



MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2017 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS, COMMENCING 7PM

Present: Cllrs R Pitcher, L Fairhurst, S Munnings, A Watkins, P Wharf, D Bishop.

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 1 member of the public (from 7.25pm)

17.81 Public Participation

No members of the public were present at this point.

17.82 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllrs Brenda House, Tom Bennett, Tony Bates and Bryan Benjafield.

17.83 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2017

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

17.84 Matters arising from those minutes, not covered by this agenda for report only

Dorset Dogs to be invited to attend outside the school during term time, starting 7.30am until 9pm.

Dog hitching posts are now in place outside the school.

ACTION: CLERK

Village signs are now all in place and residents have complimented the Parish Council on the signs and the new notice boards. Thanks will be passed on to the Lengthsman.

Car park By-law notice – PDC do not enforce the by-law on the sign in the central car park and the car park is being well used. Were we to complain about the length of time vehicles are left in the car park, they will merely move to park elsewhere in the village. The sign will be removed to avoid any further confusion.

Behaviour of the ponies – Unfortunately, many residents feed the ponies and they have now come to think that people mean food and will approach walkers, expecting to be fed. Anyone who is unsure around horses could find this intimidating but the ponies themselves are quite harmless. Larger signs will be put up asking residents not to feed the ponies.

ACTION: CLERK

Woodland Trust – An area has been located for planting the native hedge and this will be carried out by the working party.

The hedge opposite the houses by the Shell Garage has now been cut.

17.85 To receive declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

17.86 To receive the County and District Councillor’s report

The organisers of Bestival and Camp Bestival have indicated that the two events will be held within three days of each other next year. Most parties are happy with this as it means any disruption is contained within a shorter period. As far as the parish is concerned, this would be better, but it may be more of an issue for residents and businesses in Wool and for the Police who have to cover the event.

Local Government reorganisation – Sajid Javid has still not made an announcement.

Purbeck Local Plan – The revised methodology has been received and is being considered by PDC. It looks as though this may lead to a reduction in house numbers in Purbeck but it is still very early days.

The director of DWP’s sacking has been upheld but he has now lodged an appeal which will go to the High Court.

Cllr Wharf is now the Cabinet Member for Workforce which will ensure the integration of county and district staff.

17.87 Key topics

17.87.1 Neighbourhood Plan progress update

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

Thanks are extended to Cllr Munnings for the work carried out on the draft to date. All the changes recommended by the Steering Group have been carried out. Cllr Munnings gave a brief outline of the Plan to date. It is now proposed that there should be five housing sites, each of which has its own policy. The total number of houses is now 105, which is primarily due to Barrow Hill and the old school site. North Street – 10 units with parking behind (no change); Back Lane – around 55 units (no change); Barrow Hill – up to 5 units; White Lovington – 12 units (no change); former school site – up to 23 units. There has been little in change of direction of the Plan other than the two sites that have come into focus recently.

PDC now wish to take the draft Plan to a health check to ensure everything fits in with the Local Plan policies. This will be paid for by PDC. Once this is done, the next step will be community inspection, followed by formal inspection, followed by referendum.

Subject to some minor changes, Cllr Munnings proposed the Plan is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. Cllr Ventham will email all those councillors that are not present to confirm they are happy with the adoption and to go forward.

ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM

The health check will be completed three weeks from receipt and it was suggested that the Plan is then put to residents. Saturday 11th November has been suggested. Scout Hut or school hall to be booked. The focus will be on the Plan with a short presentation at 12 noon, followed by a drop-in session throughout the afternoon. 200 copies of the draft Plan are to be printed. Cllrs Ventham, Munnings and Benjafield to organise the event. This will represent the last consultation before the Plan is passed to the Inspector.

ACTION: CLLRS VENTHAM, MUNNINGS, BENJAFIELD

17.87.2 Community Hall update

Cllr Munnings reported that there has been no further progress at this stage. The group had arrived at an impasse due to the size of the proposal. Cllr Benjafield is carrying out a survey of various village halls around the area to find out what they charge, their main customer base, etc. This will result in some baseline information. Armed with this information, John Scott will contact a wide list of organisations and companies with a list of questions and an aim to get an idea as to whether they would use such a facility. Sue Stone will be contacting existing organisations. This is likely to take a month or six weeks and will provide sufficient data to be able to produce a business plan, together with potential room sizes, etc. This may take until Christmas.

