



# HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

### **104. Present and apologies:**

**Present:** Adrian Pratt (Chairman), Mark Tucker, Angela Clayton, Belinda Mann, Gillian Miles, and John Sansom.

Barry Druce (Clerk) Sarah Dyke (County Councillor) 1 member of the public.

**Apologies:** were received from Judy Hodges

**105. Public Forum:** Lydia Dunne (Whiteacre Planning) referred to PA No: 23/00240/COU (Land at Cheriton Manor Farm) and explained the extent of works intended for extending the current use of very small buildings on the site. She stated that this was a small local business that had been created to meet a local demand and that they were seeking Parish Council approval. The Chair referred to the council minutes of September 2022 and reminded members that the opening hours for this business had been queried previously and stated that he felt that the currently imposed restrictions were too tight. He stated that they should be encouraging local businesses and should do what they can to help them, within publicly accepted limits. Belinda Mann stated that she thought this was a very good, sought-after amenity, but suggested that the signage needed improving to slow down visiting traffic. Angela Clayton referred to the intended new use of the site as a 'Dog Day-Care Facility' and stated her concerns over the intended future use of the surrounding buildings and adjoining land. Gillian Miles stated that she had visited the site and stated her concerns that the changes would set a precedent by opening the door for future extension. She stated that the operators there had not demonstrated their willingness to abide to the currently permitted opening hours, and was concerned that this attitude would continue to flourish into the future, and that she felt there is a need to keep any development within a permitted scale appropriate to the size of the village. Mark Tucker DECLARED AN INTEREST in this subject as he had previously given expert advice to the applicants on other matters, but added that currently none of the buildings were being used for their intended purpose and the applicants appeared to be doing the right thing by applying for official permission to operate the intended service. John Sansom stated that he had no objections to the application at all, but felt that some control needed to be imposed over the vehicles using the site and due operational regard be given to other users of that area. The Chair reiterated his view that the applicants should be encouraged to apply to have their operating restrictions lifted, otherwise the Parish Council would have no choice but to enforce the planning limitations as currently granted in the case of a formal complaint being registered. He then deferred discussion to the Planning Application section appearing at a later point in the Agenda. Lydia Dunne was thanked for her presentation on the matter and she then left the meeting.

**106. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations:** 1.) Mark Tucker (as described in the Public Forum paragraph above). (2). John Sansom on PA 23/00240/COU

**107. County / District Councillors Reports:** Sarah Dyke referred to her written report which was received previously and taken as read and noted. She stated that there was now only 51 days before the transfer to the new Unitary Authority would take place, and hoped that with all the preparatory work that had been undertaken that the transition would run smoothly. She stated that essentially there would be little difference in the teams already in place. They have appointed a new Chief Executive, and the Board has FOUR new Directors, all very experienced in local government. She continued that the management structure would be in place by the end of March 2023, and that a balanced budget would be presented in two weeks' time. She warned that severe changes are having to be implemented to meet the new budgets, and the imposed financial constraints have made the preparations very difficult. She referred to the emerging Council Committee structure and the Community Networking Organisation which was in place. Sarah stated that the County Average Precept Increase was over 17% and congratulated Horsington Parish Council on holding their precept at 2022/23 levels and returning a 0% increase.

**108. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** were taken as read and as PROPOSED by Mark Tucker, SECONDED by John Sansom, approved unanimously.

**109. Matters Arising:** Referring to Minute 100.c., Angela Clayton reported that as the new receipt book had now arrived, she would be able to go ahead and design the stamp to be used and get it ordered.



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## 110. Planning - a): Applications:

**23.00240.COU** Change of use of part of agricultural building to Sui generis use as dog daycare facility - **Land At Cheriton Manor Farm Marsh Lane South Cheriton** - John Sansom declared an interest in this application and took no further part in the discussion. General discussion followed on the issues previously examined and it was finally put to the vote; with 1 abstention and 3 votes in favour, it was decided that **NO OBJECTIONS** be raised against this Application, but subject to the following comments: a) That with an increase in traffic, a duty of care must be shown to other users of the site; and (b) That operating times should be restricted to between Monday to Friday

**22/03534/FUL** – Demolish existing agricultural building and erect one C3 dwelling and residential curtilage (part retrospective application) – **Tower Hill Barn, Tower Hill, Horsington, Templecombe** - **It was decided that** as this was only just received in time for the January meeting, the Chair would liaise with the other councilors following the meeting and agree comments to be forwarded by the imminent deadline, and report back at the meeting to be held in February. The Clerk reported that following feedback from the Chair who had discussed the Planning Application with members, the following comments were submitted to the Planning Office: - **The Parish Council wish to OBJECT** to this application on the following grounds:

- a) Development would be undesirable in an isolated location by reason of the introduction of domestic form and paraphernalia which would have an adverse impact on landscape character “
- b) The siting is considered to be undesirable for the proposed change of use because of the wholly isolated location of the building
- c) This, if permitted, added to the fact that other developments are also having been allowed along Lower Road, the undesirable situation could eventually develop whereby Templecombe, Horsington, and South Cheriton become conjoined and lose their individual identities

**22/03506/TCA** - The Mead Cheriton Street South Cheriton Templecombe Somerset BA8 0BG - Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area. – **No comments necessary**

**b): Decisions:** The following planning decisions were reported and noted:-

**22/03099/HOU** - Lawnside Cheriton Street South Cheriton Templecombe - Demolition of existing side extensions and erection of new enlarged single storey side extension –

**PERMISSION REFUSED**

**c) : Other:** None

**111. Footpaths** – The Chair stated that there was nothing of any new concern and no discussion therefore took place.

**112. Cemetery** – a). Angela Clayton stated that she had received two payments for the purchase of grave spaces at the Cemetery and passed the cheques to the Clerk to be banked.

b) The Chair referred to the notice board for the cemetery and the Clerk was instructed to seek prices for a wall-mounted board and report back at the meeting to be held in March 2023.

## 113. Finance

a. The accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 were reviewed and noted.

b. The following cheques were authorised for payment:-

1326 - £202.04 – B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

1327 - £44.20 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk’s salary

1328 - £132.00 - Shaw & Sons – Burial Receipt book

e) Monies Received – Mr and Mrs P C Franklin - £195.00 – Purchase of Grave Space  
Mr J Franklin - £195.00 – Purchase of Grave Space

**114. Correspondence:** a) The Clerk reported that items of interest that had been received through email had been circulated to all councillors.



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b) The Chair referred to the notice that had been received concerning the application that had been made in respect of the Half Moon Inn, Horsington, to register the property as an Asset of Community Value, and gave a brief outline of the process that had been followed by the applicant, without first notifying the owner of the property. Lengthy discussion followed and the finally the position was noted pending further developments.

**115. Any other business of importance:**

- a). Gillian Miles stated that a new audio system had now been installed in the church and it made a tremendous difference.
- b). Gillian Miles stated that a Coronation Tea was being planned to take place in the village hall on the Sunday following the coronation.
- c) The date of the next meeting is the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**The Meeting closed at 20:55**

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