



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY
9th JANUARY 2020 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS,
COMMENCING 7PM**

Present: Cllrs L Fairhurst, M Mathers, B House, P Wharf, R Pitcher, P Morgan, S Munnings, T Bates

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 3 members of the public and Amy Yeats

Public Participation

19.186 Residents of Snow Hill expressed concern over the state of the road at Snow Hill triangle. Vehicles have been parking in a self-made layby opposite the grass triangle. As a result, large lorries are now having to drive slightly over the grass in order to get past and the grass area is becoming badly damaged and the tree has lost several branches. In addition, the edge of the road is being broken down by the lorries. Action will be taken to hamper parking and restore the verge.

Rowlands Wait – we still await a representative of the company attending the meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence

19.187 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Catherine Packham, and Bryan Benjafield.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2019

19.188 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Fairhurst proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

3. Matters arising form those minutes, not covered by this agenda

19.189 The Clerk will contact Chris Jowett of Savills, who represents the Drax Estate, and invite him to a meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

Lockyer Lane – Cllr Pitcher will follow this up.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

4. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received

19.190 Cllr Ventham declared an interest in the planning application and one of the tree work applications. No other interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

5. To receive the Dorset Councillor’s reports

19.191 Cllr Wharf reported that the precept has yet to be agreed but it will probably be going up by 4% plus the 2% for adult and child services. They will be increasing the adult service budget by £10.7m and children’s services by £10.3 – this will be covered by an increase in the precept, together with savings made from other departments. The budget will be agreed at full Council in February. Other challenges include the loss of the Director of Children’s Services and the Director of Adult Services has been signed off ill for 6 months. Two interim directors have now been appointed.

Cllr Mathers reported that residents had found Cllr Wharf’s last report somewhat ambiguous, particularly the item relating to second homes i.e. new homes cannot be used for second homes. Cllr Wharf responded saying that this had been challenged by developers and they had won. Cllrs Wharf and Miller then challenged this and won. They are looking for the Inspector to install the second homes policy in the Plan

when it is finally agreed. Cllr Wharf agreed that he would rewrite his report and try to make it more coherent.

6. Key Topics

19.192 Neighbourhood Plan – implementation update

The most important thing now is to try to get some movement on the sites. The Chair and Clerk will contact both the Drax Estate and the White Lovington developers.

Tower Hill – Cllr Ventham spoke at the Planning Committee meeting on the 8th January and confirmed that the application was refused – 6 to 3. The 6 who voted against were voting more in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan as opposed to against the application. The architect for the site spoke and Cllr Ventham asked if he would be willing to meet to discuss the way forward. The main issue would appear to be that the Conservation Officer is strongly in favour of protecting the hedge and had informed the architect that he does not want the hedge touched.

Cllr Munnings suggested that we start the Neighbourhood Plan review immediately. The Review can be formalised and will carry weight. This would enable us to take the wording of the existing plan and amend it before the application goes to appeal. The commencement of the Review will be notified to Dorset Council and this will then formalise the process.

We can also get another ecological survey carried out on the hedge and a surveyor to work out the quantities of material that would have to be removed from the site.

Four members of the public all spoke very eloquently at the Planning Committee meeting, and all supported the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Bates reported that he had gone back to the hedge and felt that the comments made by the architect were overstated. The hedge is in a poor condition and the only greenery is ivy. The height of the bank from the road is 1.7m and any property built on top of it would look directly into the windows of the houses opposite.

Cllr Wharf reported that he had submitted a comment relating to the application.

The Neighbourhood Plan team will meet to review the way forward. The team had met recently to complete a survey being undertaken by Reading University to review the Neighbourhood Planning process and how we felt the system works. A full copy of the response to the questionnaire will be issued to all members for reference and is available on the Parish Council web site.

Cllr Pitcher pointed out that Cllrs Ventham and Munnings and the Clerk have spent a great deal of time on the response to Tower Hill.

19.193 Website update – Amy Yeats felt that the site was very wordy and needs to be more visual.

The web site has to be one of record so there is a great deal of documents that, legally, need to be on there. However, it could be more user-friendly.

Cllr Ventham suggested a small group should be formed to look at the web site. Cllr Mathers was invited to meet with our web designer but will spend some time deciding what should go on there before doing so.

ACTION: CLLR MATHERS

19.194 Review of Asset Register – A copy of the Register as at 31st December 2019 had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Munnings proposed that the Register is an accurate view of what we own. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher.

7. Finance

19.195 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

BR Carers Group	Replaces lost cheque no. 1903	BACS062	250.00
DC Pension	December Pension contribution	BACS063	242.00
A Crocker	December wages + expenses	BACS064	811.79
HMRC	December PAYE & NIC	BACS065	82.14
BRPCC	Donation toward graveyard maintenance	BACS066	500.00
DAPTC	Clerks' Seminar	BACS067	57.50
A King	Lengthsman – November 2019	BACS068	2751.88
DAPTC	Councillors' seminar	BACS069	70.00
A King	Lengthsman – December 2019	BACS070	2113.13
Media4Graphics	Pen & ink drawings re Tower Hill submission	BACS071	360.00
Cheap Printing	Book of Condolences	BACS072	24.00
DC Pension Fund	January contribution	BACS073	242.00
HMRC	January PAYE & NIC	BACS074	82.14
A Crocker	January wages + expenses	BACS075	880.05

Total to be paid from the Precept is **£8466.63**

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

BRPCC	Adverts for Lunch Club & NeighbourCar		140.00
N Reid	NeighbourCar – December	NC018	34.00
A Pattison	NeighbourCar – July to November	NC019	116.10
P Morgan	November Lunch Club	SPLC016	69.75
S Percival	December Lunch Club	SPLC017	195.00
A Pitman	December Lunch Club	SPLC018	22.81
I Ventham	December NeighbourCar & Lunch Club		223.90
B Duke	NeighbourCar September & October	NC022	31.05
Came & Co	Minibus insurance to 05.02.21	MB008	576.03
B House	Expenses September to December 2019		542.93

Total to be paid from schemes' balances **£2052.89**

Cllr Ventham proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

19.196 To confirm reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

A copy of the reports had been given to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made, or queries raised. There are a number of outstanding items going back to August that have not been cleared. The Clerk will look into each item and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

19.197 To consider allowance payments to councillors

A copy of the Members' Allowances – Recommendations of the Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

At present, although members are encouraged to submit expense claims for travelling and out of pocket expenses, few do, but we would not wish to discourage residents from becoming councillors in the future because they felt they could not afford to do so.

The Clerk pointed out that, were allowances to be paid, they would be subject to PAYE and NIC and would have to be paid via the payroll system.

Cllr Ventham proposed that the Parish Council vote in favour of the allowances, it is then up to future councillors to decide whether or not they wish to claim them and that the policy as it stands is adopted.

Cllr Munnings seconded this, and all agreed unanimously.

The Clerk will draft the policy and bring it back to the February meeting for confirmation.

ACTION: CLERK

19.198 To consider a grant of £40 to FoBRS to reimburse the cost of the Christmas decorations

Cllr Ventham proposed this grant is made. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously. The amount will be put forward on the next payments run.

ACTION: CLERK

8. Planning & Housing

19.199 To consider planning applications

6/2019/0462 Blackhills, Shitterton – demolish existing bungalow & erect a new dwelling

Following consultation with residents, the PWP proposed submitting an objection on the grounds that the development proposed is of a substantial size and not in keeping with the smaller, barn style conversions in the immediate vicinity.

Due to the time constraints for responses to the above application, the PWP considered the application by email.

Cllr Wharf reported that the 21 day rule is being reviewed and parishes will be asked for their input soon.

For future reference, and until the procedure is amended, all planning applications that cannot be brought before the Parish Council will be reviewed by email and all councillors will be asked to respond.

19.200 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2019/251 1 Shitterton – T1 & T2 Ash- fell; T3 Poplar – fell; various other trees all Poplar, to be felled or pollarded

TWA/2019/253 12 Shitterton – Various trees to be pruned: T5 Plum - fell

As responses to the treeworks had to be submitted before the meeting, the applications were reviewed by the PWP who recommended no objections

Cllr Munnings seconded the proposal, and this was agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

9. Parish Amenities & Rights of Way

19.201 Parish Amenities

19.201.1 To receive quotations for replacement play park surface – Cllr Pitcher has contacted another local company and a meeting will be held within the next week and this item will be brought forward for the February meeting. Instead of bark, they will be looking at rubber chippings.

19.201.2 To receive a general update on parish amenities – Cllr Ventham reported that he is in contact with Ann Brummer regarding the Brian May land and he has asked the school if they have any particular requests relating to the forest school that they would like brought up. He will then put together a package of ideas that he can put before Ann Brummer.

ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM

19.201.3 To consider the Lengthsman's quarterly report – A copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting – a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Cllr Wharf suggested putting the report in the magazine with photographs. This should be an educational piece as well as highlighting the amount of time he spends clearing up after residents. Cllr Mathers offered to take the

report forward and Cllr Munnings will speak to Julien Lightfoot to see if he would be able to get involved and make the article more user friendly and multi-media friendly. Cllr Ventham will write something for this month's magazine.

ACTION: CLLRS MATHERS & MUNNGINGS

19.202 Rights of Way - Dark Lane – The amended applications received to date have been returned to Dorset Council. The main map submitted by the Parish Council has also been amended and returned as requested.

19.203 Defects

- the 'pond' by the bridge in Shitterton. Cllr Wharf is in discussion with Highways and the drains have been jetted but this has not solved the problem. The next step is to put a camera along the drain and see if there is anything more serious happening.
- the finger posts at Hyde all need to be cleaned as they are all green. Cllr Pitcher and the Lengthsman offered to undertake this when the weather improves. A survey of all fingerposts will be carried out when the evenings get lighter.

10. Environment and Conservation

19.204 To review and accept the Risk Assessment for work on the Nature Reserve – this will be taken forward to the February meeting.

ACTION: A YEATS

19.205 To discuss the Parish Council's approach to the Climate & Environment Change Emergency announced by Dorset Council

Amy Yeats had attended the Dorset Council meeting before Christmas and has been supplied with spreadsheets to facilitate the calculation of both the parish and the Parish Council's carbon footprint. She, together with Cllrs Mathers and Bates will be meeting to go through this and bring their suggestions to the February meeting.

ACTION: A YEATS/CLLR MATHERS & BATES

Cllr Ventham felt that, with future planning applications, comment could be made regarding making the application's carbon neutral position e.g. solar panels, etc.

Whilst we cannot force people to do anything, we can encourage people to do something.

Cllr Wharf reported that other Parish Councils are undertaking the Parish Council carbon neutral spreadsheet analysis and he would encourage Bere Regis Parish Council to go through the exercise.

Amy will draft a policy for the Parish Council as a first step which can be discussed and accepted. We can then move on to the wider issues of the parish as a whole. Cllr Ventham will include in the Parish magazine notes that we are preparing a parish wide policy.

ACTION: A YEATS/CLLR VENTHAM

19.206 To consider a response to the consultation on the Draft Dorset Heathlands Framework SPD – a copy of the consultation had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

No comments were made and it was felt that there was nothing the Parish Council could comment on regarding the SPD.

11. Police, Traffic and Roads

19.207 Nothing to report.

12. Community Liaison

19.208 To consider community activities for 2020

Mention will be included in the Parish magazine notes asking for volunteers to come forward.

19.209 To agree a date for the 2020 Parish Forum and to consider items for discussion

Possibly in May. The Clerk will sort out a date and Cllr House will approach as many village organisations as possible and invite them to showcase themselves. 16th or 23rd May. *Post meeting note: The date has been confirmed as Saturday 16th May 2020.*

8th May is VE Day – will there be any national events taking place? The Clerk will check.

ACTION: CLERK

19.210 Proposed Community Hall – we are still trying to obtain the various pieces of land in order to be able to undertake a Common Land swap. Once this has been done, we will then be able to move on the new hall.

13. Children & Youth

19.211 There is a new youth club is being started up by the Chapel in the village in January.

14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set

19.212 Nothing to add.

15. Public Relations

19.213

- Car parking on Snow Hill
- refusal of Barrow Hill application
- Lengthsman – extract from the report
- Dark Lane
- Volunteer for parish event
- Call for ideas from Dorset Council for Climate Change ideas
- Village Forum in May

16. Items for the February meeting

19.214 Members are reminded to have any items for inclusion on the agenda to the Clerk by the 31st January 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:57

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th February, at the Drax Hall commencing 7pm.

Signed: