



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS, COMMENCING 7PM**

- Present:** Cllrs L Fairhurst, S Munnings, P Wharf, D Bishop, B Benjafield, B House, T Bates & C Packham
- Chair:** Cllr R Pitcher
- Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker
- Also Present:** 0 members of the public

**17.145 Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

**17.146 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received from Cllr Ian Ventham.

Cllr Cathryne Packham was welcomed to the meeting and members of the council introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role on the Parish Council. The Clerk informed members that the second vacancy was now available to fill by co-option as no application had been received by PDC. This will be on the agenda for March.

**17.147 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Bishop proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chair in the presence of the meeting.

**17.148 Matters arising from those minutes, not covered by this agenda for report only**

Minerals and Waste Consultation – A response has been submitted. A decision should be received in about September.

Footpath extension from Jubilee Bridge to Shitterton – Cllr Ventham met with Graham Preece this morning and a report will be given at the March meeting.

Police – This will be followed up for the March meeting.

**17.149 To receive declarations of Interest**

Cllr Munnings declared an interest in planning application 6/2017/0727 for 48 West Street. No other interests were declared.

**17.150 To receive the County and District Councillor's report**

Cllr Wharf reported that he had spoke to one of the neighbours of the planning application at Green Close. The application will be decided by delegated powers. They also complained about the general

state of the road in Green Close and Cllr Wharf has spoken to Highways regarding the possibility of intervention, but it is unlikely that the road surface meets the necessary criteria.

Local Plan Consultation – A list of consultation dates is given at the back of the consultation papers which have now been posted to every household in Purbeck. It was originally felt that the Parish Council would not attend the public meetings, but the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group attended the meeting that took place at the Purbeck School on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February and it proved to be very helpful and worthwhile. Cllr Wharf recommended that the Parish Council attend the consultation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the Scout Hut and make themselves available to answer questions and put up the display boards. Members agreed that this would be appropriate and informative. It would also give another date for public consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

County – February 23<sup>rd</sup> has been set as the date that Sajid Javid should make his decision. County are also experiencing a problem with their budget, particularly regarding Adult & Children Services. The budget is manageable but for no longer than two years.

## 17.151 Key topics

### 17.151.1 Neighbourhood Plan progress update

Cllr Munnings reported the NP has been slightly rewritten since the consultation in November and this has been forwarded to PDC for comment. Once the meeting with Natural England has taken place, another meeting will be organised with PDC. The main change is that the policies do not now specify the number of houses required on each site – it sets out the area and suggests that, if the PDC density is adopted, it will equate to 30 houses per hectare. This would give approximately the numbers the Plan originally stated. If an agreement can be reached with Natural England in time, it may be possible to redraw the Plan showing the housing, but we may not be able to show the definitive shape of the SANG. Cllr Munnings will see if it feasible to have an updated Plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**ACTION: CLLR MUNNINGS**

### 17.151.2 To consider a response to the New Homes for Purbeck consultation

A copy of the consultation paper had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Members were asked if they wished to submit a response as a Parish Council or if they would prefer to submit personal responses.

Cllr Munnings felt it was quite subjective as to how the questions were answered and it would not be possible to give a corporate response. Cllr Wharf pointed out that, where parish council's do respond, they are noted but, as we have a Neighbourhood Plan, a corporate response may not be required.

The main area of concern to the Parish Council is the suggestion of the 'up to 30 house' sites which could be brought forward under normal planning applications and would not take into account the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Munnings and draft a response expressing concern and saying that, as we are working with PDC on a Neighbourhood Plan, we do not feel it is appropriate for sites of up to 30 properties to be put on the parish.

**ACTION: CLLR MUNNINGS/CLERK**

## 17.152 Finance

### 17.152.1 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Bere Regis Sports Club	Grant towards patio refurb.	1878	500.00
DC Pension Fund	February contribution	BACS113	230.22

Abbas Ecology	Surveys - Souls Moor & Tower Hill	BACS115	859.20
A Crocker	February wages + expenses	BACS118	790.76
HMRC	February PAYE & NIC	BACS119	72.99

Total amount to be paid from the Precept £2,453.17.

Cllr Packham proposed that the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously.

Lunch Club & NeighbourCar (Both these schemes are self-funding with no costs coming from the Precept)

Norman Reid	NC – December 2017	1877	9.45
I Ventham	NC – January 2018	BACS111	21.60
S Munnings	January Lunch Club	BACS112	11.47
D Fairhurst	NC – January 2018	BACS114	38.70
I Ventham	January Lunch Club	BACS116	30.17
D Fairhurst	NC – December 2017	BACS111	36.90
G Roskelly	NC – December/January	BACS117	21.60
A Crocker	Lunch Club	BACS118	44.83

Total to be paid from the scheme's funds £214.72.

17.152.2 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts

A copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made, or queries raised.

17.152.3 To review the position against budget

A copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made, or queries raised.

17.152.4 To consider the grant request received from the Bere Regis School for £375 towards the cost of the Life Education Van

The total cost is in the region of £650. Cllr Bishop proposed the grant is paid. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously. A cheque will be raised at the March meeting.

**ACTION: CLERK**

17.152.5 To consider the grant request received from the Bere Regis Sports Club for £750 towards the cost of kit/equipment

Members felt that, as the Sports Club had just received a grant of £500, which represents nearly a third of the total grant budget, it would not now be appropriate for them to have a further £750. As the total grant budget for the year is £1,650, this would mean the Club would have received 3/4s of the budget. There are many other groups in the village who could benefit from a small grant and a letter is about to be issued to all of them informing them of the monies available. The Clerk will contact the Sports Club saying that we are unable to support them in this instance as they have already received funding this year but would ask that, in future years, they would like to think about submitting one grant for the year and bear in mind that funds are limited and there are many organisations in the village.

**ACTION CLERK**

The criteria will be reconsidered at the March meeting.

## **17.153 Planning & Housing**

### **17.153.1 To consider planning applications**

Cllr Wharf took no part in the discussions regarding the planning applications.

6/2017/0698 20 Green Close – demolish utility & garage & erect new detached dwelling with associated parking and access.

6/2017/0727 48 West Street – demolition of existing single storey extn & erect 2 storey extn

Cllr Munnings took no part in this discussion. The PWP recommended no objections.

6/2017/008 18 Green Close – erect 3 bed detached dwelling with parking

This is a windfall site in the garden of an existing property. Several residents of Green Close have submitted objections, saying they would prefer the site to be used as car parking for the existing properties and, whilst the Parish Council fully understands and empathises with this view, it is not grounds for objecting to the application. The application provides for 5 off-road parking spaces which may go some way to alleviating the problem. The PWP recommends no objection.

12 Green Close – was considered but it is certificate of lawful development only.

### **17.153.2 To consider tree work applications**

TWA/2018/016 Watermead, Shitterton - T1 Walnut – fell

The PWP recommended no objection.

Cllr Bates proposed that the recommendations of the PWP are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION: CLERK**

## **17.154 Environment & Facilities**

### **17.154.1 Open Spaces update**

Cllr Bates reported that the group met and co-opted Cllr Fairhurst due to his knowledge of the rights of way throughout the parish.

The grazing contract was reviewed and will be submitted ready for the ponies to go back on the site in May. Cllr Packham noted that, from a Health and Safety perspective, that the ponies were over-friendly. Notices will be put in place before their arrival asking people not to feed them and explaining why they are there. Cllr Bates explained the need to have ponies on the site and how they manage the flora and fauna of the area by their grazing. The site has now reverted to a ‘wet meadow’ habitat, supporting a large variety of plants and flowers.

The management plan will be reviewed and updated.

There is a tree leaning across the boardwalk from the Lockyer land, but we cannot enter the site to cut it down as it is not our property. We will remove the branches that obstruct the path. Cllr Wharf suggested writing to the Tree Officer saying the tree is unsafe and asking if he could contact the owners requesting they carry out the necessary work.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Pond – the working party will cover the gravel with the topsoil.

The trees along the Elder Road walkway that went down in the recent gales were quickly dealt with by the Lengthsman. Our thanks are extended to him for the speed with which he reacted.

The wildflower seeding around the school will be repeated by this year.

Poole Hill roundabout – It is understood that Highways could be asked to plough the roundabout, so we could seed it. The Clerk will request Cllr Wharf to follow this up.

**ACTION: CLERK**

#### 17.154.2 To review the Lengthsman’s Contract

A copy of the contract had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. The contract will be extended for a year and the job will be put out to tender in the autumn. In the meantime, the Open Spaces Group will review the contract and bring it back to the June meeting for discussion.

**ACTION: OPEN SPACES GROUP**

#### 17.154.3 Update on a permanent location for the beacon

To be taken to the March meeting.

#### 17.154.4 Update on Souls Moor Bridge repairs

Cllr Pitcher has spoken to the Lengthsman. It appears a whole section has subsided. The Lengthsman will fill the section and cover with grip tread. At the same time, the whole boardwalk will be reviewed.

#### 17.154.52 Defects

- pot holes along Bere Heath Road. Cllr Wharf will contact Highways and see if anything can be done.
- the pipe by Shitterton alongside the bridge needs to be cleared
- dog bins will be replaced. Dorset Dogs to be contacted regarding a drop-in session.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### 17.155 Police, Traffic and Roads

A resident has contacted the Parish Council expressing concern over the amount of litter on the A31 and A35 verges. It is understood that this is the responsibility of Dorset Waste Partnership. A copy of the resident’s letter will be sent to Cllr Wharf.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### 17.156 Community Liaison

Cllr House reported that there is a possibility of acquiring a mini bus for the parish from Blandford Community Centre. A 17-seater mini bus is available for sale and she is talking to Cllr Andrew Kirby of Blandford Town Council about it. Cllr House has spoken to the school and Sports Club and both would be very keen to take advantage of the bus were we to acquire it. Andy Kent has also said he would be happy to drive it for shopping trips on behalf of NeighbourCar. It has been noted that money may be available from the Talbot Trust and Dorset Transport Action. We would need a section 19 certificate (Not for profit passenger transport) at a cost £11 in order to apply for funding.

Cllr Wharf reminded members that someone must be responsible for the vehicle. Cllr House reported that the school have already agreed to allow the bus to be parked on their site. The Parish Council would insure the vehicle but the drivers would each be covered under their own motor vehicle policy.

All members were very supportive and happy for Cllr House to continue pursuing the initiative.

**17.157 Children & Youth**

Nothing to report.

**17.158 Correspondence received since the agenda was set**

Nothing to add.

**17.159 Public Relations**

- New Homes for Purbeck Consultation event on 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Grant for School
- NeighbourCar advert for new drivers
- Cllr Bates to provide some words regarding the working parties and Open Spaces

**17.160 Items for the March meeting**

Members are reminded to send any items for the agenda to the Clerk by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.45pm.