

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL HINTON PARISH MEETING 2019
Held at The Village Hall Hinton Martell Wednesday 22nd May 2019

DRAFT

Present:

Cllr S Wathen (VAPC)

Mr D Carrington, Mrs J Carrington, Mr P Causton, Cllr R Cook, Mr A Curtis, Mrs E Curtis, Mrs D Frost, Mrs H Kendrick, Mrs J Knott, Mr S Warnock, Mrs S Warnock, Mrs J Wharfe

Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Wathen opened the meeting at 7:00pm and welcomed everyone to the Hinton Parish Annual Meeting. He summarised the position of Hinton and surrounding villages in relation to The Vale of Allen Parish Council, the new Stour & Allen Ward and outlined the current status of councillors and clerk. He welcomed the attendance of Councillor Robin Cook.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr Chris McKay.

2. Minutes of AGM 10th May 2018

The draft minutes of last year's AGM had been posted on noticeboards prior to the meeting and copies of these were issued. The minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Items on last year's minutes have been followed up during the last year:

- The Hinton Parva notice-board is installed.
- A grit bin is installed at the bottom of Uppington Hill.
- A 'mini' lending library is installed in the telephone kiosk.
- A certificate scheme for young people is in operation and available to apply for.
- Someone did come and post some dog-fouling signs along some of our pathways.
- One or two villagers did request copies of the War Memorial information.
- Fountain renovation is still on hold while extra funding is being sought. Current funds stand at £1650 but we need somewhere around £4000 to do a good job. Cllr Wathen recently launched an appeal to help raise funds for the renovation and will update the village as things progress.

4. Report by District/County Councillors

Councillor Robin Cook introduced himself as the elected councillor for Stour and Allen Ward and explained his historical connections with local affairs. He outlined the current status of the ward in relation to Dorset Council as a whole. Cllr Cook recognised the extensive work ahead as Dorset adjusts to the new unitary authority and assured members of the meeting of his determination to ensure an efficient, effective transition. He said he would send regular reports, or attend, Vale of Allen Parish meetings. He also stated that he was available to contact, and open to questions/issues at any time. He asked if there were any current questions.

Mr A Curtis, as a member of the Diocese of Salisbury, raised a concern about a recent publication suggesting plans for large numbers of new houses in the locality. He felt such numbers were excessive. Cllr Wathen suggested that these plans were a response of local authorities to government pressure to meet nationwide housing needs. Cllr Wathen mentioned that such plans were very early stages and that extensive public consultation would occur before any development took place. Cllr Cook was in agreement and made the point that having local development plans helps keep control of such issues and avoided external agencies dictating planning.

Cllr Wathen asked about the sale of Furzehill offices and, when sold, how would the substantial proceeds be allocated across Dorset – the site was previously an East Dorset asset. Cllr Cook said that East Dorset was well-represented on the new Dorset Council and felt sure our councillors would ensure appropriate allocation of funds.

5. Hinton Parish Report

Cllr Wathen briefly summarised the structure of the new unitary authority and its main personnel. He outlined how Hinton fitted into this organisation, the major issues affecting the parish and how to contact the new authority via its website.

- The **Dorset website** continues to be a very useful port for reporting minor issues and getting something done about them. Anyone can use this website to report issues. You can also look at planning applications and a host of other sections that provide information and advice. It is an effective website. Hopefully, it will continue to be so!
- **Courses and seminars** this year have included Local Government Reorganisation, Housing Surveys and Affordable Housing, Budgets & Precepts, Data Protection Updates, Public Services, Health and Social Care.
- The **Vale of Allen** has a **website** where information about Hinton Martell village – including up and coming events can be viewed. If anyone wants to add anything to this contact Cllr Wathen or the clerk, Mr Ian Hanstead.

- The council **donates to charitable organisations**. This year it made donations to East Dorset Citizens Advice and The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. If you run a local charitable organisation, you can write to the council requesting support. We are not talking about huge sums but sometimes, even just £100 can be welcome.
- **Fly-Tipping** caused us a few problems last year. The council did respond to our notifications – by phone and website (sometimes more quickly than other times) – and the problem seemed to ease off as the year progressed. There were at least seven removals known to Cllr Wathen and the type of rubbish tipped ranged from domestic items to building materials and oil-drums. **Please remember you can report fly-tipping via the Dorset website. We have had a few cases this week!**
- **Verges and hedges have been cut when requested**. Again, please remember anyone can submit any concerns or requests for this kind of issue via the Dorset website. If anyone has problems with this, please contact Cllr Wathen.
- **The East Dorset Local Plan Review Options** was published in August 2019. It did include some housing development for the village along Emley Lane and above Cowslease towards Uppington. We were all invited to respond. Cllr Wathen submitted a response in August last year. A copy of this response was issued.
- **Cllr Wathen explained that for the past four years he was the only councillor for Hinton which can have up to four**. However, Cllr Wathen sent out an appeal a few weeks ago and was delighted to say he received two responses. Very soon **Jeff Van Etten** and **Sue Warnock** will be **co-opted** and will join Cllr Wathen as parish councillors for Hinton. We may also have another co-optee from Critchel who will represent Hinton.

The Vale of Allen will therefore be composed of 14 councillors. Simon Tong has also joined as a councillor for Critchel. His expertise and experience will be invaluable.

There were no questions on the above.

6. Planning Report for 2018/2019

Cllr Wathen issued a summary of planning applications this past year.

It is rare for the Parish Council to object to a planning application and we almost always support our residents. Planning is not obliged to consider our views but we hope they do most of the time. It will be interesting to see how the new planning departments work out. There now appears to be three planning committees.

Do remember if you are submitting planning applications the papers will come to the Parish Council and councillors have to present your plans. If you want to submit a particular point of view let your councillor know because he/she can represent your viewpoints.

Better still, keep an eye on PC Agendas – if you see your planning coming up for discussion you can attend the meeting and, as a member of the public, submit comments yourself.

7. Fountain Report – Chris McKay

Copies of Mr Chris McKay's fountain report were issued.

8. Any Other Business

- Cllr Wathen explained that he can only pursue things if he knows about them. He requested that if anyone has concerns, suggestions or ideas, they speak to him directly or contact him. He can voice concerns at parish meetings. Why not nominate a young person for a community award? Also remember that parishioners can do things themselves. Use the Dorset website. Organise an activity eg litter pick or a group to clear a local pathway.
- Cllr Wathen stated his concern with the state of the road through Hinton Martell. He thinks it should be re-surfaced or at least dressed. He intends to submit a request for improvement.
- Mrs J Knott expressed concern over the three, locked gates now in place down Emley Lane. She explained this road was a public, 'right of way' and should not be blocked. The road was used by walkers, riders and was also included in satellite navigation routes. Cllr Wathen said he would contact Dorset Highways and, in the first instance, find out the current status of the road. The matter can then be pursued.

There were no other items.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.