

## WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

held on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022** held at 7pm In St Anthony's Church Hall

**PRESENT:**

Cllr K Wilkes – Chair		
Cllr Mrs R Burke	Cllr A Clarke	Cllr D Green
Cllr M Hawkes	Cllr Mrs C Holmes	Cllr S Linford
Cllr Mrs N Senior	Cllr C Way	Cllr A Willats

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mrs Judi Weedon (Clerk to the Council)  
 Mrs Amie Fawcett (Assistant to the Clerk to the Council)  
 Sergeant Steve Payne  
 10 members of the public

The Chair welcomed those present

Immediately after, the Good Citizen Awards were presented to the winners and recognition certificates to the nominees. Details of this Award scheme can be found within the Chair's Report below, Item 1.

Following the Award presentation Guest Speaker Stasia Smith, who received a Diana Award in 2021, gave a presentation on her experiences as a member of the Youth Parliament and plans to encourage youth participation in local government.

The Council expressed their gratitude for her heartening and informative presentation.

#### **1. CHAIR'S REPORT – Cllr Keith Wilkes**

The Annual Assembly provides an opportunity to inform you what the Council has been doing during 2021-22 and what activities and events have taken place over this last year.

COVID-19 presented many challenges over the last 12 months. The Council was required to return to face-to-face meetings from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and we are very grateful to St Anthony's Church Hall for hosting all our meetings. The Council would like to say thank you to the NHS, local churches, schools and organisations that have continued to support local residents in so many ways.

#### **Westival 2022**

The Big Event is back and we are very excited to welcome everyone to Fryer Field on 9<sup>th</sup> July between 1200-1600. We have a feast of activities for the family to enjoy. If you would like a copy of the event programme they will be available in the Council Office from June.

#### **Skate West Moors 2021 - New Skatepark**

One of the significant achievements of the Town Council is the completion of the new skatepark. At the last Annual Assembly I reported that bids for funding were progressing. Thanks to the support of The National Lottery Community Fund the funding target was secured by late April 2021. On 24<sup>th</sup> September, slightly ahead of schedule, the skatepark was handed over to the community and has been well used ever since. It was my pleasure to formally open the skatepark on 15<sup>th</sup> October at the successful Launch Party.

A 12-month evaluation report is required by the 2 largest funders so plenty of feedback from users of the skatepark would be extremely helpful. Please email any comments to the Council or use the QR code on posters at the skatepark which you can scan and complete a short survey.

#### **Good Citizen Award 2022**

There were 5 Adult nominees this year namely John Bartley and James Hounslow (closely associated with West Moors Memorial Hall), John Reid and Rev Andy Muckle for helping the

community during Covid and Ray Hilton-Garner (Chair of West Moors Youth Club)

The winner is Ray Hilton-Garner for his work with the youth club. On receiving his award Ray accepted it on behalf of the team of people that keep the youth club running and said the certificate would be on display in the Youth Club.

The other four nominees all receive a Recognition Award. John Reid accepted the award on behalf of the 20 volunteers who all helped out during the pandemic.

### **Jean Ware Legacy Award 2021/22**

Despite regular posts on Facebook, emails to local clubs and schools and posters on all 3 WMTC noticeboards we only had one application which did not meet the Award criteria.

### **Apprentice Vocational Training Grant 2021/22**

A Grant of £250 was awarded to Ben Davis in November 2021 to help towards costs incurred during his apprenticeship at Ringwood Motor Company. No further applications have been received so please spread the word if you think you know someone who might benefit.

### **Ringwood Food Bank – Agent for Vouchers**

We are still a referral agent for Ringwood Foodbank but have only issued one voucher since last year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require one, or know of anyone whom we could help

### **Competitions/Initiatives**

- **Christmas Card Competition.**

Since 2015 the Council has hosted an annual competition for the students of Oakhurst and St. Mary's First Schools to create a Christmas picture that can be used on the front of the official West Moors Town Council Christmas card. Presentations to the winners were made at the Carols on the Petwyn event. Many residents and councillors described the atmosphere at the Carol Concert as amazing as always for which we must thank the West Moors Youth and Community Club and Churches Together.

- **The Eco-Garden of Wonder Competition July 2021**

This was our first ever Eco-Garden of Wonder Competition, sponsored by Brewer & Brewer (West Moors). We publicised this as much as we could via social media but sadly we only received a few entries.

- **Memory Tree**

The Memory Tree initiative was introduced last September because Christmas can be a bitter-sweet time for many and Covid was still impacting many so we thought why not let people leave a message for a loved one. The Office laminated the messages and placed them on the tree with a red ribbon outside Dixon Kelley on Station Road. Organised by WMTC and supported by Dorset Council the Memory Tree hopefully gave some comfort to residents. We look forward to doing so again next Christmas.

### **Remembrance Day November 2021**

We were pleased to be able to hold the Remembrance Day Parade Service last November after cancellation in 2020. The event saw a return to pre-pandemic numbers of those participating and spectating. West Moors Town Council thank the Clerk for ensuring this runs smoothly every year.

### **Asset Transfer**

Due to legal paperwork issues the Transfer of Assets (from EDDC to DC to WMTC) due to be completed in 2020, remains pending. The Park Way Car Park and Public Toilets, the land behind Fryer Field and Brook View are all due to become the responsibility of West Moors Town Council.

## Queen's Jubilee 2022

As you are all aware The Platinum Jubilee marks 70 years of the Queen's reign. The Jubilee Flag was raised on February 6<sup>th</sup> and will remain in place until the Extended Bank Holiday has passed.

In January children from the three schools in West Moors painted rocks that the Town Council provided to pay tribute to this momentous occasion. The colourful and creative rocks were displayed on the Petwyn showing the historic dates 1952 – 2022. The Council will also be party packs to the residents of the local care homes, so they are able to celebrate the event.

## Communications

In the past few months, we have been investigating how we might improve communications with the Community. We have 3 noticeboards (Holly Court, Woolslope Road and Pinehurst Road) and recently we have added 2 more 'HOT TOPIC' A4 size noticeboards outside Oakhurst and St. Mary's First Schools designed to encourage visits to our website or Facebook page. In February 2022 Breakthrough Communications carried out a Social Media Health Check on our Facebook and website. We were commended for our Facebook presence and advised how to enhance website content. Please follow us on [www.westmoors-tc.gov.uk](http://www.westmoors-tc.gov.uk)

During 2021-22 we are proud to say we still have a full team of 12 Councillors representing West Moors and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all fellow Councillors for their input throughout the year on various committees and projects that we are all involved with. My thanks also go to Judi, our Clerk, who guides and works so professionally for the Councils benefit, as well as Amie her Assistant who does a wonderful job supporting her and the Council.

## 2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a) Finance and General-Purpose Committee Report – Chair Cllr Mrs P Yeo, read by Vice Chair, Cllr Mrs N Senior

Finance and General Purposes is one of three committees in West Moors Town Council and it has an interesting mix of responsibilities in several areas. These include oversight of the council's finances and all the council's resources. Also oversight and review of the policies and practices of the council, especially if and when there are changes to legislation which affect the council or our residents. And then all personnel matters for our staff and their conditions of employment. There are currently seven councillors on this committee which meets six times a year.

The main income for the council is the precept, which we all pay as part of the Council Tax. This committee and also the Environment Committee have several meetings working on the budget which will cover every aspect of the council's work and then the final amount is confirmed by the full council at their meeting in January. The precept has been increased this year to £162,840 which equates to a Band D household cost of £52.43 a year, an increase of £4.53 a year. One of the main parts of the discussions in committee and also with full council is the choice between the size of the precept and the work that needs to be done in West Moors. Do we increase the precept so we can provide more services for all age groups, or do we keep any increase as low as possible which may mean things don't get done?

In addition to the precept we receive income from activities within West Moors, although the accounts are not finalised income for 2021/22 is standing at:

- Fryers Field – football pitches, MUGA, pavilion hire - £20,559.84
- Cemetery - £18,685.00
- Bag sales - £2,461.71

Funds we have saved for future major projects are invested with the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Funds (CCLA). These remain easily accessible to us and have returned £4,939.31 in dividends this year. Future projects include renewing the MUGA artificial grass, possible additions to play equipment, upgrading cemetery facilities, as well as funds for when we take over the toilets and car park located at Park Way from Dorset Council.

From income we make annual grants which assist people and organisations within West Moors, such as the Jean Ware Legacy award; the Apprentice Scheme; the Memorial Hall for car park maintenance and also this year a one-off grant to assist with CCTV costs; West Moors Youth and Community Club and CAB. We have made additional grants during this year to Speed Watch, to Home Start and to St Anthony's Church to help buy and operate a defibrillator. Any group or organisation within West Moors can apply for a grant, the forms are available in the Council office or on the website.

The Town Council is audited three times a year, twice by an independent Internal Auditor (appointed by the Council) and once a year by External Auditors (appointed by the government). I can confirm that both of these auditors have expressed satisfaction with the running of the Council over the last financial year and I thank our Finance Office Judi and her Assistant Amie for their hard work, especially with the many extra problems due to the Covid restrictions.

This committee will meet in May, July, September and November this year and everyone is welcome to come and listen to how and why we make decisions. The agenda is placed on notice boards around the West Moors and also on our website so you can know what will be discussed.

#### **b) Planning Consultative Committee Report – Chairman Cllr Mrs R Burke**

The planning committee meet each month – sometimes twice a month – to discuss applications to Dorset Council concerning plans for properties in West Moors.

We have 9 members including myself and Cllr Nicki Senior (vice-chair). Since April 2021 there have been 59 planning applications. Nicki and I were elected in July 2021, since then there have been 11 meetings with a total of 49 planning applications, up to the end of March 2022. As a result of the Covid restrictions, we were only able to meet via Zoom originally, later moving to socially distanced, in person, meetings at St Anthony's Church Hall.

Each member of the planning committee is sent an agenda of items to be discussed, 3 days before the day of the meeting. This is to ensure we can view them on the DC planning portal and where appropriate visit the site to view from the pavement. We can also use Google earth etc to form an opinion.

We meet at 7pm on the allotted date. Item 2 on our agenda, before we discuss any applications, is always to declare any interest we may have on the items to be discussed. This keeps our meetings fair and without compromise. We can hear from members of the public if they wish to voice an opinion, and then discuss each item and can cast our vote for or against.

From the 1st July 2021 DC decided not to send neighbour notification letters for planning applications unless they are specifically required to do so by legislation. This is in line with their agreed Statement of Community Involvement. Details of all applications will still be online, and they will continue to consult statutory organisations and town and parish councils. This means not informing neighbours of planning applications, or personally erecting the signs of intended applications, relying on the applicant to print and display the notice. This has resulted in neighbours missing vital information and has led to some distress to residents.

Although we discuss and vote we do not have any real influence on DC decisions. We are only able to put our point of view as are any other residents. At the meetings we hear decisions by DC on previously discussed items. Any tree works – felling, pruning and preservation orders. Assistant to the Clerk (Amie Fawcett) attends our meetings and can (and does) advise us on the rules we have to adhere to. Amie also takes the minutes and publishes them.

No large applications were filed this year. Blackfield Farm appeal was expected within the 6 months after planning was refused. However, at time of reporting, nothing has been received.

We, as a council are continuing to discuss with residents, ways to safeguard West Moors.

### c) Environment Committee Report – Chair Cllr Mrs C Holmes.

#### Overview

This Committee comprises of 10 Council members who have met at St. Anthony's Church Hall six times since I became chair in July 2021.

The Committee is responsible for the bulk of the services provided to the public by the council, including the maintenance and development of Fryer Field which has seen some important changes since our last report, including a new access gate and the opening of our new skatepark.

The facilities, as you may know, include football pitches, tennis courts, basket- ball hoop, children's play area, skatepark, woodland area and the pavilion. A second play area is located adjacent to Oakhurst First School and its licence for use has just been renewed in agreement with Dorset Council and the Governing Body of Oakhurst School. The fee for this was £750 for a 10-year lease.

The Committee also oversees the management of West Moors Cemetery located in Priory Road. Council officers maintain the burial register and handles day to day administration. On-line searches for burial sites are now available for the public to use. There were 12 burials in 20/21 & 14 to date in 21/22. There were also 19 internments of ashes in 20/21 with 7 to date for 21/22. Cemetery income for the last two years has been £14,730 in 2021/22 & £17,215 to date this year.

Staff also oversee the administration of the allotments which are located at Gulliver's Farm. This is a very, very popular village resource with currently 45 people on the waiting list. We also deal with matters related to street furniture such as benches and a few council - owned bus shelters, as well as representing the views of residents who raise concerns about highway matters. We are NOT responsible for street lighting, speeding, dog mess, parking or road maintenance nor grass verges BUT we can speak on your behalf to the agencies who are responsible or signpost you to the right sources of help.

The Committee also advises Dorset Council on footpaths, grass verges and rights of way issues. One of our councillors is on a joint working party seeking to develop a new trailway on the disused Salisbury & Dorset railway line, possibly joining the existing Castleman Trailway. Cllr Alex Clarke is working on our behalf to further this project.

We liaise with relevant agencies concerning flooding.

A very pleasant duty of the Committee is to ensure that the Christmas lights are available each year.

Now I wish to move on to some of the work undertaken in more detail:

#### Cemetery

Work to limit the of badger expansion into the graveyard has been frustrated by the BADGERS! Attempts to guide the animals to refrain from foraging in the wrong area of the cemetery have failed for two years running. Badgers are a protected species and work can only be undertaken to try and prevent them invading the cemetery by licenced operators within legal time frames..... we will continue with our third attempt later this year .....3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky?

#### Christmas Lights.

Sparkling Christmas lights will return in December. The trees on the Petwyn have been pruned and lights put back in place to allow for the growth. These lights are delightful and bring joy to one and all.

Petwyn

Our local village green, the Petwyn, continues to be a focal point for Remembrance Parade and a popular place to sit with friends despite constant traffic noise. West Moors Horticultural Society had to replace a flowering cherry they had donated because it had failed to thrive.

Fryer Field

There are still residents who do not know of this donated public space available for us all to enjoy. We need to let residents know that there is something for everyone in this space. The hugely successful skatepark can be used by tiny children setting out in this sport whilst it also caters for adults and youths with amazing expertise. Detailed feedback on the efficacy of the project has been required and submitted to the funders with the consensus agreeing 'WOW, Terrific.'

The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) continues to provide the venue for Grange Athletic Football club who are regular users and hold an annual tournament drawing in clubs from other areas for stiff competition. Other users include Verwood & West Parley under 7's, 8's, 9's, & 14's. I am particularly pleased to see Grange Ladies Team playing, since when the original grant was given by the Football Association more than 10yrs ago we were asked to encourage the development of the women's game. The MUGA is often fully booked and hosts 12 different sports clubs during the year. We continue to build a sinking fund for the replacement of the artificial turf when it is needed.

The play area is also very well used, sometimes by older children who need more of a challenge. We have funds to provide some pieces of outside gym equipment suitable for these children and adults, including retired residents. We will be asking for your feedback on this idea in the future.

A new feature on Fryer Field is the creation of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Copse. With residents' help we are creating a place of quite remembrance where you can sit in contemplation away from the distractions of life.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Across the nation the call went out for us all to celebrate the Queen's wonderful achievement of a reign of 70 years. One of the requests that the Queen made was for there to be a 'Green Canopy' across the land with us planting trees to redress global warming. Free trees for community groups have been made available by the Woodland Trust – so we applied for 105 saplings to be planted on the site of the old BMX Track.

On a foul, wind -blown, rain-soaked Saturday morning 25 people including U3A members, councillors, children and members of the public plus staff from Dorset Council created a new Queen's Copse behind the skate park. It was great fun & we said let's do it some more... so we have, with another 200 to plant, plus another batch of 100's which we gave out to our residents free of charge so that they could "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" whilst helping the planet. Our thanks are also due to a resident who has donated two medium sized horse chestnut trees whilst Dorset Council gave us a white flowering cherry. Wonderful!

Colourful Verges

In partnership with Dorset Council's Highways team for our area we have agreed a brilliant deal whereby Dorset Council staff will seed our existing verges and the entrance of the slip road from the Ferndown by-pass. The wildflower seeds have been paid for by us & are all English varieties, so watch out for cornflowers, poppies and a host of other bee & insect friendly flowers. The emphasis of West Moors Town Council's work is to work in harmony with nature using a gentle touch approach to minimise harm and build on the beautiful environment which exists within and around our lives in West Moors.

Allotments

The council provides 39 allotment plots, plus 2 raised beds. All are in constant use and there is a waiting list. The allotment holders have their own association and a Facebook page. Cllr Nicki Senior is the council's representative on the Allotment Holders' Association.

Litter

We extend huge thanks to our Volunteer Litter Warden, Malcolm Adams, who regularly conducts and reports to council on his endeavours. His work is invaluable to us all. We also extend a massive thanks to Amie and our regular team of community litter pickers who take away bags & bags of carelessly thrown rubbish. My favourite slogan is "Don't be a Tosser!" which I think should be on hoardings everywhere.

Global Warming – Climate Change & Biodiversity Emergency

A second report exists outlining our endeavours with you and on your behalf to tackle the Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency using our action plan which was adopted on 17.12.2020 and runs to 2030.

We have lots of ideas which we would like to check out with you in the future.

I hope that you endorse what we have done on your behalf. I am looking forward to increasing community engagement with you in the forthcoming months. Do let us know what you think.

Thank You.

**d) CLIMATE EMERGENCY - CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY Update report read by Cllr A Clarke**

**OVERVIEW**

In October 2019 West Moors Town Council passed a resolution in support of Dorset Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency. As a result, the Council's Climate Change & Biodiversity Action plan was agreed.

A Working Party was set up to identify activities that could be undertaken or supported by West Moors Town Council.

From March 2020 (Covid-19 pandemic) members met via Zoom and actions were delayed because of the impact of the pandemic on organisations and individuals.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July was the first face to face meeting.

The Council adopted the ten principles of the Charter for Trees, Woods and People (approved on 27th January 2020).

**ACTIVITIES****Monthly Carbon Cuts Tips**

A selection of useful tips to reduce our impact on the climate have been circulated via Facebook, noticeboards, office window, our website and emailed out to our contact groups (residents, community groups, schools, churches, library etc), every month since August 2020.

**Guest Speaker**

At the Annual Meeting in 2021, Steve Fletcher, Professor of Ocean Policy and Economy Director of Revolution Plastics, University of Portsmouth, Member, UN International Resource Panel, spoke on the following topic:

*Climate Emergency- What we can do?*

**Bi-monthly Litter Picks**

These began again in September 2021.

We have purchased litter picking equipment for 20 people, with spares in the office should any residents want to litter pick on ad hoc occasions.

Dorset Council have also kindly donated 15 litter pickers to the cause.

Posts reminding residents not to litter have frequently been put on social media. We supported Dorset Council's 'Litter Free Dorset' campaign with a push to ban the use of foil BBQ trays: we canvassed local stores asking them not to sell these. Morrisons on Pinehurst Road (Formerly McColls at the time) removed them from sale and Tesco's and Spar added safety signage in front of the product. We also banned BBQ's from Fryer Field.

### **Earth Day and World Environment Day**

Earth Day was advertised on social media and noticeboards in 2021 & 2022, signifying the date and World Environment Day was celebrated in 2020 with competitions and prizes, to encourage the engagement with the Community during what was an unprecedented crisis.

### **Green Electricity**

We are now using a new supplier (Opus) who are providing 100% renewable energy. We switched to them in September 2020.

We also reduced the Pavilion's carbon footprint by changing to a new timer providing limited periods of operation. This led to a change from heating and water being on for 168hrs per week to weekends only. This has been active for a few months yielding savings: 14/10/20 - 30/01/21 = 1184 Kwh v 04/10/21 - 03/12/21 = 632 Kwh

### **Tree Planting**

We applied for 'All Year-Round Colour' sapling packs which were donated, free of charge, by the Woodland Trust to our community. Our plan is to create a small woodland/copse on the old BMX track to form a 'Green Canopy' in honour of the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, using these saplings.

Whilst we all waited for Covid restrictions to be lifted, wildflowers were planted on the site in 2021. Public feedback on this initiative was extremely positive.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a community tree planting session took place. We were well supported by Dorset Council Open Spaces team, plus local Ferndown U3A, residents and Councillors all volunteering to '**Plant Trees for the Jubilee**'. The event was great fun we decided to order another 210 saplings for pollination to use on another community tree planting event on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

At a later stage, we anticipate installing pathways & seating to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It will be a place for quiet reflection.

### **Free Trees for Residents**

On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022, as part our commitment to redressing climate change, and helping residents to do the same, there were 210 free native saplings on offer at the memorial hall, for them to plant in their gardens. Councillors gave away around 60 saplings. Those left to be incorporated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Tree planting session.

### **Safer routes to School in West Moors**

Cllr Alex Clarke took the lead on furthering the objective of working with our local schools to guide parents and children on the safest routes to school avoiding busy main roads. We had hoped to produce printed leaflet including a map, for families on this topic and have been working in conjunction with Dorset Council's Cycling & Walking Officer.

It was concluded that Oakhurst First Community School could not get involved yet and St. Mary's First School has integrated the topic into a Year 2 Environmental project. West Moor Middle agreed to promote material that we produce but also could not get involved yet.

### **Light pollution/LED lighting**

Our 3G Artificial grass pitch lighting was changed to LED lights a few years ago.

Quotes were received in December 2021 for the Tennis Court LED lighting (£8287.64 + VAT), but we have been unsuccessful in finding grants to help with the cost. There are still 2 applications in progress, and we have £3,500 of our own reserves, so if unable to obtain a grant, then we will consider funding the whole project ourselves.



**Re-Wilding West Moors**

Various locations have been allocated and a range of verges have been designated for wildflower seed sowing in April 2022. West Moors Town Council purchased the seeds in January, whilst being supported by Dorset Council's Open Spaces team, who have prepared the ground and ready for Spring seeding.

**Education**

We have invited various 'green energy' companies and local wildlife organisations to WESTIVAL in 2022 – target audience anticipated to be 1,200.

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2022 & BEYOND:****Bug Hotel Competition**

on Fryer Field.

**Eco- Friendly Garden Competition**

To reinforce the use of environmentally friendly products.  
May be repeated bi-annually dependent on levels of interest.

**Carbon Cuts Tips on coasters**

In the process of researching feasibility of printing carbon cuts tips on drinks coasters and distributing to local public houses and cafes in West Moors, Ferndown and Verwood, so the word was spread further.

**Bags for Life**

We set up an initiative to carry out a survey on shopping bag usage with the intention to make bags for life and distribute to them our residents. (We started this in 2020 but Covid halted it). Recently a survey showed that from the 3 local shops in West Moors, 1 is GREEN and only uses paper bags (Well Done Morrisons) and Tesco's and Spar both sell Bags For Life (not single use plastic) in the hundreds per week.

**Electrical charging points**

Upon the completion of the asset transfer and West Moors Town Council own the car park, the installation of these in Park Way, will be considered.

**INVESTIGATED BUT NOT PURSUED:****Use of pesticides**

We explored grant funding options for FOAMSTREAM (reduces use of harmful pesticide and weedkiller) and invited other local councils to jointly own. This did not have positive enough feedback to pursue it. So far, no funding has become available, despite investigation. Therefore, the option was nonviable. Our groundsman uses very little and very rarely.

**Solar Panels**

We investigated THOROUGHLY the possibility of installing solar panels on the Pavilion and Council office. Unfortunately, it was nonviable due to Pavilion roof asbestos and tree shading over office roof.

**Crisp Packet Recycling**

Finally, we investigated the possibilities for joining existing recycling programmes in West Moors. Prior to Covid, local Schools were involved with 'Terracycling', but unfortunately it was not reinstated after restrictions eased. For the Council to be a collection/drop off point, we were required to accumulate a very large quantity, to which we could not fulfil.

We then approached both Tesco Ferndown and Tesco Express Parley and West Moors, asking for them to become a drop off point for crisp and/or medicine packets. Head office did not respond. Research has indicated that Sainsburys Ferndown could not join as they are considering a Regional Initiative.

**3. POLICE REPORT**

Sergeant Steve Payne of the Neighbourhood Policing Team based at Ferndown introduced himself and informed those present that there were only two police officers and two PCSO's covering Ferndown and West Moors. Crime dropped during covid, but people were reminded to report things.

Speed watch was carried out in Station Road on 6<sup>th</sup> April and 4 people were caught speeding.

A member of the public asked if a regular police surgery could be held somewhere in West Moors for the older generation to speak directly to them, as the older generation are not always comfortable using technology to get in touch.

Sgt Payne will look into options; the Council office and the library were suggested.

Another member of the public reported an incident near the youth club, Sgt Payne offered to talk to the youth club members and his contact details were passed on.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

a) A resident thanked the Council for its work to get the diversion route for the footpath through St Leonards Farm Park on the Definitive Map.

b) A resident asked what was happening on the flyover to the grass verge. It was explained that wildflower seeds had been sown in this area as well as many other areas within West Moors.

c) A question regarding planning applications and letters not being sent to neighbours informing them there is an application under consideration. It was explained that Dorset Council stopped sending these out last July and there is no legislation that says they must inform neighbours. The Council agreed that this situation was not ideal and will lobby the DAPTC to try and get Dorset Council to change their protocol.

The meeting was closed at 20.28 hrs

SIGNED ..... DATE .....  
Chair of the Council