



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS, COMMENCING 7PM**

**Present:** Cllrs D Bishop, S Munnings, B House, A Watkins, T Bates, R Pitcher, B Benjafield, P Wharf, L Fairhurst

**Chair:** Cllr I Ventham

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 5 members of the public, PCSO Jake Williams

**16.138 Public Participation**

Simon Walker – asked why a notice has been put on the lane at North Street half way along the track, leading to Snow Hill. Cllr Ventham responded saying that the Parish Council has been negotiating for housing on North Street and Back Lane, part of this negotiation included the imposition of a SANG. It is suspected that the signs are a legal obligation to ensure that the two fields behind North Street are not included within the SANG and will not be dedicated for public use. The Clerk will contact the Estate and ask what it is about. *Post meeting note: Having spoken to the Estate, they have confirmed that, following the changes to the law regarding Rights of Way across private land two years ago, it is now a requirement for landowners to display such a notice every ten years. The notice reiterates that, whilst members of the public are permitted to use the dedicated path, it does not mean that the whole field is available for public use.*

Simon Munnings – the new school is working well from the point of vehicle movements and there has been little or no disruption during picking up and dropping off times.

North Street – is there any prospect of North Street becoming a through round again? Highways Agency do not want any additional traffic exiting on to the roundabout.

PCSO Jake Williams – reported that a member of the Police will be attending future parish council meetings as this is now the revised thinking. Shed break ins and car break ins at beauty spots are the main problems now, together with the recent cattle rustling. Cllr Watkins reported that there had been a meeting at the Post Office but the alert announcing the meeting only went out 23 minutes beforehand. Future meetings will be notified 24 hours beforehand and the Parish Council will post the announcement on Facebook. As there are no longer cars parking on Rye Hill following the closure of the old school and traffic is therefore moving faster, it would be useful for the Camera Team to visit the site on occasion.

19.13 Cllr Benjafield arrived.

**16.139 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tom Bennett.

**16.140 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Bishop proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

**16.141 Matters arising from those minutes, not covered by this agenda**

Calendars – A thank you note has been received from the Vicar for the donation for the Church roof.

Dog bin at the school – The Clerk will telephone DWP and see if, should a bin be located at the entrance to the school, would it be emptied.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Anti-slip strips for the new boardwalk – to be included on the March agenda.

MOD vehicles – a response has been received from the MOD saying that the status quo will be maintained until the Easter break. The Clerk will contact the school and canvas their views.

**ACTION: CLERK**

School signs – the Clerk will be meeting with Highways to discuss location of new signs and removal of old ones.

**ACTION: CLERK**

#### **16.142 To receive declarations of interest and confirm any dispensations received**

No interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

#### **16.143 To receive the County & District Councillor's Report**

The notice for the disabled bays at the surgery has been received and the work should be carried out shortly.

Working parents in Dorset may be eligible for up to 30 hours of free child care for their 3 to 4 year olds five months before it is rolled out nationally in September. Childcare settings in the DCC area have been chosen by the Government to test the offer earlier. This will be advertised and full details given.

East Stoke have highlighted a possible problem with Hyde Pit. Cllr Wharf asked the Parish Council to comment on this as we could be looking at some large increases in the numbers of lorries entering the site. The Clerk will raise a draft and will send it around to all members for comment.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Local Government Reorganisation – 6 of the 9 councils voted in favour of Option 2. 75% of councillors voted in favour, together with all 9 leaders of Council. The savings that could be made from the reorganisation would be in the region of £30million a year. A submission will now be made to the Secretary of State. The three councils who voted against the reorganisation (Purbeck, East Dorset and Christchurch) are not now a part of the negotiations with the Secretary of State. It is likely that it will be approved within four weeks. It is now suspected that there will be a leadership challenge at Purbeck, East Dorset and Christchurch.

Holistic transport review – a further list of bus routes has been pencilled in to be removed. 7 core routes will be tendered for and the Blandford to Dorchester route will be included within this.

#### **16.144 Key Topics**

##### **16.144.1 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

The Steering Group met with the PDC officers on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. We are now able to proceed as the letter of agreement in principle has been received from the Drax Estate. We will be proceeding on the principle of 100 houses and an update will be given at the Forum on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. We would hope to complete the Neighbourhood Plan within the year.

We have seen an outline proposal for White Lovington and it is known that a developer has been appointed.

##### **16.144.2 To consider tasks the Parish Council might be able to take over from the County and District Councils**

A copy of the current 'Who does what' sheet had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

The list was reviewed and it was felt that several of the roles could be overseen by the Parish Council. A draft letter will be drawn up and issued to all councillors. It was noted that, should the Parish Council take over some of the duties, there would also be the need for the budget to follow any such duties and there will also be a requirement for additional staff.

**ACTION: CLERK**

##### **16.144.3 To finalise details for the Village Forum**

There will be three main topics: -

- The Neighbourhood Plan,
- Community Hall,
- Cllr Wharf will speak about the Unitary authority

In addition, Wayne Roberts, Head Teacher of Bere Regis School, will be at the scout hut manning a stand, as will the White Lovington developers, and the Open Space Management Plan and NeighbourCar Scheme will also be on display.

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllrs Munnings and Ventham will give a presentation.

Community Hall – Mike Gee will be asked to present the proposals.

Cllr Benjafield will draw up some posters for the Forum and we may need some plans.

**ACTION: CLLR BENJAFIELD**

16.144.4 To consider the request for a letter of support from St John the Baptist Church

A request for a letter of support has been received from the Church, as they are putting together an application to Viridor for funds to repair the roof. Cllr Fairhurst proposed that an appropriate letter is sent. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will draw up the letter.

**ACTION: CLERK**

16.144.5 Community Hall update

Cllr Ventham proposed Cllrs House and Munnings act as the two representatives from the Parish Council to sit on the sub-committee and this was unanimously agreed. A draft Terms of Reference for the new sub-committee had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Benjafield proposed they are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously.

16.144.6 To consider the Parish Council’s response to the Community Hall proposals

A copy of the draft response had been issued to all members prior to start of the meeting. Cllr Munnings proposed that the draft is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will put the Recommendations on the web site, together with the Terms of Reference.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**16.145 Finance**

16.145.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Anthony Peters	Tree report for old school site	BACS181	114.60
Cheap Printing	Christmas trees 2017 fliers	BACS183	15.00
A King	Lengthsman – January 2017	BACS185	1901.25
Mrs A Crocker	February wages + expenses	BACS186	814.32
HMRC	February PAYE & NIC	BACS187	92.76
DC Pension Fund	February contribution	BACS188	182.39
BR Village Hall	Annual rental for hall	1856	250.00

Total to be paid from the Precept **£3,370.32**

Lunch Club & NeighbourCar (Both these schemes are self-funding with no costs coming from the Precept)

I Ventham	January Lunch Club	BACS180	83.14
A Crocker	January Lunch Club	BACS182	43.62
D Fairhurst	January NeighbourCar	BACS189	68.40

Total to be paid from the schemes’ funds **£195.16**

Except for one cheque payment, all other payments to be paid by BACS transfer. Cllr Bishop proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Bates and agreed unanimously.

16.145.2 To confirm reconciliation of accounts

A copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No questions were raised and no comments made.

16.145.3 To Review position against budget

A copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No questions were raised and no comments made.

**16.146 Planning & Housing**

16.146.1 To consider planning applications:

**6/2017/0005&6** Culeaze Farm – amalgamation of farmhouse and adjacent flat to form a single dwelling

**6/2017/0024** St John the Baptist Church – change the south facing roof slope from lead to stainless steel, matching the inner slope.

The planning working party recommended no objection to both applications. All members agreed with the recommendation.

**TWA/2017/016** Creech Cottage, North Street – reduce willow, silver birch and conifers

**TWA/2017/019** 11 White Lovington – 2 x Ash remove overhanging branches

No objections were raised to either application.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**16.147 Environment & Facilities**

16.147.1 Open Spaces Update

The Environment Group met in early February. The grazer will be contacted with a view to having the ponies back on the nature reserve at the beginning of May. The Group also discussed the possibility of turning the area into a ‘local’ nature reserve but this is still under review and a full proposal will be brought to a future meeting. Also discussed was the sowing of some wild flower seeds adjacent to the school entrance.

**ACTION: CLLR BATES**

The working parties have been busy clearing the stream and another bat talk and walk has been organised for August. The Scout group will be involved with planting the nature pond, once it has been dug, and they will also be building bird and bat boxes. As the Parish Council is responsible for looking after the trees along the river side, Cllr Pitcher suggested that we need to have someone to train in tree management.

Bridge naming – At present, it can be confusing when a comment is made about one of the bridges or boardwalks. It has been suggested that, in order to remove any such confusion, the bridges and boardwalks are all named. As the middle bridge carries the Jubilee Trail, it was proposed that the bridge is named the Jubilee Bridge. The Clerk will arrange for a sign to be made up. The north boardwalk to be called the Riverside Boardwalk and the Souls Moor path to be called the Souls Moor Boardwalk.

**ACTION: CLERK**

16.147.2 To consider suitable sites for the relocation of benches from the old school

Three bins have been retrieved from the old school site, together with three benches, the outside classroom, slide and climbing wall. The Environment Group will consider where they would like the shelter and benches to be located.

**ACTION: ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

16.147.3 New public notice boards

It had previously been suggested that the notice board could be located on the corner of Turberville and Manor Farm Road. However, the area is gravelled and it will be difficult to get the required number of posts into the area. It has, therefore, been suggested that a more suitable location would be put on the pinch point in Elder Road. It was unanimously agreed that one board should be placed here and the other will be in Church Lane, near the Vicarage.

**ACTION: CLERK**

The Lengthsman will be asked to make a frame for the information board that is to be positioned outside the shop.

**ACTION: CLERK**

16.147.4 Defects

- pot hole on the west bound slip way. It was suggested that the resident post the complaint via the dorsetforyou web site.
- light on Souls Bridge- there is no budget from DCC for this to happen. It is a rural path and none of the other paths have lights. After some discussion, members felt that there was no need for a light on this bridge.
- the two paths leading to Souls Bridge from Elder Road – the new path highlights how bad the old path is. The old path is very muddy and, as people walk along it, they transfer the mud onto the bridge. Cllr Pitcher will look at the path. He will bring his findings back to the March meeting.

**ACTION: CLLR PITCHER**

**16.148 Police, Traffic and Roads**

The Clerk will chase up the removal of recycling bin in the central car park.

Cllr Watkins had carried out a review of the signage in and around the village and reported that, whilst signs do exist highlighting the car park, they also include the recycling symbol and are not particularly clear. The Clerk will contact PDC and see what, if anything, is being done about the signs.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**16.149 Community Liaison**

16.149.1 NeighbourCar Scheme

Nothing to report.

16.149.2 Salt & Pepper Club

Continues to be successful.

**16.150 Children & Youth**

Nothing to report.

**16.151 Correspondence received since the agenda was set**

An e-mail had been received offering the Parish Council a presentation in respect of the National Park. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not accept the offer.

**16.152 Public Relations**

- Village Forum
- Community Hall
- Free child care
- Notice boards
- Supporting the Church roof repairs
- Naming of the Jubilee Bridge

**16.153 Items for the March meeting**

Members are reminded to pass any items to the Clerk for inclusion in the March agenda by the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.51p.m.