

**MINUTES OF BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2012 AT THE DRAX HALL, BERE REGIS , COMMENCING 7PM**

**Present:** Cllrs R Pitcher C Maunder S Munnings A Duncanson  
T Maunder L Alderman R Margetts  
District Cllr P Wharf

**Chair:** Cllr L Fairhurst

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**In attendance:** County Cllr A Brenton

4 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**12.32 Public participation**

12.32.1 Jubilee Oak - Jackie MacIntosh informed the meeting that she has an oak tree grown from an acorn from the Jubilee Oak at Bloxworth and wondered if it could be planted somewhere in the village this Jubilee Year. It was suggested this could be planted at Souls Moor in the SSCI area with a small plaque. Cllr Pitcher will bring it up at the next Souls Moor Management meeting.

12.32.2 Southbrook - Mr Parker reported that the directional sign at the end of Southbrook has gone again. This had already been noted and a request for a replacement submitted.

12.32.3 Open Gardens - Alison Bennett, via Cllr Margetts, reminded everyone that the Open Gardens event would take place this Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>) regardless of the weather.

**12.33 To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr I Ventham (family commitments), Tony Bates, Cllr M Howard (holiday)

**12.34 To receive the County Councillor's report**

12.34.1 Winter maintenance – the proposed alterations in policy will go to Council next week.

12.34.2 Bus Service – There has been some confusion recently with the First bus service forgetting to go through Bloxworth a few times. This has now been sorted out but if anyone knows of any other problems please let Cllr Brenton know.

12.34.3 Verge cutting – The contractors are now out and about and will gradually get around everywhere.

12.34.4 Mobile library – The survey of the service is still on-going.

12.34.5 Superfast Broadband – Everyone is reminded to register an interest and encourage everyone else to do so.

12.34.6 Vehicle Speed on the C6 – Following the survey in May, a question has been submitted to Peter Finney, Cabinet Member for Transport, for hearing at the Committee meeting next week. Cllr Brenton suggested a parish councillor should also attend and speak to show how important this issue is for the local community.

12.34.7 Bere Regis School – The proposals for the new school project are still on plan.

**12.35 To receive the District Councillor's report**

12.35.1 East Stoke Wind Farm – The application was approved on Appeal. However, Cllr Wharf pointed out that the economic model that determined the need for the wind farm in the first instance has now changed and it was debateable whether it would viable for the plan to go ahead.

12.35.2 Swanage/Wareham Rail Link – It had been proposed that £3.2 million would come out of the Transport Structure Plan. However, despite previous requests, no sound business case has been put forward showing the need and potential profitability of such a project. Cllr Wharf and two other councillors voted against the proposal at the recent Council meeting – not because they do not want to see such a project come to fruition but because no sound business case had been submitted. He pointed out that, even though the money has been allocated, Natural England may still call for an enquiry.

12.35.3 Boundary Commission – At the recent Council meeting, it was suggested that nothing should be done with regard to the Boundary Commission’s recently suggested changes other than to create a small ward in Swanage which would solve the need to implement the various splits that had been proposed. This provoked some controversy and, as a result, each ward will be submitting an individual rather than combined response. As a result, it is very likely that the Boundary Commission will ignore all the requests and do what they originally intended to do.

12.35.4 Code of Conduct - This has now been agreed upon. Cllr Wharf reported that the Standards Board no longer has any external persons sitting on it. Under the new Code, personal interests no longer exist and do not have to be stated at the start of the meeting. However, personal pecuniary interests do. It was suggested that the revised Code is now sent out to all the parish councils within the Purbeck area and they will have 28 days in which to confirm it.

12.35.5 Localisation of Council Tax – Under the new legislation, benefits will now be known as discounts. Not only will this have the effect of encouraging certain members of the community to take up what they are due, it will change the council tax base. Central Government will then reduce the amount they pay to the District Councils by 10%. Some of this will be claimed back by increasing the council tax on second homes to 100% but parish councils are being asked to carefully consider what they request as their precept as this will affect the council tax payable.

#### **12.36 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 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 Maunder and seconded by Cllr Margetts. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

#### **12.37 Matters arising from those minutes, not covered by this agenda**

There were no matters arising.

#### **12.38 To receive declarations of interest in accordance with S94 of the LGA 1972**

No interests were declared at this stage.

#### **12.39 Key topics**

##### **12.39.1 Core Strategy – a brief update of the amendments**

The only real change is that the core strategy will now state that it supports the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan, nothing fundamental has changed in respect of Bere Regis. It was proposed by Cllr C Maunder and seconded by Cllr Alderman that a letter is sent to PDC saying we will support the core strategy.

<b>ACTION: CLERK</b>
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#### **12.40 Finance**

##### **12.40.1 To approve monthly expenditure**

The following payments had been requested:

Glasdon	Lid for dog bin	1398	46.53
H & L Management	Consultation fees re play area	1399	783.77
Digley Associates	Play Area Inspection 2011	1400	48.00
BDO LLP	External Audit fees	1401	342.00
Tradewind Graphics	NP questionnaire	1402	70.00
Dyfed Steels	Steel for beacon	1403	468.72
P Critchell	Lengthsman – June 2012	1404	1447.00
Mrs A Crocker	July wages, post, phones	1405	735.93
HMRC	July 2012 PAYE	1406	61.00
DAPTC	Localism Act update	1407	10.00
BR Gardening Club	Grant for Scarecrow Festival	1408	150.00
Parish Mag Printing	50 extra copies & colour sup	1409	160.00

The total amount of expenditure from the Precept is £4,322.95. The payments were proposed by Cllr Margetts, seconded by Cllr C Maunder and agreed unanimously. The cheques were signed by two councillors in the presence of the meeting.

#### 12.40.2 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.

#### 12.40.3 Comparison to budgets

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

#### 12.40.4 To consider the external audit report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

The accounts have now been audited and returned. No errors were found in this year's figures, although a figure had been noted as a 5 instead of an 8 in last year's figures. This error has since been amended.

#### 12.40.5 To review and confirm the Revised Standing Orders

A set of the Standing Orders had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Munnings, seconded by Cllr Alderman and agreed unanimously that they be adopted.

#### 12.40.6 To review and confirm the Revised Financial Regulations

A set of the proposed Financial Regulations had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Wharf, seconded by Cllr C Maunder and agreed unanimously that they be adopted. In line with the Financial Regulations, a 3 year budget plan is to be drafted and put before the council at the September meeting.

<b>ACTION: FINANCE COMMTT</b>
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### 12.41 Planning & Housing

12.41.1 .1 6/2012/0363 & 0363: Robinswood Farm – partial demolition & reinstate following fire.  
The Planning Working Group recommended no objections to this application.

12.42.1.2 6/2012/0394: 1 Townsend Park – change of use from employment to residential.  
The Planning Working Group recommended strong opposition of this application on the grounds that this is part of the designated employment area. It is a valuable mixed use unit to encourage local home working/start-up businesses. It is essential that a precedent is not set in this area.

It was proposed by Cllr C Maunder, seconded by Cllr T Maunder and agreed unanimously that the recommendations of the PWP be accepted.

#### 12.41.2 To consider tree work applications

No tree work applications have been received.

<b>ACTION: CLERK</b>
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## **12.42 Village Environment**

12.42.1 Stone Signs for the village – A note has been issued to all those who have contributed and gave their e-mail addresses and has also been included on the web site. Cllr Wharf will also include something in the Parish Magazine.

12.42.2 Cemetery – A contractor has now been appointed and began work on the cemetery this week. We are currently looking into the possibility of siting a green waste skip in the top right hand corner for three months until the contractor has sorted out his Waste Removal Licence. It was suggested that the contractor pay for the skip as it was originally down to him to remove the waste. In the meantime, he can use the compost heap but must then remove it once he gets his licence sorted out. Cllr T Maunder reminded members that we need to think about the state of the railings and the gates. Both are in need of being painted. Some quotes will be sought before the Finance Group next meets and the cost will be included in next year's budget.

**ACTION: CLLR T MAUNDER/CLERK**

### 12.42.3 Defects

- The bottom of Southbrook currently has a large puddle across the road and mud along its lower length. Highways will be contacted and asked to come out and clear the road.
- The hedge at North Street is now growing across the road. The landowner will be contacted accordingly.
- Bridleways are overgrown throughout the parish, especially those on Souls Moor and the path over Woodbury Hill.

**ACTION: CLERK**

## **12.43 Traffic, Public Transport and Roads**

12.43.1 C6 Traffic Survey – A request has been put into Dorset County Council for the survey to be carried out at the same time next year in order to aid sensible comparisons.

12.43.2 Bere Regis C.A.R.S. – An action group formed by Mr & Mrs Parker of Egdon Close, with a remit of trying to slow the traffic on the C6. The Group meets alternate Wednesdays and a request has been made for an item to be included on the August agenda. It was agreed that this would be done.

## **12.44 Children & Youth**

12.44.1 Proposed Play Area Update – The Clerk reported that Dorset County Community Fund had approved a grant award of £6,000 subject to further information being provided. The Play Area Committee has been notified. The BRPAC continue to meet regularly and have arranged a number of events over the next few months. A Secret Garden Party will be held at the Drax Arms on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July with all funds raised going towards the play area. Cllr Wharf will include an update on monies raised and events organised in his report for the parish magazine.

## **12.45 Community Liaison**

12.45.1 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Munnings gave an update on the position so far and all members were issued with a copy of the notes from the last Steering Group meeting (a copy is attached to the minutes). Following on from the meeting, he requested members consider a series of recommendations in order to move the Plan forward. These are:-

- A full time line and action plan is to be organised by the Steering Group and put before the Council in August.
- More parishioners should be encouraged to sit on the three subgroups.
- Training should be provided for all members of the subgroups, so that they are aware of their role, the need for impartiality and, in particular, what matters can and cannot be considered in a Neighbourhood Plan.

- A revised questionnaire dealing with the school site, housing and village facilities will be distributed to all dwellings in the parish, and made available on-line.
- Based on feedback, the subgroups will produce another draft vision.
- Public debates will take place with the first one probably being towards the latter half of this year. These should, wherever possible, be chaired by an impartial chairman from outside of the parish in order that all members of the community, including councillors, have a chance to participate in the discussions.

It was agreed that, in the meantime, we will continue to advertise for volunteers but include a cut-off date for replies. It was proposed by Cllr Alderman and seconded by Cllr C Maunder that the recommendations are accepted and the Steering Group proceeds accordingly.

Cllr Munnings went on to report that a good number of questionnaires had been returned and these were in the process of being analysed. Patterns were beginning to form and, once completed, the results could be used as a basis from which to proceed with regard to the housing questions.

Finally, Cllr Munnings highlighted various matters that had arisen as a result of the consultation to date. One of these was that parishioners need to understand matters that are outside the parish council's remit and should be referred to either PDC or DCC accordingly. However, it was agreed that it would be better if, rather than referring people to other local government bodies, the parish council should look into matters in the first instance and report back to the parishioner with any findings. In addition, it was agreed that we must commit to communicating what is happening through the parish magazine and the parish council web site.

12.45.2 Souls Moor Update – The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from our solicitors, Neville-Jones & Co, stating that the local authority search has been submitted and the results should be arriving this week. They have raised various enquiries with the seller's solicitors and received replies to the same and anticipate sending the documentation for signing next week. They also pointed out that the sale price of £25,000 would be subject to VAT but we were aware of this and it is recoverable.

He will also draft a management plan that will be needed to indicate the requirements for future management and the need for fencing.

Cllr Pitcher reported that the Bio-blitz had taken place and there was another very good turnout. The area is currently under water.

#### 12.46 Police & Security

12.46.1 PACT – The meeting was cancelled due to lack of policemen. There will be a security awareness session at the shop in a fortnight's time.

12.46.2 Rye hill phone box – This has been a subject of discussion on Facebook and has now been reported to the Police for further investigation.

12.46.3 Arson attacks – As far as we are aware, despite two people being held in custody, no one has been charged with the arson offences carried out during the early part of the year. A letter will be sent to Insp. Tracey Baker for an update.

<b>ACTION: CLERK</b>
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#### 12.47 Communications

- Register for SFB
- Speeding on Rye hill
- Stone signs
- Road safety review at August meeting
- Distraction crime in the area
- Volunteers for NP

#### 12.48 Roundabout

Following a request from DCC for a possible name for the small roundabout at the entrance to Bere Regis, councillors had put forward two suggestions. These were Poole Hill Roundabout and Bere Bottom Roundabout. Cllr Margetts, the advocate of the latter, felt that Poole is too far away and already sufficiently advertised not to warrant this roundabout being called after it. Bere Bottom would highlight the fact that it is

<b>ACTION: CLERK</b>
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at the bottom of the hill and the gateway to Bere Regis. It was unanimously agreed that the name “Bere Bottom” is put forward to DCC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38 pm

Signed: .....

Dated: .....