



MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 9th JULY 2020 COMMENCING 8PM
This meeting was carried out by video conferencing

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

Chair: Cllr B Benjafield

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: Amy Yeats

The Chairman reminded all present that the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of the minutes. Once the minutes are confirmed the recording will be destroyed.

Public Participation

There being no members of the public present, the Chair proceeded to the main body of the meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence

20.064 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ian Ventham (holiday), Cathryn Packham (family) and Simon Munnings (work).

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2020

20.065 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was noted that item 20.043 should read ‘An update on Rowland Wait and Black Hill’ and Cllr Benjafield’s name to be correctly spelt. With these amendments, Cllr Pitcher proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

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

20.066 Cllr Bates is arranging a meeting with Amy Yeats and Amy Gallagher in order to produce an information board for the Black Hill site.

Rowlands Wait – A response had been received from Mike Garrity and had been forwarded to all members for information, as well as to Mr Gee.

Fly papers – The Clerk had purchased the fly papers, and these had been passed to Cllr House for distribution. She had passed them on to Cllr Morgan who is more aware of the residents who have been experiencing the worse of the problems.

Football Club – The letter of support had been sent.

4. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received

20.067 No interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

5. To receive the Dorset Councillor’s reports

20.068 Cllr Wharf reported that County had been trying to arrange a practice for hybrid meetings, but the latest guidance states no meetings should be held face to face unless absolutely necessary. It is intended to try to hold a hybrid meeting in late August in order to try to ease everyone back in.

There is still an issue with vulnerable people who have stayed in isolation now for four months and now do not feel able to go outside. Dorset Council is looking to see what can be done about this and is working with local communities to resolve the problem.

Cllr Pitcher asked if our thanks could be passed on to Cllr Miller for all the work she has been doing at Lulworth Cove regarding the influx of holiday makers. Cllr Wharf agreed to pass on our thanks and good wishes to her.

6. Key Topics

20.069 Implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllrs Ventham and Munnings, together with the Clerk had met with Chris Jowett of Savills and discussed the possibility of some of the proposed SANG land being brought forward for use as a bike area to replace that lost on Black Hill. Mr Jowett was optimistic that this would be possible and agreed to speak to the Trustees and come back to us as soon as possible.

20.070 To consider the possibility of Pop-up Food Markets on Souls Moor

The Clerk met with Caroline Richards from Dorset Council on Souls Moor to see if the site would be suitable as a venue. Caroline reported that they had been overwhelmed with offers of sites and were looking to get the initiative underway in August. They are currently working on the logistics of such events. It is anticipated that the markets would be held on a Sunday between 10am and 1pm and members of the parish would be welcome to take part in the events. Some residents had expressed concern regarding parking however, it is envisaged that these would be small scale affairs, appealing primarily to the village and people would not travel from outside the parish to go. With this in mind, parking should not be an issue.

20.071 To review and agree the proposed amendments to the DAPTC constitution

A copy of the proposed amendments had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Mathers reported that she had reviewed the proposed changes and it is largely a clarification of existing points and tidying up wording and spelling. She proposed that the amendments are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bates and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will inform DAPTC of the outcome.

ACTION: CLERK

20.072 To consider the one-off grant of £200 each to the village hall, scout hut and school to assist with the PPE requirements necessary to enable safe reopening for the benefit of parish residents

This motion had been put before the Council by Cllr Ventham who was unable to attend. It was noted that the village hall had subsequently received funding and had been able to take advantage of the Dorset Council small business rates fund. Cllr Wharf felt that all the organisations within the parish should be reviewed as a whole and discussion held as to how we might help them all. The Scout Hut will not be opening until September at the earliest and may not open even then.

Cllr Benjafield proposed that that funds are set aside for groups to apply for to cover the cost of PPE and more due diligence would be undertaken to determine how much they should be given in respect of their requests. This was seconded by Cllr House and agreed unanimously.

7. Finance

20.073 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

DAPTC	Annual subscription	541.62
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Humphries Kirk	Professional fees re land transfer	300.00
Dorset Council	Traffic monitoring survey May 2020	300.00
N Fairhurst	Annual website maintenance & hosting	115.00
DC Pension Fund	July 2020 pension contribution	242.00
A King	Lengthsman duties- June 2020	2288.13
A Crocker	July wages + expenses	854.93
HMRC	July PAYE & NIC	197.38
DAPTC	Agenda & minutes training	12.00

Total to be paid from the Precept is **£4,851.06**

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

B House	NeighbourCar & Lunch Club Dec'19 to May'20	582.80
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Cllr Fairhurst proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

20.074 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

The reports had been issued to members prior to the start of the meeting. The new accounts software is now installed and working well. Members felt that the new reports were useful and easy to follow and provided more detailed information.

20.075 To consider obtaining a bank card

In the past it has been necessary for both the Clerk and councillors to purchase equipment or goods and then submit an expense form to claim the money back. This is not a particularly appropriate way to move forward. Were the Parish Council to have its own bank card, it would not be necessary for anyone to be out of pocket at any time. The card would have a spend limit and all receipts would have to be kept and recorded as normal. Cllr Fairhurst proposed that the Clerk look into this. This was seconded by Cllr Mathers and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

8. Planning & Housing

20.076 To consider planning applications

6/2020/0214 145 Rye Hill – create a dropped kerb to form a new access

Due to the time constraints, this application had been considered by the PWP by email. No objections had been raised.

6/2020/0254 Purbeck Shooting School – 5 years' temporary consent for retention of chalet as clubhouse and positioning of 7 storage containers, one of which acting as WC facilities

Our local councillor expressed concerns that there had been a succession of temporary planning consents, which in planning terms is not appropriate. However, if the shooting school was to close over the next few years, it is suspected that the Parish Council would prefer the shooting school to have a temporary consent so that the structure would need to be removed, rather than a permanent consent where the structure would stay there for evermore, with a subsequent planning application likely to come forward for a change of use (probably to a house). After some deliberation, the PWP recommend an extension of the temporary consent, provided it was subject to a planning condition requiring the structure to be removed if no longer required for the shooting school.

6/2020/0295 The Hunting Lodge, Culeaze Farm – removal of condition 2 of planning permission 6/2003/0045 (change of use of stable block to holiday accommodation) to allow use as a permanent dwelling or as holiday accommodation

The PWP reported that the planning statement has been reasonably well set out by the Planning Consultant. It is interesting to see that he makes reference to the Neighbourhood Plan, which is actually silent on such proposals for change of use, although it did originally support tourism. The planning appeal referred to in the statement was actually in the West Dorset area, where the planning inspector concluded that there was no difference between a holiday use or a full residential use in such a remote area, where the occupants would need to rely on motor vehicles. The PWP felt that a planning inspector would probably arrive at the same conclusion with this site. Consequently, the PWP recommended no objection.

ACTION: CLERK

20.077 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2020/048 13 Sitterton Close – T1 Ash; fell to ground level

Cllr Bates reported that this was a young double trunked tree with the trunks 15-20cms in diameter, growing out of what appears to be a bank of builders’ rubble. The tree is clearly self-sown from one of the several fine healthy Ash trees behind the garden. The PWP recommended no objections to the application.

TWA/2020/049 13 North Street – T1 Ash fell; T2 & T3 Birch reduce height

Cllr Bates reported that the T1 Ash tree has 50% decay in the trunk. The work requested on the Silver Birch is only light. The PWP recommended no objections to the work requested on all three trees.

Cllr Morgan seconded the recommendations of the PWP and this was unanimously agreed.

9. Parish Facilities & Rights of Way

20.078 Update on the Play Park works

Cllr Pitcher reported that the metal sockets have all been made by Eddie Butterfield and are in the process of being painted. They will then be passed to the Lengthsman who will prioritise work in the play park, beginning with the basket swing. The chippings should arrive by the week of the 20th July at the latest and the play park should still be open by the end of the month.

