



**BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH
SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS
COMMENCING 7PM**

- Present:** Cllrs B House, P Wharf, B Benjafield, A Watkins, L Fairhurst, D Bishop, S Munnings, T Bates
- Chair:** Cllr R Pitcher
- Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker
- Also present:** 2 members of the public. Su Powner - Dorset Dogs

17.65 Public Participation

Sue Aldous – Asked about the latest position with regard to the proposed planning at White Lovington. Cllr Munnings reported that there has been no change regarding the site. Regarding the Neighbourhood Plan in general, the Steering Group have met with PDC and will be looking to produce the draft plan in October/November.

Jethro Loader – As part of the new Skate Park Group, asked what deliverables does the skate park group need to work on; how does the group go about proving the need; is the original site by the kick wall still viable; would the group need to raise all the funds or would some be available from the Parish Council; would the size of the park need to form part of the NP? Some sketches of possible designs had been produced and, from those, the site would need to be approximately 25 x 30m. Cllr Bishop reported that the next meeting is scheduled for 5th October and, at that point, the framework on how to move forward will be set up. The location is likely to prove the biggest problem. Cllr Munnings informed them that the area by the kicking wall is now designated Common Land and, as such, is no longer available for building on. There are various other areas around the village that may prove suitable and the Neighbourhood Plan says we would require planners to provide open areas, although a skate park is not specifically stated. Cllr Wharf offered to put the group in contact with the Bovington group who have recently set up a skate park. A Facebook page has been set up by the skate park group to try to encourage more people to get involved.

Dorset Dogs presentation – Su Powner outlined the work of the group, which deals predominantly with the pressures placed on heathland by dogs. As we have Black Hill within the parish, they are able to work with us as part of the mitigation for heathland. A brief presentation was given and some information left. It was suggested that a pit stop visit during one of the school runs is undertaken and another presentation given at the next Village Forum. Cllr Benjafield will put a link on the Facebook page to the Dorset Dogs site.

17.66 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ventham and Bennett.

17.67 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2017

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

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

The village signs are now in place with the exception of the doctor’s surgery sign. This will be put up during the next week or two.

Article for the parish magazine regarding the ancient field names – Cllr Bates will produce this ready for the next magazine.

Aster meeting – The Clerk and Cllr Wharf met with representatives from Aster; Lidia Talai, Neighbourhood Manager for Dorset, and Tony Williams, Estates Manager. They have agreed to cut back the overhanging tree in the central car park, together with the overgrown hedge. However, the hedge on the eastern edge of the car park is not their responsibility. The hedge in front of Lys Cottages is the responsibility of Aster but does not appear on any of their grounds maintenance programmes. Mr Williams will request approval from his line manager to add the hedge and will arrange for the work to be carried out. With regard to the cherry trees; Aster carries out an annual informal survey on all its tree stock for any high risk works that are required and a visual inspection on one fifth of the stock in each region to identify management works. The trees were inspected and no works have been recommended. Their standards state that they will prune base growth and tree branches below two metres overhanging pathways and they will arrange for this work to be undertaken. The grounds maintenance team sweeps the footpaths bi weekly between March and October, so any cherries falling and rotting will be picked up. More frequent visits can be requested during the summer, however, residents will need to be made aware that this will be reflected in an increase in the service charges for grounds maintenance. For those trees with branched overhanging private dwellings, those residents have a common law right to cut back to their boundary any branches overhanging their garden.

Bestival – There will be a washup meeting in due course. As far as the highways diversions went, everything seemed to go well and no complaints have been received.

Ironman Challenge – This will be taking place on Sunday, 17th September and the Breast Cancer charity cycle ride will also be taking place at the same time.

Fingerposts – Cllr Wharf reported that Briantspuddle will be repairing some of their fingerposts but have been quoted in excess of £1,000 for the work. The Clerk will contact them and see if they would like some assistance.

ACTION: CLERK

Central car park sign – A request has been submitted to PDC to ask if the sign can be removed. This is currently in the hands of Bob Lockard and a response is awaited.

17.69 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Munnings declared an interest in the planning applications in respect of Lower Woodbury Farm and South Barn, Shitterton. Cllr Watkins declared an interest in the planning application in respect of South Barn, Shitterton. No other interests were declared.

17.70 To receive the County & District Councillor’s reports

Cllr Wharf reported that he will be meeting Richard Smith at Hyde to discuss the implementation of a ‘broadband fix’ – if a remote location is not currently receiving SFB a ‘fix’ is possible. This costs a fair amount of money and County and BT will both contribute towards that cost. However, this is on the condition that it is to assist businesses and there is also normally a request for the local parish council to put some money in, although a figure is not known at this stage.

Aging Well conference - Friday October 6th in Dorchester. Talk about grant funding opportunities.

Signed:

Phil Goodland has taken over from Stephen Mephram at Highways.

Car park – It looks as though we are about to get agreement to fence off the old recycling area. It may be possible to then look at taking over the ownership of the carpark. This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

Local Government Reform – Sajid Javid is going to make an announcement on the 15th September regarding the unitary status. *Post meeting note; No such announcement was made.*

Old school site – The buildings are due to be knocked down quite soon. DCC is still in discussion with the Parish Council but Cllr Wharf has indicated that the site is number two on our list of possible sites for the proposed community hall.

Cllr Wharf reported that he had chaired the tribunal that led to the dismissal of the DWP director. This caused some concern at County and the outcome was given two days ago in support of Cllr Wharf's decision.

Bovington School is going to be rebuilt and used by Delta Education whilst building a school for autistic children. This has led to some local opposition.

17.71 Key topics

17.71.1 Neighbourhood Plan update

The draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has been proof read and returned to Cllr Munnings. Julien Lightfoot is now going to prepare the work for publication and Sue Bellamy (PDC) is going to complete the maps required.

Habitat Risk Assessment Agreement – PDC have agreed to set up the agreement and the Parish Council will be required to pay two thirds of the cost - £1,000.

17.71.2 Community Hall update

The preferred site for the hall is Souls Moor and the Parish Council have already voted in favour of supporting the plan. The working group have asked why the facility needs to be as large as the concept suggested. Evidence is now being collected to back up the concept and prove sustainability. A survey of the boundaries and levels is to be carried out and this will dictate how any proposed hall will be able to fit on the site. Until this is received, we are not proposing to go out to public consultation. As part of the evidence base, it will be necessary to contact as many groups, clubs, etc. as possible throughout the county and ask them if they would be likely to use such a facility. Cllr Benjafield will then contact each of them via email/the web page and the responses analysed.

17.71.3 To decide consultation dates/venues for Neighbourhood Plan & for Community Hall

This item will be considered at the October meeting.

17.72 Finance

17.72.1 To approve the monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

PDC	Pre-app advice re Souls Moor	1867	75.00
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Elaine Stansfield	Donation towards Flower Festival	1868	200.00
Cheap Printing	20 community hall proposals	BACS051	14.40
N Fairhurst	Annual web maintenance 1/4/17-31/3/18	BACS052	60.00
Cheap Printing	300 village calendars	BACS051	600.00
Cheap Printing	2 aluminium signs	BACS051	60.00
Cheap Printing	Skate park posters	BACS051	6.00
DC Pension Fund	September contribution	BACS054	230.22
Mrs A Crocker	September wages+ expenses	BACS055	768.78
HMRC	PAYE	BACS056	72.99
A King	Lengthsman – September	BACS058	1755.00

Total amount to be paid from the Precept **£3,842.39**

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

P Morgan	NeighbourCar – July-September	1869	26.55
D Fairhurst	NeighbourCar – June-August	BACS050	60.30
I Ventham	August Lunch Club	BACS053	225.69
I Ventham	July Lunch Club	BACS053	114.99
M Benjafield	NeighbourCar – August & September	BACS055	61.63
D Fairhurst	NeighbourCar -August & September	BACS059	30.15

Total to be paid from the scheme's funds **£519.31**

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

17.72.2 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 questions were raised and no comments made.

17.72.3 To review the 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.

17.72.4 To confirm a grant of £200 towards the Flower Festival in aid of Cancer Research

Cllr House proposed that the donation is made. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

17.73 Planning & Housing

17.73.1 To consider planning applications

Cllr Wharf withdrew from the meeting.

6/2017/0166 Lower Woodbury Farm – erection of 2 storey side extn, part 2 storey, part single storey rear extn, bay window to front with associated alterations to roof & elevations.

6/2017/0354 Lower Woodbury Farm – conversion of farm building to provide three holiday units with parking and sitting out areas

6/2017/0434 151 Roke Road – Reinstatement of dwelling into 2 dwellings, including replacement extensions, demolition of outbuilding & internal alterations.

6/2017/0461 3 South Barn Manor Pound, Shitterton – Insert 2 Velux windows.

All four applications had been considered by the PWP and Cllr Fairhurst recommended no objections are raised to any. This was seconded by Cllr Bates and agreed unanimously.

17.73.2 To consider tree work applications

- TWA/2017/142 7 White Lovington – T1 Nothofagus; crown lift to 12’
- TWA/2017/146 The Old Mill – T1 willow; repollard – T2 willow; reduce by 2-3m
- TWA/2017/147 102 North Street – T1 Horse Chestnut – fell
- TWA/2017/158 9 Shitterton Road – T1 Willow – re-pollard; T2 Holly – reduce by 1.5m
- TWA/2017/160 Honeycombe Cottage, 18 Shitterton Road – G1 Conifers – fell; G2 conifers – fell

Cllr Bates had viewed all the applications and recommended no objections are raised. Cllr Fairhurst proposed that the recommendation is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Wharf re-entered the meeting.

17.74 Village Environment

17.74.1 Update on Open Spaces

The areas of the nature reserve that the ponies have not touched need to be strimmed and the Lengthsman will be asked to undertake this work. Once this is done, the ponies will be more likely to eat these areas. Cllr Bates will meet Lengthsman on site to discuss the areas in question and organise the work.

ACTION: CLLR BATES

Cllr Fairhurst asked what was happening to the area of land on Souls Moor, behind the drainage ditch. The Lengthsman will be asked to cut the area in this instance.

Behaviour of ponies – Following the receipt of an email expressing concern over the behaviour of the ponies, Cllr Bates attended the site and reported that they are ponies are fine but they are now used to being fed by walkers. Cllr Benjafield will include a note in the magazine asking people not to feed the ponies.

The Woodland Trust have granted us ninety, mixed native hedge saplings that could be used to reinstate the hedge between the school and the old hedge. The Environment Group will consider this and report back to the meeting.

Footpaths – Snow Hill path to North Street - the styles need replacing. They are the responsibility of the Drax Estate and the Clerk will contact Jason Bowerman accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

17.74.2 To receive a proposal regarding the replacement of the play park equipment

Cllr Pitcher report that the problems have arisen as the equipment is made of wood – it dries out in the summer leading to apparently loose connections, but expands in the winter. The woodchip does need topping up and, in the toddler area, the two springers need to be replaced. In addition, the self-closing gate and benches need work carried out on them and the bank between the two parks is eroding and needs re-landscaping. The Lengthsman will undertake this work within his set hours. The bank slide might be incorporated into the park.

17.74.3 Defects

– Trees at Elder Road, willows need attention. Similarly, the sycamore in the play park needs work carried out on it. Both Cllr Pitcher and the Lengthsman are due to attend the LANTRA course in Tree Management on the 6th October, after which, the various tree works will be revisited.

- Cllr Benjafield reminded members about the Aviva Community Fund. Cllr Ventham had previously suggested that this might be something the Skate Park Group could look at but, after consideration, the submission date may be too soon. Cllr Benjafield will check what is required and by what dates.

17.75 Police, Traffic and Roads

17.75.1 Road closure for Remembrance Day Parade

The application needs to be submitted to DC Highways. Cllr Watkins will undertake this.

ACTION: CLLR WATKINS

17.76 Community Liaison

The Friends of Wareham Hospital AGM will be readvertised on the village Facebook.

17.77 Children & Youth

Skate Park – This was covered in the Public Participation Period.

17.78 Correspondence received since the agenda was issued

Nothing to report.

17.79 Communications

- Village Forum
- Ponies
- Community hall
- Play park
- Skate park next meeting 5th October 7.30pm/Facebook group

17.80 Items for the October meeting

- Ironman feedback
- Central Car Park

Members are reminded to submit all items to the Clerk by the 4th October 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50pm.