MINETY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2022

Venue – Village Hall Minety

**Chair** Mr A Slucock

**Councillors** Mrs S Crompton; Mr I Cain; Mr A Read; Mr J Shephard; Mr I Cain; Mrs J Pinkney; Mr A Anderson

**In attendance**

Mrs E Fursman (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Chuck Berry

###### **Present:** 20 members of the public, names were noted.

###### Meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the procedure.

1. **Apologies accepted by the meeting:**

Were received from Parish Councillors Gardner (his last meeting before resigning)

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 22 May 2020 were approved by all present as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1. **Introduction**

The Chairman commenced by introducing himself as chairman of your parish council. All the councillors were introduced themselves and the Chairman invited Cllr Chuck Berry to give his report.

1. **Wiltshire Councillor’s Report**

Cllr Berry welcomed all past councillors and representatives of the village to the meeting. Cllr Berry started by telling the meeting a little about Wiltshire Council. They are currently in their 3rd term of unitary, whereby there is no district council in the middle but things are reported directly to the councillor, which is for our area Cllr Berry and he is always happy to help parishioner where possible. He stressed that the biggest funding issue at the moment is community-care and the forecast that as a county we will be facing some very difficult times. There will be people within our community that will financially struggle and Cllr Berry gave an example that a 2-child family should expect to be paying an extra £400 a month going forwards at the very least. Community spirt is crucial and we should look after each other. Cllr Berry stressed that people should look to their community. He advised of a small charity that he chairs that may be able to offer support to parishioners should the need arise with grants.

Cllr Berry discussed Minety’s status as a small village and the benefit of this meaning that as a village we are expected to receive a level of planning requirement. Cllr Berry addressed speeding in the village, particularly the B4040 and said that Wiltshire council are now more inclined to listen and to provide speed mitigation devices. Wiltshire council will be employing 3 new speed inclined officers. Hopeful for something constructive being achieved in the future. Cllr Berry advised that Wiltshire Council spend around 1 million pounds a day and 70% of this on average goes on adult and child social care covering around 6000 people. This equates to about 1.5% of the population for Wiltshire and it is mainly spent on domiciliary face to face care. This means there is not a great deal of funds left for other areas. Cllr Berry is hopeful the pressure on individuals who require care may be addressed by the government through the ICS which incorporates the NHS and councils and will allow them to work together to deliver the services required. They received funds through National Insurance contributions and a small percentage from your council tax bill.

1. **Chairman’s Report**

Cllr Slucock thanked Cllr Berry for his contribution towards the meeting. Cllr Slucock advised the attendees that he took over at Christmas as chairman from Mr Morrison and thanked him for his contribution. Cllr Slucock advised that he was new to the role as were several of the council members and the Clerk and the team were all learning on the job and we are all on a steep learning curve. Cllr Slucock thanked the general community for their feed back and their support in our roles as a parish council. As a council we are very open to communication and we are here to help. Cllr Slucock says we want to serve the community openly, honestly and to raise as much awareness of what the parish council does. The council have started to meet twice a month. Once formally and once informally to help make inroads into what we are hoping to achieve. As a council we would like to find out more about the organisations in the village who we should be supporting, such as the Art group, MPFA and organisations that use the facilities such as the village hall. Also raising are profile with these groups and working with Cllr Berry and Wiltshire Police. The parish council want to make sure they are engaging with the right areas of the community so that they can be more effective.

Cllr Slucock advised that the council are putting together a Minety parish council handbook to future proof the knowledge required and details of everything that as a council should be down and what the council own. This will be published to the community once it is complete.

Cllr Slucock reported that Cllr Gardner has resigned and thanked him for his contribution to the council. Cllr Gardner will stay in touch and be available for advice in his area of expertise which is the law. Cllr Slucock announced there was now a vacancy on the council if anyone was interested in standing for the role.

Cllr Slucock said as a parish council we are hoping to engage volunteers from the community to help in areas such as footpaths.

Planning: The council has moved to prioritise applications such as the multiple battery and solar plans and the planning application for Sawyers Hill over areas such as neighbourhood watch. There has been some success in reducing the size of the solar installation on the b4040 and the council have secured significant funding from the community as a result.

Green energy: There have been a number of applicants for the village due to the capacity of the sub station at Minety. As a council we are in support of green energy and are aware of the need to make the UK self sufficient in supplying energy and the Minety sub station helps supply the national grid not just the local community. However, as a council the application of green energy needs to be right for the area and we endeavour to do our best for local community. Wiltshire Council however had the final say in any decisions made.

Communications: Website, Notice boards, Facebook, Parish newsletter. The parish council have tried to increase village awareness of what the council do and are raising our profile for this by increasing communications. Cllr Slucock asked if anyone could think of any other communications that we could use within the village, to please let him know as it is appreciated that not everyone is online.

The website is now up to date and this is being regularly maintained, including planning applications.

Clean up day: This sadly hasn’t happened this year. The council are hoping to reinstate this later this year or in 2023.

Cllr Slucock introduced Cllr Shepherd who advised the meeting on Road safety and flooding.

Cllr Shepherd spoked about the village being divided by the Swillbrook to the North and the Derrybrook to the South. All surface water ends up In these brooks and they then join together at Ashton Keynes and progress on to the Thames. It is essential that that surface water is directed along our watercourses and that they are kept clear. The Parish council has been engaging with house holders to encourage active maintenance. One area of concern is the culvert serving Silver Close which can become overwhelmed in extreme circumstances. Wiltshire County council has recognised this and have proposed a floor amelioration project to help contain excess water in an interception pond at Minety Playing fields. The environment agency has agreed funding and the Parish council is awaiting further details.

Speeding: Cllr Shephard reported on the many recent accidents on the B4040 and Silver street crossroads. Traffic data taken from the Speed indication devices show less that 85th percentile of traffic is within the speed limit. This is the intervention threshold per the Wiltshire Council Road Safety strategy (2011-2026) and as a result Minety Parish Council have requested surveys with Wiltshire Council for Silver Street and the B4040. The commissioning is expected to take place w.c 13th of June and a report to be issued in subsequent weeks. Wiltshire council road safety strategy states that The casualty reduction interventions are developed by following the proven approach of the 3 “E”s. Education. Enforcement and Engineering.

Cllr Shephard passed the meeting back to Cllr Slucock.

Cllr Slucock said that the Parish council are hoping to drop leaflets to the residents on the B4040 as winter approaches about the importance of keeping parked cars clean and keeping pavements clear for pedestrians.

MPFA: We are working closely with their committees. There will be a resurfacing of the carpark at the playing fields and the Parish Council are waiting quotes at the moment but will be contributing to the work.

Footpaths: Members of the community regularly keep us updated on the state of the local footpaths and assist by also reporting this to Wiltshire Council through the app. Cllr Slucock wanted to give special thanks to Lavina Drake for her assistance and for organising monthly walks in the village. Mr Huckin was also thanked for his help regarding footpaths. A footpath working group has been suggested based on Wiltshire council’s guidance, and thanks to Mr Denman’s offer of help with maintenance this will be investigated.

1. **Open Forum**

Representatives from local organisations and guests to the meeting were invited to address the council and ask questions.

A member of the public queried the engineering aspect of the 3 Es of Wiltshire council. The village does not have street lights and this does limit what can be done in terms of traffic calming. Cllr Berry addressed the question. There is more of a problem with speeding in the North of Wiltshire due to it being an area open to commuters with easy access to local cities, towns and London. There are more people travelling through the area. White lining is poor in North Wiltshire. Cllr Berry asked that villagers report problems with white lines and cats’ eyes on the Wiltshire app or to the council. Cllr Berry said there is not enough enforcement in North Wiltshire and it does require better policing. Cllr Shephard said it is everyone’s responsibility, not just within in the village to maintain their speeds while they are driving. Warning letters from police from licence plates, virtual speed bumps and rumble strips were discussed.

A member of the public brought up the larger volume of traffic travelling along the B4040 in more recent years. Cllr Berry suggested this may be because we are such a large commercial area with access to Swindon, Bath and Bristol. The vehicle movements in this part of Wiltshire are significantly larger than other parts of Wiltshire and it is a remarkably commutable area, especially with the new faster train access to London from Kemble and Swindon.

A member of the public asked about weight restrictions on the bridge by the Vale of the White horse. There was a survey several years ago about the suppression of truck access and it was a matter of local access to the gravel pits so there was little that could be done.

A member of the public asked the question about why speed cameras are not used and felt there were no consequences to speeding. Cllr Berry advised that in the near future cars will be held to the speed limits automatically unless specially disabled in a vehicle. Speed cameras were removed from North Wiltshire in 2009 as they cost more to run and the funds raised were not put back into the system and police force. There is a move to make this more local and revenue to be kept in the locality to help finance the cameras and actions required.

A member of the public asked about rural house prices and the lack of housing projects for younger member of the community. Cllr Berry addressed this. There was a project built in Upper Minety of social housing as an exceptional development. These are rented or sold at a lower rate than the market value. A member of the public who was involved with this at the time said this was proposed at the time due to a housing survey issued to the village and it was found that affordable housing was required. Sadly, once the houses were built there was very little take up from the local community and very few that had expressed an interest requested to benefit from the scheme and the houses were extended to people outside of the community.

A member of the public requested information on the planning over the bridge on the B4040 where the land has been tarmacked. Council addressed to say this area had planning for an additional traveller’s site. The site is being prepared according to planning permissions.

A member of the public raised 2 points of order regarding the signing of the minutes and the terminology about additional mostly meetings. Cllr Slucock according signed the minutes in front of the attendees and clarified that additional meetings were informal so not required to be advertised or to have an agenda or minutes.

The Chairman thanked all those present for attending and, as there were no further questions, the meeting was closed.

Meeting closed at 20:09 pm