

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

Present: Cllrs R Pitcher C Maunder T Maunder
L Alderman M Howard District Cllr P Wharf

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

In attendance: County Cllr A Brenton

2 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

12.49 Public participation

12.49.1 C.A.R.S. - Mr Parker handed out pamphlets regarding CARS suggestion of imposing a 20mph zone outside the school on Rye Hill. On behalf of Lyn Fancy, the Parish Council were asked to support the idea of erecting a mirror to assist traffic exiting Green Close onto the C6. The group would also like a vehicle weight restriction on West Street. The Southbrook keep left sign was returned.

The Chairman pointed out that the parish council had already investigated a weight limit on West Street some 3 years ago, but at the time, it was ruled out due to milk and grain lorries using the route to Milborne. However, this could be a recommendation in the Neighbourhood Plan.

A 20mph past the school has also been discussed by the parish council some time ago during the "Safer Route to School" campaign. However, as Mr Parker's exchange of e-mails with DCC Highways indicates, if the parish council are prepared to back it, a trial might result and then we would certainly be in favour. This could also be discussed within the Neighbourhood Plan consultations. In the meantime, a letter will be sent to Highways to investigate the possibility of a reduced speed limit during term time, whilst the flashing warning signs are operating.

The parish council would be happy to back the installation of a mirror opposite Green Close.

ACTION: CLERK

Green Close junction - parking has been highlighted as a problem, leading to poor visibility when exiting the road. Cllr Alderman will look into this and see if it is a problem and, if so, look into having some yellow lines installed.

ACTION: CLLR ALDERMAN

12.50 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs L Fairhurst and S Munnings (holiday), R Margetts (illness), A Duncanson (holiday).

12.51 To receive the County Councillor's report

12.51.1 Bere Regis First School -Issues have been raised in Council regarding the school having sufficient space for the two extra years' age group, bearing in mind the new school will not be completed until 2016. Letters have been written to the Head of Schools at Dorset County. In the meantime, this year's income will have a new teacher and one of the existing classrooms has been split in half. The space issue will peak in September 2013 when there will be about 90 children attending the school.

Annetta Allen or John Paterson will be invited to attend the Parish Council's October meeting, together with Steve Battishill, to update the parish council and find out how they are coping with the new arrangements and to see if there is anything the parish council can do to help them. This will also be included for discussion within the Neighbourhood Plan.

12.51.2 Roundabout Sponsorship – It was reported that the payments being made for advertising on the roundabouts are not going to be used to maintain that particular roundabout. The money will be put into the central pot for the general maintenance of any area for which Dorset Highways is responsible. The whole scheme has caused a considerable amount of controversy and it was agreed that the parish council would do nothing for the time being until the situation is resolved.

12.51.3 Olympics –The event caused no major issues for either the roads or trains. The Monkeys Jump park and ride was underused for the first week but, once the price was dropped, business picked up.

12.52 To receive the District Councillor’s report

12.52.1 Code of Conduct - All the District Councillors have now received training on the new Code. The revised Complaints Procedure is also available, together Localism Act and Bribery Act. If anyone wishes to borrow any of them, speak to Cllr Wharf.

12.53 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 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 Alderman and seconded by Cllr C Maunder. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

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

12.54.1 Core Strategy - A letter was sent to PDC stating our support for the Core Strategy modifications.

12.54.2 Jubilee Oak – Cllr Pitcher to follow up. It was suggested that the tree planting could be held in conjunction with the installation of the stone signs.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

12.54.3 Incidents of Arson - It was generally felt that the Police response regarding the incidents had been very poor. Although two people were arrested, they were released due to insignificant evidence. The results of the investigation had only been found out when a statement had been issued via the Police E-mail information system and no response had ever been received to our letter. It was suggested that Cllr Margetts contact Inspector Baker direct, expressing our concerns and saying it would have been nice to have been told before the public.

ACTION: CLLR MARGETTS

12.54.4 Roundabout Name – At the July meeting, members had wished to have the name of the roundabout shown as “Bere Bottom Roundabout”. Cllr Ventham had not been present at the meeting and expressed his personal concern regarding the proposal. It was proposed by Cllr Ventham that the choice of the name “Bere Bottom” might be rescinded and this was agreed 5 in favour of the proposal and 1 against. He then proposed the name should be formalised as “Poole Hill Roundabout” and this was agreed 5 in favour, 1 against. An e-mail will be sent to S Howard at DCC immediately.

ACTION: CLERK

12.54.5 Walkabout – The annual Parish Council walkabout will take place at the September meeting and the focus will be on Souls Moor. Everyone should meet at the Souls Moor Bridge at 7pm and the walk will last about 1 hour.

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

Cllr Pitcher declared a pecuniary interest in item 12.58.2 as he may be carrying out some of the tree work. He will remain in the meeting but refrain from speaking or taking part in any voting.

12.56 Key topics

12.56.1 Neighbourhood Plan – It was proposed at the last Steering Group meeting that Cllr Ventham should take over as the chairman of the Group. At the last meeting the process of the Neighbourhood Plan was reviewed and it was proposed that Cllr Munnings should take over the housing and planning group, Cllr Howard – facilities & education; Cllr Fairhurst – commercial & transport. 67 responses had been received from the original questionnaire and the Steering Group is now looking at developing a new questionnaire which will incorporate additional questions regarding the school and the C6. This will go out towards the end of August with requests for more volunteers and returns to be in by the end of September. The consultation process will be extended across the autumn.

Budget – a draft budget had been drawn up and it stands at just short of £5,000 for printing and post alone. Although we have the funds should we incur this cost whilst applying for funding from PDC, in the knowledge that they may not be able to assist us?

Cllr Brenton reported that there exists the Dorset Community Grants for up to £7,000 for projects which will strengthen the community. Although it is understood that this is directed at tangible projects, the Clerk will find out if this could be applied for with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Ventham proposed that the £2000 set aside in the budget for the Neighbourhood Plan should be used for the questionnaire. In the meantime, a letter is sent to PDC making a formal request for funding to make up the difference and saying that we are happy to have the funding in the next financial year if it makes it easier for PDC. If they are not happy to do this, we may have to reconsider our position in doing the plan. It will also be stressed that we would not be prepared to go beyond our £2000 without some financial assurance from PDC.

Cllr Ventham reminded councillors that we need to get the new questionnaire appropriately worded in terms of neutral questions and to ensure that none of the questions are leading. Mr McGivern, an old acquaintance of Cllr Ventham has been consulted to assist in this and he has offered to carry out the work for expenses only. In the first instance, the revised questionnaire will be put to Mr McGivern and Alison Debenham, who has also offered to continue to help, will then carry out the first analysis. Mr McGivern will then assist with the data analysis as an independent assessor.

C.A.R.S. has assisted by generating interest from the village and this may lead to an increased number of responses. A member of the group will be invited to sit on the Commercial & Transport Group.

It was proposed by Cllr Wharf that we agree the Steering Group proposals and spend up to our budget limit of £2000 and then review the response to the questionnaire before going any further and await the PDC response. This was seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

12.56.2 To Accept the new Code of Conduct

A copy had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting, together with a Register of Interests to be completed by each councillor. It was proposed by Cllr Alderman, seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously that the new Code is adopted. Members were reminded to complete their Register of Interests as soon as possible and return them to the Clerk.

12.57 Finance

12.57.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

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| C Maunder | Remembrance Wreath | 1410 | 21.00 |
| Running Imp | 60 additional Jubilee coins | 1411 | 149.22 |
| BWBS | 50% of cemetery water rates | 1412 | 70.00 |
| Mrs A Crocker | August wages, post, mileage | 1413 | 542.69 |
| P Critchell | Lenghtsman – July 2012 | 1414 | 852.00 |
| HMRC | August 2012 PAYE | 1415 | 61.00 |
| Neville-Jones | 10% of purchase price re Souls Moor | 1416 | 2500.00 |
| K Florek | July cemetery tidy and cuts | 1417 | 880.00 |

The total amount of expenditure from the Precept is £5,075.91. The payments were proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Alderman and agreed unanimously. The cheques were signed by two councillors in the presence of the meeting.

12.57.2 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.

12.57.3 Comparison to budgets

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

12.58 Planning & Housing

Cllr Wharf took no part in the discussion or voting.

12.58.1.1 6/2012/0430 75 West Street – erect dwelling (amended scheme)

Cllr Howard's comments were noted in his absence and his objection to the application due to the massing and negative impact on the adjacent property and local area was noted. He also stated that a dwelling with a smaller footprint and lower height would be preferable. However, as the original scheme had already been commented on and approved, we were being asked to comment on the amendments only. These involved the addition of roof lights, the reduction in the ground level by 500mm, the removal of the garage doors and the removal of the boundary gate. The Planning Working Group recommended no objections to this application.

12.58.1.2 6/2012/0415: Trigon Solar Farm, Wareham – install ground mounted solar arrays

Cllr Howard's comments were noted in his absence and his objection to the application due to the negative impact on the local rural area, loss of farming land, too close to the SSCI and natural areas where the proposal would impact out of proportion with the community benefit was noted. It was felt that, as the site is not visible from the road and there are no public rights of way in the area, the Planning Working Group recommended no objection to this application but a comment should be made to the effect that the parish council expressed concern regarding the lack of detail provided with the application and the lack of public consultation for the project as a whole.

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

ACTION: CLERK

12.58.2 To consider tree work applications

12.58.2.1 Kingsbere House, Snow Hill – blue atlas cedar – crown raise

12.58.2.2 42 Stanbarrow Farmhouse, West Street – fell holly tree

12.58.2.3 9 North Street – silver weeping pear; crown reduction – laburnum; fell – shrubs 25% reduction

12.58.2.4 The Old Post Office, North Street – conifer; fell

The Planning Working Party recommended no objection to the any of the applications and this was unanimously agreed.

12.59 Village Environment

12.59.1 Stone Signs for the village – Cllr Howard reported that the third stone has now been cut. We will be looking at the end of September to put at least two and maybe all three stones in place. The Clerk will now contact the Lord Lieutenant's office to confirm a suitable date. In the meantime, the site will be excavated and the base put in place. Should everything go according to plan, it is hoped that the unveiling will take place on Saturday 29th September at mid-day. Cllr Howard will go back to Val Quinn, the stone mason and give him the date and he and Cllr Ventham will contact the contractors.

ACTION: CLLRS HOWARD/VENTHAM

12.59.2 Cemetery – Cllr T Maunder will be meeting the contractor this Friday at the cemetery and he will be spraying the moss on the path this weekend. We have now received his Waste Management Certificate and a copy is held on file. Cllr Maunder will continue to oversee the cemetery but the day to day running of the site will be handed over to the Clerk.

Railings – two contractors' quotes have already been received for refurbishment of the railings and a further two are due shortly.

ACTION: CLLR T MAUNDER/CLERK

12.59.3 Defects

- Malcolm Stranack has cut the verge at the end of Egdon Close and, it is believed that the verges at Rye Hill Close are being done by another villager.
- Cllr Alderman reported that the hedge either side of the entrance to the car park by play park is very overgrown – Synergy to be contacted.
- Finger post – finger signs should read Hollow Oak, Hyde, Doddings, Wool. Highways to be informed accordingly.

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| ACTION: CLERK |
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12.60 Traffic, Public Transport and Roads

12.60.1 C6 speeding – The statistics will be revisited but this time ignore the figures for late night and look only at the ones during the school day and then reform it as a question. All members of the parish council are to sign it and insist it is sent to the next Environment Overview Committee in September, saying the parish council has found this and ask what DCC intends doing about it in the future. The question should be worded in such a way as to link it to the response DCC will be giving to the public consultation from Central Government regarding speeding. A copy of the letter should be sent to Insp. Baker asking for her response. In the meantime, the Clerk will revisit the figures and pass the details to Cllr Alderman who will then liaise with County Cllr Brenton with regard to the wording of the letter.

12.61 Children & Youth

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| ACTION: CLLR ALDERMAN/CLERK |
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12.61.1 Proposed Play Area Update – Two quotes have been received regarding the play area and they will go in to Viridor. Fund raising is currently on hold until after the summer holidays. Cllr Pitcher reported that the Secret Garden Party was a success although the final figures are not yet known.

12.62 Community Liaison

12.62.1 Souls Moor Update – The draft contracts have been received and are currently being reviewed by Cllr Munnings. In the meantime, a cheque for £2,500, 10% of the sale price, is being raised and will be sent to Neville-Jones pending the completion of contracts.

There is a lot of confusion regarding what area is covered by SSCI status and the remainder which is not. This will be clarified when the new questionnaire goes out as will the SSSI and 400m exclusion zone that protects it.

It is understood that the Grainger land has been purchased by Brian May of Queen but this is only rumour at this stage.

The management group will meet again in September pending the purchase.

12.62.2 Purbeck Healthcare – The PPG has responded by letter as it was difficult to fit their questionnaire into Bere Regis. Option 2 was the more favourable one but concern was expressed regarding the medical side and the community side, although the need for a nursing facility within Bere Regis was highlighted. We have the two care homes and perhaps there could be a facility within either of these that could be used for home care. We will have to wait and see what Swanage and Wareham do.

Cllr Wharf reported that further consultation is now underway following the responses received from residents.

12.62.3 Wreaths – These have now all been purchased and distributed.

12.62.4 Christmas Trees – These have now been ordered and the order confirmed. The cost will come in under the budget. A note will be put in the Parish Magazine asking residents to apply to Cllr C Maunder for a tree and to the Clerk for brackets.

12.63 Police & Security

A public safety session was held outside the shop recently.

12.64 Correspondence Received

A list of all correspondence received since the July meeting had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

12.64.1 Rights of Way - The Clerk had been informed by Rights of Way that a grant exists for Parish Councils who take over the responsibility for the rights of way in their parish. It will mean getting some quotes in from contractors, submitting them to County and County will then cover the cost. Although some extra work is involved, it will mean that the Parish Council will be able to dictate what paths are cut and when. The Clerk will continue to look into this but it was unanimously agreed that we take up this option.

ACTION: CLERK

12.65 Communications

- Christmas trees
- Walkabout in September – meet at new bridge 7pm
- Neighbourhood Plan relaunched
- Existing school situation regarding increased numbers
- Stone sign installation; liaise with Cllr Howard first
- Items from CARS report

Note: C.A.R.S. – The survey received 392 responses and about 12 people are attending the meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.51 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 13th September 2012, commencing 7pm meeting at Souls Bridge.

Signed:

Dated: