



BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH APRIL 2023 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, COMMENCING 7.30PM

Present: Cllrs P Wharf, J Park, R Pitcher, L Fairhurst, G Curtis, J Percy, R Bendon, T Bates,
B Benjafield

Chair: Moira Mathers

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 2 members of the public and Judy Newton for the Coronation Event

Judy Newton – Moira has the high viz jackets and will hand them out on the day. Jon Park will put out the cones the day before. Members were asked to sign up for a marshalling slot on the day. A list of those who need access to park will be provided. Fliers are available from Judy for delivering. Posters will be going up from Monday 17th April. An email will be sent out on the 24th April with a sheet of who's doing what and when.

Public Participation

Laura Maunder asked how decisions regarding the allotments are made and where the proposed new waterpipe is to be located. In response, it was stated that it is intended there will be an allotment holders committee. It was further stated that all discussions and issues to date have gone through the Parish Council and have been available in the minutes. The waterpipe will start at the location of the current standpipe and will run up the main part of the site with standpipes at each end and one in the middle. Mrs Maunder expressed concern about the lack of communication with the allotment holders. She noted that the Lengthsman has cleared an allotment and asked if this is something he will do for all allotment holders? She was advised that this had only been done in order to bring the allotments in question into a fit state to be let. Mrs Maunder felt that the size of her allotment had been reduced and would like to speak to someone about it. Cllr Pitcher will meet with her on site and provide the measurements. She also raised the issue that the roadside of the allotments is open and people are using the allotments as a toilet. In response it was stated that it is intended for a gate to be put in place.

1. To receive apologies for absence

23.001 Apologies had been received from Cllr Simon Munnings (work commitments).

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th March 2023

23.002 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. One amendment to the minutes was requested by Cllr Mathers, to correctly identify the Councillor who raised the request for a motorcycle bay in the car park as Cllr Bendon. With this amendment, Cllr Fairhurst proposed the minutes to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Curtis and agreed unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chair in the presence of the meeting.

3. Matters arising not covered in this meeting – for report only

23.003 Cooper Beech at the cemetery – The detailed decay mapping will be taking place during the week of the 24th April.

Letter of support to Dorset Council regarding the increase in Council Tax for second homes – The House of Lords has put a series of amendments through, which means the bill will not go through in time for the

present Parliamentary year. This means that the Dorset Council motion has been deferred until later in the year. The item will be brought back to the Parish Council at that time.

Cemetery Lane right of way – Works vans are parking on the grass in front of the lane and, whilst a walker could get through, a horse and rider could not. Cllrs Park and Pitcher visited the site to review the issue. Cllr Park proposed that a sign is put up at the end of the lane and a leaflet put through the doors of the residents in the area requesting that they do not block the end of the bridleway. This was seconded by Cllr Bendon and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will draw up a letter and Cllr Park offered to deliver it.

ACTION: CLERK & CLLR PARK

Rats at the old school site – The Clerk will follow this up. *Post meeting note: Dorset Council have contracted a pest control company to attend the site and report back.*

North Street gate - Highways have reiterated that they will not permit the installation of a motorbike inhibitor replacing the existing pedestrian access route. They have offered to supply the labour free of charge for the installation of a new gate if the Parish Council purchase the gate. Volunteers will also be asked to clear the vegetation as was previously agreed.

Police attendance in the village – The Clerk to follow this up.

ACTION: CLERK

Commibus – Cllr Park spoke to Rob Farrington of Dorset Wildlife Trust. A key box will be installed, and the Clerk will be given the key code for the lock and gate.

4. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received

23.004 No interests were declared, and no dispensations had been received.

5. To receive the Dorset Councillor's Report

23.005 Cllr Wharf reported that most of the Council's work had been taken up with the proposal for the barge to be installed at Portland to house asylum seekers. Dorset Council is opposed to the proposal. Cllr Wharf will issue his report as normal, and it will be available on the Parish Council website.

6. Key Topics

23.006 To receive notification of a pending vacancy on the Parish Council

Cllr Mathers informed members that she will be stepping down as Chair and as a councillor from the May meeting. Having been the Chair for two years and on the council for two years prior to that, personal work is becoming more of an issue and the time has come for someone else to take over. Cllr Park thanked her for her time and efforts and all she has done for the Parish during her tenure – she has done an excellent job and will be missed.

23.007 Neighbourhood Plan update

Some communication has finally been received from the representatives of the Drax Estate regarding potential development on the land at Back Lane and North Street. The Parish Council has been informed that Wyatt Homes has been confirmed as the preferred developer for both, but the legal arrangements are still being finalised.

The Conservation Officer will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Review Group.

ACTION: CLERK

23.008 To receive an update on the Coronation Celebrations

Covered in Public Participation.

23.009 To consider a response to the NALC consultation on amendments to the Infrastructure Levy

The PWP will give this further consideration and report back to the May meeting.

23.010 To confirm agreement for the Black Hill Run on the 24th September 2023

Cllr Park proposed that there were no objections to the run taking place. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

7. Finance

ACTION: CLERK

23.011 To approve the monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

I Ventham	February 2023 Lunch Club	BACS174	121.61
I Ventham	March 2023 Lunch Club	BACS175	108.28
Bartletts	Marking pegs for allotments	BACS176	31.10
B House	Plants & placements for Lunch Club	BACS177	68.12
B Duke	NeighbourCar trips Jan-Mar 23	BACS178	18.90
I Ventham	NeighbourCar trips May'22 to March '23	BACS179	130.05
D Fairhurst	NeighbourCar trips be-March'23	BACS180	66.60
J Park	Spare key for bus	BACS181	65.00
DAPTC	Annual subscription 2023/24	BACS182	584.42
A Lynam	Desserts for March Lunch Club	BACS183	13.94
A Meaton	NeighbourCar trips July'22 to March'23	BACS184	171.90
Bartletts	Key safe for communibus	BACS185	20.00
DC Pension Fund	April '23 pension contributions	BACS186	275.00
HMRC	April'23 PAYE	BACS187	222.40
Cartridge People	Black ink cartridges	BACS188	13.99
A Crocker	April'23 salary	BACS189	813.43
Play Inspection Co	Routine play area inspection course	BACS190	428.00
Edge IT	Accounts support package year 4 of 5	BACS191	620.88
ICCM	Annual subscription re cemetery	BACS192	95.00

The total amount requested from the Precept is £3,868.62.

Cllr Mathers proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously.

23.012 To agree the bank reconciliation and position against budget

Copies of the reports had been issued to members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made.

8. Planning

23.013 To consider planning applications received

P/VOC/2023/01328 3 Bitchams Mead - Proposed extension & alterations (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/HOU/2022/03092 to amend front porch, windows & doors)

The PWP felt the proposed revisions seemed to be an improvement and recommended no objections.

P/HOU/2023/01189 11 Southmead - Erect single storey side and rear extension

No documents have been uploaded so they cannot be considered. This will be brought to the attention of the Planning Officer.

P/FUL/2023/01353 10 Green Close - Division of existing property to form 2 units including extensions to side & rear & single detached garage

The PWP felt there was no reason to object but it was noted that Natural England have required a habitat survey and we should support this.

P/FUL/2023/01233 Yearlings Poultry Farm - Replacement dwelling

The proposal refers to the bungalow and replacing it with a house. The PWP recommended no objection.

23.014 To consider tree work applications

P/TRT/2023/01610 3 White Lovington - T1 Sycamore – fell and replant

The existing tree is too big for its location and a more appropriate tree should be planted.

P/TRC/2023/01525 The Cedars, West Street - T1 Tulip Tree- Crown reduction by p to 1.75m

The PWP recommended no objection as the proposed work represented good tree management.

P/TRC/2023/01582 63 Butt Lane - T1 Silver Birch – reduce entire crown by 2-3m retaining natural branch line

The work represents good tree management to retain stability and the PWP recommended no objection.

Cllr Bendon seconded the proposals set out by the PWP and this was unanimously agreed.

9. Parish Amenities and Rights of Way

23.015 To consider the purchase of a new bench to go in front of the shop

Cllr Park proposed the Lowther Bench is purchased on the understanding that Jagtar is informed of the purchase and is happy with the style of bench. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. Cllr Mathers will contact Jagtar accordingly. It was suggested that the bench could be offered for commemorative plaques. If no sponsor comes forward, it could be considered to have it as a Coronation Bench.

23.016 To consider signing up with Community Heartbeat for maintenance of the defibrillator

The Clerk is currently looking into the various alternatives for registering the defibrillator and this will be brought back to the May meeting.

23.017 To receive a report from the Village Hall AGM

Cllr Pitcher reported that the AGM took place on Tuesday 11th April. Jo Syrett, assisted by Paul Bennett, is now the Treasurer. There have been several inspections undertaken including asbestos and fire risk assessments. The quotes for the necessary work have yet to be received. However, the fire doors were found to be made of asbestos and all need to be replaced at an estimated cost of between £12,000 and £15,000. The Hall Committee have requested that an appropriate item is included on the May agenda. The Hall Committee have about £5,000 available for the work and are investigating other sources of funding but may need the Parish Council to assist with the balance. If the doors are not replaced the Hall will not be permitted to allow visitor access. It is a requirement of the report that the fire doors are replaced within a year.

23.018 To confirm the cemetery fees for the year 2023

A copy of the current fees with a 3% uplift had been issued to all members. Cllr Park proposed that the fees are amended to show no charge for the interment of a person under twelve years of age at the time of death. Cllr Fairhurst further proposed that all fees are rounded up/down to the nearest £5. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed unanimously. The new fees will be posted on the website.

23.019 To receive an update on the Parish allotments

The Clerk reported that all invoices had now been issued.

23.020 To consider a request for placing a banner for the Purbeck Steam Rally in Bere Regis

A request had been received for an advertising banner to be put up in the parish. After much discussion, Cllr Park proposed that any banner display site should be used for village events only. This was seconded by Cllr Percy and agreed unanimously.

23.021 Trees

Cllr Pitcher reported that he had now attended the Basic Tree Inspection Course and he felt that the Parish Council should have a tree safety policy. The policy should also include information on replanting. The Clerk will look into this and bring the policy back to a later meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

23.022 Trim Trail

It was noted that, some years ago, the question of installing a trim trail was raised. At the time funding was not available and location of the equipment was not confirmed. This could be something that is brought up at the Parish Forum in July.

23.023 Footpath 11 and Footpath 10

DWT are required to submit an official request to divert footpaths 10 and 11. Cllr Bates has spoken to Rob Farrington of DWT who is looking into submitting the request. Rob reported that a quote of £5,000 had been received for arranging the diversion. He felt the best way forward was a permissive path between the two paths. Bespoke styles have been installed on the access from the A35 that prevent small children getting through. However, Cllr Fairhurst felt that the style was inappropriate and noted that a permissive path can be subject to closure at any time. Cllrs Fairhurst and Bates will attend the site to discuss the issue further and bring back suggestions to the May meeting.

ACTION; CLLRS FAIRHURST & BATES

23.024 Three Walks Leaflet

Walk 3 is now no longer possible following the closure of Mays Wood. Cllr Wharf will facilitate contact with the second landowner to confirm their acceptance of the waymarks being posted on their land.

ACTION: CLLR WHARF

23.025 Defects

Souls Bridge – the ramp up to the bridge has dropped at the top of the ramp. This will be reported to Dorset Council.

The playpark path has a hole in it. Cllr Bendon will repair the hole in the short term. He will also get some quotes to replace the whole path.

ACTION: CLLR BENDON

10. Environment and Conservation

23.026 To receive an update on the work to date

Cllr Bates reported that a row of trees had been planted along the footpath below the school. Whilst one or two needed attention, the majority seemed to be doing well.

11. Police, Traffic and Roads

23.027 Nothing to report.

12. Community Liaison

23.028 Cllr Curtis reported that the Communibus is continuing to be very successful and a new driver has been recruited. She requested that trips now be advertised and booked beyond the last scheduled trip at the end of June 2023. Cllr Park proposed extending it for a further six months to the end of December 2023. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously.

It was noted that, following a minor incident, bodywork repairs were required. This will be brought back to the May meeting for discussion.

13. Children and Youth

23.029 Nothing to report. Cllr Curtis requested that the list of suggested alterations to the play park, provided by the school children some months ago, is brought back to the May agenda.

14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set

23.030 It was noted that the MacMillan Bike Ride will take place on Sunday 2nd July.

15. Public Relations

23.031 The following items will be included in the Parish Magazine:

- Neighbourhood Plan update
- Bench outside the shop
- Cllr Bates will provide wording for the trees planted
- Coronation Event
- Councillor vacancy

16. Items for the May meeting

23.032 - Speed limits through the village – the 20mph initiative

Any items for the agenda should be passed to the Clerk by the 4th May.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.50hrs.