



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY**

**14<sup>th</sup> MAY 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, S Munnings, C Packham  
B Benjafield, T Bates

**Chair:** Cllr I Ventham

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** Amy Yeats and 2 members of the public

The Chairman reminded all present that the meeting is being recorded.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

20.018 No apologies had been received.

**2. Election of Officers**

20.019 This item will be held over until the Parish Council is able to meet in person.

**3. To receive the Dorset Councillor's reports**

20.020 Cllr Wharf reported that the Council is playing a major part in implementing Central Government's plans regarding the Coronavirus. However, they have disagreed with the Government's initiative relating to public car parks and decided not to open their car parks. Dorset is currently the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest area in the country in terms of incidents of Covid19 and it was felt that hordes of people coming to Dorset would have a negative impact and open up a new spike. This decision may be overturned by the Police who are objecting on the grounds of traffic.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

20.021 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Two errors were noted – 20.002 should read 'seconded by Cllr House.'

20.005 -Dorset Councillor's report should read the 'removal of hedges'.

Cllr Pitcher proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst agreed unanimously.

The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

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

20.022 The Bere Connect scheme – Cllr Ventham has recently put an update out on the Facebook page. He reported that he has been asked if some money could be provided from the emergency fund to top up electricity keys for people. This will be made available and will be fully accounted for in the interests of transparency.

**6. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received**

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

## **7. Key Topics**

### 20.024 Rowlands Wait - update

A copy of Mike Gee's recent letter had been issued to all members. The Clerk summarised the actions taken by the Parish Council to date.

Pressure has been applied to put a blanket TPO on all the trees on the site. A response had been received saying that this will be considered as soon as an officer is available to attend the site.

With regard to the planning, a representation was made to the Planning Department along the lines of the letter from Mike Gee but, at this point the owners have done nothing they cannot do without planning permission. They will need to apply for planning as soon as someone is due to move on to the site to live but until that time, none of the work that is being undertaken requires planning permission.

Cllr Ventham suggested referring Mike Gee's letter to Mike Gerrity, Head of Planning. Cllr Wharf reported that this would be a suitable way forward. The response from Anna Lee and a letter from Cllr Wharf also went to Michael Tomlinson in order to start looking at getting the legislation changed. Mike Gerrity had also provided a letter setting out in detail what the issue is.

There are two issues – we are not happy with what is happening but there is very little we can do as the Planners are saying the owners are not breaking the law. It is frustrating that it has taken over a month to get a response with regard to the TPO situation. It is hoped that the restriction on Officers visiting sites will be lifted shortly.

Amy Yeats – with regard to the TPO, would the owners not need a felling licence if they wish to take down any trees. It is known that only one tree has been removed but it was not the subject of a TPO and is not on the Rowlands Wait site.

Cllr Pitcher – you would need a felling licence for a tree the size of the one that has been felled but it was taken down by the adjacent landowner.

## **8. Finance**

### 20.025 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

M Gee	Wire for fencing re Wildlife Group	BACS005	10.80
Dorset Fencing	Stakes for fencing re Wildlife Group	BACS006	85.68
Came & Co	Insurance renewal 01.06.20 to 31.05.21	BACS007	1049.12
HMRC	May PAYE & NIC	BACS008	197.38
DC Pension Fund	May 2020 pension contributions	BACS009	242.00
A Crocker	May 2020 wages + expenses	BACS010	724.63
A King	Lengthsman – April 2020	BACS011	2387.15
Edge IT	Setup & configuration, annual fee	BACS012	436.80
DAPTC	Zoom training	BACS013	10.00

Total to be paid from the Precept is **£5,143.56**

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

			£
Dorset Council	Minibus inspection scheme	MB001	362.00
D Fairhurst	NeighbourCar March & April 2020	NC001	36.00

Total to be paid from schemes' balances **£398.00**

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

**ACTION: CLERK**

**9. Planning & Housing**

**20.026 To consider planning applications**

6/2020/0160 12 Southbrook – erect 2 storey detached dwelling including formation of a new turning and parking area

PWP proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed unanimously.

6/2020/0172 Purbeck Shooting School – erect a temporary lodge for security accommodation

This appears to be a 2 bedroom lodge with the application giving no indication of how the foul sewage is going to be disposed of. The dwelling appears to be fairly major intensification of the site. Cllr Ventham asked if there was a security problem due to the lockdown but this is not thought to be the case. It is understood that this is intended for the long term and not just as a result of the lockdown.

The PWP recommended objecting to the application. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

6/2020/0196 Certificate of Lawfulness – Sunnyleigh, Bere Heath Road – Continued occupation of dwelling in breach of condition 4 (agricultural occupancy condition)

It is understood that this application is to provide security of tenure for the current occupant who has lived there for many years but has not been involved in the agricultural industry for some time. Does the issuing of the Certificate of Lawfulness affect something that could be done in the future? Cllr Munnings reminded members that, unless we have a very solid case for opposing a Certificate, we cannot object. In this case, we have no grounds for objecting to a Certificate of Lawfulness. No objection will be lodged.

