



MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2017 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS COMMENCING 7PM

Present: Cllr T Bates, R Pitcher, A Watkins, D Bishop, B House, L Fairhurst, B Benjafield, P Wharf from 7:45pm

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 1 member of the public.

17.34 Public Participation

Sue Aldous – asked if the verge at the bottom of White Lovington was owned by DC Highways and, if so, would it be possible to plant some of it with wildflowers. The verge is the responsibility of Highways and it is their policy, at present, to plant wildflower borders to reduce costs for cutting verges. The Clerk will contact Highways regarding planting a wild flower area on part of the verge.

ACTION: CLERK

17.35 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllrs T Bennett and S Munnings.

17.36 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2017

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

17.37 Matters arising from those minutes, not covered by this agenda

Proposed Highways tour – Cllr Ventham pointed out that we are frequently seeing traffic, coming from the West, backing up along the dual carriageway often as far as the slip road. This often results in vehicles using the village to try to bypass the roundabout. He suggested a slip left lane along the single carriageway section would reduce this significantly and aid the flow of traffic. The Clerk will put forward this suggestion to DC Highways. This could also be looked at for the Neighbourhood Plan.

ACTION: CLERK

Camp Bestival – Cllr Watkins reminder the organisers about the requested signage and this is now in place. There is now the facility for residents to report any issues they may have relating to the festival on line. The link will be advertised on the Village Facebook page.

Amendments to the councillor responsibilities list – This will be discussed at the August meeting.

Item 17.31 – Cllr Fairhurst pointed out that cyclists can be banned from using a footpath, but it is not something that can be policed. Cllr Watkins did email the PCSO regarding the incident reported last month but, as the identity of the youths is not known, little can be done.

Police and County Parking Officer combined patrols – Cllr Watkins reported that nothing has been received and Cllr Wharf will be asked to put some pressure on the County Highways parking patrols.

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17.38 To receive declarations of interest and review any dispensations requests received

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

17.39 To receive the County & District Councillor’s reports

Local government reorganisation – A letter has gone to Sajid Javid asking for a decision before Parliament breaks for summer, although this is very unlikely. It may now be a year before any action is taken by Central Government. In the meantime, the two councils that voted against the unitary have now taken a vote to be included in discussions.

Buses – The 187 service will combine with the X12 with effect from the 24th July. This means there will still be four services a day.

The village calendar will be produced for 2018 and Cllr Wharf asked if the Parish Council would be willing to underwrite it as in previous years. It was unanimously agreed that they would.

It was noted that Trevor Poole from Briantspuddle Parish Council is about to receive a grant from Viridor for upgrading fingerposts. In Bere Regis the Lengthsman has already completed most of the work required.

Michael Tomlinson MP is now Parliamentary Private Secretary in International Development for Priti Patel.

17.40 Key topics

17.40.1 Neighbourhood Plan update

Another meeting has been held with PDC. The Plan is close to being finalised. The southern bypass will be put back into the Plan in very broad terms – stating that we do not want the route originally proposed route developed in any way. A foot bridge or bridleway over the A35 has also been included with the Plan and the terms strengthened. A sum of money has become available for linking rural paths that have been dissected by main roads and the Clerk will continue to

ACTION: CLERK

17.40.2 Community Hall update

Cllr Pitcher reported that the group is not at a stage whereby any form of detailed proposal could be submitted to the Parish Council. It is hoped that a proposal could be put forward at the August meeting. Discussions are underway with Natural England relating to the Common Land swap. Cllrs Pitcher and House and the Clerk attended the Drax Hall Committee meeting on the 12th July and the committee agreed they would support the new community hall and that the Drax Hall could be sold to help pay for it. It is understood that, under the terms of the Trust Deed, it is a requirement for such a proposal to achieve a majority decision from residents before any such sale could take place.

The Drax Hall Committee also requested that the Parish Council take on the responsibility of registering the property with the Land Registry and resolving any boundary issues that may arise. Before the Parish Council can proceed with this, a letter of intent will be required from the Committee setting this out.

ACTION: CLERK

17.40.3 To review and agree the revised Risk Assessment

A copy of the amended Risk Assessment had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Some minor amendments were made to the score column and further information is

Signed:

required in respect of the pond signage. Cllr Bates and the Clerk will liaise on this point and the Assessment will be brought back to the August meeting.

ACTION: CLLR BATES/CLERK

17.40.4 To consider the distribution of the Distgen grant

The Clerk reported that a donation of £5,553.41 had been received from Distgen for 2016.

It was unanimously agreed that the monies this year are put towards the initial planning and legal costs for the new community hall.

17.41 Finance

17.41.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

HMRC	July PAYE/NIC	BACS033	72.99
Mrs A Crocker	July wages + expenses	BACS034	820.08
DC Pension Fund	July contribution	BACS035	46.00
DAPTC	Annual conference	BACS036	60.00
Cheap Printing	Village signage	BACS038	325.00
A King	Lengthsman – July	BACS039	1918.46

Total to be paid from the Precept **£3,242.53**

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

A Nicholson	NC mileage	1865	12.15
B House	NC expenses	1866	322.00
D Fairhurst	NC mileage	BACS027	29.70
A Crocker	June Lunch Club	BACS028	87.09
S Munnings	June Lunch Club	BACS029	11.70
M Benjafield	NC mileage	BACS030	19.80
Drax Arms	June Lunch Club	BACS031	260.00
G Roskelly	NC mileage	BACS032	31.27
A Crocker	NC expenses & Lunch Club	BACS034	170.64
B Britten	NC mileage	BACS036	50.40
F Spicer	NC mileage	BACS040	82.95
I Ventham	June Lunch Club	BACS041	35.95

Total to be paid from the schemes' funds **£1,113.65**

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

17.41.2 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.

17.41.3 To review position against budget to date

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.

17.41.4 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held in March 2016 – Internal Audit requirement

This has arisen because the minutes of the April 2016 contained a typing error and recorded ‘To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th April 2016,’ effectively meaning that the March 2016 minutes had never been confirmed. This corrects that error.

A copy of the March 2016 minutes had been reissued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Cllr Bishop proposed the minutes are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously.

17.42 Planning & Housing

17.42.1 To consider planning applications

6/2017/0347 & 0348 Culeaze Farm – amalgamation of farmhouse & adjacent flat to form a single dwelling. Amendment of planning permission 6/2017/005 & LBC 6/2017/006

17.42.2 Tree work applications

TWA/2017/099 16 Shitteron T1 & T2 conifers – fell

The PWP recommended no objection to both applications and the tree work. This was seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Bates brought members up to date with the Barrow Hill situation. The owner of the property in Butt Lane has gone ahead and carried out her tree work. It will now be up to her to decide if she wishes to put in a planning application. The motorcaravan that had been parked on the hard standing is now parked in the central carpark, and has been occupying four car parking spaces. Cllr Bates will speak to the owner and ask him to park it in a more considerate fashion.

ACTION: CLLR BATES

17.43 Village Environment

17.43.1 Update on skate park

Cllr Pitcher reported that there will be a meeting on the 11th September 2017 to which the Parish will be invited. It is hoped that there will be a sufficient number of residents present who will express an interest in taking a working party forward. Cllr Pitcher does not wish to be involved in the working party and Cllr Bishop offered to act as a liaison with any group that is set up.

With regard to the monies remaining from the original play park account; all members of the Bere Regis Play Park Association were contacted and agreed that the remaining money should be handed over to the Parish Council where it will be ring-fenced and held to go towards a future skate park. This will largely depend on what happens at the September meeting and whether or not a group is formed to set up a skate park committee. Cllr Pitcher will arrange a cheque for the balance.

Play park – Cllr Pitcher will be meeting with the Lengthsman during the week commencing 17th July to carry out a thorough investigation of all the play equipment. There is some concern that some of

the equipment will need replacing in the near future. A proposal will be put forward at the August meeting and a budget proposal submitted for preventative maintenance and replacement.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

17.43.2 Update on village signage

The village information board for locating outside the post office has yet to be put up. The Clerk will remind the Lengthsman accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Benjafield and the Lengthsman and have been considering the various signs within the village that need replacing; more specifically, those pointing to and from the central car park and church, new signs for the bridges and boardwalks. Cllr Pitcher asked if it would be possible to put the 'Crown' logo on the bridge and boardwalk signs and it was agreed that this should be done. It may also be possible include the Crown on the road names as and when they need replacing.

The Surgery has asked if it would be possible to have a Bere Regis Surgery sign off West Street. The Parish Council will pay for these signs to be made up and installed.

Cllr House reported that the Debenham family, who were the original owners of the area known as Souls Moor, said that the field had always been referred to as Souls Moor. It was also noted that the area, known locally as 'May's Wood,' should be named after the old field names in order to keep some of the local history alive.

17.43.3 Update on dog issues

Cllr Bennett had forwarded a report to Cllr Pitcher. The main issue is that residents are not clearing up after their dogs. He suggested that the Dog Warden is asked to visit the area more frequently and Dorset Dogs are also contacted to assist with education and instruction.

Dog bag dispensers – Cllr Bennett suggested that the Parish Council purchase dog bag dispensers and locate them at every dog bin around the village. The bags could be replaced by the Lengthsman on a regular basis.

It was agreed that Dorset Dogs should be invited to attend a future meeting and a request is submitted asking the Dog Warden to visit on a more regular basis.

With regard to the dispensers – many residents do pick up after their dogs but then throw the bags into the trees and hedges. Providing more bags would not solve this problem. It was decided that this action would not be followed up.

It was noted that the normal litter bins can also be used to take dog bags and the Clerk will look into the possibility of having some stickers for the bins informing residents of this.

17.43.4 To consider action to be taken regarding the gutters around the village

There is an enormous amount of grass growing around the gutters in the village. Cllr Ventham asked members if they felt we needed another village tidy. It was agreed that we do and that if should be deferred until the Spring of 2018. In the meantime, a comment would be included in the notes for the Parish magazine asking householders to take care of the areas in front of their own house.

This will be included on the agenda for September and the Lengthsman will do what he can until then.

Cllr Pitcher suggested the September agenda includes an item to consider entering the Best Kept Village in 2018.

17.43.5 Open Spaces update

The wildflower area looks very effective on the field behind the school and on the land around the entrance to the school.

Egdon Close bank needs to be cleared. A contractor will be lined up for the whole of the Egdon Road, the trench and the bank down to our path. A price will be sort and DCC contacted accordingly. *Post meeting note: It has since been determined that the whole area is the responsibility of the contractor, Morgan Sindall, for the first twelve months and DCC are chasing them to undertake the work.*

Mike Gee has had the Cubs make bird boxes.

Natural England asked if it would be possible to conduct a survey of veteran trees in the parish.

Generating electricity – the school has a large roof and a very small number of panels – Cllr Bates asked if it would be possible for the village to put some money forward and put up additional panels which would then benefit the village in reduced electricity costs. Cllr Ventham pointed out that this may be too expensive but it should be possible to build in the cost of photovoltaic panels on the roof of the new community hall.

17.43.6 Defects

- The hedge at the bottom of Rye Hill, in front of Lys Cottage needs cutting back hard
- Cherry trees in Elder Road. Cllr Benjafield has asked if the Lengthsman would be able to do something about this. There is a severe health & safety risk from the stones and cherries falling on to the path, frequently used by elderly residents. If they are not prepared to take action themselves we will do it and send them the bill.
- Sycamore tree on the corner of the play park – Cllr Pitcher will look to see what work needs to be carried out.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

17.43 Police, Traffic and Roads

Cllr Watkins reported that there has been a complaint from a resident living at Townsend. They complained that cars were parking in front of their property, often on the pavement and in front of their gates, to use the Shell Garage. Cllr Watkins spoke to the resident and suggested some enforcement is carried out by the PCSOs. In addition, there is a large hedge on the opposite side of the road. If this could be cut back, people may be able to park on that side of the road. The Clerk will contact the Estate and ask them to cut it back. The overhanging foliage on the give way sign also needs to be cut back. The resident also expressed concern that, with the additional toilets being allowed with the planning application for the garage and the proposed expansion, it would encourage more people to use the facility. It was felt that the additional facilities were to reduce the queue of people wishing to use the existing facilities and would not encourage additional traffic.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Watkins reported that the resident had been advised to use the Dorsetforyou web site to report any issues and also to contact the police for parking and obstruction problems.

17.44 Community Liaison

Nothing further to add.

17.45 Children & Youth

Nothing to report.

17.46 Correspondence received since the agenda was issued

No additional correspondence had been received.

17.47 Communications

- Telephone number for feedback/issues relating to Camp Bestival
- Update regarding community hall
- Distgen grant and its potential use
- Skate park meeting on 11th September
- Dorset Dogs to be invited to a meeting
- Tidy up the area in front of your property

17.48 Items for the August meeting

Members are reminded to send any items to be included on the August agenda to the Clerk no later than the 2nd August 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.34pm.