



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

**Present:** Cllrs C Packham, L Fairhurst, R Pitcher, T Bates, B House, P Morgan, S Munnings, B Benjafield

**Chair:** Cllr I Ventham

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 3 members of the public

**Public Participation**

18.263 Peter Fysh informed members that the owner of the Bere Regis MOT & Service Centre retired last weekend. He has sold the business on to someone new but, during his time there, he has done a great deal for the village. Mr Fysh asked if the Parish Council would send a letter or card to say good luck in his retirement. Regarding the potential loss of the Post Office, Mr Fysh asked if the Parish Council has any position it can take with the lease holder or owner to try to prevent the loss of a very valuable village resource. This is an agenda item.

Mrs Janette Woodhouse, who is the Postmaster and rents the post office building from the leaseholder, stated that, as the business is no longer economically viable in the present premises, she had written to ask the Post Office to move the post office to her premises in the Royal Oak. The Post Office has asked for £10,000 to do so, so she has written to terminate her agreement with them and served notice on the leaseholder. She believes the business will close by the end of June unless either the leaseholder agrees to reduce the rent, or the Post Office backs down on fee demanded for moving the post office.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

18.264 Apologies have been received from Cllr Peter Wharf.

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

18.265 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 from those minutes, not covered by this agenda**

18.266 Transfer of assets – still no further forward and awaiting PDC's confirmation that they are going to advertise the land transfers in Purbeck. This is due to take place by the end of March.

Repairs to Jubilee Bridge – reported and awaiting response from Rights of Way.

Townsend Park – the Clerk and Chairman met with residents who raised the possibility of moving the North Street gate to the end of the residential properties and adding a gate to the road in front of Dorset Recycling. This will be discussed with Highways.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**4. To receive declarations of interest and confirm any dispensations received**

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

**5. To consider the co-option of a Parish Councillor**

18.268 At present there is one vacancy on the Parish Council. As we are so close to an election, we are not obliged to advertise the post. We have one more meeting before the election and members are encouraged to speak to other residents, inviting them to consider coming on to the parish council.

The role of a councillor and the vacancy will be advertised on Facebook and notices will be put up around the village. We will have the opportunity to co-opt after the election if necessary. Cllr Ventham will draft a specification which will be sent out to all councillors for consideration. This can then be used to give to prospective candidates.

**ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM**

**6. To receive the County and District Councillor's Reports**

18.269 Cllr Wharf was unable to attend the meeting and no report was available.

**7. Key Topics**

18.270 Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Plan has been passed by the Examiner and will go before the Full Council at PDC next week. Cllr Ventham will attend the meeting to speak. Following this, the next step will be the referendum in May.

18.271 Annual Village Meeting arrangements

This will take place at Bere Regis School on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April and run from 10.00am to 2pm. Banners advertising the event will be organised by Cllr Benjafield. We need to avoid residents thinking that this is another consultation. The meeting will take the form of the original Village Forum with the Parish Council letting the village know what it has been doing over the last year and consist largely of an open forum session.

Topics to be included:

- Neighbourhood Plan – the opportunities that it has created.
- Minibus launch.
- Wildlife Group – ancient tree survey and work carried out along the stream.
- Open Forum

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the event.

Amended maps from the Neighbourhood Plan to be requested from Julien Lightfoot for Cllr Benjafield to reproduce. Copies of the Neighbourhood Plan will also be available on the day.

**ACTION: CLLR BENJAFIELD**

Cllr Ventham will invite PC Jonathan Stuart from the Purbeck Neighbourhood Police Team.

**ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM**

18.272 Referendum arrangements

Cllr Benjafield will work on something creative – banners, etc. Entries will be included in the parish magazine. The Clerk will check the legality of putting something outside the polling station encouraging residents to vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**ACTION: CLERK**

18.273 Mid-Summer Bere Fest – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

The Stour Valley Marching Band will be playing from 2-4pm, there will be musical interludes from 4-6pm and Nina Garcia from 6-8pm. Many local groups will also be there running events, selling cakes, etc.

The Parish Council will be organising a BBQ and could also run the raffle or silent auction. Cllr Benjafield will organise the raffle.

Advertising will start straight away.

18.274 To consider the future of the Post Office

The Parish Council warmly thanked Janette Woodhouse for taking on the post office and persevering with it for four years. The council believes the post office is an asset vital to the community and, therefore, agreed to the following actions:

1. To lobby the Post Office for more help
2. To ask if our County Councillor and our MP would be willing to support Janette in the local press.
3. If Janette would forward his contact details, the Parish Council would write to the leaseholder to seek his help.
4. If this fails, the Parish Council would consider triggering the Community Asset process and would look at how the community might be able to provide a post office service.

Janette is to provide contact details of the Post Office and the leaseholder to the Clerk.

**ACTION: CLERK**

## **8. Finance**

### 18.275 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

DC Pension Fund	March pension contribution	BACS131	237.44
A Crocker	March wages + expenses	BACS132	770.15
HMRC	PAYE & NIC March	BACS133	89.04
A King	Lengthsman – February 2019	BACS134	1571.33
Wessex Water	Cemetery water tap	BACS136	88.50
Glasdon UK	Memorial bench re Tony Shave	BACS137	525.02

Total to be paid from the Precept **£3,281.48**

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

I Ventham	February Lunch Club	BACS130	133.33
M Benjafield	NC –Feb’19 – March ‘19	BACS135	29.25

Total to be paid from the schemes’ funds **£ 162.58**

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

### 18.276 To confirm reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

**ACTION: CLERK**

A copy of the reports had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No questions were raised, and no comments made.

## **9. Planning & Housing**

### 18.277 To consider planning applications

There were no planning applications for discussion.

### 18.278 To consider tree work applications

There were no tree work applications for discussion.

## **10. Environment & Facilities**

### 18.279 Open Spaces update

A Tree Surgeon has attended the Stanbarrow site to deal with the trees that had blown towards the power cables on the night of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst working on site, they discovered other trees in the area that need work, particularly a group of Ash that are very close to the overhead high voltage cables. The Clerk has contacted SSE and they will be sending a surveyor out to check the trees as soon as possible. In addition, on the Lockyer land, there are four or five trees that will need to have work undertaken before they fall and damage the boardwalk. Cllr Ventham will contact Andrew Robinson of Symonds & Sampson and get contact details for the owners.

**ACTION: CLLR VENTHAM**

Cllr Pitcher proposed that a comprehensive survey is carried out on all the trees on our land.

The aspens at the bottom of the gardens at Sitterton Close have been surveyed by Aster and are due to be taken down.

Play park – some bark is needed to top up the site.

Cllr Bates reported there was a work party in February, and they have cleared some of the areas where the marigolds grow. It should be noted that the area requires a permanent cycle of work to be undertaken.

#### 18.280 Rights of Way

Dark Lane – more application forms are needed.

#### 18.281 Defects

- Chapel cross finger post needs repairing
- Slip road repairs – this is the responsibility of Highways England and can be reported via their interactive website
- Remains of a shed appears to have been dumped on the bank on the school access drive
- Notice board at Hyde needs to be repaired

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

18.282 Nothing to report.

### **12. Community Liaison**

#### 18.283 Mini bus

The first trip was due to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March but, due to lack of support, was cancelled. Cllr House is going to organise a multi-drop in Blandford to see if this attracts more interest.

It was suggested that something is put in the parish magazine asking people where they would like to go.

Village groups will be invited to the Village Forum and the launch of the minibus.

Goodwin Graphics – The Clerk has been in contact with the company who are in the process of producing some graphics for consideration. They have also said that, should they be allowed to include reference to their company on the minibus, they would be happy to undertake the work free of charge. A mock-up of the suggested graphics was shown to members and it was agreed that the wording on the sides and rear should read ‘Signage by’ and not ‘sponsored by’. The Clerk will speak to the company about this but, in the meantime, the offer to do this work for free is greatly appreciated.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### **12. Children & Youth**

18.284 Nothing to report.

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

18.285 Nothing to add.

### **14. Public Relations**

- 18.286
- Post Office Cllr Ventham will draft a short report
  - Neighbourhood Plan and the Referendum
  - Parish Councillor vacancy
  - Village Forum
  - Mid-summer Bere Fest
  - Right of Way; Dark Lane

- Minibus
- Open Spaces – Cllr Bates to produce some wording
- Lengthsman and dealing with trees

**15. Items for the April meeting**

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:00 pm.