



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL AGM HELD ON  
THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 AT BERE REGIS SCHOOL, SOUTHBROOK,  
BERE REGIS, COMMENCING 7PM**

**Present:** Cllrs S Munnings, T Bates, R Pitcher, T Bennett, D Bishop, B House, P Wharf & B Benjafield

**Chair:** Cllr I Ventham

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 7 members of the public

**17.18 Public Participation**

Sue Aldous asked how members felt about the number of hedgehog deaths in the village and asked if she would be permitted to put up some signs asking drivers to be aware of hedgehogs. Providing any such signs are temporary and do not hinder or distract traffic in any way, the Parish Council would have no objection. Cllr Wharf asked members to bear in mind that DCC are trying to reduce the number of roadside signs as it is felt they distract drivers. Bere Regis is already a part of the Dorset Hedgehog Villages initiative. Cllr Bates reported that there are already some signs up along minor roads.

**17.19 County and District Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Wharf reported that a request has been sent to all Clerks informing them of the proposed Highways tour in July. If anyone has any issues they would like discussed at that meeting, they should submit them to the Clerk. Members are asked to ensure that all queries relating to potholes are recorded on the DorsetforYou web site.

Tanpits Bridge, Bere Heath Road – Notification of a closure has been issued and it is anticipated that it will run from 11<sup>th</sup> September to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 whilst essential repairs can be carried out. It is hoped that pedestrians and cyclists will be able to use the route most of the time but all motorised vehicles would be obliged to use the diversion. Cllr Wharf asked the Parish Council to support him in objecting to the length of time and the disruption it is likely to course. It was unanimously agreed that we would do so and Cllr Watkins will meet with Cllr House to discuss a possible response.

**ACTION: CLLRS WATKINS & HOUSE**

Cllr Watkins asked about Camp Bestival in July – there was a sign promised on the bypass directing festival goers away from the village centre but, to date, nothing has appeared. Cllr Wharf suggested he contact the events co-ordinators. Cllr Watkins will send the appropriate reminder.

**ACTION: CLLR WATKINS**

**17.20 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received from Cllrs L Fairhurst and D Bishop.

A moments silence was observed in remembrance of Lyn Fancy who died last weekend. She was a member of this Parish Council for a brief period and our thoughts are with her family.

**17.21 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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

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

Barrow Hill – An enforcement request had been submitted. The hardstanding area has since been removed and the hedge is due to be replaced.

Signage by the pond – A response had been received from the Insurers but it was too late to bring to this meeting. The Clerk will circulate their suggestion and bring the matter to the July meeting.

**ACTION: CLERK**

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

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

### **17.24 Key Topics**

#### **17.24.1 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Since the May meeting the Steering Group has met with Richard Henshaw, the agent of the Landowner of White Lovington, and put to him that they have to either have affordable housing on the site or make a contribution to affordable housing elsewhere in the village. They are to talk to the Drax Estate and PDC as to how much, when and where this is going to take place. The current indication is that they prefer to make a contribution rather than have affordable housing on the site. Sue Bellamy was informed and has taken this back to PDC and they now await contact from the agent.

The Steering Group has also spoken to Jason Bowerman of the Drax Estate regarding the possibility of having the southern end of the sports field declared common land for use either by the Parish Council or by the Sports Club. Cllr Benjafield asked if this would restrict what the Sports Club would be able to carry out on the land. The answer is no; it means that the land must have open public access at all times and nothing can be built on it. We have asked to see the original proposal put to the Sports Club by the Drax Estate, but everything is very open-ended at this stage and represents the start of a conversation which could carry on for some time. Cllr Pitcher noted that the land would be more of a parish recreation ground but open for use by the Sports Club should they wish. At this stage, we still await confirmation from the Drax Estate.

