



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY
12th MARCH 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, C Packham
B Benjafield

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 13 members of the public, and Amy Yeats

Public Participation

19.238 Residents of White Lovington – Jim Parsons reported the depth of feeling of residents to the White Lovington planning application and the impact it will have on the village. In January last year, the minutes of the meeting stated that it is possible a nursing home might be built in the buffer zone, but this has not been discussed since. Chair – when the owner of the site came to speak to the Parish Council about 3 years ago, he asked what we would think if they brought forward a nursing home to be located in the 400m buffer zone. The reason for this is that the site is within the 400m heathland buffer zone and a nursing home is one of the few options that could be built on the site. At the time, we said we would be against the idea and, as it has not been raised since, it has never been discussed. However, should this ever be brought up again, it would be very difficult to object to it on planning grounds.

In the minutes of the February meeting there is a reference to the Barrow Hill application. There was a split vote suggested to be over the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wharf explained this was related to other planning matters. Chair – attended the meeting and reported that some of the Planning Committee members were moved by our presentation and voted in our favour. Cllr Wharf – which members voted for or against is not recorded, and he attempted to find out what their motive was for voting in the way they did. At the meeting they heard some powerful presentations from the officers who were in favour of the application. The Planning Committee, in the majority, voted in favour of the Parish Council and rejected the application. A letter had, subsequently, been sent to the Head of Planning and he supported his officers in the first instance but later confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan does carry weight, is sound and must be taken into consideration when considering applications.

Sue Aldous – the Parish Council was advised in December 2018 regarding the certificate of lawfulness relating to Rowlands Wait. What contact has been made with Royale Life and what their position is as far as the Parish Council is aware? What would be the planning position if it goes for permanent dwellings? If a planning permission were to be submitted the Parish Council would be able to comment. In the scale of movement of traffic, the 70 dwellings would make very little difference to the volume on Rye Hill. Should the Parish Council not be thinking about the effect the addition of 70 homes will have on the development in the rest of the village. As a Parish Council, we have no power to change the law relating to the caravan site. The Park Homes situation would not have come into any of the figures we were looking at with Purbeck District Council. If something changes in relation to the site, we will then be able to consider it.

Minutes regarding the description of the White Lovington proposal in respect of the ‘planners’ comments regarding PLP being out of date – this should have read ‘developer’ and not ‘planners.’ The minutes will be amended accordingly.

Tower Hill – 74 West Street – how is the Parish Council likely to look at this as residents either side of the proposal are concerned.

Meadow View Barn – size, scale – loss of light and overbearing impact – they only have one source of light into the western elevation and they will lose a lot of light should the proposal go ahead. Difficult to see how this proposal has been reduced since the original one. Parking is of concern – the advice was that sufficient off-road spaces be provided but this has clearly not been done. The style does not fit into the surrounding properties and there is not provision for a rubbish and recycling area.

Parking at Butt Lane and Tower Hill. Difficult to get in and out already.

Richard Smith was invited to speak on behalf of residents of Bere Heath who remain without Broadband. He briefly explained the nature of the plan being put forward. The main point is that the 6 properties are trying to contract with Openreach in order to have fibre broadband available to the properties. Effectively, this leaves them with the full cost of the work. There is Government support of a fixed amount per property, but this would still leave a shortfall of just under £2,000 for the installation. As Openreach will only contract with a legal entity, a Community Interest Company is being set up. All 6 properties are prepared to bear the cost. Cllr Wharf reported that they are talking to the MP about BT Openreach to complain but this does not help the Bere Heath situation. They have repeatedly failed to meet their promises.

1. To receive apologies for absence

19.239 Apologies had been received from Cllr Catherine Packham.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2020

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

‘The developers implied that PLP is out of date’ – the minutes are amended accordingly.

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

19.241 The Church yard has been part of the Living Church Yard Trust for several years.

It was noted that the tree application discussed last month has been refused.

The tree work alongside the Bere Stream has been carried out.

The cats’ eyes on the western approach slipway have been replaced.

4. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received

19.242 Cllr House declared an interest in the Broadband item. No other interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

5. To receive the Dorset Councillor’s reports

19.243 Cllr Wharf reported that the 5 councils will form a local plan by 2023, with the exception of the Purbeck Local Plan, the plans drawn up by the districts are going to be left as they are and the plans in the process of being undertaken are being stopped. The Purbeck plan is with the inspector and a judgement is expected, hopefully by April. However, the judgement could go one of three ways – accept, object or accept with modifications. Purbeck is the only plan that is being taken on board by the Dorset Council.

Currently collecting information regarding the poor service being provided by BT and applying for additional funding.

6. Key Topics

19.244 Neighbourhood Plan – implementation update

There has still been no response from Charborough Park. Trees have been cleared on the land between West Street and the Back Lane site so it is possible that something could happen in the near future.

19.246 Annual Parish Meeting arrangements

Ann Brummer will speak. Still no confirmation from Michael Tomlinson MP.

Local organisations will also be formally invited.

Cllr Morgan will bring the minibus along.

19.247 To consider a response to the Wool Neighbourhood Plan pre-production consultation

No-one had any comments regarding their proposals.

19.248 To discuss our response to the Coronavirus & the possible introduction of a Community Self Help Scheme

Cllr Ventham reported that the problems affecting Italy today may well be affecting us in a few weeks' time. The problem may well be that there will be people who, whilst not being ill, will self isolate. There could then be an issue about people getting prescriptions, food from the shop, etc. Cllr Ventham proposed a meeting to take place on the 13th to set up a very simple scheme with a single telephone number for people to call if they need help.

A leaflet drop may be needed to let every resident know about the initiative.

Once this is up and running, it would nice to keep it going post-coronavirus.

7. Finance

19.249 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Gascoyne Estates	Christmas Trees	BACS083	427.20
DC Pension	March Pension contribution	BACS084	242.00
A Crocker	March wages + expenses	BACS085	807.06
HMRC	March PAYE & NIC	BACS086	82.14
A King	Lengthsman – February 2020	BACS087	2407.12
Glasdon	Plastic bins x 2	BACS088	258.17
AG Tree Services	Tree work along Elder Road	BACS098	1116.00

Total to be paid from the Precept is **£5,340.69**

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

I Ventham	February Lunch Club	SPLC023	42.71
P Morgan	February Lunch Club	SPLC024	130.93

Total to be paid from schemes' balances **£173.64**

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

19.250 To confirm reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

ACTION: CLERK

A copy of the reports had been given to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

19.251 To consider the adopting the Edge Accounting System for the Parish Council accounts

The Clerk submitted a paper setting out the justification for transferring from the current spreadsheet-based accounts to a recognised accounts package. Edge IT is a system recognised and used by Town and Parish Councils and is set up specifically for them. It is a Cloud based system so it would be possible for different members to have access to review their respective budget areas.

The set-up cost is £90 with an additional cost of £280 for training. Thereafter, a 3-year contract will cost £304p.a. or a 5-year contract will cost £274p.a.

Cllr Fairhurst proposed the Parish Council takes the 5-year contract option at a cost of £90, plus the training cost of £280 and the subsequent annual fee of £274. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

19.252 To consider a grant to the Bere Heath Broadband Community Interest Company to facilitate the installation of broadband to the remaining 6 properties in the parish

The situation is the greater the rurality, the greater exponentially the cost. The Parish Council are being asked to give £900 towards the cost of ensuring the last 6 properties in the parish have access to broadband and this is a project that will last indefinitely. Cllr Ventham proposed that we give the money as a contribution towards the infrastructure for all residents in the Bere Heath area. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed unanimously. A grant application form will be sent to the group.

ACTION: CLERK

8. Planning & Housing

19.253 To consider planning applications

6/2020/0057 4 Turberville Road
Insert roof window into a loft room

The response to this application was due by the 9th March. Members of the PWP, therefore, considered it by email and raised no objections. However, it is noted that a covenant may exist on the buildings facing towards West Street preventing roof lights. This is a civil matter and not something the Parish Council need consider when making its response.

6/2020/0103 73 West Street
Demolish workshop. Sever plot and erect dwelling

The PWP felt that the proposal is too big for the site, despite it being reduced. It is a three-bedroom house with parking for only one car. The entrance opens up on to the corner of Tower Hill and Butt Lane and this presents a hazard. The PWP recommends objecting to the application. Cllr Munnings seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: CLERK

19.254 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2020/026 Hyde Woods, Hyde
T1 Oak – reduce crown; T2 Pine – fell; T3 Ash – cut back broken section; T4 Pine – prune lower branches over garage to give a clearance of 1m between garage roof and lowest branches

TWA/2020/027 8 White Lovington
T1 Black Walnut - fell

Cllr Bates recommended no objection to either application. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

9. Parish Amenities & Rights of Way

19.255 Update on Play Park works

Cllr Pitcher will liaise with the Lengthsman to arrive at an appropriate date for when the work can be undertaken.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

19.256 To receive a general update on parish amenities

The trees along Elder Road have been sorted out.

19.257 Rights of Way

Footpath to Shitterton – Cllr Ventham will put this to Ann Brummer again, but it is likely that they would only be willing to put in 50% of the cost. The path would run from the Jubilee Bridge to the first cut through at Shitterton. Members still felt the path needs to be improved.

19.258 Defects

- the footpath between the Souls Moor boardwalk to the end of the Jubilee Bridge is flooded. The whole path from the Scout Hut to Shitterton needs attention. This will be reviewed in the spring but in the meantime, some prices could be organised. The Clerk will speak to Gary Solus.

- rubbish on Rye Hill towards Monkey World - the rubbish clearing teams are out.

10. Environment and Conservation

19.259 To review and accept the Risk Assessment for work on the Nature Reserve

A copy of the draft assessment had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Bates proposed the Risk Assessment is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously.

19.260 To receive a general update on environment & conservation

The winter work parties have now almost been completed. The Group will be advertising at the Parish Forum in the hope that some more volunteers might be encouraged.

Some fencing will be necessary around the edge of the pond to stop the ponies eating the vegetation.

11. Police, Traffic and Roads

19.261 Nothing to report.

12. Community Liaison

19.262 To review the programme for VE Day on 8th May

The Scouts now have a good programme arranged. Cllr Benjafield will liaise with the Group to arrange posters, banners, etc. The beacon will also be lit.

19.263 Digital Champions

Very keen on exploring a connection with Bere Regis. This is to provide a facility for people who aren't familiar with the internet, etc. a training forum, etc. Is the Parish Council willing for Cllr Mathers to explore this further and possibly put some funding forward? Cllr Fairhurst was in favour and suggested a pub could be used for the meetings. More and more people have to rely on computers and there are still many who do not have the ability to keep in touch with family, check their bank accounts, etc.

Digital Champions has a certain number of devices that could be used at sessions, but they would favour the person using their own devices and getting better at it.

Members were happy for the initiative to be pursued.

13. Children & Youth

19.263 Nothing to report.

14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set

19.264 Covid-19 virus resolution

The Clerk submitted the following resolution to councillors should the need arise:

'In response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. This will be carried out where possible by consultation with members by electronic means or telephone. The clerk will further consult with the chairman for guidance as necessary. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in

legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the council after the council meeting at which the delegation was put in place"

Cllr Ventham proposed that the resolution is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

15. Public Relations

- 19.265 Parish meeting
- VE Day programme
- Bere Heath broadband
- Digital Champions
- Community Self-help

16. Items for the March meeting

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.46

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th April, at the Drax Hall commencing 7pm.