

**MINUTES OF BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2012 AT THE DRAX HALL,
BERE REGIS , COMMENCING 7PM**

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

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

In attendance: County Cllr A Brenton, Steve Battishall, Vicky Mayo, Tony Bates, Rodney Kemp

12.91 Public Participation

12.91.1 Butt Lane parking – Mr Kemp raised the question of the article in the parish magazine regarding the concerns expressed about the parking at the entrance to Butt Lane and the possibility of the Parish Council writing to DCC to get some yellow lines put in place. At present, the builders vans are causing a problem at the junction, but this is only temporary. Should yellow lines be installed, the problem of policing them would arise and, as the yellow lines in front of the shop have shown, people will not pay any attention to them. The chairman explained that a number of people had complained that it was difficult to turn out onto West Street due to the parking. However, since the article, several residents have come forward with an alternative view, saying the parking is preferable to yellow lines. There is an increasing amount of parking through the village as more people own more cars and it is suggested that DCC Highways are invited to attend the village and make some suggestions as to how the problem might be relieved – not only the Butt Lane entrance, but the whole of West Street. Cllr Wharf reported that he did ask PDC Planning if they could do anything about the builders parking whilst working at Tower Hill but they could not.

ACTION: CLERK

12.91.2 DWT – A meeting will be taking place on 17th November at the Drax Hall. All members of DWT have received an invite. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the various grant monies that have been received and what they can be used for and why. Tony's article in the Parish Magazine will shed some more light on this.

12.92 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr T Maunder and Cllr Alderman (holiday).

12.93 To receive the County Councillor's Report

12.93.1 Libraries – Those libraries that will shortly be community libraries will be going live in January.

12.93.2 Upton Bypass – Due to the number of complaints and holdups, the bollards on the A35 will now only be put out at night.

12.93.3 Snow Plan – Most parishes have now responded.

12.93.4 Pot hole repairs – Highways are gradually working their way around those parishes which have a proven flood problem and where, due to potholes, the rain and water action is breaking up the road. They are now trying to map the various drainage systems in the villages and determine where the pipes are and who owns what with a view to them getting them repaired.

12.93.4 Rights of Way - The rights of way and roads officers at County Hall are going to be housed in the same building. Hopefully, this may lead to a bit more joined up thinking.

12.94 To receive the District Councillor's Report

12.94.1 Proposed 20mph on Rye Hill – Cllr Wharf read out the response he had received from Steve Howard, Traffic Management, DCC, in response to various issues, one of which was the proposed 20mph limit on Rye Hill. In

general terms DCC is not able to install a 20mph speed limit or zones as they do not have the funds to input and enforce them. This will be passed on to Mr & Mrs Parker, organisers of C.A.R.S.

12.94.2 Chairmans' meeting – Cllr Ventham attended the meeting and gave a presentation on creating a Neighbourhood Plan. This proved very well received and gave all those chairman present food for thought.

12.94.3 Smoke in the village – The smoke that sat over the village for 4 days last week was found to be coming from the Drax Estate. They were burning a large quantity of diseased trees but had neglected to inform the relevant authorities. An enforcement notice had been issued. Jason Bowerman from the Drax Estate has suggested that he should meet the Chairman of the Parish Council and Cllr Wharf to discuss any issues that the village may have with the Drax Estate. Cllrs are asked to contact either Cllr Ventham or Cllr Wharf with any Drax related issues they may have.

12.94.4 Posters – PDC are very lenient when it comes to the amount of posters advertising various events around the area. Although these are not legal, the enforcement is not taken up but people are asked to make sure the posters are removed when the event is over.

12.95 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2012

A copy had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Pitcher pointed out that item 12.87.2 should read “Souls Moor Management Committee” – the minutes were amended. Cllr Wharf proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. The Chairman then signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

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

12.96.1 Proposed Wind Farm – The Clerk has spoken to West Coast Energy who continue to be reluctant to address any more village meetings. PDC and WDDC have both been contacted in order that they might be able to apply some pressure on the developer to encourage them to meet with the village. However, they have agreed to speak at Briantspudde on the 29th November and Cllr Howard will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

Cllr Ventham declared an interest in 12.100.4 being related to the applicant.

12.98 Key Topics

12.98.1 Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr Ventham reported that the questionnaires are all in – 208 returned representing about 350 people. They have all been entered on the system and passed to the independent scrutineer. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that the results will be completed by the 8th December and it will be necessary to hold a formal presentation in January. The training session in October went well and the working groups have been reformed. Between now and the 8th December there will be a working party session to start analysing what we have in the village today. This could be the first job of the working parties when they meet. On the 8th, we can report back on the statistical information from the questionnaires. We are still struggling with funding and we are waiting to hear what is likely to happen to the £30k given from Central Government, via the District councils for the Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed date for the working party session is Tuesday 20th November at the Sports Club.

12.98.2 Elder Road Open Space

As agreed at the October meeting, a letter was sent to PDC saying that we accepted their offer in principle but would confirm it in the New Year, once we have had a chance to review our budgets and on-going costs to ensure we were able to afford to do so. Acknowledgement has been received from PDC and this was put before the appropriate committee. The handover of the land will take effect from April 2013.

12.98.3 Land south of the stream – It is now confirmed that the land (formerly known as the Grainger land) has been purchased by Brian May and Tillhill are working for him to replant the site with a variety of trees and shrubs.

The planting plan is to be done in such a way as to leave vistas towards Black Hill. In the short term it will be short shrubby planting and this will be done behind deer fences but allowing access via gates. It may be possible to have some of the paths to the south of the site made up in the same way as the path to the north side of the stream, allowing a bit more disabled access. Some information boards will be put up to explain what is happening regarding the fencing, etc and Mr Preece of Tilhill is happy to attend the village meeting on the 8th December to answer any questions.

12.98.4 School Report

Steve Battishall and Vicky Mayo were in attendance and were invited to address the meeting. Steve Battishall reported that the school crossing patrol was being sponsored for another year by local businesses. Jon and Helen Parker are running a road safety week and all the children will be receiving high visibility vests. The play park is going on a pace and the school would be delighted to have any equipment that is not being used. The minutes of the meeting of the Purbeck Review suggested that, if the Swanage Free School Review was held up in any way, the new school for Bere Regis would be in jeopardy. This is not the case. As long as the programme of works for the Swanage School goes to plan and to budget, our new school will go ahead as planned. At the moment, it sounds as though County have got an agreement with all the middle schools. There is another budget meeting next Monday and it will be necessary to make sure any potential short fall is covered by other budgets. The feasibility report for the Bere Regis School starts in April 2013, with a view to building starting in 2015. The existing playground is not big enough to accommodate additional children and it may be necessary to utilise the hall as a classroom and get another mobile on to the site as well. It was suggested that perhaps one of the governors could attend the parish council meeting once a quarter to bring us up to date and let us know if there is anything that we can do. Cllr Ventham reported that the Souls Moor site is key for the new school and, once purchased, may unlock the site for DCC to go ahead and complete the purchase of the land.

12.99 Finance

12.99.4 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

BR Scout Group	Remembrance Day band	1433	120.00
Viridor Credits	10% re play area	1434	1275.00
R M Gale	Delivery & placement of 2 stones	1435	90.00
P Critchell	Lengthsman – October 2012	1436	1002.97
Neville-Jones	Balance of monies re Souls Moor	1437	17921.00
Mrs A Crocker	November wages & expenses	1438	557.45
HMRC	PAYE – November 2012	1439	61.00
James Loxton	Domain renewal BR.org – 2 years	1440	12.00
DAPTC	Course fee – budgets/precepts	1441	20.00

The total amount of expenditure from the Precept is £21,060.01. The payments were proposed by Cllr Margetts, seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. The cheques were signed by two councillors in the presence of the meeting.

12.99.5 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.

12.99.6 Comparison to budgets

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

12.99.4 To consider quotes for the rights of way clearing

The Clerk will follow up with the watercress beds regarding their offer to cut the main circular walk free of charge.

ACTION: CLERK

12.99.5 To consider items for the 2013/14 budget

Councillors are asked to consider items for the budget by the end of the year.

12.100 To review planning applications received

Cllr Wharf took no part in discussion or voting during this item.

12.100.4 6/2007/0516: Binnegar Quarry Puddletown Road – to close the existing access & allow its retention & use for a period of 3 years. Recommend no objection.

12.100.5 6/2012/0565: Longthorns Farm – proposed mixed use of land for agriculture and caravan & tented campsite and multi-purpose teaching meeting room. No objections.

12.100.6 6/2012/0701: Rogershill Farm – variation of conditions to extend times of use.

Cllr Ventham – the track is in our parish although the farm is not. No objection.

It was proposed by Cllr Margetts, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council accept the recommendations of the working party.

12.100.7 Tree Application – The Old Mill, to fell 16 leylandii and replace with more suitable species.

It was proposed by Cllr Margetts, seconded by Cllr Wharf and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council accept the recommendation of the working party and do not object to this application.

ACTION: CLERK

Note: 8.20pm Cllr Wharf left the meeting.

12.101 Village Environment

12.101.1 Stone Signs

Cllr Howard spoke to Val Quinn yesterday and he is working on the stone today. It should not take more than a couple of weeks if the weather is bad and it should be possible to have the stone in place before the end of November. Pat Brady is available to fix the stone at short notice and Cllr Howard will contact Mr Soar to finalise the location.

ACTION: Cllr HOWARD

12.101.2 Cemetery

Overall the new contractor is doing a good job but Cllr C Maunder reported that the pathways require treatment as they are getting quite slippery and the brambles over the old hut need to be cut back. The Clerk will meet with the contractor and arrange to have the work done.

ACTION: CLERK

12.101.3 Defects

- Bridge over stream. Wait until it gets moved to DCC.

12.102 Traffic, Public Transport & Roads

12.102.1 Winter Road Arrangements

The snow plough scheme will be draw up and passed to councillors for review before the December meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

12.103 Children & Youth

12.103.1 Play Area Update

Cllr Pitcher gave an update of the progress so far. The contract has been received from the designer, Andy Frost and fund raising and grants have meant that we now have just over £40,000 and it is hoped the contractor will start work on the equipment at the beginning of December. A working party of volunteers will remove the existing equipment from the 27th December and the new equipment should be installed in early January with the play area opening sometime in February – weather permitting. Some of the existing equipment will be installed at the school, after which it will need to be RoSPA checked and the Parish Council will pay for this to be carried out. Work on the site has already commenced in part with the large, overhanging tree branches having already been removed. The full cost of the contract is £42,010 which is payable in three parts - £10,502 on signing the contract, £10,502 as a stage 2 payment and £21,005 upon completion, less a 5% retention fee for 6 months. It is hoped that the shortfall of about £2,000 will have been raised before it becomes payable but Cllr Pitcher requested that the Parish Council cover this in the interim. Cllr Fairhurst proposed that the Parish council underwrite any shortfall up to a maximum of £2,500 and this was seconded by Cllr C Maunder and agreed unanimously. Cllr Howard expressed concern regarding the contract and asked if it could be checked before we go any further. The Clerk, together with Cllrs Ventham and Howard will review the contract.

ACTION: CLLRS HOWARD/VENTHAM/CLERK

It was noted that a resident had very kindly donated £1,000 towards the play area. A note of thanks had already been sent but the Parish Council's thanks are extended.

Cllr Ventham asked Cllr Pitcher to send our congratulations to all the members of the Bere Regis Community Play Association for all their hard work and effort in raising such a large sum of money in a relatively short period of time.

12.104 Community Liaison

12.104.1 PPG

Nothing to report.

12.104.2 Souls Moor Update

The Viridor grant monies have now been passed to our solicitor and the balance of monies requested from the parish council.

The Souls Moor Management Committee met last week and a draft management plan is in place. Brian Edwards, who is drawing up the plan, is one of the number one recorders for the Dorset Environmental Record Centre for the County Council. He is a great expert on conservation management and lives in the parish and has given his time to the project. Part of the management plan is grazing and this is key to the encouragement of new growth. A public presentation will take place in the Scout Hut in February to show people what is happening and why - this will explain where the fence is going to go. The Wildlife Trust has applied for a nature improvement grant to cover some of the cost of the fencing but the balance will have to be borne by the parish council. If it going to be fenced then we will need to look at upgrading the path. The management plan also covers the trees on the Elder Road site.

12.104.2 Remembrance Sunday

All Councillors are invited to join in with the parade, meeting at the Scout Hut at 10.10am and proceeding to the Church behind the band. Cllr Fairhurst will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. There will be refreshments in the Scout Hut afterwards.

12.105 Police & Security

12.105.1 – Cllr Margetts reported that there has been an increased police presence in the village recently. He and Cllr Wharf met with Inspector Baker and Alan Morgan last Monday and had a very useful discussion. No further action is being taken at present regarding the incidences of arson earlier in the year. However the incident is being managed. If residents see anything or suspect anything, they should telephone 101 or, in case of a fire, telephone 999. PC Jon Stuart will be turning up at the Pop In Place once a month.

12.106 Correspondence Received

A list of all correspondence received since the last meeting had been distributed to members prior to the start of the meeting.

12.107 Communications

- School update
- 20 mph on Rye Hill
- Neighbourhood Plan update
- Elder Road/Souls Moor/Grainger land
- Stone signs
- Play park update (to include mention of the closure on 27th December)

No being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45p.m.