

CCL2009.07.21

At the Council Meeting of **COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL** held at EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL on **21 JULY 2009**.

**PRESENT**

Cllr KD Johnson, Chairman

Cllr Dave Mitchell, Vice-Chairman

Cllrs Mike Bartlett, John Bell, Susan Davies, Janet Dover, Coirin Duff, Pat Francis, John Gooch, Tony Holloway, Joe Kingsmill, David Packer, Don Wallace and John Warren.

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Keith Baker and District Councillor Morgan.

Cllr Packer arrived at 19.15 hrs, at the commencement of Minute 94.09.

Cllr Duff left the meeting at 20.00 hrs, at the conclusion of Minute 94.09.

Cllr Dover left the meeting at 20.30 hrs, at the conclusion of Minute 95.09.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr Jody Foy, Client Project Sponsor, Dorset County Council.

PC Steve Brett.

Ms Louise Dunderdale, Senior Reporter, Daily Echo.

Approximately 47 members of the public attended the meeting to listen to Mr Foy's presentation on the traffic calming at Middlehill Road and to ask questions arising from it.

**90.09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Gooch declared a personal interest in Minute No 94.09 – Middlehill Road Traffic Calming.

**91.09 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

**92.09 CLLR PAT FRANCIS**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Francis to the Council. Cllr Francis had been co-opted at an informal meeting held on 9 June 2009, the notes of which appear at Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

Cllr Gooch proposed that Cllr Francis be appointed to serve on Highways and Plans Committee, seconded by Cllr Mitchell. Unanimous.

Arrangements had been made for Cllr Francis to apply for a Dispensation from East Dorset District Council's Standards Committee as a result of the Members holding the capacity as custodian trustees of the Colehill Memorial Hall.

RESOLVED that Cllr Francis be appointed to serve on Highways and Plans Committee for the ensuing year.

**93.09**      **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

Cllr Dover proposed that Cllr Warren be appointed to serve on Highways and Plans Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee, seconded by Cllr Holloway. Unanimous.

RESOLVED that Cllr Warren be appointed to serve on the Highways and Plans Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

**94.09**      **MIDDLEHILL ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING**

Mr Jody Foy from Dorset County Council presented the statistics showing the results of the speed survey and safety audit.

The speed data had been collected by using strips across the road in seven areas. The data had been collected in the same week and areas as when it had been collected in 2007. Compared to the original data speed had reduced. The statistics would be made available on Colehill Parish Council's website.

Mr Foy confirmed that the two independent safety auditors had been made aware of the issues raised by members of the public prior to commencement of the safety audit. The matters raised in the audit would be addressed, however the reverse chicanes had not been mentioned.

Four members of the public spoke of their concerns with the reversed chicanes. They considered that the chicanes were badly located, badly signposted and that the give way lines were too close to the chicanes. Many members of the public agreed that they had witnessed or suffered near collisions.

Mr Foy explained that the reverse chicanes made people think more and also provided a shorter distance for people to cross the road. The chicanes were not in breach of any guidance and advised that the give way lines were in the correct place when vehicles were driven at the correct speed. The signposting was clear and not giving way was down to driver responsibility.

Mrs Groves and Miss Scott of Howell House reminded Council of the fatality that occurred in December 2006 and explained that a pedestrian crossing was desperately needed to enable elderly people and parents with young families to cross the road.

Mr Foy responded that unfortunately the criteria for a safe crossing point had not been met at this site. The criteria were dependent on the number of vehicles with the volume of pedestrians.

Cllr Kingsmill asked whether it had been considered that the public were inhibited from crossing Middlehill Road because of vehicle speed. Mr Foy advised that the surveyor would have noted any attempts to cross the road even if the attempts had been abandoned.

Cllr Wallace asked what the Council could do to ask DCC to reconsider providing a pedestrian crossing at Howell House. Mr Foy replied that he would need the Council to make this request and he would arrange for the site to be re-evaluated. He explained that he was not confident the site would reach the criteria. The Chairman advised that a request for a pedestrian crossing would be placed on the next Highways and Plans Committee agenda and Mr Foy informed of the decision.

Mrs Howard asked about the reasoning behind the pinch points as she did not think that they made the road narrow enough to slow vehicles and only caused a problem for cyclists.

Mr Foy explained that the pinch points had narrowed the road to 5.5m and had been installed to increase driver discomfort. The statistics showed that vehicles had slowed down.

Mr Shave asked if the statistics could be broken down into one hour sections. Mr Foy thought that this could be arranged and would provide the details for the Council's website.

Mr Davies asked why Middlehill Road had qualified for traffic calming.