The first of the Local Plan Forums is due to take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June at the Sports Club, Bere Regis. All residents of the village are welcome. *Post meeting note: All Forums are cancelled until further notice.*

#### **17.24.2 To receive an update on the Community Hall**

There is a great deal of work to be carried out by the fund-raising group to establish very clearly the specific needs of groups that will use a hall, if and when it is built. The question was raised as to whether it would be possible to get groups to commit to future usage? The group is working with the Church in order to determine, roughly, how many weddings and funerals, for example, might be held. This will enable a business plan to be drawn up. Following discussions with Mike Gee, the planning group and funding group will now report direct to the Parish Council. The terms of reference will have to be reconsidered. It is suspected that no fund raising will commence for about 12 months and Cllr House will lead the group for the time being.

Cllr Munnings noted that the funding group are working on the concept of raising the amount of money needed. The planning group has been particularly active – there are two areas being considered; the Drax Hall - which will have to be sold to part fund the new hall. The hall is not registered with the Land Registry and the boundaries are incorrect on the ground. There are some legal decisions to make before this can be moved on. With regard to the site of the new hall; the results of the working group's findings clearly showed that Souls Moor was the preferred option. PDC now need to be approached for pre-planning advice but, before then, we need to know the size of the hall and a more precise location. Some basic measurements were taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> June on Souls Moor. Cllr Munnings will be meeting with Natural England to see if what is proposed is feasible. He is also in contact with the Environment Agency and Vitacress. Discussions need to be held with DCC regarding access. Cllr Wharf offered to gain an informal opinion from DCC upon request.

The old school site is still a possible fall-back, but we have not been given the cost implication and still need to know the size of a hall and how many parking spaces would be made available.

Cllr Bates asked when we would be likely to have a plan of the area and car parking. Cllr Munnings is working on this at the moment. In order to be able to write the new hall in with the NP we need to know details by the end of the summer.

17.24.3 Councillor Responsibilities for the coming year

A copy of the current paper had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Most area would remain the same with the following amendments:

Planning and Housing – Cllr Bishop to be added.

Community Hall groups to be added in.

NP steering group – remove Cllr Bishop to be removed.

Drax Hall representative – Cllr House.

These amendments will be made and the list will be reissued.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**17.25 Finance**

17.25.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

PDC	Pre-application advice re the Drax Hall	BACS020	75.00
Darkin Miller Ltd	Internal Audit Y/e 31.03.17	BACS021	255.00
DC Pension Fund	June contribution	BACS022	279.19
Mrs A Crocker	June wages + expenses	BACS023	812.24
HMRC	June PAYE/NIC	BACS024	72.99
A King	Lengthsman – May 2017	BACS025	1942.50

Total to be paid from the Precept **£3,436.92**

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

B Britten	NC mileage	BACS016	46.80
D Fairhurst	NC mileage	BACS017	66.15
S Munnings	May Lunch Club	BACS018	26.03
I Ventham	May Lunch` Club	BACS019	105.09
A Crocker	May Lunch Club	BACS023	59.40
M Benjafield	NC mileage	BACS026	71.55

Total to be paid from the schemes' funds **£375.02**

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

17.25.2 To confirm reconciliation of accounts

**ACTION: CLERK**

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.

17.25.3 To confirm the position against budget

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

#### 17.25.4 To confirm the Annual Governance Statement

A copy had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Each statement was reviewed individually and acknowledged. Cllr Pitcher proposed the Annual Governance Statement is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously. The Statement was signed by the Chair and counter-signed by the Clerk in the presence of the meeting.

#### 17.25.5 To agree the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

A full copy of the accounts had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting, together with the Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Cllr Munnings proposed the accounts are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously. The accounts were signed by the Chair and counter-signed by the Clerk in the presence of the meeting.

#### 17.25.6 To consider the Internal Auditor's Report

A copy of the Report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Three items had been raised: (a) Some of the invoices for payment had not been initialled by the Clerk

(b) There was a typographical error from 14 April 2017 which meant that the March 2016 minutes had never officially been confirmed. This will be rectified at the July 2017 meeting, prior to which the minutes will be re-issued.

(c) There is a 2p discrepancy in the bought forward figures. This will be amended within the current year's accounts.

With the above points noted, Cllr Benjafield proposed that the Audit Report is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Munnings reported that we have set aside £5,000 in the current year's Precept for expenses relating to the community hall. However, the charge for the common land swap will be £4,900, payable to the Planning Inspectorate. This means, the budget will very quickly be exceeded. It was felt that some of the reserve monies could be put to this to ensure the project continues to move forward.

#### 17.24.7 To review and update the Risk Assessment

The Clerk informed members that information regarding the requirements for signage, etc. in respect of the pond is awaited from the Insurers. This item will be deferred until the July meeting.

### **17.26 Planning & Housing**

#### 17.26.1 To consider planning applications:

**6/2017/0277** Margram Service Station, Townsend Business Park – erect single storey extension to the retail unit.

The Planning Working Party recommended no objection to the application. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr Munnings brought members up to date with the Barrow Hill situation. The removal of the hedge and installation of the hard-standing surface was reported to PDC who agreed to flag it as an enforcement issue and a meeting is due to take place during the week commencing the 12<sup>th</sup> June. In the meantime, a bank has been put back where the hedge was and Cllr Bates reported that the hard-standing had been removed and the land put back to the best of the ability of the person who carried out the work.

It was noted that all planning applications are now being validated by an external company based in the North of England. There are many planning applications being determined from google maps as officers do not have the time to check them all.

**17.27 Environment & Facilities**

**17.27.1 To consider wildflower planting on the Poole Hill roundabout**

Cllr Bates reported that the proposal came from the Environment Group to do something with the Poole roundabout. It is understood that Highways would prepare the ground if the Parish Council agreed to carry out the seeding, but we do need the metal posts removed.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**17.27.2 Open Spaces update**

Nothing to report. The ponies are working well.

New notice boards – These all require a little work and the Lengthsman will be asked to sort them out and notices will be put in each one to say who holds the keys.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**17.27.3 Defects**

- The notice board in Hyde is damaged
- The hedge by the carpark – a resident has cut a branch off which is by the side of the car park. The cherry trees on the green area alongside Elder Road are all overgrown and encroaching on nearby gardens. The Clerk will contact Aster and report the issue. If necessary, the Parish Council will carry out the work and invoice Aster.
- Handing over responsibility for the small areas of grass cutting around the village
- Condition of road surface in Green Close – report on the DorsetforYou web site.
- Bridge closure – letter to go to DCC saying we understand the work needs doing but we need to be able to get farm vehicles across the bridge.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**17.28 Police, Traffic and Roads**

Nothing to report.

**17.29 Community Liaison**

**17.29.1 NeighbourCar Scheme**

Continues to be a much-needed facility and more volunteers are desperately needed. 110 clients now.

**17.29.2 Salt & Pepper Club**

Continues to be successful.

**17.29.3 School liaison Meeting**

The intention of this meeting was to try to get Cllrs Wharf and Ventham, together with the Vicar, to meet and discuss any issues between any of the three village groups (school, Church and Parish) so that each could help with the other. Such a meeting would link school with the church with the village, but there seems to be some reticence on behalf of the school. Cllr Ventham will continue to pursue this.

**ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM**

**17.30 Children & Youth**

Nothing to report.

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

Antisocial behaviour – The Clerk reported that a resident had been in contact regarding cyclists using the Elder Road path and pushing past walkers with young children. It is not possible to ban cyclists from using the path but perhaps it would be possible for the PSCO to attend the area a little more frequently and combine this with a walk around Manor Farm Road and talk to youths, not only about taking care when cycling but also about throwing stones at the ponies. Cllr Watkins will follow it up.

**ACTION: CLLR WATKINS**

**17.32 Public Relations**

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Hedgehog Friendly Village – Cllr Bates will provide some working regarding the bat talk in August
- The positive effect the ponies are having on the Nature Reserve

**17.33 Items for the July meeting**

Members are reminded to pass any items to the Clerk for inclusion in the July agenda by the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.12.