Whilst this is being done, the land swaps, hydrogeology, and topographical surveys are all underway.

17.87.3 To consider the possibility of taking over the ownership of the central car park

Cllr Wharf reported that PDC are quite keen to combine the transfer of the recycling area with the handover of the car park. He will speak to PDC and find out what they are likely to expect from us.

Is there an advantage to the Parish Council owning the car park? If a unitary council does come about, such a car park could be exploited by the unitary for income generation, for example, and we would not have a say.

PDC will formally be asked if they could tell us the extent of the boundary of the car park and a request for residual funding will be submitted. We will also suggest that we would be interested in acquiring other PDC land in the village if they could provide the locations, boundaries and any cost implication.

ACTION: CLERK

It was noted that, should BT ever move out of their site, it would result in a sizeable area of land. It is understood that the site is owned by a Japanese company who are not willing to give the site up at this time.

17.87.4 To consider consultation dates for the Neighbourhood Plan & Community Hall

The Neighbourhood Plan element has already been covered. Pictures of the Community Hall will be included in the displays but it is unlikely that the scheme will be at a point where any form of consultation would be possible.

17.87.5 To consider the motions by member councils for submission to the DAPTC AGM

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

Cllr Wharf disagreed with motion 2 ('where a town or parish council objects to a planning application for legitimate planning reasons, it should be considered by the planning authority's planning committee.') as it has to be referred on planning grounds and parish councils have a tendency to want applications referred on non-planning grounds. If a parish council puts forward a valid planning ground for objection, then it should be referred.

Cllr Ventham proposed that all four motions are supported. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. Cllr Bates, the Parish Council's DAPTC representative, will be instructed to vote accordingly.

17.87.6 To consider a contribution towards the cost of reinstating the white road lines around the Bovington region

A request has been received from Bovington for assistance from the parish councils in the area to pay a third of the £5,000 cost for reinstating the centre white line road markings around the area. In the opinion of Bovington; ‘..the need for the white lines is one of safety for other motorists travelling in the opposite direction to the tank and the avoidance of a potential for a head on collision with a tank on a dark winter night. Whilst the white lines are an aid for the learner tank driver to assess carriageway width and where his tank sits on the carriageway, the army are primarily attempting to protect the civilian motorists using the route at the same time.’ As part of the road in question is in Bere Regis, we have been asked to make a contribution towards the £5,00 cost.

It was felt that, as the work was for the benefit of the Army and Highways have said that the white lines are not sufficiently bad to warrant renewing at this stage, it should be the Army that covers the cost and not the Parish Council. A letter will be sent informing them of our decision.

ACTION: CLERK

17.88 Finance

17.88.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

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Information Commissioner	Data protection renewal	1871	35.00
BDO	External audit Ye 31.03.17	BACS060	360.00
P Stubbington	Topographical survey – Souls Moor	BACS062	510.00
P Stubbington	Topographical survey – Back Lane	BACS063	750.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreaths & crosses	BACS067	183.25
A King	Lengthsman	BACS068	2100.97
DC Pension Fund	October contribution	BACS069	230.22
Mrs A Crocker	October wages + expenses	BACS070	764.94
HMRC	October PAYE	BACS071	72.99
RBL Poppy Appeal	Additional wreath	BACS072	15.00
Newlands	LANTRA training	BACS073	336.00

Total amount to be paid from the Precept **£5358.37**

Cllr Bishop proposed these are paid. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously.

17.88.2 To confirm asset register

A copy of the current Asset Register had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

17.88.3 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 or comments made.

17.88.4 Comparison to budgets

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

17.88.5 To confirm the auditor's report of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017

The Clerk reported that the audit for the year ended 31st March 2017 has now been completed. The only comment made was that the accounts were approved after the commencement of the inspection period of the exercise of electors' rights. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 specifies that the Annual Governance statement must be approved, followed by the approval of the Accounting Statement. Both statements must be published on a web site with the notice of electors' rights. The electors' rights should start the following day. In Bere Regis, the information was published on the website and the statements confirmed on the 8th June 2017. The period of electors' rights was due to begin on the 3rd June. This is the first time this has become an issue during the audit but will mean better adherence to timings in future years. Cllr Munnings proposed that the auditor's report is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously.

17.88.6 To arrange for budget preparation for 2017/18

The Finance Working Party consists of Cllrs Ventham, Wharf and Bennett, together with the Clerk. This item will be taken forward to the November meeting.

17.88.7 To consider making a donation to Life Education

A request has been received from this group for a grant towards their work of providing health, well-being and drug prevention education to approximately 102 children at Bere Regis School when they visit them in May 2018. The cost to deliver this is £630 a day and the intention is to spend two days at the school. The school will cover half of this cost but this leaves a shortfall of £550.

The Clerk has contacted the school but has not received a response to date. Cllr Ventham proposed a decision is taken subject to the school confirming that they are happy. Cllr Pitcher suggested speaking to the school and asking them to submit a grant application. Cllr Ventham will take this up with the school.

ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM

17.89 Planning & Housing

There were no applications to consider.

17.90 Environment & Facilities

17.90.1 Open Spaces update

Cllr Pitcher reported that most of the long vegetation in the nature reserve has been cut. The working party has rebuilt the area around the water outflow by the kick wall.

Following attendance of the LANTRA course, Cllr Pitcher and the Lengthsman will carry out a survey of all the trees on Parish Council owned land. This may need compartmentalising and some mapping may be needed to determine which trees will need monitoring and which need work carried out. A full report will then be submitted to the Parish Council.

17.90.2 Play park update

Cllr Pitcher and the Lengthsman have reviewed the play park in detail. The main beams of the zip wire are rotten and the equipment has been taken out of action. This has happened as the main support poles were not treated timber. Most of the issues found were picked up in the main annual inspection and are being repaired as time goes on. The soil in the area is acidic and tends to rot out timbers quicker than normal. The Lengthsman has itemised the equipment needed at a cost of around £1,600. The timber needed to get the zip wire back into operation is £530. It was proposed by Cllr

Pitcher, seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously that the work to the zip wire is carried out as soon as possible.

ACTION: CLERK

17.90.3 Defects

- Weeds in gutters around the village
- Dog faeces – Cllr Ventham suggested that, should signs be put up near the school asking people to keep their dogs on a lead, it may be easier to challenge people to clear up after their dog. For the cost involved it may be worth trying. The Dorset Dogs signs will be put up in the first instance to see if they have any effect. A dog bin will be purchased and put by the school and the Lengthsman will be asked to empty it. Dorset Dogs will be asked to hold one of their ‘Pop up’ events, preferably running from 7.30am until 11am on a school day to ensure as many dog walkers as possible will be targeted.

ACTION: CLERK

17.91 Police, Traffic and Roads

17.91.1 Winter Road preparations

Cllr Watkins will check the grit bins are filled.

17.92 Community Liaison

Nothing to report.

17.93 Children & Youth

17.93.1 Skate Park update

Cllr Bishop reported that seven people met on Thursday 5th October in the Drax Arms. Robbie Windsor has agreed that he will run the project. Cllr Bishop has passed on information about the building of skate parks and the question of fund raising was discussed. Any monies raised can be held by the Parish Council and ring-fenced. The group will now start to think about the possible locations. The old school site and the Back Lane site both have recreational facilities built into them and it may be possible to have an offset to build the skate park, perhaps on the SANG. The next meeting will be held somewhere that younger people will be able to attend, at a time when they are about.

17.94 Correspondence received since the agenda was set

There was no additional correspondence received.

17.95 Public Relations

- Neighbourhood Plan Consultation meeting on the 11th November.
- Winter Road preparation
- Equipment upgrade being undertaken in the play park
- Do not feed the ponies
- Skate Park information

17.96 Items for the November meeting

Members are reminded to send any items for the agenda to the Clerk by the 31st October 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:35pm