

**Minutes of the WAY AHEAD WORKING PARTY held at the Village Hall, Corfe Mullen on Tuesday 4th June 2019 commencing at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr D Sowry-House - Chairman

Cllrs	Barron	Honeyman	Jefferies
	Craven	Howard	Lortie

Officers in attendance: Katrina Blee (Clerk).

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

There were two members of the public present.

**19/55 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**19/56 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**19/57 Social Media Presence**

Full Council has delegated the Working Party with setting up a social media presence for a trial period, to be reviewed at September Full Council.

This would act as an electronic noticeboard complementary to the Council's current online presence in the shape of its website.

Some members present recalled that Full Council had decided that only staff would be able to post items but not that the administration of the site would be restricted to staff. The Clerk was asked to check the meeting recording and if necessary this point can be clarified at the next Full Council meeting.

Members considered the various products and the social groups which use them. Both Twitter and Facebook were seen to be the most appropriate to reach the parish electorate, however Facebook was thought to be the most flexible in how it can be operated.

The difference between a Facebook page and group was explained. FB pages have traditionally suited businesses and organisations, and groups have been mainly used to date by specific interest groups, although they can have many members.

However there are limitations on what can be done on pages, such as limiting sharing etc., and some new tools have been made available to groups, such as scheduling tools, switching off comments at the point of posting, etc. This range of tools makes administration more streamlined.

Groups are open or closed. Users must apply to join a closed group and the administrator will approve this. Non-members can see the group page but cannot see any posts. Group posts cannot be shared outside the group on Facebook or elsewhere.

It was therefore felt that a closed group would be preferable.

It would be possible to include councillor profiles, meeting papers etc., as there is a facility to set up easily accessible folders for different types of information. Also, there would be a URL link to the Council website.

It was recognised that a social media presence would complement the other methods the Council already uses to engage and inform the community – website, office, hard copy information, door to door newsletter, councillors corresponding with electors and/or running surgeries and correspondence. People access information differently and a social media group is another way to reach those people who prefer engaging in this way.

The need to ensure that staff are fully conversant with administering the group was highlighted, and Cllr Sowry-House offered to do this, as he administers several groups of his own.

Following a proposal from Cllr Craven it was agreed that a closed Facebook group be used for the trial.

*Nem Con.*

A discussion followed on whether to turn off commenting on all posts, with some members feeling strongly that this should be the case and others suggesting that some posts could be appropriate for commenting. After discussion it was decided that the staff could keep commenting on some posts, and this will be reviewed when the trial is reviewed by Full Council in September.

There was also an explanation of how the staff would be able to manage members of the group should there be any need to and that this can be recorded in admin notes on the group's account page.

Cllr Sowry-House offered to set up the group in conjunction with the Clerk and set out group rules. Once the preparatory work is done the group would be made live and publicised. These points were agreed.

*Nem Con.*

## **19/58 Live streaming of meetings**

Full Council had asked the Working Party to look at the pros and cons, and the practicalities, of filming, recording and/or live streaming all meetings which are open to the public.

Cllr Sowry-House highlighted the fact that the law allows anyone to film or record meetings, and this would therefore just be taking this a step further and providing this automatically for the whole community.

It was agreed that Cllr Sowry-House would speak to a member of the public present who had knowledge of setting up filming and recording, and that Cllr Craven would also contact someone who is assisting another council on this matter. The Clerk added that she had also asked the Village Hall's audio-visual contractor for guidance. It was recognised that some minimal amplification may be needed in addition to a webcam or camera.

*Nem Con.*

It is anticipated that this information would be available in time for Full Council to consider on 25<sup>th</sup> June and if agreed, filming and recording would be trialled, possibly with different set ups, before proceeding to live streaming.

The Council would need to enhance its current data policies with a broadcasting policy and Cllr Barron was asked to obtain Dorset Council's which could be used as a basis.

*Nem Con*

**19/59 Items of Information and matters for forthcoming Agendas**

- a) Cllr Howard queried why the Working Party had to be open to the public and the Clerk was asked to re-check this.
- b) Cllr Lortie suggested setting up a regular Parish Councillor surgery to be run on a rota basis. This will be referred to Full Council.
- c) Cllr Craven suggested that the Parish Council should have a greater role in the Carnival, possibly with a stall or helping out in other ways. The Clerk reminded that the Council has normally had a stall. This will be referred to Full Council.
- d) Cllr Howard asked if the Council could discuss the possibility of seeking a judicial review of the decision to grant planning permission for an exception site at the bottom of Pardys Hill. This will also be referred to Full Council.

**19/60 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 at 7 p.m..

The meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.