



MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2018 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS, COMMENCING 7PM

- Present:** Cllrs R Pitcher, L Fairhurst, S Munnings, P Wharf, D Bishop, B Benjafield, B House, T Bates
- Chair:** Cllr I Ventham
- Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker
- Also Present:** 3 members of the public

17.129 Public Participation

Richard Smith – Minerals and Waste consultation. Richard drew members’ attention to the fact that this is the last period of consultation for the plan. The Parish Council submitted comments in August 2016 which were well written and to the point, but he emphasised the importance of the comments received from the groups representing the community and urged the Parish Council to submit comments again this time. He pointed out that the that the responses submitted this time need to be structured slightly differently and consider only two areas – that the plan is legal and that the plan is soundly constructed. In respect of the Philliols Farm site, the objections are very valid when looking at the second area of consideration – i.e. is the inclusion of the site sound? He suggested including a rejoinder saying that we find its inclusion is not made on sound reasoning.

Cllr Ventham re-read the proposed response in respect of Philliols and reiterated the conclusion of the submission:

‘We strongly disagree with this proposal. Unknown effect of the extraction on local watercourses. Detrimental effect on local archaeology and listed buildings. Loss of amenity, increased noise pollution, dust, psychological and emotional well-being of the residents of the properties situated within 500m of the proposal. Loss of livelihood for 2 farms and local holiday lets. Loss of recreational amenity. Detrimental impact on nearby SNCI sites and protected species. Loss of viable agricultural land. Assurance is needed that no lorries will use the C6.’

We will also state that we objected to the original application and our view has not changed.

James Brooke-Fox, member of RAGE – there is question of how the various elements of the proposals are going to be managed. He does not feel that the process should allow them to mitigate the risks in the future. There is considerable question over how much gravel is actually on the site. The figures vary greatly and there is no prove backing up the figures quoted. It is very important that people understand the effect this proposal will have on the local community.

Cllr Wharf reported that he has spoken to both Morden and Briantspuddle Parish Councils, together with various residents and action groups. The Philliols Farm site was considered and rejected in 1996 and the officers are of the view that it is not sufficient to say, ‘Our view has not changed’ as the Inspector could look at such a response and take the view that this consultation has not been read. The suggestion that more aggregate is available is based on recent studies. The site is owned by the Drax Estate and someone else and the inspector places great weight on a site being solely owned. Cllr Wharf further suggested that, if we wish to include a comment that we do not think the site will produce enough to be viable, it is useful to offer an alternative site - this would show you recognise the need for gravel, etc. Responses will be collected and sent to the Secretary of State in March. Receipt of the Inspectors report will be in the autumn and, should there be no additional consultation,

the plan will be confirmed at the end of 2018. Cllr Wharf suggested the response should mention the process, risk mitigation, highways issues, capacity, etc.

Nick Rowe drew members' attention to an incident that occurred in North Street on the weekend of the 6th/7th January. The Police were called at the time and have the matter in hand.

It was noted that it has been some time since a Police officer attended a Parish Council meeting. The Clerk will invite them to attend a future meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

17.130 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr Andy Watkins who has also now submitted his resignation from the Parish Council. Our thanks are extended to him for his time and work whilst on the Council and we wish him well for the future. The vacancy will now be advertised in accordance with the necessary procedure.

ACTION: CLERK

17.131 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2017

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

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

Calendars – A profit of £535 has been made. The money will be put towards some final costs in respect of the church roof repairs.

Volunteer of the Year Award – Cllr Ventham asked if Cllr Wharf would read the citation at the ceremony and he agreed to do so.

A letter was sent to the Secretary of State regarding our support for the Unitary and an acknowledgment has been received.

17.133 To receive declarations of Interest

Cllr Munnings declared an interest in planning application 6/2017/0716 for Lower Woodbury Farm. Cllr Ventham declared an interest in planning application 6/2017/0710. No other interests were declared.

17.134 To receive the County and District Councillor's report

Cllr Wharf reported that the Local Plan is being reviewed and a public consultation will take place at the end of the month. Cllr Ventham highlighted the fact that PLP1 stated '120 houses in North West Purbeck', which includes Briantspuddle, Turnerspuddle and Bloxworth and not just Bere Regis; although it seems to be taken as read that all 120 new houses will be put forward in Bere Regis.

Cllrs Wharf, Ventham and Munnings will be visiting various residents over the next fortnight to address concerns they have raised regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

Local Government reorganisation – Christchurch is still objecting to the unitary authority and is saying they will be independent of the rest of Dorset. It will be Sajid Javid who must now make a decision on the way forward. There is just over a year to the election for the new unitary authority in May 2019. The DCLG have said there should be 82 councillors for Dorset – there are currently 41.

The 82 councillors would have new wards and there would be a preference for single member wards on the grounds that this gives a more direct link between the elected member and the community. A decision is due to be made by the end of February. It is proposed that Area Boards will be set up, taking the place of the District Councils. These would be serviced by County.

17.135 Key topics

17.135.1 Neighbourhood Plan progress update

The Steering Group met on the 10th January. The current situation is that, following the expert view of the Plan, several points were passed back to PDC for consideration. With regard to those items highlighted by the Steering Group, discussion centred around whether we declare an absolute number of units for each site, or designate an area. The hectareage, density, style, etc would be quoted within the pre-amble and a suggestion of the number of units would also be included. It would then be down to the developer to decide how many units could be fitted on to each site. This means that a site like Tower Hill could give a maximum of 3 units, whilst Back Lane could take more, should the developer include, for example, flats within the suggested footprint. As a council, are we happy to change the way we are approaching this? All complaints will be listened to and answered. Cllr Bates supported this approach. It was felt that the traffic issue is being overstated when the more important issue is that of parking and we are trying to alleviate this within the requirements for developments.

SANG – a meeting will be held with Jason Bowerman on the 19th January and, following that, a meeting will be held with Natural England.

It was noted that Mr Lockyer died recently, and his daughter has been in touch with the Parish Council's Land Agent to ask if our interest in the land still exists. The land still has to go through Probate, so it will be some time before we hear anything. Cllr Ventham suggested that, were we to acquire the site, an area may be set aside for parking.

17.135.2 To consider following up on the take up of Council operated services

Cllr Wharf will guide the Parish Council as to when it would be most appropriate to follow this up.

17.135.3 To consider the co-option of a Parish Councillor

Cllr Ventham proposed that Catheryne Packham is co-opted to the Parish Council. Cllr Munnings seconded this and it was agreed unanimously.

17.135.4 To consider a response to the Bournemouth, Poole & Dorset Minerals & Waste consultation

A copy of the Parish Council's 2016 response had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. In the light of Mr Smith's comments, the Clerk and Cllr Ventham will liaise and make the necessary amendments to the comments in order that they fit with the required submission format, setting out where, we believe, the proposal strays from legal compliance and soundness.

17.136 Finance

ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM/CLERK

17.136.1 To confirm the budget for the year 2018/19

A copy of the draft budget had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

The proposal is to increase the Precept by £4,131.37, which equates to an increase of 8.3%. £6,500 is to be taken from the Reserves to keep the percentage increase to a minimum. The main cause of the increase is the additional hours given to the Lengthsman – from 26 hours currently to 36 hours. This

will enable him to carry out more of the work that is being increasingly passed to the Parish Council. Other adjustments are:

- 3% increase in subscriptions to cover the known increase regarding DAPTC and an inflationary increase to cover other subscriptions.
- An increase of £50 has been added to insurance. We benefit from a three-year Long Term Agreement but new notice boards must now be added and it is hoped new outdoor gym equipment will be installed during the year.
- The training budget has been increased by £650 to cover any additional training required by councillors in the lead up to the unitary authority.
- An increase of £6,240 for the Lengthsman to increase his hours from 26 to 26.
- An increase of £600 towards the cost of repairs to the notice and information boards.
- An additional £1,000 has been added to the Community Hall in order to cover legal fees and the Common Land swap fees.

All other costs are at held at the current year’s level or have a very small increase. Other costs, such as stationery, postage and mileage have been reduced as the Parish Council goes increasingly over to the use of internet and social media.

It was proposed by Cllr Bates that the Precept is set at £53,895.52 – an increase of 8.3%. This was seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk highlighted to members that this would result in an increase o £7.14 on a Band D property.

The Lengthman’s contract will need to be reviewed prior to the setting of the next budget. In the meantime, the Clerk will check with the Lengthsman that he has all the necessary certification in place for himself and his employees. The contract will be brought to the February meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

A breakdown of the budget and precept will be put in the Parish Magazine in April, once the budget is confirmed by PDC.

17.136.2 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

DC Pension Fund	January 2018 contribution	BACS106	230.22
A Crocker	January wages + expenses	BACS107	815.07
HMRC	January PAYE & NIC	BACS108	72.99
Marquess of Salisbury	Christmas trees	BACS109	765.00
A King	Lengthsman – December 2017	BACS111	1712.77

Total amount to be paid from the Precept £3,596.05.

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

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

B Britten	NC – December 2017	BACS100	9.45
G Roskelly	NC – September/December 2017	BACS101	21.14
I Ventham	December lunch club	BACS102	120.72
S Percival	December lunch club	BACS103	365.00

M Benjafield	NC – 23/11 to 19/12/17	BACS104	54.45
A Crocker	December lunch club	BACS105	84.00
F Spicer	NC – October – December 2017	BACS110	137.00

Total to be paid from the scheme’s funds £791.76.

17.136.3 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.

17.136.4 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.

17.136.5 To consider the grant request received from the Bere Regis Sports Club for £500 towards the refurbishment of the patio area with new seating & recycled sustainable plastic picnic benches

The total cost of the project is in the region of £1,000. Cllr Ventham suggested that the Sports Club are asked to make it clear that the recreation ground is available to the whole village when it is not being used for sports. With this in mind, the Parish Council would be happy to support the application. Cllr Bishop proposed that a grant of £500 is made. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will contact the Sports Club accordingly and a cheque will be raised at the February meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

17.137 Planning & Housing

17.137.1 To consider planning applications

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

Cllr Munnings took no part in the discussions regarding the following application.
6/2017/0716 Lower Woodbury Farm – replacement dwelling

The PWP recommended no objections are raised.

Cllr Ventham took no part in the discussions regarding the following application.

6/2017/0710 5a Shitterton – demolish existing conservatory & erect a single storey rear extension

The PWP recommended no objections are raised.

Cllr Pitcher proposed the recommendations of the PWP are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously.

17.137.2 To consider tree work applications

There were no tree work applications for consideration.

ACTION: CLERK

17.138 Environment & Facilities

17.138.1 Open Spaces update

Thanks are extended to Tony King, the Lengthsman, for the speed with which he removed the two fallen trees on the 6th January.

Footpath running from Jubilee Bridge to Shitterton along the southern side of the stream. Cllr Ventham asked members if they felt this section should be upgraded. Tilhill takes care of this path and Cllr Ventham offered to approach them to ask if they would be willing to upgrade the path for the benefit of the disabled and those with pushchairs. It was agreed that he should make this first approach and report back to the February meeting.

ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM

Cllr Bates reported that he was writing a resume on the success of the Nature Reserve for the Parish magazine.

17.138.2 Defects

- Footpath on Woodbury Lane – a tree has come down across the path. This is the responsibility of the landowner.
- DCC have put in handrails further along Woodbury Lane but the top post is unstable, and the handrail needs replacing. *Post meeting note: Report submitted – ref. MNT39739.*
- North Street and Snow Hill path still needs attention. The style needs attention. This has already been reported but will be re-reported. *Post meeting note: This has been re-submitted – ref. MNT39740.*
- Souls Bridge sections seem to be coming apart at the point where the handrail ends. Cllr Pitcher will look at this and liaise with the Lengthsman as to what needs to be done.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

- The bushes on the northern side of West Street from the Mill through West Street are very overgrown. This is the Drax Estate and will be mentioned to Jason Bowerman.

17.139 Police, Traffic and Roads

Nothing to report. Cllr Watkins is holding the master copy of the Winter Maintenance Plan and this will be retrieved.

ACTION: CLERK

17.140 Community Liaison

It was suggested that a note is sent to the chairpersons of the all the village organisations asking if there was anything we as a Parish Council could do to assist them and reminding them that grant money is available. The note will include examples of some of the grants sums that have been given to various groups and what they have been used for.

Beacon Lighting for November 2018. Although guidelines have been received from Westminster, Cllr Ventham suggested setting out our own plan for the event. Cllr Pitcher suggested that the beacon is put in a permanent location. This will be raised at the next Souls Moor Open Space Committee and brought back to the February meeting. The Clerk will contact the various organisations in the village to set up a working party to manage the event.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER/ CLERK

17.141 Children & Youth

17.141.1 Skate Park update

Nothing to report.

17.142 Correspondence received since the agenda was set

Nothing to add.

17.143 Public Relations

- Calendar and congratulations to the people involved in producing it
- Co-option of councillor
- Another vacancy and thanks to Andy Watkins
- Sports Club grant
- Open spaces report from Cllr Bates

17.128 Items for the February meeting

- Lengthsman contract

Members are reminded to send any items for the agenda to the Clerk by the 31st January 2018.

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