**20.027 To consider tree work applications**

**ACTION: CLERK**

There were no tree work applications at this time.

**10. Parish Amenities & Rights of Way**

**20.028 Update on Parish Facilities**

Cllr Pitcher commented on the play park annual inspection report that had been issued to all members prior to the meeting. The main problem is that the direct contact with the soil has led to the rotting out of the timbers for the play equipment. He and the Lengthsman have come up with a way of sinking metal holdings into the ground and lifting the existing timber structures on to them. They will explore this and come back to the Council with costings. The play park is currently closed due to the lock down, but it is hoped the rubber chippings will be down before the park is reopened. The Lengthsman has sprayed the ground once and this will need doing again. They can then look at getting the rubber chips and look at getting the galvanised tubes in place before the chippings are put down. Cllr Pitcher will order the chippings first. He will contact Eddie Butterfield to see if he is able to make the galvanised tubes.

**ACTION: CLLR PITCHER**

The grass verges along Rye Hill around Green Close, White Lovington, etc are now very overgrown. This is the responsibility of the Council and they have not attended the village at all this year. Cllr Wharf suggested the Clerk contact Highways and he will follow it up. The slip road westbound will be included in the list although this is actually Highways England.

The bridle path running from Snow Hill to the industrial estate is very overgrown. This area is now no longer tenanted. The Clerk will contact the Drax Estate in the first instance.

Skate park – the sum of money raised towards the skatepark was in the old Community Skatepark Committee account. It has now been transferred to the Parish Council and is ringfenced in the Parish Council accounts for the purposes of a new skatepark. The Parish Council is now holding the sum of £2,753.34. This matter was raised on Facebook and Cllr Benjafield has responded to the comments saying there had been some fund raising but it is in no way a large enough sum to build a skatepark.

20.029 Defects – the Shitterton flood has disappeared.

Thanks are extended to Dorset Council for getting someone down to repair Jubilee Bridge as quickly as they did. The Clerk did send an email of thanks to them at the time.

## **11. Environment and Conservation**

20.030 Blackhill update – this all started a long time ago when we were approached by Natural England and the landowner. At the time, we said that we would assist in putting the word out, but any action would have to be undertaken with the landowner and NE taking the lead. Dorset Council have asked us to put a notice on Facebook asking people to protect the Black Hill SSSI and this has provoked some considerable discussion. What can we as a Parish Council do? How can we differentiate between youngsters using the area that they have used for many years and those older cyclists who use the extended area and are causing the majority of the damage?

Cllr Benjafield – as a Parish Council, we have a responsibility to listen to the views of all residents, the landowner and the children. We are not about stopping children riding their bikes and having fun. This is privately owned land and it is not the Parish Council saying they should not be riding on this land. Cllr Ventham, Cllr Munnings and the Clerk have spent a great deal of time working with Natural England and the Drax Estate trying to get some land that can be used as a skatepark. This is not a quick fix.

The only reasonable course of action would be to educate users whilst not stopping the younger element from using the area they have always used.

The Clerk has been in discussion with Natural England and the landowner. The landowner is not objecting to the children using the traditional area, but they do object to the way it is expanding out further into the woodland and heathland area. The Parish Council was to act as a facilitator in an effort to get the message out and enable NE, Dorset AONB and Dorset Heathland to reach as wide a section of the community as possible. Cllr Benjafield will liaise with the Clerk and draft something to go out on Facebook.

Cllr Bates reported that his brother saw 10 people in the area that seemed to be undertaking some training in off-road cycling.

Cllr Ventham suggested that we contact the landowner and ask what she is doing to prevent this continuing.

The Clerk reported that following the meeting held in February, a list of actions was drawn up, many of which were down to the landowner.

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

20.031 Nothing to report.

## **13. Community Liaison**

20.032 Cllr Ventham has suggested that Certificates of Appreciation are given to those who have gone above and beyond during this last trying period of the Covid19 lockdown.

The Certificates could be given to individuals or organisations and villagers will be able to nominate who they would like to receive a Certificate. There is no limit to the number of nominations.

Cllr Ventham proposed that we draw up the Certificate of Appreciation. He and Cllr Benjafield will design something appropriate and nominations will be requested via the Parish Magazine.

## **14. Children & Youth**

20.033 Nothing to report.

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

20.034 Nothing to add.

**16. Public Relations**

20.035 Thanks are extended to Alison Bennett and Pop In for the tea and biscuits distributed to some 80 residents around the village. This was gratefully received by all.

- Black Hill
- Rowlands Wait
- Play park work
- Certificates of Appreciation – nominations to the Clerk

**17. Items for the June meeting**

20.036 Members are reminded to pass any items for inclusion on the agenda to the Clerk by the 31<sup>st</sup> May.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm