

**MINUTES OF BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS, COMMENCING 7PM**

**Present:** Cllr L Fairhurst, R Pitcher, D Bishop, T Bennett, B Benjafield, S Munnings, B House, T Bates

**Chair:** Cllr I Ventham

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 26 members of the public, Patrick Myers DCC, and Michael Tomlinson, MP

Michael Tomlinson was invited to address the meeting. He expressed exciting times with our first female Prime Minister since 1990 in the form of Theresa May. Michael Gove is completely out of the Cabinet, which came as a surprise, and a name to watch out for – Gavin Williamson, David Cameron’s right hand man - has been appointed as Chief Whip. At this point in time, Michael has yet to receive a telephone call from Downing Street.

The Chairman thanked Michael for attending our meeting and invited him to stay. He then invited Patrick Myers of Dorset County Council to address the meeting and explain the reasoning behind a Unitary Authority for Dorset.

Patrick then gave a brief explanation of changes to local government in Dorset. If the changes come about as anticipated, the only constant will be the Town and Parish Councils, everything else in local government will change. The three main strands of work currently underway at County are: a combined authority, a devolution deal and Local Government Reorganisation – the appetite is for a unitary arrangement. Unitary already exists in Poole and Bournemouth and the aim is for one authority delivering all the services needed. The main driver for this is economic growth but also public sector reform and local government efficiencies and all 9 council will lose £100m in funding up to 2020. The combined authority and growth unit will be set up by the end of 2016. The County are working to reach consensus with all of the 9 councils and consultation will commence in the middle of August, 2016. The proposal will then be submitted to the new Secretary of State in 2017 and be in place for 2019. The approximate level of savings if we move to two unitaries will be £25-£31 million/year. The money will be saved by reducing the number of councillors from 335 to 151-216. There will be a reduction in senior management and back office staff, for example, HR will be incorporated into one authority. There will be a reduction in the number of properties required. What might happen to council tax? There is an external research company undertaking the consultation – online and paper surveys and roadshows – and there will be discussions held with all stakeholders e.g. MPs, parish and town councils. After the consultation, County will produce a business case for change. Central government are looking for value for money, viability, savings (where are they coming from), service delivery model adopted and leadership and governance i.e. the County must prove to be sound in their assessment.

Question: Are the parish councils likely to be expected to take on a greater role? This is covered by what is known as double devolution – as County receive powers they will be looking at how they open up the opportunity for parishes to take on some of the work currently undertaken by district and county. It will be about what the parishes want to take on and nothing is going to be forced onto them. Events will be taking place later in the year asking parish and town councils this question.

Question: This seems like a very ambitious time scale – implementation within 2 years. Need to try to have this completed within the current Parliamentary period, so everything needs to be in place by 2020.

Question: Cllr Ventham – There has got to be a financial settlement for any work the parishes take on. Patrick – there will be opportunities whereby the tax take throughout Dorset can be adjusted.

**16.35 Public Participation**

**Mineral Extraction Consultation**

David King – lives at Hyde Woods, and would ask the Parish Council to strongly object to the Philliols Farm site as they did in 2014. He would also ask for the Parish Council to object to the Gallows Hill B site on behalf of Mr and Mrs Pitts and Mr and Mrs Cassidy who live in the Warren. Both families will be severely impacted by both the Philliols site and the Gallows Hill site. The site assessment for Gallows Hill B is lacking in information, with the estimated amount of sand and gravel unknown and most of the criteria requiring additional information. As so much detail is missing, the application is unsound. There will be adverse impact on residents as the site sits higher than nearby residencies and this cannot be mitigated.

Julian Brook-Fox – Trent Vale Farm – feels the Parish Council has not taken very much interest in Hyde although it is part of the parish. There are 2 sites being looked at within the parish, both in Hyde and he would hope the Parish Council take interest and object to both. Either would desecrate the surrounding area and residents are appalled that the possibility of this might happen on their doorsteps. The damage to the environment, traffic, tourism would be insurmountable. He would ask that, in the Parish Council’s consideration they would support the residents of Hyde.

Richard Smith – living at Bere Heath, next door to the Philliols Farm site. The present time scale envisages that the consultation is going on and this will be the last opportunity to comment before this is sent to central government. The planning history of the site shows the site was rejected in a public enquiry in 1996. The prospective extractor has withdrawn their name from the site. The county council seems to have deliberately made the enquiry seem positive or has left much of the investigative work to be done at a later date. This is clearly not satisfactory and he would ask the Parish Council to object to the application.

Joy Constantinedes – representing Dormer Cottage, the Maisonette, and Woodlands. Agrees with everything that has been said so far and has nothing more to add.

Phil Morgan – Lane End – wonderful place to live and have only moved into the area last year. They have a cottage they let out which is always occupied. The proposal, if allowed to go ahead, will change the face of the village.

Other matters:

Tom Kennet – student from the University of Exeter – carrying out his dissertation in renewable energy and the focus of his study is the provision of and benefit to parishes from wind turbines. He would like to make the village the subject of his study. This would involve the distribution of a short questionnaire and then to conduct focus groups. He would like to offer the parish council the opportunity to ask any questions. Cllr Ventham replied that we will happily help although the parish council meeting is probably not the right place to organise this. Tom will send a few dates and include some information regarding the project to the Clerk and a meeting will be arranged.

Alison Bennett – would like an application to apply for a grant. The Clerk will send the appropriate form.

Peter Fysh – there are proposals to move some of the facilities available in Dorchester and Poole Hospital to Bournemouth. Will the residents have any opportunity to comment? We have received nothing formally other than via the PPG regarding the Wareham Hospital. Cllr House was asked to take this up with the Surgery to ask if there was any means by which we are able to comment on the proposals. We will then put something in the Parish Magazine so people may respond if they wish to do so. *Post meeting note: The Clerk has spoken to Wareham Hospital and there is no information available as yet. The consultation will start in September prior to which all relevant information will be issued.*

**16.36 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Wharf (holiday).

Cllr Ventham reported that Lynn Fancy has resigned from the Parish Council with effect from this evening. The District Council have been informed and the Notice of Vacancy will be issued.

**16.37 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Cllr Pitcher proposed the minutes to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

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

Builders parking in Egdon close – the Clerk will follow this up again.

<b>ACTION: CLERK</b>
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Consultation on future housing development in Purbeck – A copy of the draft response had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was agreed that additional wording saying ‘the impact from the additional traffic from Wool and Worgret highlights the need for a south-eastern Bere Regis by-pass’ should be included. With this added, it was agreed that the draft, issued by the Clerk, should now be submitted.

**ACTION: CLERK**

SSE – Following the receipt of the quotation for the installation of an electrical supply on Souls Moor, the Clerk had gone back to the contractor to inquire about the installation of a meter and how much this would cost. The response, received the morning of the Parish Council meeting, was that they do not install meters and it would be down to whichever supplier we chose to do that. The Clerk will continue to pursue this and report back.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Guy Stovold – To date no further response has been received. The Clerk will follow up the e-mails from May 2016.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Sports and community facility survey- The survey has now been posted to every house in the parish and there is some confusion regarding the title in that there are very few questions relating to sport. The implication is that the survey is about a new sports facility but the majority of the questions refer to a village hall. That aside, the most important this is that people complete the survey and return it, they can include any comments they may have in the section provided.

**16.39 To receive declarations of interest in accordance with S94 of the LGA 1972 and confirm any dispensations requested**

No interests were declared and dispensations had been requested.

**16.40 To receive the County and District Councillor’s Reports**

Cllr Wharf was not in attendance but had forwarded a report to the Clerk:

‘He has met with RG Smith and D King to discuss the gravel extraction and the Shooting School. Regarding the gravel extraction, he has encouraged them to submit any objections. He is now arranging a meeting with the Officers at County and Mr King to review the applications before the closing date. If a member of the Parish Council would also like to attend, please contact him. *Post meeting note: The Clerk has requested the date of the meeting.*

With regard to the Shooting School; the County has dropped the existing enforcement having been advised by Counsel that to enforce against a previous planning application when a new one was in the process of being agreed was not going to work. He is now arranging a visit with Officers at District to bring everyone up to speed on the application. This will be a listening meeting, not a negotiating meeting.

The consultation on buses continues. Cllr Wharf is hopeful that our service will be retained with only minor changes.

He has met with Stephan Mephram of Highways and followed up some of the 100 highways issues identified around the ward on the walk about in May. These are being followed up and people are asked to be patient.’

**16.41 Key Topics**

**16.41.1 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Cllr Ventham reported that Jason Bowerman appears to have come to a reasonable agreement with NE about the size of the SANG and we have invited him to join us at Steering group meeting in September.

16.41.2 Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Minerals & Waste Consultation – to consider a response to the current consultation

A copy of the response from 2014 and the recent response drawn together by Cllr Fairhurst, Pitcher and Bates had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Fairhurst read out the recommendations of the group.

Cllr Bennett felt we should not agree to the Gallows Hill Site B becoming heathland once the site is exhausted. We should be objecting to the loss of habitat on the site. Cllr Pitcher pointed out that this was not what was being suggested but a desire to ensure the land is used to extend the existing nature reserve. Cllr Ventham – the recovery of the land is ambiguous within the body of the consultation text; part of the application refers to restoring it to heathland, in another section it refers to restoring it to farmland.

Cllr Ventham drew members’ attention to an annotated map showing the extent of the effect of the proposals. There are 74 dwellings within 1.5km of the sites. The loss of livelihoods within the area, be it farmland, tourism or holiday lets is of major impact. All the local tourist sites will be affected, including those outside of our parish, e.g. Monkey World, Tank Museum, etc. Site A – the proposal is for 50,000 tonnes of sand which will equate to a significant number of increased lorry movements and, despite the assurance of the forest track being used, it is more likely that vehicles will use the C6 whether they are travelling to the Wareham site or from that site to other destinations.

Cllr Ventham suggested objecting to all three sites. A draft will be drawn up and issued to all members.

**ACTION: CLERK**

16.41.3 Purbeck consultation on future housing development – to consider a response to the current consultation

A copy of the proposed response had been given to all members at the start of the meeting.

This had already been covered under ‘Matters Arising.’

16.41.4 To consider a response to the Dorset Transport Network consultation

A copy of the draft response had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. We have a completely inadequate transport scheme and Cllr Ventham feels that we need a root and branch review. A very small portion of the money saved could be diverted to villages to have a hub transport scheme with a part time driver.

Cllr Fairhurst reported that other areas have a scheme whereby you telephone and book a bus trip.

Cllr House – For every service that is cut, County is saying the community car scheme will take up the slack, but this is not physically possible.

Cllr Wharf will be asked to explore the possibility of Bere Regis having its own bus service with DCC.

Cllr Ventham suggested that a response is submitted saying that we strongly recommend, rather than sustain an unviable service by continuing, albeit reduced, subsidies, the funds saved should be passed to the communities along in order to allow them to set up their own service. Should such a service be possible, Bere Regis would be happy to be the hub for the surrounding area.

Cllr Pitcher felt that such a scheme would take the pressure off the NeighbourCar scheme and perhaps some of the drivers would be able to take over the driving.

As part of the consultation toward establishing unitary in Dorset, transport schemes could be devolved to parishes with the appropriate funding.

16.41.5 To consider the distribution of the Distgen grant monies

Distgen have very kindly donated the sum of £8,298.16.

It was noted that we are still awaiting the outcome of our funding application for the Souls Moor footpath. Cllr Ventham suggested we allocate the £8000 to the path work at this time but this will be revisited at the September meeting. We will not proceed with any work on the path until we hear from Tesco in August.

**16.42 Finance**

16.42.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Autumn Leaves	Donation towards club rent	1842	250.00
	Total cheques		250.00
Cheap Printing	Minerals report/3 interpretation boards	BACS94	166.00
Drax Inn	Lamb joints for June Lunch Club	BACS95	200.00
I Ventham	Music for street party/June lunch club	BACS96	209.88
Sam Munnings	June lunch club	BACS97	42.42
A Crocker	June lunch club & NeighbourCar	BACS98	67.72
	Total BACS payments already submitted		686.12
DCC	Traffic monitoring – May 2016	BACS99	300.00
P Saywell	NeighbourCar – June 2016	BACS100	140.85
M Saywell	NeighbourCar – June 2016	BACS100	154.78
A King	Lengthsman – June 2016	BACS101	2040.00
DC Pension Fund	July contribution	BACS102	180.40
Mrs A Crocker	July wages	BACS103	795.06
HM Revenue	July PAYE	BACS104	88.83
DAPTC	Annual subscription	BACS105	495.11
Cheap Printing	Additional fee re Village Walk fliers	BACS106	40.00
Leisure Controls	Franking for village hall survey	BACS107	409.92
	Total BACS payment presented but not paid		4644.95

The total amount being taken from the Precept this month is £5,581.07, of which £5,531.07 is made by BACS transfer and £250.00 by cheque.

Cllr House proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously.

16.42.2 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts

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

16.42.3 To review the position against budget

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

16.42.4 To consider the annual salary increase for the Clerk

Confirmation has been received from NALC that the annual increase for the current year for SCP21 will equate to 1% increase, back-dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April. This equates to an additional 10p per hour.

Cllr Ventham proposed that the increase is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously. The amendment will be made in the Clerk’s August wages.

Cllr Ventham suggested an appraisal of the Clerk’s, performance, hours and responsibilities in the near future. He will liaise with the Clerk to find a mutually acceptable date.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**16.43 To consider planning applications**

16.43.1 To consider planning applications

6/2016/0326 Bevercombe, Snow Hill – rear orangery extension  
Cllr Bishop declared an interest and took no part in the discussion regarding this application.

The PWP had recommended no objection

6/2016/0329 83 West Street – rebuild front windows, fit sun tunnel, provide wardrobe to main bedroom

The PWP recommended no objection

6/2016/0349 8 Tuberville Road – roof dormer revision

This application was declared invalid and has been replaced by 6/2016/0407. The PWP recommend that we do not support this application. The property, though not in the conservation area itself, overlooks the parish church and vicarage, both of which are in the conservation area. The triple dormer design is out of keeping with the surrounding buildings. We would like the conservation officer to review the application.

6/2016/390 2 The Old Stables, Manor Farm Road – demolition of existing entrance porch and erection of new, extended reception and disabled WC.

The PWP recommended no objection.

16.43.2 To consider Tree Work applications

TWA/2016/0093 9 White Lovington – Judas tree; reduce by 3.5m & reshape

The PWP recommended no objections.

Cllr Bishop proposed the recommendations of the PWP are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bates and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**16.44 Village and Environment**

16.44.1 Update on notice boards and signage/Tilhill Talk

The two village information boards have been printed and will be collected on the 18<sup>th</sup> July. The frames have now been welded. The Golf Course has said they would not want a board on their land due to concerns regarding advertising but the third board could be put in Hyde – perhaps near the existing notice board.

Tilhill – it is hoped a presentation can be given in September.

16.44.2 To consider including any open spaces in the Centenary Fields Programme

No further action.

16.44.3 To review the Bere Regis Nature Reserve Management Plan

Cllr Bates forwarded copies of the Plan to all members prior to the meeting. As some corrections are still required, the plan will be put on the August agenda for ratification.

**ACTION: CLLR BATES**

16.44.4 To consider the parking on Manor Farm Road

Cllr Benjafield outlined an incident that took place on the junction of Manor Farm Road and Turberville Road recently. Thankfully, no-one was injured on this occasion but it did highlight the problem of vehicles parking on all the bends and obstructing visibility. Cllr Benjafield felt that, had a child been crossing behind the vehicle when it reversed, the situation could have been considerably different. This problem will be compounded in January 2017 when the new school is opened and there are many more children walking down Manor Farm road. It was suggested that another meeting is held with DC Highways and, this time, Wayne Roberts, Head Teacher of the school, should attend as we do not feel the pedestrian and school issues are being taken seriously enough. Cllr Benjafield felt that lining the junctions would help. A meeting will be arranged.

**ACTION: CLERK**

16.44.5 Defects

- Notice board outside school needs replacing. Rather than replace it, it could be repaired and a new board prepared for the new school approach.
- New school roadway has cut across the definitive footpath. A request has been sent to Colin Eversden to qualify this. The request also included a request for the bridge and new school access to be lit.
- Egdon Close, corner opposite the cemetery, the hedge is overgrown and is obstructing the footpath. The Clerk will check whether this is privately owned.
- Bush at Aster carpark opposite the Scout hut alongside the road overgrown
- Fence alongside walkway is still tied up
- Do we need to consider the removal of the bottle bank? What will happen to this space? Cllr Pitcher will have a look at the site. Perhaps something can be put there that could generate some cash. Textiles/shoes.
- State of vegetation on the entrance to the village. The white lines have been rubbed out in front of the Royal Oak.
- Poole Hill, the weeds on the roads leading to the roundabout need removing. The Lengthsman will be asked to deal with this.

**16.45 Police, Traffic and Roads**

Cllr Bishop reported that he had attended the PTAG meeting and will be attending the next one in September/October.

A request had been submitted for a PCSO to attend but no-one was able to do so due to work and illness. However, PSCO Phil Murray had sent a report and this was read out by the Clerk.

**16.46 Community Liaison**

16.46.1 NeighbourCar Scheme

Still in need of volunteers. A separate advertising campaign will be drawn up to go on Facebook giving the information required to become a volunteer driver.

16.46.2 Salt & Pepper Lunch Club

Very well supported. Client numbers continue to grow and new volunteers would be very welcome.

PPG – the retirement of Dr Salter has been published this month. Cllr House will try to find the contact for the CCG and the consultation regarding the loss of Wareham Hospital. The link to the consultation will be published. This has already been discussed under matters arising.

16.46.3 Update on Sports & Community facility

Already discussed.

16.47 **Children & Youth**

Nothing to discuss.

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

No additional correspondence had been received.

16.49 **Public Relations**

- NeighbourCar and Salt and Pepper
- Minerals consultation
- Police report – cold callers and please report any incident
- Parking on Manor Farm Rd
- Distgen donation
- Wareham hospital
- Council vacancy

16.50 **Items for the August 2016**

Councillors are reminded to forward any agenda items to the Clerk by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016 for inclusion in the August agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:12pm