

## Minutes of a meeting of Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council (A&TPC) held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 in Briantspuddle Village Hall

<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Sue Jones
<b>Present</b>	Cllr's Lizzie Guinn , David Leigh-Ewers, David Neudegg
<b>Clerk</b>	Matt Soul
<b>Also, in Attendance</b>	50 members of the public

<b>Minute Number</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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23/086	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
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Apologies were received from Cllrs Emily Hall and Damon Green and County Councillor Peter Wharf

23/087	<b>Declarations of interest and dispensations requested</b>
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None Declared

23/088	<b>Sad news of the passing of Mr Michael Menzies</b>
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Cllr Sue Jones shared the recent sad news of the death of our Parishioner Mike Menzies from Throop. Mike was active across the Parish for many years, across many organisations including the Affpuddle PCC, Parish Council, Village Hall. In addition to all of the related activities he found time to help neighbours and for his irreplaceable contribution to the life of the Parish he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

23/089	<b>Public Participation</b>
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The Chairman opened the Public Participation section of the meeting, at which some 50 residents were present, by saying that she believed most people had come because of the Battle Farm Agenda item concerning the Appeal lodged by the Applicant against the refusal of the original Application and as such she would summarise the application process and what an Appeal means. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Planning Officers had indicated their Approval of the Application, but the Application had been referred to the Planning Committee for a final decision. The Application had been refused by Dorset Councillors, with only one member indicating that he would have voted to approve it. The Applicant had lodged an Appeal against the decision, and he was entitled to do so.

The Chairman made it clear that there are specific criteria to have in mind when making a submission to the Inspector conducting the Appeal, and she referred those present to Government Guidance on how to participate in the Appeal process. A sheet giving links to the Government Website along with address details of how to submit correspondence to the Inspector had been printed and was made available at the meeting.

The Chairman went on to say that because the Application had resulted in so many objections, Public Participation would be extended to ensure that everyone who wished to speak had an opportunity to do so and that there would be no time limit for individual speakers.

Seven Parishioners addressed the meeting together with Applicant who is also a Parishioner. Notes of the points made have been produced as an annex to these minutes.

At the end of public participation, most Parishioners left the meeting.

23/090      **To confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

RESOLVED to Approve.

23/091      **Matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings**

Councillor David Leigh-Ewers reported that the SID had been purchased and delivered to Joe Allen at Dorset Council, and the installation of the posts would be going ahead very soon.

23/092      **Battle Farm Planning Application Appeal [P/FUL/2022/03050](#)**

Councillors discussed the Appeal

Councillors confirmed that they intended to make a submission to the Inspectorate on behalf of the Parish Council in order to outline its view that the Appeal should not be upheld. It was proposed to seek advice from an Agent in order for the Parish Council to prepare its submission to the Inspector. A budget of up to £2,000 plus VAT was also proposed in order to secure the advice necessary for Councillors to draft the submission. Finally, it was proposed that the previous Councillors who had been delegated to prepare the Objection to the original Application be asked to work up the submission to the Inspector.

RESOLVED:

To APPROVE making a submission on behalf of the Parish Council to the Inspector as outlined above.  
To APPROVE spending of up to £2000 plus VAT on Agent advice in making the submission.  
To APPROVE the continued delegation of Councillors to make the submission outlined above to the Inspector.

Approval was unanimous for all 3 resolutions.

23/093      **Planning and other applications/notifications**

**[P/FUL/2023/04753](#)** - Full Planning Application

Proposal : Extension to Woodsford Quarry for the winning and working of sand and gravel with restoration to agriculture, waterbodies and wetlands for nature conservation.

Location : Woodsford Quarry Dorchester DT2 8AZ

**Resolved to OBJECT due to the lack of conditions to ensure adherence to the preferred traffic routes to and from the site.**

**[P/VOC/2023/04760](#)** - Variation of Condition

Proposal : Mineral extraction and progressive restoration to agriculture and woodland including the erection of a processing plant, concrete batching plant, workshop, office and weighbridge (with variation of conditions 3, 4 and 15 of planning permission 1/E/2005/0742 to revise the approved phasing of working, extend the duration of the development and allow importation of mineral and processing of mineral from extension site).

Location : Woodsford Quarry Dorchester DT2 8FR

**Resolved to OBJECT due to the lack of conditions to ensure adherence to the preferred traffic routes to and from the site.**

**[P/VOC/2023/04761](#)** - Variation of Condition

Proposal : Formation of silt lagoons to serve existing processing plant at Woodsford Quarry with site restoration to agricultural use (application reference WD/D/18/002648) as upheld at appeal for non-determination (appeal reference APP/D1265/W/19/3232596) (with variation of conditions 3, 5, 7 and 9 to extend the duration of the development and associated scheme submission dates).

Location : Woodsford Quarry Dorchester DT2 8FR

**Resolved to OBJECT due to the lack of conditions to ensure adherence to the preferred traffic routes to and from the site.**

**P/LBC/2023/06147** - Listed Building Consent

Proposal : Proposed garage building and separate pool plant room/gazebo to be constructed within the curtilage of Long Acre Barn

Location : Long Acre Barn Briantspuddle Dairy Briantspuddle DT2 7HT

**Resolved to APPROVE subject to the views of the conservation officer**

**P/FUL/2022/03050** – Full Planning Application - APPEAL

Original Proposal : Change of use of agricultural buildings at Battle Farm to use Class B8 (storage or distribution)

Location : Battle Farm Throop Dorchester DT2 7JD

Note : This is a notification of appeal of the original planning application decision

**This matter was discussed and resolutions made in 23/092 above.**

**P/TRC/2023/05534** - Tree Works, Conservation Area

Proposal : Conifer - Reduce in height by 4 metres.

Location : 5 Briantspuddle DT2 7HS

**Resolved to Make No Comments**

**P/TRC/2023/05648** - Tree Works- Conservation Area

Proposal : T1 Willow - Reduce in height back to previous points by up to 6 metres and shape in. T2 Pear - Reduce entirely by up to 1.5 metres and shape. T3 Apple - Reduce entirely by up to 1.5 metres and shape. T4 Maple - Reduce entirely by up to 1.5 metres and shape.

Location : 10 Bladen Valley Briantspuddle DT2 7HP

**Resolved to Make No Comments**

23/094 **To consider Dorset Councillors report**

**No comments made.**

23/095 **Finance, Payments and Accounts**

**RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Payee	Description	Amount	Total to payee
M Soul	Salary Home Working Allowance Expenses - Mileage – October Meeting	£403.10 £10 £12.60	£425.70
DAPTC	Clerk Conference invoice	£45	£45
AWW Garden Services	Garden Maint 5 hrs Invoice 295/2023 – 18/07/23 Garden Maint 7 hrs Invoice 316/2023 – 8 & 22/8/23 Garden Maint 4 hrs Invoice 336/2023 – 12/9/23	£100 £140 £80	£320
Total			£790.70

The above payments include AWW Garden Services invoices which were noted after the Agenda had been published. It was agreed that because these invoices related to work going back as far as July they would be paid and noted on the Agenda for the December meeting. Adam provides a service to the Parish which is very much appreciated and the quality of his work is exemplary.

Councillors acknowledged payment of £3,180 including VAT paid via pro-forma to Morelocks for the purchase of the SID as approved in the last meeting.

**RESOLVED: APPROVED** including the late payment for AWW Garden Services as detailed above

Councillors wished to thank Allan Slater for repairing the salt bin, sited at Briantspuddle Crossroads, and for his generosity in doing the work free of charge.

23/096      **To consider timetable for S133/137 Grants for the financial year 2023/2024**

Councillor Sue Jones proposed to adjust the timetable to S133 / S137 grants. The Policy for Grants and the Process of applying, including an application form can be found on the Parish Council section of the Community Website [www.briantspuddle.info](http://www.briantspuddle.info). A paper copy can be requested from the Parish Clerk.

Resolved to APPROVE the change to the grant timetable

23/097      **To discuss any correspondence received**

None were received to discuss.

23/098      **Items noted for next meeting:**

- **Initial draft budget for 2024/25 to be discussed in December and voted on in January 2024**
- **Elections reserves to be considered for increase and allocations made in preparation for the May 2024 elections**
- **Clerk pay award to be considered in response to national pay guidance received**
- **To consider a draft maintenance agreement between Briantspuddle Village Shop and the Parish Council**

The next meeting is due to be held on Wednesday December 13th, at 7.00 pm in Briantspuddle Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:30 pm.....Sue Jones (Chair)      Date:

## **Annex to the meeting**

### **Notes of the points made by Parishioners (including the Applicant)**

A resident commented that he was pleased to see the Applicant at the meeting. He went on to say that in an Appeal the Inspector would deal only with evidence and facts based on planning considerations. He went on to say that at the time of the Application some residents had got together to fund an Agent to write an objection on their behalf, and the same approach would be pursued in order to make a submission, this time to the Inspector. Additional fundraising would now be needed to fund the same Agent to prepare a further submission tailored to the Inspectorate. Details of how to make donations were outlined. Notices to inform the wider Parish would also be made available in due course. Examples of governance concerning contributions, including a guarantee of anonymity, were also outlined.

Two residents outlined the problems associated with a huge increase in vehicle movements through the village. Large farm vehicles travelling along The Hollow, meant that buses and cars were using driveways to work out how to get up the single-track road with no passing places. The situation was nothing short of chaos with vehicles having to turn back/reverse. Concern was expressed that there will be a serious accident. A query was raised about the grounds for the Appeal. The Chairman advised where to find the Applicant's basis of Appeal on the Dorset Council Planning Portal.

Another resident added that the Appeal that has been made seems to be a repeat of the original Application. A resident made the meeting aware of how to find the Statement of Case made by the Applicant which is 33 pages long. It can be found on the Appeals tab in the original application, item 2, Statement of Case with Appendices and it is (or was) third in the list of documents. The Chairman reminded the meeting that all submissions need to be received by the Inspector by 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

A comment was made concerning issues around the Traffic Statement submitted in the Application and urged the Parish Council to find the relevant information to be able to submit it to the Inspector. Highways supported the original application based on numbers, which he felt to be incorrect, so having the correct information was critical to any consideration of the proposal. However, he does support a business being able to make a profit from the facilities it owns but it had to be appropriate.

**The Applicant (Parishioner)** - Began by indicating that no one had asked what his plans were for the site.

The Applicant outlined that there were other parties interested in the site. He stated his view that the parish should be grateful that he had bought the site, because other uses would have been much worse than what he is proposing.

The Applicant further outlined that he had been almost at the point of signing a storage contract with the Army, but the contract had been lost because the application had been refused. The Applicant said that if the Appeal was not successful, he would incorporate the buildings at the site into a large-scale cattle operation. He said he believes he has full general agricultural rights for the building with no limitations. This would result in a significant increase in vehicle movements up and down the lanes to a level not previously experienced and would cause considerable disturbance to village life.

The Applicant went on to say that he was buying land locally from farmers offering their land to him. It was his intention to continue to extend his landholdings around Briantspuddle.

The Chairman, reverting to the Applicants opening statement, clarified the planning process. The Parish Council, residents and others could only proceed with the information that was available to them on the Application. The Chairman observed that the Application had not included details of how the site would be used.