS THE PARISH PLAN ACTION POINTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Holmes expressed the wish that all councillors looked at the matters in hand with an open mind. Members then commented on the document compiled by Ron Tomlin and Neil Farmer from EDDC, copy attached to these minutes pages 266 to 268. Comments included that Parish Plans are 'holistic and aspirational', 'the adoption of parish plans should not be seen as a commitment by the parish council to implement, fund or manage all actions identified.' and 'doing nothing with a parish plan is not an option'. Members were asked to bear these comments in mind when discussing the action points. Concerns were expressed over trying to gain quick wins to the detriment of projects in the longer term. Members then agreed to update the parish council response to all the action points that have been attributed to the council using a traffic light system. **RED** meaning No action will be taken, **AMBER** meaning that discussion is required and **GREEN** meaning that the Parish Council will go ahead with the action point.

- **Action point 1 (RED -ACHIEVED) – Encourage opening of a bank, hardware and greengrocer**

It was felt that the Nationwide can be treated a bank and that there is now a hardware store in the village and various shops sell fresh vegetables. Market forces and local demand govern the willingness of individuals and companies to set up new business. There is no direct action the Parish Council can take.

- **Action point 4 (RED-ACHIEVED) – Improve communication to/from the Parish Council**

A new community/parish council noticeboard has been installed. The west moors Dorset website is in operation. Newsletters are issued. Parish Council office opening hours have been extended to Saturdays.

- **Action point 6 (AMBER) – Public toilets on Fryer Field**

This item will be deferred until the outcome of the possible redevelopment of the

Memorial Hall site is clarified as this facility could be provided there.

- **Action point 7 – (COMMENT ONLY) Keep West Moors a village**

The Parish Council notes that this item comes under the housing section of the parish plan. Settlements of over 3000 people are technically classed as towns. If the point suggests no large expansion to the size of West Moors, the Parish Council is sympathetic to this within the constraints of planning law. However, if the point suggests the environment within West Moors, the Parish Council is proud of the village atmosphere and wishes to preserve it.

- **Action Point 8 – (RED) Limits to the building of flats**

The Parish Council Planning Committee comments on all applications before they are considered by East Dorset District Council and can request that an application goes to the full EDDC planning committee. However, both the Parish and the District Councils can only recommend refusal on the basis of planning law. *There is no law that specifically limits the building of flats* but where there are grounds for lodging an objection the Parish Council will do so. There has been successful resistance to the building of flats in the past e.g. Highfield Road. Even when an application is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal and the government inspectors who hear the appeals may take a different view.

- **Action point 9 – (AMBER) Maintain and increase the areas designated as Special Character**

These will be supported whenever the planning process allows it. To date no proposals have been made or received regarding the extension of these areas. It should be noted that the impact of designation of such areas on the planning process is not an overriding one.

- **Action point 10 – (RED) Prevent multiple dwellings being built on a single site**

This is not possible as there are no laws that states multiple dwellings cannot be built on a single site. Each application has to be considered on its own against the planning criteria. Unless there are clear grounds to refuse an application the development has the right to go ahead. As in Action Point 8 the applicant has the right of appeal. The Parish Council has resisted 'back land' development in the past and will continue to do so should there be planning grounds to do so.

- **Action point 11 –(AMBER) More emphasis on affordable housing**

There needs to be a distinction between **affordable market housing** and **social housing**. There is a policy in the local plan that is currently being reviewed after a recent major enquiry into affordable housing. The Parish Council has no direct influence on applications, development and investment but can suggest suitable land that may be considered for development. Affordable housing **cannot be restricted to local people**.

- **Action point 18 –(AMBER) Push for building of By-pass**

The Parish Council supports the building of a by-pass.

- **Action point 20 –(GREEN -ACHIEVED) Explore introduction of Dial a ride**

A dial a ride bus service was introduced into the village but has been withdrawn through lack of use. Currently POPP have introduced a NeighbourCare scheme that uses volunteer drivers to help people with transport.

- **Action point 25 –(AMBER) Measures to eliminate graffiti**

The Parish Council agreed to the placement of a graffiti wall on its land and money was set aside. However, evidence from elsewhere suggests that these actively encourage continuation of graffiti elsewhere so it was decided not to proceed. Further consideration will be given if a specific proposal is received. Meanwhile action will be taken to remove graffiti on public property whenever it is reported.

- **Action point 26 – (GREEN) Community Organised litter pick**

The Parish Council supports any action by community groups in this area and can discuss organise the provision of equipment, etc if given notice. Parish Councillors are planning a litter pick in June/July.

- **Action point 31 –(AMBER) Provide more dog waste bins**

Dog bins will be installed on the Fryer Field in the near future. The Parish Council requires permission to place dog bins in on any areas of land that they do not own. Requests for the placement of additional bins in specific areas have been sent to EDDC who provide and empty the bins located throughout the village.

- **Action point 33 –(RED) Repair Pinehurst Parade service road and improve verge**

The service road and verge is private property and belongs to the owners of the shop buildings. The area outside Martins Newsagents has been repaired. The Parish Council has worked with the District Council on this matter and EDDC have issued enforcement notices. The Parish Council will continue to maintain a dialogue with EDDC on this matter. Visitors to the shops should complain directly to the owners.

- **Action point 34 –(GREEN) Action to cut back overhanging hedges and trees – Although this action point was not originally allocated to the parish council the parish council are placed to deal with such issues.**

Residents can report trees/bushes that overhang the footpaths/roads to the Parish Office staff who will send out a letter to the owner of the tree asking for it trimmed, a leaflet outlining the guidelines for overhanging trees is enclosed with the letter. A member of the Parish Council then follows up a few weeks later to check that the work has been completed

- **Action point 35 – (ACHIEVED) Produce a village map showing open spaces**

This matter is in hand and the map should be placed in the noticeboard by the coop in the near future.

- **Action point 38 –(RED) Better use of open plan space beside Woolslope development**

This land is privately owned. The Parish Council will consider supporting any specific proposal that has significant support from the community.

- **Action point 40 – (GREEN-ACHIEVED) Provide a community notice board and repair existing boards**

A community notice board was installed near the coop and refurbishment of the boards at Woolslope and Pinehurst Road is in hand.

- **Action point 41 –(GREEN) Improve booking for all weather play area**

Booking systems have been revised The Parish Council are in the process of gaining funds to redevelop the area.

- **Action point 42 –(GREEN) Improve children’s playgrounds**

The children’s play areas have recently been serviced and painted. A recent inspection by an independent assessor commented that the play areas were in good condition and the equipment ideal for the age groups intended. The council will explore improvements in the provision and access to the area owned by the MOD.

- **Action point 43 – (AMBER) Open up Canterbury Close playing field**

Dorset County Council owns the land. If a firm proposal is put forward for a suitable development of this recreational area then the County Councillor will be happy to pursue the matter at DCC.

- **Action point 44 –(GREEN) Better Christmas lights**

Improvements have already been undertaken and continuing efforts will be made.

- **Action point 45 –(AMBER) Park/seating area on a open space**

The Parish Council already provides numerous seats around West Moors. Any suggestions for placement of further benches will be considered.

- **Action point 46 –(AMBER) Community/drop in centre**

The Parish Council and the Local Action Group will look at this item as a long - term objective.

- **Action point 47 –(AMBER) Re-establish a Community Association**

The Parish Council would welcome and support any public initiative in this area.

- **Action point 48 –(RED) Drinking fountain and toilets at Fryer field/Skatepark**

The Parish Council are unable to support the installation of a drinking fountain because it is not convinced that public drinking fountains are any longer a suitable provision on the grounds of health and safety. The youth club took on the concept of a drinking fountain. Please see action point 6 for the toilets.

- **Action point 49 – (RED) Provide a community bus**

Evidence suggests that there has not been the demand in the past for a community bus. There have been previous initiatives, such as a bus to Tower Park for the younger generation but it was not used.

- **Action point 50 – (GREEN) Establish a graffiti wall**

See action point 25

- **Action point 53 –(AMBER) Establish a youth drop in centre**

The Parish Council gives significant support to the youth club and will give serious consideration to any detailed proposals that might be worked out. The youth club has recently received additional funding to open on a Friday night and the council will monitor this extension of hours

It was felt that with regard to planning issues the public need educating as to the processes involved and the limits of the powers the parish council has. Cllr John Young agreed to produce a leaflet highlighting these points.

08/025 TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED LAG QUESTIONNAIRE

Members reviewed the proposed questionnaire that the Local action Group are considering giving out at the Community open day at the end of May. The questionnaire is entitled West Moors Parish Plan Update and gives a list of items (12) to be placed in order of importance. Members felt that the wording 'public funding' requires some clarification as residents may not understand this to be an increase in their council tax. They did however note that funding for large projects could come from other sources. Members also felt that the questionnaire required some explanatory notes on each of the items with costings.

It was felt that the item 'Improve Multi use games area' should be removed from the questionnaire as this was not an original action point and has only been added because the council are in the process of trying to upgrade the area. Members voted on this issue and the item carried. Cllr Bartley voted against the removal of the item. Clerk to write to the LAG to ask them to remove this item from the questionnaire.

The members present agreed in principle to the questionnaire but the contents require amendment.

08/026 TO CONSIDER THE COSTING IMPLICATIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARISH PLAN ACTION POINTS

This item was deferred.

08/027 TO FINALISE PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSALS FOR THE JOINT LAG MEETING ON THE 19TH MAY

The formation of a Liaison working party was discussed with 3 members from each group. It is felt that such a group could carry out feasibility studies and investigate costings for projects. It was felt that any publicity for items worked on by this group should be joint. Concerns were raised over the introduction of a further group of people working on projects. Advice on this matter to be sought from Ron Tomlin (EDDC) at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council and LAG is on Monday 19th May at 2pm in the Pavilion.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 16.05

SIGNED DATE
Chairman