

**MINUTES OF BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9th February 2012 AT THE DRAX HALL,
BERE REGIS , COMMENCING 7PM**

Present: Cllrs R Pitcher C Maunder L Alderman
M Howard S Munnings A Duncanson
L Fairhurst District Cllr P Wharf

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

In attendance: County Cllr A Brenton

2 members of the public, together with the Chair and Secretary of the BRPAC, and PCSO Luke Taylor

Tony Bates – reported that he now has the forms for Souls Moor and the SNCI area north of the river along Elder Road. The Bere Regis SNCI Management Group has been formed and held their first meeting on 2nd February. There are now some action points in place for Souls Moor. The group is a sub group of the Parish Council and will provide a copy of the minutes of the meetings to the Clerk. A short report will also be sent to Cllr Wharf for inclusion in the Parish Magazine each month.

11.192 To receive the County Councillor's report

11.192.1 Bus service – Cllr Brenton reported that 200 name petition was handed in to Miles Butler of DCC at the Cabinet Meeting last week. Everything is all very confidential as DCC are waiting for the bus companies to show their hands before they are willing to say anything. Any new commercial interest must be disclosed by next Friday. If no-one comes forward then DCC will have to subsidise the routes under threat. Another reprocurement round of buses in Dorset will be taking place in 18 months to 2 years' time so any new contract will be short term and, therefore, more expensive and is likely to be on a reduced basis. A joint meeting of the parish councils affected by the loss of the 347/387 bus route is being organised for the 3rd March at the Drax Hall 11am for an hour. The meeting will focus only on the buses that come through this village ie the 347/387 with the object being for the parish councillors to arrive at a simple resolution to send to DCC. The MPs and district and county councillors will be invited to attend or to send a representative. It is recommended that, should the meeting go ahead, the Cabinet will be discussing the buses again on the 7th March and the final paper will be through on the 21st March.

11.192.2 School crossing – The school has now started to send out letters requesting sponsorship to the various local firms.

11.192.3 Winter Maintenance Programme – Snow plough blades. All parishes are asked if they would be prepared to co-ordinate the snow clearance programme for their area. The parishes who lodge a snow plan will get £200 paid to them when snow falls. A consultation letter will be going out and feedback requested. It was agreed the BRPC will sign up to this and our Winter Maintenance Plan will be updated once this is in place.

11.193 To receive the District Councillor's report

11.193.1 Elder Road Open Space – The Policy Group met and discussed the proposed hand over of this area. Cllrs Margetts and Wharf attended the meeting. PDC have offered to pay £2,000 towards the production of a management plan and the £5250pa current cost of the area will be given to the parish council for a three year period on a reducing balance basis, commencing with 75% in the first year, 50% in the second and 25% in the third. It was pointed out that, although this is an asset valued at £40,000, it is also a liability. Cllr Wharf will speak to the Head of Council next week. We need to agree that we will do the management plan and Helen Lillie has provided the appropriate headings. Some discussion took place as to whether or not the parish council should hold out for something better than PDC have offered? It was agreed that we should go back and try to get what we originally asked for ie 100% in the first year with a 25% reducing balance thereafter. Regardless of the outcome, we still want to take ownership. The parish council would be the owners of the area but the scout hut would have security of tenure. £2 a year ground rent is payable to the land owner and a 20 year lease was drawn up last year. PDC will be responsible for the legal work regarding the transfer. Cllr Ventham declared a personal interest in the scout hut as he is Chairman of the Scout Group using the hut.

11.193.2 Planning Board Workshops – The meetings held to explain the changes to the planning system took place and four councillors attended. It was quite useful and there are no dramatic changes due.

11.193.3 Ward Review – A recommendation is being submitted by PDC regarding the review of the wards. The Purbecks will be changing to full elections but will go to single member wards. Bloxworth will be taken out of the ward, Hyde will be kept in and Sandford St Martin will be brought into the ward. The Boundary commission will then decide whether they want to accept or reject this recommendation.

11.193.4 Tower Hill application – There will be a site visit on 23rd February at 8.30am. and Cllr Fairhurst will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

11.194 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr T Maunder

Cllr R Margetts

11.195 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2011

A copy had been issued to councillors prior to the meeting. They were proposed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Munnings. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

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

11.196.1 Sports Club – There will be a formal opening of the pavilion on the 9th March and Cllr C Maunder in his capacity as community representative and Cllr Duncanson as youth representative are both invited. The new pavilion is to be called the Jessie Harvey Pavilion.

11.196.2 Soul's Moor – All three fencing quotes have now been received and the application has been resubmitted. This has taken longer than originally thought and we do not want to lose the opportunity of purchasing the site. It was agreed that the parish council holds sufficient funds to purchase the land should the Viridor grant not be forthcoming. A letter could be sent to Graingers expressing our continued interest in the land. Cllr Wharf pointed out that it may be necessary to have District Auditor to confirm such a purchase would be best value for public funds. A letter will go to the district auditor to confirm this. Cllr Maunder proposed that we resolve to purchase the land subject to the agreement of the district auditor. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously.

Post Meeting Note 1: It has been confirmed that Viridor have received the quotes and are happy with the responses to the various questions they raised. The application will be put before the funding board on the 23rd March and the Parish Council will be informed of the outcome at the beginning of April.

Post Meeting Note 2: The District Auditor does not exist. The Parish Council already has the opinion of the District Valuer as to the value of the property.

11.196.3 Graingers has now reduced the price of the rest of the land from £1.20 m to £850,000 and linked with this is the potential school site. DCC have said they will buy the 3.5 acres for the school site for only £20,000 plus a further £60,000 on grant of planning. Cllr Breton will check this as DCC have the go ahead to purchase the land. She will investigate and see how far along things are.

11.197 To receive declarations of interest in accordance with S94 of the LGA 1972

Cllr Wharf declared an interest in item 11.199 in his capacity as Chairman of the PDC Planning Board and agreed to withdraw from the meeting when this item arose.

11.198 Key topics

11.198.1 Village Forum – 25th February Saturday 9.30am for 10am start

Posters have gone up around the village and e-mails have been sent to everyone. Annette Brook MP has also been invited.

Cllr Wharf withdrew from the meeting.

11.199 Planning & Housing

11.199.1 To consider planning applications

11.199.1.1 6/2012/0005: Kennels Cottage, Bere Heath – erect agricultural barn.
No objections.

11.199.1.2 6/2012/0032: 2 Southbrook – erect front porch, single storey extension
No objections.

It was proposed by Cllr Maunder, seconded by Cllr Duncanson and agreed unanimously that the recommendations of the PWP are accepted.

ACTION: CLERK

Results of planning applications will be issued to councillors in future.

11.199.2 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2012/004 Larkspur, Snow Hill None. No objections.

Cllr Wharf re-joined the meeting.

11.199.3 Neighbourhood Plan

PDC will be invited to the Village Forum. The Planning Group will be meeting again next Wednesday to move things on and the minutes will be sent to the remainder of the councillors. Invite to be sent to PDC to remind them. Cllr Maunder was asked if he could contact the surgery and ask if they would mind Dave Gibbs taking some photographs of the inside and outside of the surgery.

11.200 Village Environment

11.200.1 Stone signs for the village – Progress Report

Cllrs Duncanson and Ventham went to the quarry and chose the stones to be used. The sponsorship form has now been issued and we have over £500 to date.

11.200.2 Lengthsman Scheme

The Clerk is now responsible for the day to day running of the Lengthmans Scheme and weekly meetings are taking place in order to keep up to date with work. If anyone has anything they would like the Lengthsman to attend to, please contact the Clerk.

ACTION: CLERK

11.200.3 Cemetery

The signed contract has still not been received from Hiscocks, despite a second copy and reminder being sent. The Clerk will telephone Mr Hiscock and find out if there is a problem.

ACTION: CLERK

11/200/4 Elder Road Footpath upgrade

Three quotations for the work have now been received. These ranged from £6,600.00 to over £13,500.00. As the grant already achieved is for £7,000.00 it was unanimously agreed that the quote for £6,600 is accepted. In addition, a quote for £1,460.00 to extend the Boardwalk to the south side of the stream was also accepted.

Post Meeting Note: The contractor has been informed and work will commence by the beginning of April.

11.200.4 Defects

- The original lamp standards in West Street are all now quite rusty. Cllr Howard has the details of the contract manager and will follow this up.

ACTION: CLLR HOWARD

11.201 Traffic, Public Transport and Roads

11.201.1 To consider the loss of the 347/387 bus service

This has already been discussed under the County Councillor's item.

11.201.2 Update on the C6 traffic survey

Payment has been made to DCC and the survey is due to go ahead in March.

11.202 Children & Youth

The Chairman thanked the newly formed Bere Regis Play Area Committee for all the work they have done to date.

11.202.1 To receive an update on the proposed play area upgrade

Cllr Pitcher brought councillors up to date with the work of the committee. Emma Bastion is the co-Chair of the group and is now sitting on the Community Panel for Synergy. The landlord of the Drax has now also joined the group and is happy to get involved with fund raising. The aims of the group are to raise funds and to manage the community play spaces within the village – this includes the Elder Road Open Space from the kick wall to the scout hut and, at a future date the Souls Moor Village Green. One idea going forward regarding the Elder Road Open Space and advised by Synergy is to undergo fund raising for the wider community which will, in turn, allow access to greater funds for the play area. The idea of an outdoor gym has been put forward.

Emma informed members that looking at the funding that is available shows that more would be on offer if the wider community was targeted. The group will be meeting the sculptor on Monday but are reconsidering the idea of having the wooden structures as in the Tolpuddle play area.

The Chairman asked Councillors if they were all happy with the remit of the scope of the group being wider than was originally suggested. This is something that was going to be addressed through the Neighbourhood Plan so it is useful to have this group in place to assist with this going forward. As to the particular play equipment provider, the group need not be limited to the suggestion. This can all be discussed in more detail when the group meet with the sculptor on Monday.

Synergy are currently in negotiation with Aster so we will need to get their commitment as quickly as possible.

For accounting purposes, the equipment should be purchased through the parish council in order to reclaim the VAT. The BRPAC might like to take on a charitable status in order to take advantage of the various fund raising opportunities including possible gift aiding.

A consultation will be taking place after the Village Forum.

11.202.2 To confirm the organisation of the BRPAC

This item has been dealt with under 11.202.1.

11.203 Community Liaison

11.203.1 Diamond Jubilee Plans

Cllr Wharf reported that the POP in group will be decorating the ground floor of the Drax in suitable Jubilee colour and would like to take part in the walk.

Church service 10am – historical display in the church

Pageant on Monday starting at Shitterton going down West Street to the sports field and the lighting of the beacon on the sports field in the evening.

Egdon Close Street Party. This could take place on Souls Moor as the road would not be able to be closed and this would get people used to using the area.

There is now a special Bere Regis Jubilee Logo with thanks to Julien Lightfoot.

11.203.2 PPG

Cllr C Maunder reported that the group is going to create a Memory Café where people come together and exercise their memories – for Alzheimer’s sufferers. First meeting will be the end of April.

11.204 Police and Security

PCSO Luke Taylor introduced himself, being new to the area. Everything is still very quiet apart from two car fires and one car theft. The drugs warrant from last month showed three plants in the flat and the owner received a caution. The burnt out car by Monkey World was a stolen vehicle. Apart from this Bere Regis is a very safe place to live. Bloxworth got a session of texts and e-mails regarding suspicious characters in a Subaru and these were apprehended in Poole. The Chair requested that as much visible presence of Luke as possible in the parish would be greatly appreciated.

11.205 Finance

11.205.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

DAPCT	50% Essential Finance Course	1350	10.00
J Hiscocks	February 2012 cemetery grass cutting	1351	230.00
Mrs A Crocker	February 2012 wages, licence, post	1352	400.67
HMRC	February 2012 PAYE	1353	86.40
Paul Critchell	Lengthsman – January 2012	1354	870.00
Drax Hall Man. Comm.	Hall hire – 2011/12	1355	240.00
Bere Regis PCC	Church yard Maintenance contribution	1356	500.00

The total amount requested from the Precept is £2,337.07. The payments were proposed by Cllr Fairhurst and seconded by Cllr Howard and signed by two councillors in the presence of the meeting.

11.205.2 To confirm reconciliation of accounts

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

11.205.3 Comparison to budgets

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

11.206 Communications

- Bus service
- BRPAC – to include a short report to be written by Jenny Lawson, secretary of the committee
- Welcome to PCSO
- Bere Regis SNIC Management Group
- Elder Road paths and boardwalk extension update

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed:

Dated: