



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL AGM HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS, COMMENCING 7PM**

**Present:** Cllrs S Munnings, T Bates, P Wharf, L Fairhurst, B House, R Pitcher & B Benjafield

**Chair:** Cllr I Ventham

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 4 members of the public

**Public Participation**

19.61 Mr & Mrs Mee asked about dropped kerbs on Rye Hill. Access to their property from the downhill side is very difficult and often dangerous with little visibility from the south. They would like to put a drop kerb on the uphill, southern side of the property. To date, they have had no success with either what was the District Council or Highways. Cllr Wharf will speak to the Highways Officer to try to move this forward.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

**ACTION: CLLR WHARF**

19.62 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cathryn Packham and Phil Morgan

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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

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

19.64 The traffic survey that is carried out each year on Rye Hill in front of the old school is very detailed, and it would be very useful to have a more informed analysis. The Clerk will contact Nathan Fairhurst to see if he would do an analysis that is more user friendly. The surveys show that, by the time most of the traffic reaches the school, where the survey results are taken, it is travelling at 30mph or less. This does not mean that vehicles are not speeding when they come down the first section of Rye Hill.

**ACTION: CLERK**

War Memorial – the Clerk has contacted Val Quinn who will take a look at the memorial, but he feels it may be too much of a task for him.

**ACTION: CLERK**

The verges at the top of Rye Hill have yet to be cut but the Lengthsman will be asked to do this as soon as possible.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra were contacted and have sent back a very sympathetic response. They are actively trying to find alternative locations to act as a pickup spot.

The abandoned cars are still in situ and there is another possible abandoned one on the corner of Elder Road and Manor Farm Road. Cllr Wharf reported that there is a form that could be filled in and action will be taken.

Damage to Black Hill – this will be put on the agenda for August.

Play Park – Cllr Ventham suggested recruiting a volunteer minor maintenance group. The working party day may be the time to start this. Cllr Pitcher felt two days a year could be organised and practical people in the village could be approached to assist. He will sort out a couple of dates and move this forward.

**ACTION: CLLR PITCHER**

Gutters and machines – Cllr Pitcher has been talking to the Lengthsman about this and he will look into the cost of purchasing a machine or leasing one. County have sprayed the weeds around the village, but they do not clear the dead weeds afterwards. The Clerk will contact DWP to see if they are able to do anything about clearing the gutters.

**ACTION: CLLR PITCHER/CLERK**

Community Pay-back – the Clerk will look into this.

#### **4. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received**

19.65 No interests were declared and no requests for dispensation had been received.

#### **5. To receive the Dorset Councillor's reports**

19.66 Cllr Wharf reported that the modus operandi for the new council is the setting up of Executive Advisory Panels (EAPs) for each area of concern – IT, climate change, etc. The panels will produce a report stating how the initiatives can be moved forward, the potential cost and benefits. One such EAP will be looking into devolving responsibility to parish and town councils.

The recruitment process is underway, and it means a number of people will be made redundant. One of those is Alan Davis. A letter of thanks will be sent to him for all the help he has given over the years.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Calendars – these will be produced again this year. There will be a more limited number and the proceeds will go to the Ed Kent Trust. A selection of pictures has already been received.

The Local Plan is undergoing inspection at the moment. The inspector has said that she is minded to increase the housing requirements in the Plan from 160 a year to 180 a year. This should not affect Bere Regis as our Plan is now in place and we had opted to include a greater number of houses than the original requirement.

#### **6. Key Topics**

##### **19.67 Neighbourhood Plan – moving forward**

Letters have been sent to all landowners but, to date, no responses have been received.

##### **19.68 To receive an update on the Mid-Summer Bere Fest**

Cllr Ventham has issued a report on the event and all responses have been very positive. The organisations raised about £1,800 in all. The report will be sent to all 24 of the organisations that took part with a covering note suggesting that someone else could take the lead in future years.

##### **19.69 To decide on the recipient of the £200 donation from the Sports Club**

This is as a result of the Sports Club having a very successful afternoon at the Mid-Summer Bere Fest. Cllr Benjafield suggested finding an organisation that we do not regularly give money to. Cllr Ventham suggested Autumn Leaves as the group meets a community need and provides a really good service once a month. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst. Sue Stone is the treasurer of Autumn Leaves. The Clerk will inform the Sports Club accordingly.

**ACTION: CLERK**

##### **19.70 To receive an update on the Drax Hall Village Meeting**

Cllr Fairhurst reported that the meeting went well with 45 people present and all 45 were in favour of putting any proceeds from a future sale of the Drax Hall towards a new hall. Alison Bennett chaired the meeting well and our thanks are extended to her.

Once responses are received from the landowners regarding the development sites, the Parish Council can then begin looking at the Common Land swap, setting up CIO and starting fund raising for the new hall.

Tower Hill – Cllr Bates reported that this is the only unimproved area of chalk downland in the parish. It has never been surveyed as an SNCI but this would be something the owner would have to apply for. Cllr Ventham suggested that a meeting with the owner of the land would be welcomed. Cllr Bates will put this to his contact.

**ACTION: CLLR BATES**

**7. Finance**

19.71 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Thomas Williams Trust	50% of raffle takings from Bere Fest	1906	145.00
FoBRS	50% of raffle takings from Bere Fest	1908	145.00
BR Explorer Scouts Group	Donation for assisting at Bere Fest	1909	50.00
DC Pension Fund	July contribution	BACS021	241.34
HMRC	PAYE & NIC – July 2019	BACS022	81.12
Came & Co	Additional premium re play equipment	BACS023	79.00
Mrs A Crocker	July wages + expenses	BACS024	1077.35
Glasdon	Phoenix bench	BACS025	525.02
A King	Lengthsman – July 2019	BACS026	2844.49

Total to be paid from the Precept is **£5,188.32**

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

A Pattison	NeighbourCar April 2019	NC005	53.55
B Baldwin	NeighbourCar June 2019	NC006	59.40
A Meaton	NeighbourCar Nov'18-June'19	NC007	159.66
B Duke	NeighbourCar April & June 2019	NC008	31.95
P Morgan	April & June Lunch Club	SPLC005	179.29
I Ventham	June Lunch Club	SPLC006	52.67
D Fairhurst	NeighbourCar June 2019	NC009	22.95

Total to be paid from the schemes' funds **£559.47**

Cllr Wharf proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION: CLERK**

19.72 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.

**8. Planning & Housing**

19.73 To consider planning applications

6/2019/0377&0378      90 West Street – conversion of existing outbuilding to create residential annexe.  
Modify existing access

The PWP recommended no objection.

19.74 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2019/127      Land to the rear of 62 Butt Lane – T1 Ash – fell

Cllrs Bates and Fairhurst looked at this tree and felt it is a mature tree, probably up to 100 years old. Despite its age and despite the statement in the information provided with the application that it is of declining vitality, this is part of the character of such a mature tree. The tree has no sign of ash die back and, as such, is a very good example of a healthy, surviving ash tree. This tree adds a distinctive landscape

character to the historic area of Barrow Hill within the Bere Regis conservation area on the ancient hedge boundary of the field. The Parish Council strongly objects to this application.

Correspondence had subsequently been received from the Dorset Council Tree Office stating that this tree has now been issued with a TPO and no work could be carried out on it.

TWA/2019/129                      The Old Vicarage & 90 West Street – T1 Silver Birch; fell, T2 Ash; fell, T3 Horse Chestnut; fell, G1 mixed fruit trees; fell

Cllr Wharf declared an interest in this and took no part in discussions.

PWP recommended no objections to the application. This was seconded by Cllr Bates and agreed unanimously.

## **9. Environment, Facilities & Rights of Way**

### 19.75 Open Spaces update

Cllr Pitcher had nothing to report.

Cllr Bates reported that a Bio Blitz was held at the weekend. Very few people turned up, but the experts managed to undertake a very extensive survey of the nature reserve area of Souls Moor and a full report will be available on the Parish Council web site.

### 19.76 Rights of Way

Fromes Lane –

Dark Lane – evidence forms received now stand at 22. The Clerk will proceed with the forms to County

### 19.77 Defects

- the slip road west, there is one particularly large hole. Unfortunately, it is on Highways England land. They have said they will resurface the whole slipway in the Autumn. The danger of the pothole will be included in the notes. A letter will be sent to Highways England in Exeter (c.c. our MP) and the Lengthsman will be asked to put a yellow mark on the road.
- the horses' field, Souls Moor – the long grass will be cut the Lengthsman in due course.

## **10. Police, Traffic and Roads**

### 19.78 To consider Traffic Regulation Orders and Speed Indicator Devices for the parish

Cllrs Ventham and Wharf, together with the Clerk, met with Stephan Mephram and Ian Styring of Dorset Highways and discussed a number of points that had been raised around the parish.

1. Grass cutting throughout the village – At present there are three separate authorities who cut various areas of grass throughout the village. It would make sense for the Parish Council to take on the grass cutting so that it can be cut when needed and to a regular standard. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Katie Black of Dorset Highways to see if this can be taken forward.

**ACTION: CLERK**

2. Rye Hill Speed limits – There have been no reported collisions at the top of Rye Hill, therefore, there is little chance of a change in the speed limit in this area. However, other actions may be possible that would assist in slowing traffic. White lines will be placed either side of the entrance to Crawford House and the verges will be kept cut. In addition, signs saying 'concealed entrance' will be produce and put in place.

3. Moveable SID – The Clerk will contact Morden, Morton and Briantspuddle to see if they would like to be involved in the purchase of a SID. In the meantime, Highways will be contacted requesting a list of the rules and regulations for the location of the SID and costings.

**ACTION: CLERK**

4. Roundels on West Street and Southbrook – The regulations state that roundels cannot be used in an area lit by streetlights. Smaller, lamppost mounted 30mph signs could be used in both areas.

5. Direction Signs – Highways will no longer be cleaning and clearing any such signs. Cllr Pitcher offered to take on this task.

**ACTION: CLLR PITCHER**

6. North Street – A draft consultation paper regarding the suggested relocation of the gate had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was agreed that the paper will be issued to all residents of North Street, together with the businesses in Townsend Park.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr Benjafield asked if the newly resurfaced section in Elder Road was going to be white lined. The Clerk will check with Highways.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### **13. Community Liaison**

19.79 Minibus going well. Four new groups have expressed an interest and the bus is out once a fortnight. All future trips are now fully booked.

### **14. Children & Youth**

19.80 To consider the upgrade/refurbishment of the Elder Road Youth Shelter

This will be moved forward to the August meeting.

### **15. Correspondence received since the agenda was set**

19.81 Allotments – An unknown source has suggested that the Drax Estate are asking £35,000 for the area. The Clerk, together with Cllrs Ventham and Munnings met on site and discussed a possible way forward. Would it be a desirable thing for the community to own the allotments? And if so, what should we offer.

The allotments came into being when the Drax Estate owned a sizeable amount of the village. There seems very little point in an external landlord now owning the allotments. It was felt that, if we could, we should try to take ownership of the allotments. They are not registered, so a new landlord could slowly take back ownership and turn the site into paddocks or animal grazing. The site is registered as an Historical Monument so could never be built on.

Members are asked if they would be happy for Cllr Munnings to commence negotiation with the Drax Estate with a view to buying the site. If the Drax Estate is not interested, then perhaps discussions could be held with the new owners.

It is understood that Savills are instructed to offer the Estate as a whole until the end of July and that there is interest. They will continue to offer the Estate as a whole until the end of August. After that, they will then look at selling the lots as defined and not as individual fields. It may be that a new purchaser would be willing to sell a small area like the allotments.

Cllr Bates felt it would give the right message to the residents if the Parish Council were to purchase it if possible.

In general, all members were in favour of trying to buy the allotments and for Cllr Munnings to begin informal negotiations with the Drax Estate. This will then be fully debated in open council before anything formal is undertaken.

**ACTION: CLLR MUNNINGS**

### **16. Public Relations**

- 19.82
- We are pleased to see the Facebook post by Janette Woodhouse that the Post Office is to be retained and moved to the Royal Oak.
  - Follow up to NP – letters sent to each of the developers
  - Bere Fest follow up and donation to Autumn Leaves

- Thanks to the Drax Hall committee in ensuring that the proceeds will be committed to the new hall in due course
- Mini bus is a great success
- Working party for the play park
- Calendars
- Highways meeting
- Bio Blitz

Cllr Fairhurst suggested that it is also noted that a full set of minutes is available on the Parish Council web site.

**17 Items for the August meeting**

19.83 Members are reminded to pass any items to the Clerk for inclusion in the August agenda by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:26 pm.