20.079 To review the opening of the play park in the light of the Covid19 requirements

Cllr Mathers, together with Amy Yeats have been working on the Covid19 risk assessment for the play park. At a basic level, there needs to be some signage but, other than that, there is little we can do with regard to the regular cleansing of the equipment and controlling the number of people using the play area. The question of whether or not the Parish Council should provide hand sanitiser was discussed but it was felt that this would not be reasonable, and users should be asked to take their own. Cllr Pitcher will arrange for the speaking tubes to be closed down for the time being. Another rubbish bin will be located near the toddlers play area and additional seating will be provided in order to prevent everyone congregating around the one bench that is already on site. The new bench will be in the form of a single beam so it can be used as a balance bar as well. The Lengthsman already carries out weekly checks of the play park and these will continue. The Clerk’s telephone number will be included on any new signage and Cllr Pitcher will look into the possibility of having a bespoke banner made up.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

Cllr Mathers proposed that the Covid19 risk assessment is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously.

It was noted that Cllr Pitcher's play inspection certificate had expired, and it was possible that the Lengthsman's had also run out. The Clerk will check to see the cost of renewal.

ACTION: CLERK

20.080 General update on Parish Facilities

Cllr Benjafield drew members' attention to the yellow line on Manor Farm Road, opposite the Doctor's Surgery. It is now very faded and, although it is not strictly enforceable, it did act as a deterrent to people parking here. The Clerk will ask Highways to refresh the yellow line.

ACTION: CLERK

20.081 Defects – Bench opposite the allotments is broken

10. Environment and Conservation

20.082 To consider planting wildflower verges around the village

Amy Yeats had suggested setting up wildflower verges in the parish for the benefit of the local ecology and pollinators. This would not involve seeding the verges, rather altering and reducing the cutting times to allow local wildflowers to grow, flower and set seed. Some yellow rattle could be introduced to help suppress rough grasses which can dominate. Possible sites could include the area opposite Rye Hill Close and the west end of the village on the way to the underpass by the Bere Regis stone.

Cllr Bates endorsed Amy's suggestion and confirmed that any sites would need to be managed. He suggested looking at the areas around the village and deciding which verges could be used. He and Amy will look identify possible locations with the assistance of Mike Gee. A list will be produced and passed to the Clerk in the first instance who will then contact Highways.

ACTION: CLLR BATES/AMY YEATS

Cllr Bates noted that the May's Wood area was looking superb this year. He asked if it would be possible to highlight it in the Parish Magazine and on Facebook. Cllr Benjafield pointed out that it is regularly praised on Facebook and the local photographers are often posting photographs. He suggested Cllr Bates write a report for the Open Spaces section of the Parish Council's report for the Parish Magazine.

ACTION: CLLR BATES

12. Police, Traffic and Roads

20.083 Nothing to report.

13. Community Liaison

20.084 To consider the nominees for the Certificates of Appreciation

The Clerk reported that there have been 25 nominations to date. Members felt that the nominees should not be listed until after they have all been notified. The list will be forwarded to members for review and confirmation and the request for nominations will be put in the Parish Magazine again for August.

20.085 To consider introducing the role of a Community Volunteer Co-ordinator

Through the whole of the lockdown period, there have been a lot of people doing a lot of work throughout the parish, but they have tended to work largely in isolation. The role of the co-ordinator will be to keep in touch with all the groups and report back to the Parish Council letting us know what the various groups are doing, what they need and what the Parish Council can do for them. Cllr House very kindly volunteered to take on this role. Cllr

Fairhurst proposed that Cllr House is accepted as the new Community Volunteer Co-ordinator. This was seconded by Cllr Bates and agreed unanimously

21:00 Cllr Wharf left the meeting.

20.086 Summer in Dorset – what can we do to help

Information regarding this initiative had been sent to members prior to the start of the meeting. It was generally felt that, as this is based around children, there is little the Parish Council can do. The Sports Club had originally hoped to hold events for children on the sports field but, due to the guidelines around Covid19, they are no longer able to do anything. No further guidelines have been issued at this stage.

14. Children & Youth

20.087 Nothing to report.

15. Correspondence received since the agenda was set

20.088 The Clerk drew members' attention to the consultation on the new model Code of Conduct and asked that everyone looks at it and responds. The deadline for responses is the 14th August. The consultation will be re-issued to members.

ACTION: CLERK

16. Public Relations

- 20.089
- Food and drink market
 - Play park update
 - Cllr Bates to write a short piece on May's Wood
 - Wild verge planting
 - Nominations for Certificates
 - Volunteer Co-ordinator

17. Items for the August meeting

20.090 Members agreed that there would be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September and will be held virtually.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:21pm.