Mr Foy advised that DCC assessed each request for traffic calming. Colehill Parish Council had requested traffic calming and, taking account of speed data and accident and injury statistics, the area had met the targets.

Cllr Mitchell advised that, through the Parish Plan, 80% had asked for traffic calming.

Cllr Packer explained that an NHS report on health in East Dorset showed that traffic accidents were significantly higher in East Dorset. The traffic calming had taken along to time to get, with the consultation process being well attended. Plenty of opportunity had been provided for councillors and members of the public to comment on the design. No-one had noticed the reverse chicanes. He considered that the scheme should be allowed to settle down.

Cllr Dover referred to the NHS and Public Health Observatories report on Health in East Dorset that had just been mentioned and explained that there was a document for the whole of Dorset, recently published, which said that the number of Road injuries and deaths in Dorset were significantly worse than the 'England average'. Cllr Dover said that she raised the high number of KSI (Killed and seriously injured) on Dorset's roads figures in the report with both DCC and the Dorset Police Authority and explained that these Authorities were left in no doubt as to how concerned members of the public felt about safety on Dorset's roads. She had raised with DCC and passed on to Mr Foy numerous e-mails she had received from local people outlining their concerns about the layout of the new traffic calming in Middlehill Road, particularly the chicanes outside the Library.

Cllr Dover would be meeting with Mr Ackerman, Head of Highways at DCC, to walk Middlehill Road and discuss outstanding issues. Cllr Dover explained that this was not the end of the scheme and she would continue liaising between local residents, DCC and Colehill Parish Council.

Mr Foy agreed that the scheme would continue to be reviewed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Foy and the members of the public for attending the meeting.

**95.09**

**COLEHILL AND WIMBORNE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllr Dover reminded Members of the history behind the project to provide the youngsters of Colehill and Wimborne with a youth and community centre.

Cllr Dover explained how East Dorset District Council and Wimborne Minster Town Council had worked together to obtain funds for a community centre at Leigh Road, and advised how the Chief Executive and Leader of Council considered that this arrangement could also be made with Colehill Parish Council.

The arrangement would involve the Council applying for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board and EDDC, or its successor Council, meeting all of the repayment charges.

Cllr Dover explained that the money needed to be raised this way because EDDC had no capital money available.

Cllr Dover also explained that the Reef Management Committee had secured grant aid, but that the aid could only be released once matched funding had been obtained. A loan would enable the grant aid to be released.

Cllr Dover confirmed that Dorset County Council had agreed to pay for the staffing of the Reef.

The amount of loan discussed was £200,000 with EDDC repaying £10,000 per annum. EDDC would not wish to exceed £10,000 pa. The length of the loan would be 50 years.

Cllr Gooch advised that the repayments on a £200,000 loan exceeded £10,000 pa and that the Council would have to pay the remainder.

It was considered that this matter would need to be discussed further with EDDC, but that at this stage it was important to agree the recommendation to enable EDDC's Policy and Resources Committee to discuss the matter within the timescale given.

Cllr Dover proposed that the Council proceed with the loan, in principle, on the understanding that EDDC, or its successor Council, would meet all repayment charges, seconded by Cllr Packer. 11-0 (2 abstentions).

RESOLVED that the Council proceed with the loan, in principle, on the understanding that EDDC, or its successor Council, would meet all repayment charges.

96.09

**COUNTRY FAIR**

Cllr Davies updated Members on the arrangements for the Country Fair on 16 August. The Temporary Event Licence had been granted to permit live music and alcohol to be served, the number of exhibitors attending was 33 and publicity had been arranged by radio, newspaper, website, banners, posters and leaflet distribution through the local schools.

Cllr Davies advised that Dorset Scrap Store were interested in exhibiting. This was an organisation that encourages children to produce arts and crafts from recycled materials and also sells craft materials. Dorset Scrap Store would charge to attend and Cllr Davies considered she could negotiate the charge to approximately £120. Cllr Davies had also persuaded a Morris Dancing Group to participate.

St Michael's Middle School would charge £110.00 excluding VAT for the hire of the sports field. However, there would be no water provided on site due to maintenance work. Three portaloos would cost £165 excluding VAT. Cllr Davies would contact the Reef Management Committee to request permission to use their building for water.

Cllr Francis advised Cllr Davies to contact Beaucroft School as it might be possible to use their water facilities.

Concern was expressed that a lack of water could affect fire safety and caterers' requirements. Cllr Davies considered that the Caretaker from St Michael's Middle School would be able to advise on safety matters and she would contact the caterers to ensure that they provided their own safety measures and were aware that water was not available.

NOTED.

97.09

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED that the accounts listed in Appendix 2 be passed for payment and cheques drawn accordingly.

The Meeting ended at 20.56 hrs.

CHAIRMAN