

MINUTES OF BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MAY 2012 AT THE DRAX HALL, BERE REGIS , COMMENCING 7PM

Present: Cllrs R Pitcher C Maunder M Howard S Munnings
A Duncanson L Fairhurst T Maunder L Alderman
R Margetts

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

In attendance: County Cllr A Brenton

4 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

12.1 To receive apologies for absence

District Cllr P Wharf (work commitments)

12.2 Chairman's report

The Chairman gave a summary of the year. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Question Time

Alison Bennett – on behalf of the village would like to say thank you to the parish council for everything they do. Special thanks are extended to the members of the parish council who have joined the community choir which is going very well and the first concert will be held at the end of June. It is worth mentioning that there are 39 regular volunteers that help with the Pop in Place, and more volunteers who assist with the village hall and many others who help out with all the groups in the village. The Jubilee Village Quiz is to be held on Monday 14th May in the Drax Hall and on the 26th May, Rapport will be playing, also at the Drax Hall - tickets are now on sale.

Tony Bates – extended thanks on behalf of the Bere Regis Wildlife Group for the purchase of Souls Moor. Having seen it steadily deteriorate over the years, it is wonderful to have the opportunity to bring it back to its original state. The Purbecks has been designated one of the 12 wildlife areas in the country which means we will be able to access funding allowing the area to be fenced.

Sue Stone – the quiz on the 14th May will be based on the last 60 years of the Queens reign. The village show will be on the 12th August and the Scarecrow theme for this year is the Olympics.

The Chairman informed everyone that, next year, the AGM will be switched to a Saturday morning to coincide with one of the Village Forums.

12.3 Election of Chairman

Cllr Alderman proposed that Cllr Ventham remain as Chairman for another year, this was seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed unanimously.

Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Howard proposed that Cllr Fairhurst stand as the Vice Chairman for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr Margetts and agreed unanimously.

12.4 To receive the County Councillor's report

12.4.1 347/387 Bus Service – A press release will be available on Monday at which point the revised schedules will be issued. Until that time, it would not be possible to comment further.

12.4.2 Local Access Forum - Currently trying to recruit anyone who has an interest in the use of and access to the countryside. It was suggested that perhaps Jacqui Macintosh may be interested. In addition, Cllr Duncanson will contact the carriage driving group that meets at the sports club and see if they are interested in putting forward a representative. The Forum meets four times a year during the day to discuss the general use of the paths and rights of way throughout the county. Lynda Crisford runs the health walks and it will be passed on to her as well.

12.4.3 Road Closures – these are now operated by DCC. It is necessary to apply to them for bollards, which they will deliver but they will also make a charge.

12.5 To receive the District Councillor’s report

Cllr Wharf was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments but reported that the District Council elections had resulted in exactly the same net outcome as last time which means that PDC is still “hung”. This should ensure the two independents will have a controlling influence and should be able to occupy similar positions as last year but this all depends upon what happens at the Council meeting on Tuesday.

12.6 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 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 Alderman . The minutes were then signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

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

12.7.1 Dog Bin – PDC have confirmed they are happy with the proposed location and it has now been ordered. Once installed, PDC will arrange for it to be emptied.

ACTION: CLERK

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

Cllr Ventham declared an interest in item 12.10.1.2 – The Drax Arms planning application. No other interests were declared at this stage.

12.9 Key topics

Nothing to discuss at this time.

12.10 Planning & Housing

12.10.1 To consider planning applications

12.10.1.1 6/2012/0241: Bere Heath Farmhouse – single storey extn
The PWP recommended no objections.

12.10.1.2 6/2012/0242: Drax Arms – change of use from function room to 4 self-catering units. Cllr Ventham declared an interest as his son is setting up a b & b at the Shitterton end of the village. He therefore took no part in the discussions.

The PWP recommended no objections.

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

12.10.1.3 6/2012/0246: Land at Masters Pit – construct single 500kw wind turbine
This arrived too late for the e-mail discussion. It is a very small turbine for the use of the quarry only and will be dismantled when the quarry comes to the end of its life.

Cllr Fairhurst proposed the Parish Council no objection, this was seconded by Cllr Margetts on the understanding that the turbine is dismantled once the quarry comes to the end of its life and our response does not set a precedent with regard to any application for other turbines.

ACTION: CLERK

12.10.2 Neighbourhood Plan update

The Housing Needs letter, survey and flier have been sent to PDC who have said they do not have the budget to print the flier but, if the parish council can get it printed and copied they will put it into the envelopes to go out with the survey.

12.11 Village Environment

12.11.1 To consider grant applications

12.11.1.1 Bere Regis Church – contribution towards cost of fliers & posters

Cllr Margetts commented that the church is the biggest single tourist attraction for the village and needs the fliers to encourage people into the village for the benefit of all. Cllr Munnings reported that this came through in the sub group meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan i.e. that the church was the main tourist attraction and should be encouraged. Cllr Pitcher proposed the request for a grant of £299 was met in full, this was seconded by Cllr C Maunder. Cllr Munnings then proposed that a grant of £250 should be made and this was seconded by Cllr Alderman. A vote was taken and it was agreed; 8 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention that a grant of £299 is made to the church.

ACTION: CLERK

12.11.1.2 Bere Regis Scout Group – contribution towards the purchase of a Union Jack, pole, carrier & cord

Cllr Ventham declared a personal interest and did not take part in the discussion.

Cllr Fairhurst proposed that the application for a grant of £280.95 is met in full and this was seconded by Cllr Howard. Cllr T Maunder offered a counter-proposal for a grant of £140 (50% of the requested amount) and Cllr Alderman suggested £250. A vote was taken;

£280 1 in favour, 8 against, 1 abstention

£250 6 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention

A grant of £250 will be made to the Scout Group.

ACTION: CLERK

12.11.1.3 Bere Regis Sports Club – contribution towards the cost of the resurfacing of the car park

Mr Andy Kent, Chairman of Bere Regis Sports Club was invited to address the meeting. He informed members that they were applying for the grant to resurface the car park which had been damaged by the heavy lorries during the recent refurbishment works. As a result, surface water was draining off the car park towards the buildings and mud was being brought into the new hall on shoes. Although the submitted accounts looked very healthy, this was because many of the costs associated with the new build had not been made. Cllr T Maunder felt that to use public money for such work would be inappropriate and he would be happier to supply equipment rather than pay for the up keep of the facilities. Whilst the resurfacing of the car park will improve the aesthetics of the site, it would not result in greater use of the facilities.

Mr Kent was asked how the club intended raising the balance of the monies i.e. the £6,500 shortfall as, clearly with a grant budget of only £1,000 the parish council would not be able to offer very much. Mr Kent said it would come out of their own funds but it will cause a cash flow problem. They are currently operating with £1200 a month worth of overheads.

Cllr C Maunder proposed a grant of £400, this was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

ACTION: CLERK

12.12 Community Liaison

12.12.1 Diamond Jubilee Plans - Cllr Duncanson reported that the pageant is on track with 6 floats, plus a lot of walking entrants. The Majorettes will be leading the parade as it had not been possible to get a marching

band. A request was made for stewards to assist on the day and 7 members of the parish council said they will be available to act as stewards and high vis jackets will be made available. Alison Bennett kindly offered to provide a high vis jacket for Tony Shaves who will be operating the car park. St John's Ambulance is no longer able to attend so the scouts will be approached to put in some volunteers. Flags have been purchased for all those who have holders for Christmas trees.

12.12.2 Stone Signs – Val Quinn has carved out two of the stones. We will now wait until all three are ready and then hold an opening ceremony in July. The Lord Lieutenant of Dorset will be invited to carry out the unveiling.

12.13 To consider the insurance renewal as from 1st June 2012

The Clerk reported that the renewal would come in at £824.47 for the coming year with Came & Co – the recommended company for parish councils. Should we wish to sign up to the three year long term agreement, this would reduce the premium to £783.25 which would remain fixed for the 3 years, subject to any additions being included.

It was proposed by Cllr Fairhurst, seconded by Cllr Margetts and agreed unanimously that the 3 year option is accepted.

ACTION: CLERK

12.14 Finance

12.14.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

DAPTC	HMRC Surgery	1370	10.00
David Upshall Ins.	Jubilee insurance	1371	262.00
P Critchell	Lengthsman – March 2012	1372	752.90
Accounts & Audit	Internal audit fees y/e 31.03.12	1373	278.40
	CXL	1374	0
Mrs A Crocker	May wages, mileage, domain names	1375	519.38
HMRC	PAYE May 2012	1376	85.50

In addition to the above, the following payments were received late but are also requested:

Mrs A Crocker	Purchase of gazebo	1377	263.00
Broker Network	Insurance for the year to 31/5/13	1378	783.25
P Critchell	Lengthsman – April 2012	1379	730.90
G Sollis	Boardwalk extension	1380	1752.00

The total amount requested from the Precept is £5,437.33. The payments were proposed by Cllr Alderman, seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously. The cheques were signed by two councillors in the presence of the meeting.

12.14.2 To confirm reconciliation of accounts

A copy had been distributed to all members prior to the start of the meeting. There were no comments made or queries raised.

12.14.3 Comparison to budgets

A copy had been distributed to all members prior to the start of the meeting. . The Clerk pointed out the slightly amended schedule which now shows the balance of the bank account, together with the ear-marked funds. There were no comments made or queries raised.

12.14.4 To confirm the year end accounts and Annual Governance Statement

Following the completion of the audit, the Clerk drew members' attention to the various points that arose from the audit review – a copy of which had been issued prior to the start of the meeting but are set out below for completeness:

1. All payments should be recorded as approved in the Council minutes – the following were missed during the year 1331, 1349 and all direct debits.
Action: the two cheques arose between the issuing of the payments requests and the meeting date. Any such items, together with direct debits (of which there is now only the 6 monthly loan repayment) will be noted in the minutes.
2. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations should be review annually.
Action: They will be put forward on either the June or July agenda.
3. The level of balances brought forward and carried forward should be incorporated into the budget documents, and the extent to which these balances are earmarked, so that the size of the Council’s general reserve is always clear.
Action: With effect from May 2012, the format of the Budget Monitoring Schedule has been amended to take this comment into account.
4. An invoice should be raised for the 4.5 hours Lengthsman’s time in January
Action: This has come about following the delay in receiving invoices from the Lengthsman but the invoice has now been raised.
5. The 2011 asset value on section 1 of the annual return should be restated so that the basis of valuation is purchase cost.
Action: In line with the revised guidelines issued in 2010, this is now being done.
6. The PWLB balance carried forward each year should comprise balance at 30 March less principle paid on 30 March.
Action: This came about due to the late arrival of one of the statements but has now been amended.

Although there are quite a few points, none of the above are sufficiently concerning to warrant any “no” responses on the Annual Return.

Copies of the Account Statement and the Annual Governance Statement had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Fairhurst and seconded by Cllr Margetts that the year-end accounts and audit comments are accepted. There were no comments made or queries raised and both the Accounts Statement and Annual Governance Statement were signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

12.15 Communications

- Chairman’s Report

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed:

Dated: