

Loders Parish Council

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of Loders Parish Council held at Loders Village Hall on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: Michele Warrington (*Chair*)
Geoff May (*Vice Chair*)
David Last
Derrick Newberry
Ros Newberry
David Pullan
Tony Alford (*Dorset Council*)

Officer: Joanne Hughes (*Clerk*)

Public: 9

Apologies: Julie Bryce, David Cannon

8545. To receive apologies for absence

Recorded.

8546. Declarations of interest or grants of dispensation

None.

8547. To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023 and sign the same

Proposed Cllr D Newberry

Seconded Cllr R Newberry

Resolved

8548. Matters arising for information only

None.

8549. Democratic Forum

Cllr Warrington welcomed 8 members of the public who had joined the meeting following notification of the outcome of the Community Governance Review (CGR). Cllr Warrington provided a brief overview of how the outcome of the CGR has come about and confirmed that at the June Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council had resolved to work towards getting the CGR decision reversed. Cllr Warrington explained that NALC (National Association of Local Councils) detail a CGR process in their Legal Topic Note 73 whereby a petition application could be made by residents to the principal authority requesting a new community governance review specific to the Loders/Shipton Gorge boundary issue. Dorset Council have not advised of this process. Councillors to discuss later in the meeting to decide if the Parish Council should contact NALC to progress reversal of the CGR.

The residents advised that they would be complaining to Dorset Council and would like the assistance of the Parish Council to help reverse the outcome of the CGR including the provision of any CGR documents as requested. The residents also confirmed they will be writing to Chris Loder MP with a petition signed by residents. It was commented that it was a big assumption by Dorset Council that all residents have access to social media or use the libraries which in addition to consulting town and parish councils was the means by which Dorset Council communicated the Community Governance Review to residents. It was felt that the consultation process was very underhand and Dorset Council have shown complete unprofessionalism. The residents commented

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that their reasons for wanting the outcome of the community governance review reversed included:

- 1) Involved with life in Loders;
- 2) Always felt part of Loders;
- 3) Closer to Loders;
- 4) Links with Loders Parish;
- 5) Decision was taken out of the hands of residents - it was an undemocratic decision.

Cllr Warrington advised that the residents will need to have a collective approach if they wish to pursue challenging the outcome of the CGR via the NALC petition route. With the elections taking place in 2024, residents may also want to consider standing as a Parish Councillor in Loders or Shipton Gorge.

Another resident had attended the meeting to hear any updates on agenda item 12iii - Trailway Project.

8550. Dorset Council - Report Cllr Tony Alford

Cllr Alford had previously circulated his information report dated 12th September 2023 which included the following updates:

- Dorset Council RAAC update;
- New Community Highways Officer - James Stone;
- Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) reopened on 7th September 2023 which aims to give support for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.
- Dorset Council Housing Consultation Strategy closes on 2nd October 2023.

8551. Finance

i. To authorise receipts and payments due

The following payments for July 2023 were approved in line with internal controls:

Receipts		Detail	Amount
Payments	Voucher No	Detail	Amount
J Hughes	1423	Salary & Expenses - Aug	780.55
Wessex Grounds Services	1424	Grounds Maintenance	110.90
BDO LLP	1425	External Audit	252.00
Wessex Grounds Services	1426	Grounds Maintenance	110.90
Loders Village Hall	1427	September PC Meeting	18.00
J Hughes	1428	Salary & Expenses - Sept	756.62
Vision ICT	1429	Website Gallery Addition	90.00

Payments authorised were £2,118.98 being the total of the individual payments shown above.

Bank balance as at 19th September 2023 **£24,824.87**

Proposed Cllr G May

Seconded Cllr R Newberry

Resolved

ii. Monthly finance reports

The Clerk provided Councillors with a summary report of the year-to-date position (September 2023) against the budget and a report of the movement on fund balances to 19th September 2023.

iii. Conclusion of External Audit 2022/23

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The Clerk confirmed that the external audit had been returned with no matters arising and the certificate and conclusion of audit notice have been uploaded to the website and noticeboards.

iv. NALC Financial Regulations Consultation

All agreed for Cllr May to undertake an initial review for the FWG to look at during its meeting in November before circulation to all and submission by the 10th November deadline.

Proposed Cllr M Warrington

Seconded Cllr D Pullan

Resolved

v. To set date for Finance Working Group (FWG)

Dated confirmed as Tuesday 7th November – Clerk to confirm with Cllr Bryce.

vi. To consider adding Cllr Bryce as signatory to the Parish Council bank account

As a member of the FWG, all agreed to add Cllr Bryce to the bank account

Proposed Cllr M Warrington

Seconded Cllr D Last

Resolved

8552. Planning and Development

a) To consider any planning applications, appeals or enforcements in circulation:

- i. P/HOU/2023/03960 1 Shatcombe, Well Plot to New Road, Uploders - Demolish garage/conservatory and replace with garden studio. Extend existing potting shed/store. (Amended description - Part retention) - update - application approved 8th September 2023.
- ii. P/FUL/2023/03562 Upton Dairy Farm, Uploders - Erection of two poly tunnels 20m x 6m on hardstanding for agriculture/plant propagation - application approved 7th September 2023.
- iii. P/LBC/2022/01211 Christmas Cottage, Uploders DT6 4NS - planning appeal dismissed 2nd August 2023.

b) To consider and agree any actions in relation to other planning matters:

- i. Resident concerns regarding the build site located at the Barn adjacent to Orchard Bungalow, Uploders Road, Uploders DT6 4PD - after discussion, it was agreed for the resident to be advised to contact Dorset Council Planning Enforcement to raise their concerns.

8553. Unitary Authority

- i. Community Governance Review update: Shipton Gorge/Loders boundary changes update
The Parish Council having offered to support the residents affected by the CGR agreed to approach NALC to find out more about the process for undertaking a CGR petition - need to find out the process and what is involved and let the residents know. Cllr Warrington to speak to NALC re, the CGR Legal Topic Note 73 and the Clerk to speak to the DAPTC. Main resident leading the CGR reversal to be asked to work with Cllr Warrington. The Parish Council will be taking a step-by-step approach and a timetable will be considered at the next meeting.

Proposed Cllr M Warrington

Seconded Cllr D Pullan

Resolved

ii. Update from DAPTC

- DAPTC AGM - Saturday 18th November - Cllr Warrington advised she will be unable to attend.
- Western Area meeting postponement - no reason given for meeting postponement and new meeting date still to be confirmed.

- iii. Update from BLAP - Cllr May was unable to attend the BLAP Parish Liaison meeting on 15th September but the minutes will be circulated when received.

8554. Council Property

To consider and agree any actions in relation to Parish Council property:

i. Cemetery

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- Lime tree update - Clerk to obtain two more quotes for the Lime tree canopy raising works.

ii. Allotments

- Plot 4 clearance update - Cllr R Newberry confirmed that plot 4 has now been split into two plots with two new tenants who are progressing works on the plots.

- Plot 4 tenant update and full or half plot update - as above.

iii Playing Field

- Play Area update - Cllr Pullan confirmed that the playhouse roof panel had been removed although there is one piece still in situ which Cllr Pullan will remove when necessary. There are also three missing fence palings. Clerk to ask Ken Hussey to quote to replace. Cllr Pullan also advised that some of the tree guards have been pulled from the tree saplings so he advised that he will remove them properly.

- Residents play area redevelopment working group meeting update - the Clerk confirmed that an email has been sent to residents of the original working plus some members of the Well Plot Shelter Group to see about setting up a progress meeting - awaiting responses.

- Well Plot Shelter legal ownership and insurance update - the Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the DAPTC who advised that as far as they are aware, there is no legal process that needs to be followed to accept the wooden shelter as a gift from the Well Plot Shelter Group which was officially handed over to the Parish Council at the opening ceremony held on 24th June 2023 but the shelter needs to be added to the Parish Councils asset register and included within the Parish Council's insurance policy - both points have been actioned by the Clerk.

Cllr Warrington presented to the Parish Council a framed photo from the Well Plot Shelter Group. Clerk to ask the Village Hall Management Committee where the framed photo could be hung within the village hall along with the framed thank you card and photo that the Clerk is putting together.

- Well Plot Shelter Group bug mansion project - it was confirmed that the Shelter Group have worked with Loders Youth Club to construct a bug mansion which is located between the playing area fence and hedge at Well Plot playing fields.

- Well Plot Shelter flag storage - it was agreed to store the flag pole in the roof of the shelter using locks to secure. Cllr Pullan agreed to arrange including letting the Shelter Group know.

Proposed Cllr D Pullan

Seconded Cllr D Last

Resolved

- National Grid Wayleave Payment update - the Clerk confirmed that having investigated with National Grid, it was confirmed that an agreement exists with the Parish Council and National Grid dating back to September 2001. Unfortunately, payments from 2014 - 2021 had been sent to an ex-Clerks address so were never presented for payment. A cheque covering this period has now been sent to the current Clerk for banking.

- Signage update - the Clerk confirmed the following signage update:

1) Overhead electric power lines signage x 2 - the Clerk confirmed that she has contacted National Grid for replacement signs and is awaiting a response.

2) Dog signage x 2 - the Clerk confirmed that she has contacted Dorset Council for replacement dog fouling and no dogs in play area signs and is awaiting a response.

3) Children's play area - the Clerk confirmed that a replacement permanent sign is currently in production with a local sign making company to be installed once received.

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- Gate access on Well Plot update - following agreement by the Parish Council at the 18th July meeting for the resident request to access from their rear garden gate onto Well Plot, the Clerk arranged for the Chair and Vice Chair to sign the agreement for sending on to the residents.

8555. Footpaths and Rights of Way

Cllr Cannon provided the following updates:

- Report from Cllr David Cannon - updates provided below.
- Kissing gate update - Cllr May confirmed that he has been in touch with Dorset Council who have advised that because the kissing gate does not conform with accessibility rules, an accessible gate will need to be installed. This will be carried out by Dorset Council. A quote to refurbish the kissing gate has been received by the landowners who have agreed to pay to cover the refurbishment costs.
- Sustrans overgrown footpath update - the Parish Council thanked Cllr Cannon for his efforts in clearing the footpath and also Bar Lane down to Yonderover.
- New Street Lane hole in road - it was confirmed that a temporary chequer plate has been installed over the hole and works to repair the hole are expected to start next week.

8556. Roads, Transport and Drains

- i. Waddon Way - no further update. Clerk to request an update for next month's meeting.
- ii. Gribb Farm, Shipton Road - as above.
- iii. Trailway project - Cllr Warrington advised that following a phone call to the Clerk, Dorset Council Transport Planner Kevin Humphreys had also contacted her. Cllr Warrington confirmed that at the last village proposal for a cycleway, there were disparate views held by residents with some in support, some against and even more wanting further information. The Parish Council's stance has always been one of wanting more information and to represent the views of the Parish. Cllr May suggested that the Parish Council provide Kevin Humphreys with a brief for presentation to the Parish Council at its next meeting on 17th October - all agreed. Cllr May to draft brief for Clerk to forward to Mr Humphreys. Ownership of Vicarage Lane also raised as this lane is key to the trailway project - Clerk to ask Dorset Council to investigate ownership.

Proposed Cllr G May

Seconded Cllr D Last

Resolved

- iv. Stoney Head surface - currently no change to the road surface.
- v. 20mph for Loders residents support - to date six resident responses have been received in support of 20mph. Agreed to defer discussion to the next meeting.

Cllr Alford left the meeting at 9.50pm.

8557. River Asker Improvement Project

Cllr May confirmed that West Country Rivers Trust survey report has still not been completed and Ian Rees of Dorset AONB has advised the Parish Council to follow up with WCRT. Cllr May to follow up. Cllr May confirmed that Himalayan Balsam clearing and water sampling of the river continues.

8558. Climate and Environment Issues

To consider and agree any actions in relation to the Loders Parish Council Climate & Ecological Emergency:

- i. Natural Assets - see below.
- ii. Transport update - see below.
- iii. Renewable's update - see below.
- iv. Making it happen - the next edition of the CEEAP newsletter will be distributed to Councillors at the next CEEAP meeting on 4th October. Distribution routes will also be confirmed.
- v. Date of next CEEAP meeting - Wednesday 4th October at 11.00am.

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8559. Village Hall Report

The next Village Hall Management Committee meeting is 27th September. Confirmed that Cllr Bryce is unable to attend.

8560. Communications

- i. Broadband - the Clerk advised that Jurassic Fibre are currently going through a business consolidation transition which is having an impact on delivery timescales and currently the build in Lodders has been halted. A further update from Jurassic Fibre will be made as soon as possible.
- ii. Parish Council website - Shelter Group photos request update - the Clerk confirmed that Vision ICT have set up a gallery section to the website and as soon as the photos are received, the Clerk will upload these.
- iii. Succession planning for 2024 elections - Cllr May suggested that the Parish Council needs to recruit Councillors with the skills and background needed for the role of Councillor. To be further discussed at the October meeting.
- iv. Parish record archiving - the Clerk confirmed that the Council's archiving is ongoing.

8561. Training & Development

None.

8562. To review correspondence received

None.

8563. Website and Eggardon & Colmers View

None.

8564. Agenda items for next meeting on Tuesday 17th October 2023.

Trailway.

Meeting closed 10.10pm

Chairman: *M. Warrington*

Date: *17th October 2023*