

MAIDEN NEWTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1st July 2021 - in the Village Hall at 7pm

PRESENT:

Cllr Trena Fox (Chairman)
Cllr Cherri Dyke
Cllr Sally Falkingham
Cllr Anthony Alford
17 members of public

Cllr Paul Valinski
Cllr Jeremy Edwards
Cllr Di Padfield

- 1. Welcome, Housekeeping, risk assessment and to apologies for absence received:** residents and public were reminded of the current Covid rules for the meeting. 3 members of the public and Russell Goff who has recently resigned as a councillor gave their apologies. Names collected for covid purposes and will be destroyed after 21 days.
- 2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th April 2019** -The minutes of the Parish meeting were approved and signed as an accurate record.
Proposes SF Seconded PV
- 3. To receive any matters arising from the minutes for information only-** None

Annual Reports from April 2019 to May 2021

4. Chairman's report for 2019 to 2021 (TF)

As you know we were unable to have this meeting last year because of lockdown.

Since 2019 the MUGA hut has been erected with an electric and water supply, which the PC is responsible.

I would like to thank Steve Bevis for his commitment and support during this time.

There was a change of personal in 2020 when we said goodbye Alan, Anne and Gary and welcomed Michele as our Clerk and Di Padfield back as a Councillor.

It was a strange year with zoom meetings etc and a lot of different rules and regulations. I would like to thank John Ball for doing the internal audit and Chris Slade for walking footpaths and bridleways for the PC and reporting any problems also thank you to the Poo Fairies.

We have tried to address problems that have arisen over the year and hope to continue to do so in 2021.

Last but not least I would like to thank all Councillors and Michele for their dedication and hard work over the last year and the support they have given me as Chair.

I would also like to thank Russell Goff who recently resigned as a Cllr due to other commitments and wish him and his family all the very best.

5. Finance report 2020-21 (Clerk)

The Parish Council commenced the year with a balance of £43072.00 in the bank
Income during the year was £40142.74.

This was made up of the precept of £31000 and other income of £9143 including:

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Allotment rents, grazing rent, letting of the MUGA and playing field, VAT reclaim, and a small amount of interest.

The PC expenditure was £50979.39 in the year, £23955.82 on the New MUGA hut which now has water and electric. PC maintained the Allotments, carried out some play area repairs, maintained the grass cutting contract for the Playing field and play area, covered staff costs and admin costs.

The bank balance at the end of March 2021 was £32235.35.

The full details on the expenditure for the year can be found on the PC website.

6. Footpath report (CS)- The footpath report was presented by Mr Slade.

Over the last couple of days, I've walked 17 miles checking on most (not all) of the problems I have reported to the Dorset Council as well as the PC. Report as of Feb 2021

PATH	LOCATION	WALKED 2021?	ACTION REQUIRED	BY WHOM	NEXT ACTIONS (BY WHOM)
FP1	Behind Church running upstream along river bank.	Yes	Correct route needs signing and clearing. Still very muddy in parts.	PC	Ask DC to sign and clear correct route
FP2	FP1 by hatches to Cattistock Road	Yes	None		
FP3	Newton Road /Stanstead Road	Yes	None		
FP4	There is no FP4		None		
FP5	From Drift near allotments SE to join FP24	Yes	None		
FP6	Top of Drift to New Barn	Yes	None		
FP7	New Barn to Narn	Yes	Wrongly signed on east rather than west side of New Barn	PC	Ask DC to correct signing
BR8	Drift to New Barn and along to A37	Yes	None		
FP9	Fore Hill to Hog Cliff Bottom	Mostly	Overgrowth and fallen timber alongside Parson's Copse. Path offline and wrongly signed at lower end.	PC	Ask DC to clear the path and correct the alignment at the lower end. Stile/gate needed there.
BR10	Dorchester Road at Lower MN Farm to Yeovil Road at Hog Cliff	Yes	Sign down at Yeovil Road.	PC	Ask DC to re-erect the sign..
BR11	Loop from BR10 along Hog Cliff Bottom	Yes	None		
BR12	Drift Road/New Road	Yes	Rutted towards the top past the allotments.	PC	Ask DC to level the ruts.
FP13	A356 furlong S of Coombeside via Cruyton to Chammens Hill	Mostly	Impassable access onto A356. Overgrown, stile and sign down, barbed wire fence.	PC	Ask DC to fix it.
BR14	A356 near The Plot to railway line	Yes	None		
FP15	Through Crockway House grounds.	Yes	None		
FP16	A356 near Crockway W to Notton Road.	Yes	None (wellies required!)		
BR17	Southover, Throop, Notton, Notton Hill Barn to X ways at top.	Yes	None		
BR18	E from S end of 17 to Frampton boundary	Yes	Obstructed by hedge and fence at end of first field	PC	Ask DC to clear it.
FP19	Cruyton SSW to Wynford Bdy	Yes	Broken stile at Wynford boundary	PC	Ask DC to mend it.
FP20	Notton Hill Barn NW to FP19	Partly	Offline and obstructed at S end.	PC	Ask DC to sign correctly and clear.
FP21	Cruyton SW to Greenford Lane	Yes	None		
FP22	Loop to NW of FP21	Yes	None		

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BR23	Little Watering Way	Yes	Barbed wire fence across it. Needs signing.	PC	Ask DC to arrange BR gate and signing.
FP24	Pill Box near station E to New Road	Yes	None		
FP25	Links BRs 14 and 26 across railway near The Plot, Crockway.	Yes	None		
BR26	FP25 to Frampton Boundary, thence to Hyde Crook	Yes	DCC has waymarked a linked route along the field edge and track.	PC	Ask DC to add it to the Definitive Map.
BR27	Southover Bottom W to BR17 S of Notton Hill Barn	Yes	None		
FP28	Greenford Lane 600x S of Thistle Farm to FP22	Yes	None		
FP29	A356 opp Coombeside in field next to road to join FP13	Yes	None		
FP30	Pavement in front of the station	Yes	None		

Updated report as at 1st July 21 are as follows:

FP1 - no change. Tree still across the footpath. Russell has looked but can't find it, probably he thinks the unofficial, commonly used, route is the right of way, which it isn't (yet!).

FP7 - no change. The public are still misdirected on the wrong side of New Barn.

FP9 - no change. The path alongside the coppice still needs clearing and the route is still offline in the National Nature Reserve.

BR10. Didn't get that far.

BR12 - less rutted than it was.

FP13 - a nice new stile has been erected so it's now possible to enter or leave the path from the A356. It still needs a sign at the roadside.

BR18 - no change.

FP19 - I didn't get as far as the broken stile. There's a new electric fence across the FP at grid reference 59919567.

FP20- no change at Notton Hill Barn. The footpath across the field is thigh deep in barley with no path cleared either on the correct or the incorrect route.

BR23 - no change.

BR26 - didn't get there..

Mr Slade was thanked for all the work he as done over the year to monitor the footpaths.

7. Transport reports- (SF)- The transport report was presented by Sally Falkingham

Buses

Dorset Council, through their passenger services, have continued to provide pre-booked buses to Dorchester on Tuesdays and Thursdays. With Covid restrictions in place, they have provided two buses whenever necessary to meet the demand.

Dorset Community Transport have also continued to provide buses to meet the demand: to Dorchester on Wednesdays and Bridport on Fridays every week. Enough people are now travelling to Yeovil on Thursdays for the service to become fortnightly. DCT now accept the national concessionary bus passes on all its services.

Trains

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After initially removing the 2238 service to Weymouth and the following day's 0551 service to Yeovil and places northward when the COVID-19 restrictions were introduced, these were among the first to be re-instated as both are used by key workers further up the line, if not from Maiden Newton. Most trains are now running on time and the number of cancellations due to staff shortages has fallen.

In 2020 the SWT Saturday service from Waterloo via Yeovil Junction and the link to Yeovil Pen Mill and the afternoon return journey was cancelled and has so far not been re-instated.

In February 2020 the line was closed for a week whilst a bridge was replaced between Thornford and Yetminster and other major maintenance work carried out. Timetabled replacement buses were provided. This year it was the bridge across the Yeo south of Pen Mill Station which was replaced and the replacement of worn-out sleepers between Maiden Newton and Dorchester West was only finished recently.

The Station

As I told you in 2019, we had been successful in our 2018 bid to GWR's Community Fund for Station improvements to get lighting installed along Station Approach, but it was 3 December 2019 before I got a phone call from Swindon telling me the installation was being tested and inviting me to be at the Station in half an hour's time to officially switch on the lights for GWR. The black hole between the Station Car Park and the Village Hall has gone and we also got the road resurfaced.

During the past year we have also received the new electronic timetable information display board, had the parts of the station for which GWR is responsible painted and now have barriers to stop people walking northward off the end of both platforms.

Thank you to the Station Gardener team, Gaynor, Giles and Barbara, for the displays of colour and for the ways they look after the Station.

Country Cars

Rachel Clark has resumed the post of Booking Officer today. I took over again at the end of April when Rachel was ill and found the need for the service is still there as have had process 65 bookings in May and June. Thank you to all our drivers.

8. Allotment report- was provided by Trena Fox.

We have had several allotments cleared over 2020 and I have had several meetings with the Allotment Association Chair, Charles to address some of the problems that have arisen, a new notice board has been installed and nearly all the allotments are occupied.

9. Play area report- was provided by Cherri Dyke.

The surfacing around some of the equipment is in poor condition, this needs to be either repaired or to start again with completely new surfacing, quotes are being gathered but some of the play equipment needs to be renewed so it would be sensible to renew the surface of these items at the same time.

The friends of the play area are looking for new members, once a new committee has been set up, we would like to arrange fundraising for the new equipment as there is currently £1800 in the bank for new equipment.

There have been some issues with football going on to late into the evening in the play area, it was explained that this is because there are no goal posts in situ on the playing field.

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Following the recent play inspection report the gates into the play area needs to be accessible for wheelchairs and buggies, the council will investigate putting a combination lock onto the access gate from the Car Park to ensure the area is open to all.

10. MUGA and Playing field report (TF/JE)- Report provided by Trena and Jeremy.

The MUGA is being used by the school in term time, which they pay a fee for. Some families have been using the MUGA during lockdown, one family has used it for tennis and a couple for basketball. The tennis net is available for use, the PC will be having a site meeting to look at the surface of the MUGA as it is starting to break up around the edges, this is very expensive due to the type of surfacing that has been installed. The surface is not suitable for skateboards or bikes, some of the wooden bars are broken and need replacement also the fence along the boundary of the playing field is to be replaced this year as it is rotten.

If anyone wants to use the MUGA the key is available from the chairman, and it can be used at night as we now have access to electricity and water has been installed for cleaning of the site.

Members of the public commented on the lack of access to the MUGA by the community. Also, the goal posts at the site are not fit for purpose and need to be removed or replaced. It was noted that the goal posts are locked to the MUGA fence as they belong to the various football clubs and this was done to stop them being carried around the playing field as some had been in the past and during lockdown.

One resident asked why we need a special surface within the MUGA and could we have something more hardwearing, and we would like skate park. Residents and some of the children felt frustrated that the site cannot be left open, as many children are not going to ring up someone they don't know for a key. SF commented at the MUGA was installed this was the best surface at that time and grants funded this project.

Due to vandalism and damage to the site it had to be closed and open only with a key, there were issues of glass bottles being thrown onto the site, bonfires and using skateboards that ripped the surface and the resurfacing costs ran in to thousands to repair.

If the MUGA was left open the community then users would need to take on a sense of responsibility for it. Residents asked if the surface could be replaced with a hard-wearing surface that can be used for more sports and activities. It was noted that if the site were left open then there would be no revenue collected for the MUGA so any repairs would have to be paid for by the precept or by fund raising activities.

It was reported that a Skate park to be on the land owned by the CLT around the community centre, this does not belong to the PC and is being looked into by a volunteer.

The Councillors suggested a trial period of opening up the MUGA starting after the end of the summer school term for the month of August to see how this went. Also to ask for volunteers to come forward to be on a "Friends of the MUGA" group to support the MUGA, to raise funds and awareness of community ownership.

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The Council thanked the public for their comments and would consider the opening of the MUGA in the parish council meeting.

11. Bus Shelters and car parks report (JE)

Jeremy Edwards reported on the bus shelters in the village there is one at Webbers Piece and one on Dorchester Road.

The bus stop on Dorchester Rd needs major work to make it safe, it is only currently used by children who attend Kingston Maurward and Beaminster school as there are no public buses. There have been some suggestions from the residents that it should be moved to the other side of the road or move the one from Webber's piece down to Dorchester Rd, it was reported that the bus stop at Webbers piece is used by residents as a resting point when walking in the village.

The PC had previously considered the bus shelter on Dorchester Road but the costs to dismantle and carry out any works needed highways permission and traffic control could run into thousands, let alone a skip and to carry out the works so this was halted due to Covid. Some residents suggested using the bus shelter as a book exchange or just an area to sit but unfortunately there are steps up to the bus shelter, so this is not wheelchair friendly. It was noted that the bus shelter belongs to the parish council but the land on which it sits belongs to Dorset council. The future of the bus shelter will be discussed in the parish council meeting.

12. Village Hall report (CD)

The Hall has been closed during Covid, there has been some vandalism so CCTV will be installed. The crack in the main wall has been repaired and the hall is due to be decorated. The hall has been in receipt of Covid grant funding and will be using this for updating the hall looking at creating more rental and repairs to the toilets.

13. Dorset Councillor report (AA)

Cllr Anthony Alford reported that Dorset Council had only just been formed when the last Annual Parish meeting was held. It is now a single organisation; all development policies are being updated. The major consultation at the moment is the Dorset local plan and this is to be completed by 2024. There have been 7000 responses, so it's taking time to collate these and feed this back.

The Council has worked hard during Covid, providing grants, support, and services to the communities. There is a weekly update that comes out from Dorset Council via email and online, so hopefully communication is better with local residents and parish councils. There is currently a review of the car parking charges being considered.

SF asked AA to look into why the Upper Frome Valley CLT and Maiden Newton CLT is missing off the DC list as there is a vacancy at Neil's View and this needs to be advertised. AA will look into this.

14. To comment on the Quarr land use if the PC adopt the area.

The Parish Council have been offered as part of a S106 agreement a parcel of land at the Quarr development where 9 properties are to be built following outline planning in 2017. If the PC do not adopt it then a management company would be set, and the village would not have control over its use. Also on part of the section of the land there is as part of the S106 a play area with 5 pieces of

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equipment, as there is already a play area in the village this is not required so the PC would need to look at negotiating this with the planners.

The Councillors consulted residents at the meeting on the use of this land and how it could be funded as there are no funds within the S106. Suggested uses for the land, picnic area, village green, community garden and orchard with fruit trees for the benefit of the community it was suggested that the area could be named the "Platinum Gardens". The residents at the meeting supported the PC adopting the land for the community. The Council will consider this in the PC meeting.

15. To consider a community Governance Review for Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch

The Clerk explained to the meeting a community governance review being a review of Parish and Town Councils administration, parish boundaries, numbers of Councillors, grouping orders and if a Parish wishes to be a Parish Council or if a parish council wishes to be a parish meeting, this is dependent on numbers of electors.

Nicky Mann the Chair of the Parish meeting at Frome Vauchurch commented that they are looking to become at raising a precept and are consulting the 74 households in the parish. NM will also consult with the households to see if the parish would like to group with Maiden Newton and work more closely together also looking at a joint Neighbourhood plan in the future.

Maiden Newton residents at the meeting were in support of this union. This will be discussed at the PC meeting.

16. Democratic forum- none

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

After a short comfort break the PC meeting commenced