

**MINUTES OF BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8th MARCH 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 T Maunder R Margetts

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

In attendance: PCSO Luke Taylor

4 members of the public.

11.207 Public Participation

11.207.1 Vehicle insurance for the Carnival - The current position is that members of the public are covered by the Parish Council's public liability insurance. Any float will have to be covered by the motor vehicle owner's insurance. This may mean that the vehicle owner will have to insure the float themselves, incurring an additional premium. The Parish Council is currently looking into the possibility of either taking out its own insurance to cover the floats or assisting with some of the additional cost that the individual organisations may incur. This is still under investigation and it is hoped that an answer will have been achieved before the April meeting.

11.207.2 PF 28 – Court Farm to Doddings - The present residents of Court Farm were in the process of fencing the field alongside this footpath when a walker informed them that they were fencing the incorrect line of the path. Worked was immediately stopped until clarification had been received. DCC Rights of Way have now attended the site and have confirmed that the fence line is correct. Following on from this, the Court Farm residents made a complaint about the amount of dog mess alongside the path and in their fields, including those containing cows. Although it would not be possible to put a dog bin at Court Farm, it may be possible to install one at the Southbrook Road end of the track. The Clerk will check on costings and ensure that, if one is installed, it will be emptied.

ACTION: CLERK

11.207.3 Fire at Court Farm – it was reported that, following the straw bales fire last weekend, Police have recovered a lighter that they believe may have been used in the incident which has been confirmed as arson. Thankfully only 12 straw bales were destroyed but it could have been much worse. The Chairman reported that an incident had taken place at Woodbury Hill Farm the previous week in which a sizeable quantity of bales had been slashed. This may or may not be connected but PCSO Taylor was asked to speak to the owner of the farm.

PCSO Taylor – Police attendance and response time. It was unfortunate that no-one turned up to the Court Farm incident and this may have been the fault of the Control Centre not passing the call on as urgent. The public are reminded that, for non-emergency calls, the 101 number should be used but you can still request the attendance of an officer or can leave a message for a specific officer to respond when they are next on duty. To contact Luke direct, council members can use the team mobile - 07825 521900, but it will only be answered when he is on duty. For all emergencies, continue to use 999 and 101 for non-emergency calls.

11.207.4 Use of footpaths by horse riders – A letter of complaint has been received regarding the use of footpaths by horse riders – most specifically FP30, alongside Elder Road. It is understood, they are then crossing the bridge and going onto Souls Moor. This covers two issues; firstly FP 30 is a public footpath and horses should not be using it. Secondly, Souls Moor is currently privately owned and should not be used for horse riding. However, until we take ownership, there is little that the Parish Council can do about it. The Chairman asked PCSO Taylor to visit the complainant to obtain some more information with a view to speaking to the horse riders.

11.207.5 Parking – North Street – There are frequently white vans parked on the corner of Griffins Garden and North Street. Apart from making exiting Griffins Gardens a bit hazardous, this is illegal as there should be a 15m visibility zone left around junctions. That said, this is a village and parking is at a premium in this area so some leeway must be permitted. However, PCSO Taylor will visit the site and speak to the van owners or leave a note on the windscreen.

11.208 To receive the County Councillor’s report

The County Councillor was unable to attend but the Clerk read out her report.

11.208.1 Bus service – The Cabinet did not discuss the proposed loss of the bus service 347/387. However, Miles Butler did say that all ammunition and information is welcome and that the Cabinet has to decide on the 21st March whether to find funds to support the 387 up to the 12th June as Damory is not going to do the extended time without some subsidy. The obstacle is the shortage of money in the subsidy fund and reluctance of the Cabinet to transfer any more into it. Mr Butler implied that lobbying would be most usefully aimed at the Cabinet members and the Budget Review Group (chaired by David Jenkins).

11.208.2 Road Maintenance – The Policy Development Panel on road maintenance and improvements is discussing ways in which the DCC team has deterred parishes and towns from doing small improvements themselves. DCC Highways cannot see that they often obstruct parishes by insisting on doing work themselves at a high cost or putting “regulations” in the way. The PDP is looking at examples of this happening so as to challenge Highways’ modus operandi. If there are any small improvements that DCC officers have held up unnecessarily or made more difficult in Bere please let the Clerk know so that they can be passed on.

11.209 To receive the District Councillor’s report

Nothing to report as the councillor was unable to attend the meeting.

11.210 To receive apologies for absence

County Cllr A Brenton

District Cllr P Wharf

11.211 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2012

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 Munnings and seconded by Cllr Fairhurst. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

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

None.

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

No interests were declared at this time.

11.214 Key topics

11.214.1 Village Forum – Thanks are extended to Cllr Duncanson for all the work she did on the day. Three interesting topics were covered and it was a very good turnout with 55 villagers attending. It was generally agreed that this is a very worthwhile exercise and should continue. The Annual Parish Meeting, which has to be held in May, is usually poorly attended and it was agreed that, starting from 2013, this could be combined with the Village Forum. The later meeting could then be put back to the October half term.

The Chairman pointed out that, at present, three contact lists exist – one held by Cllr Duncanson, one by Cllr Wharf and one by the Clerk. It was proposed that, in order to avoid confusion and to prevent some residents receiving the same e-mail three times, the lists should be combined and held by the Clerk

The next Village Forum will be held in October this year.

11.214.2 Souls Moor – An e-mail has been sent to Savills requesting an update but the partner dealing with this site is now on holiday for next two weeks. It would appear that there is no-one really dealing with it whilst he is on holiday but Sophie Clotworthy has offered to take up the issue. The Chairman will speak to John Beresford at Graingers to try to get an update of some form. We need to know what information is required from the Parish Council in order that we can get everything in place and ready as soon as it is known whether or not Viridor are going ahead with the funding.

11.215 Planning & Housing

11.215.1 To consider planning applications

11.215.1.1 6/2012/0078: Culeaze House – use of property for weddings. Certificate of lawful use.
No objections.

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

ACTION: CLERK

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

11.215.2 To consider tree work applications

None.

11.215.3 Neighbourhood Plan

At the last meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, it was agreed that two proposals should be put to the council:

- 1- Corporate Identity – Julian Lightfoot has very kindly drawn up some designs and these had been issued to all members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the style of the letterhead should be the serif face with crown. The Chairman will ask Mr Lightfoot to produce a letter with changeable strap line for us.
- 2- Parish Council web site – it is suggested that the Parish Council should have its own dedicated web site in order to enable the council to maintain full transparency with its activities and enable us to post the various documentation required by statute. It was proposed by Cllr Fairhurst, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed unanimously that the dedicated site should be set up. This could include a log in only page for councillors.

Cllr Fairhurst's son has drawn up a proposal and a quotation to act as a rough guide and first quotation. It was suggested that the Parish Council registers a .org.uk domain name in order to maintain ownership. We will go out to tender to three suppliers for the production of the web site, to be managed by the Clerk. A specification will be drawn up by the Clerk and will be circulated.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Munnings reported that he, the Clerk and Cllr Margetts attended a course on the 1st March entitled The Localism Act, which proved very helpful and offered valuable guidance for the furtherance of the Neighbourhood Plan. From the discussion document produced a month ago, three groups have been organised and councillors have been volunteered to head the groups. These sub groups need to be underway in the next few weeks. The groups are Residential; Village Facilities and Recreation; Employment, land use and transport.

Cllr Margetts – recommended that everyone attend the up and coming Localism Update courses available from the DAPTC and the Clerk will issue the dates in due course.

ACTION: CLERK

Alongside the Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Plan should be reviewed and possibly updated. Jon Cleave, the original chairman of the Parish Plan Working Party will be asked as a one off exercise to review the progress of the Parish Plan and decide if it needs updating. The chairman will contact Mr Cleave.

ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM

The aim is to get the draft Neighbourhood Plan prepared by Christmas with a view to it going to the independent assessor in the first half of 2013 and on to referendum with the May 2013 elections.

11.216 Village Environment

11.216.1 Stone signs for the village – Progress Report

The stones have been selected and work will shortly begin on them. Eddie Butterfield and Pat Brady have agreed to install the stones free of charge. Cllr Alderman suggested a framed document showing the names of the contributors would be more appropriate than a Commemorative Book.

11.216.2 Cemetery

Grass cutting contract – Cllr Maunder and the Clerk met with Mr Hiscocks before Christmas but, since then, the copy contract has not been returned and it would appear that no grass cutting has taken place. Cllr T Maunder has approached another contractor who has produced a quote for bringing the cemetery back to a reasonable order and to offer a replacement contract for the coming year. It was agreed that, in the short term we need to find someone to do a one off cut in the first instance whilst we then go out to tender. The Clerk will draw up a specification, which will include the painting of the railings, and pass to Cllr T Maunder for approval prior to going to tender. An e-mail will be sent to other local parishes to find out who they use for such work.

ACTION: CLERK

11.216.3 Review of Cemetery charges

A proposal had been drawn up by the Clerk before and issued to all members. It was proposed by Cllr C Maunder and seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed unanimously that the charges are revised as per the proposal. These will now be issued to the various funeral directors who currently use the cemetery.

ACTION: CLERK

11.216.4 Elder Road Path Improvements & PDC proposals

At a recent meeting at PDC, it was proposed that the ownership of the land would be handed over in one of two possible ways, dependent on whether or not DCC would be willing to adopt the path and take of the responsibility of maintaining it:

- 1) If in adopting the footpath, DCC were taking responsibility of maintaining the path, we would be offered 75% of the current annual maintenance cost of the path, reducing to 50% in the second year and 25% in the third. Alternatively:
- 2) If DCC were not responsible for the maintenance then we would be offered 100% in the first year, 75% in the second, 50% the third and 25% the fourth.

Since that meeting, DCC have since said they will take on the responsibility of the path so we have been told we will be offered option 1. Whilst in principle we would like to take on the path, we are not happy with the offer. It is still necessary to settle various items of ownership, such as the bridges and who would be responsible for their maintenance. In addition, whilst reviewing the transfer of the footpath, DCC came up with two possible owners of the land who may have issues regarding the transfer. These would need sorting out before the Parish Council accepted the land. If PDC are spending £5200pa on maintenance, then this is the likely cost that the Parish Council will have to accept, which will mean an increase of 5% pa on the precept to cover it. It was felt that we should go back to PDC and, whilst we would like to accept the land, we have these reservations. We would like to have the £2000 offered for the management plan and we can then use this to sort out a management plan and determine the land ownership issues. Once we have this information, we

can respond to PDC with any findings and set out what we would like. However, we will wait until we get the formal proposal from PDC before we take any further steps.

11.216.5 Best Village Competition

Due to all the other events going on this year, it was agreed this will be left until next year.

11.216.6 Defects

Nothing to report.

11.217 Traffic, Public Transport and Roads

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

Meeting held on Saturday 3rd March attended by 6 other parishes. Resolution sent to DCC.

11.218.2 Update on the C6 traffic survey

Bought and paid for and will happen in May.

11.219 Children & Youth

11.219.1 To receive an update on the proposed play area upgrade

The Public Consultation took place after the Village Forum and the comments are being collated. Andy Frost has put in some initial prices and the group will be meeting next Thursday. The Chairman of the Parish Council met with DCA Simon Thompson who has worked on play areas before and may be able to assist with funding.

11.220 Community Liaison

11.220.1 Volunteer of the Year Awards – The Chairman attended the award ceremony on the 7th March and collected the certificate on behalf of Mrs Terry Vine. Cllr T Maunder will contact the Chair with the name of someone who knew the family who would go and present the award to Mrs Vine.

ACTION: CLLR T MAUNDER

11.220.2 Diamond Jubilee Plans

- Budget has been circulated. It may be that the school could help with cost of the presentation coins for the children. The budget does not include any donations that may be made by village organisations. £1000 has been put into the budget but it was proposed by Cllr Margetts and seconded by Cllr Howard that this figure could be increased up to £1500 if necessary. This was unanimously agreed.
- We await the cost of the marching band.
- Cllr Margetts proposed that a note is included in the Parish Magazine informing villagers that the Parish Council has begun raising money for the event. This will be included in the Chairman's monthly report, together with thanks to the Gardening Club and Sports Club for their donations.
- Risk Assessment – a draft was sent out prior to the start of the meeting. Councillors are asked to look through it and add anything that has been missed and e-mail their suggestions to the Clerk and Chairman. Whilst doing so, Councillors are asked to consider what should be included in the responsibility column. Please respond within 7 days. This will be an agenda item in April.

A notice to go on boards asking for details of any street parties being held.

Cllr Maunder informed members that a new doctor will be arriving at the surgery but he will be more of a locum will be coming for one day a week, commencing Friday from 4th May.

11.221 Police and Security

11.221.1 Enquiry Office Review - The Clerk informed members that the review has now been completed and the enquiry office in Wareham will be open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6pm.

11.222 Finance

11.222.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Arlene Duncanson	Costs incurred re Village Forum	1357	23.77
MAE Electrical	Photographs for Village Forum	1358	84.00
Mrs A Crocker	March wages, computer repairs, phone calls	1359	479.92
HMRC	PAYE March 2012	1360	86.40

The total amount requested from the Precept is £674.09. The payments were proposed by Cllr Margetts, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed unanimously. The cheques were signed by two councillors in the presence of the meeting.

11.222.2 To confirm reconciliation of accounts

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

11.222.3 Comparison to budgets

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

11.222.4 To consider the appointment of auditors for the year

Two possible options were put before members and it was agreed that Accounts & Audit Services Ltd would be asked to conduct this year's audit. A letter of thanks will be sent to Kingsbere for their assistance and help with last year's audit.

ACTION: CLERK

11.223 Communications

- Neighbourhood Plan – Simon to write something
- Cemetery charges have been reviewed
- Bus service
- Diamond Jubilee and donations to date
- Use of footpaths by horses
- Contacting the police – Cllr Margetts will draft something to be put in
- Play Area consultation
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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed:

Dated: