



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY
8th NOVEMBER 2018 AT THE DRAX HALL, NORTH STREET, BERE REGIS,
COMMENCING 7PM**

Present: Cllrs S Munnings, P Morgan, T Bates, P Wharf, L Fairhurst, D Bishop, R Pitcher & B Benjafield

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 0 members of the public

Public Participation

18.167 No members of the public were present.

1. To receive apologies for absence

18.168 Apologies have been received from Cllrs Brenda House and Cathryn Packham.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2018

18.169 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Bishop 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

18.170 Abandoned car in the Aster car park is still there. Cllr Wharf is dealing with this.

The bank on the entrance to the school has now been cut. A thank you will be sent to Cllr Wharf for forwarding on to the relevant department.

ACTION: CLERK

The Rye Hill overhanging trees have still not been cut. The Clerk will chase.

Village Tidy – thank you to everyone who turned out. There were about 20 to 25 in all, including the Scouts and a great deal of work was achieved. The weeds left in the gutters were subsequently cleared away by the Lengthsman.

The Beacon has now been set on its wooden pole, with grateful thanks to Mr Eddy Butterfield, and has been installed on Souls Moor in its permanent position.

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

18.171 Cllr Munnings declared an interest in a planning application. No other interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

5. To receive the County and District Councillor's Reports

18.172 Cllr Wharf reported that the Boundary Commission has made a significant amendment to the ward in which Bere Regis sits. Bere Regis is now part of a new two-member ward and forms one of the largest area wards in the County to be called West Purbeck. This means Cllr Wharf must now go through the Party selection process again and there is no guarantee that he will be selected to represent the Ward.

LGR continues. The resignation of the Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Ward, has been agreed today at Full Council. There will now be an interim Chief Exec.

The broken road sign on Poole Hill will be removed.

6. Key Topics

18.173 Neighbourhood Plan Update – communications plan

The Plan is now with PDC for their consultation exercise. Cllr Ventham expressed his concern over the presentation of the PDC consultation on the web site. This comment will be recorded in case it should be picked up by the Examiner. We have also been asked to comment on the appointment of an Independent Examiner. A decision has been made and the appointed Examiner will be available to start in December.

Communications – a draft paper has been raised and issued to the members of the Steering Group for comment. This represents the first in a series of statements attempting to keep the Neighbourhood Plan in the forefront of residents' minds up until the referendum in May 2019. This first statement touches on the purpose of the Plan and what we are trying to achieve. This will be sent around to all members for comment with a view to including it in the December issue of the Parish Magazine.

As time goes along, a more bullet-point review will be placed on Facebook.

18.174 To consider nominations for the Purbeck Volunteer of the Year Award 2019

Three nominees were discussed. It was noted that this will be the last Purbeck Volunteer of the Year.

As it was difficult to choose between them, members agreed that we would put through two nominees this year. Cllrs Bates and Ventham will liaise on writing the citations.

ACTION: CLLRS BATES & VENTHAM

18.175 To consider the Christmas Trees

50 trees have been ordered and, to date, 15 have been ordered. An item will be put out on Facebook saying when the trees will be available and that orders can still be placed.

7. Finance

18.176 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

C Packham	Village tidy bags, cloths, cleaner	BACS086	10.90
BR Parish Magazine	Lengthsman advert	BACS087	17.50
Whitecliffe Consulting	Drax Hall re charitable status	BACS088	350.00
DC Pension	November contribution	BACS090	237.44
Mrs A Crocker	November wages + expenses	BACS091	764.59
HMRC	November PAYE & NIC	BACS092	89.24
A King	Lengthsman – October	BACS093	2064.14

Total to be paid from the Precept **£3,533.81**

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

N Reid	NC – February 2018 – replacement cheque	1892	10.80
B Britten	NC – September 2018	BACS084	27.00
R Jones	NC – 2015-2018	BACS085	63.90
I Ventham	October Lunch Club	BACS089	126.80

Total to be paid from the schemes' funds **£ 228.50**

Cllr Bishop proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

18.177 To confirm reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

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.

18.178 To confirm the External Auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2018

A copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. The auditors had made the following comments:

‘The AGAR has not been signed in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 as section 2 was not signed by the RFO before approval.

The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2017/18 for the exercise of public rights, by answering ‘Yes’ to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as was reported last year, we are aware that it failed to do this and therefore should have answered ‘No’. It has also disclosed that it took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external auditors, by answering ‘Yes’ to Section 1, Assertion 7, which, on the basis of the above, is not correct.’

Neither of the above comments affect the body of the accounts and the points are duly noted. Cllr Bishop proposed the External Auditors report is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Munnings and agreed unanimously.

18.179 To review and confirm the Asset Register

A copy of the Register had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was noted that the beacon should be included on the Register. With this exception, the existing list was unanimously accepted. The Clerk will arrange for the Register to be updated and the Insurers informed accordingly.

18.180 To confirm the draft budget for the year 2019/20

ACTION: CLERK

A copy of the proposed budget had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

The following points were highlighted:

- The Clerk’s salary has been increased in line with the NALC directive for SCP 21
- £500 has been included within the Cemetery expenses for repairs to headstones where no family is contactable and for any repairs to the shed or covered seat
- £1,500 has been included for the cost of purchasing woodchip for the play area and £2,500 for the path to be upgraded
- The Lengthsman scheme has been enhanced in order to allow for an additional 6 hours a week, taking the total number of hours to 32.5 weekly. This reflects the importance of this role and will go some way to cover the additional work that will be required following the introduction of the Unitary Authority and the removal of the District Council.
- All other costs have been held the same as last year or have been given an inflationary increase of 3%.

A sum of £7,100 will be taken from the reserves held in order to keep the increase in Precept to a similar level as 2017/18.

Cllr Ventham proposed that the Precept is set at £59,204.48 for the year to 31st March 2020. This represents an increase of £5,308.96 for the year. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Ventham will produce a piece for the Parish Magazine in April 2019 setting out the new budget and giving an explanation for the increases.

The Clerk withdrew from the meeting.

Cllr Ventham proposed that the Clerk's emolument be increased in recognition of the considerable extra work carried out in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. This was seconded by Cllr Benjafield and agreed 7 in favour, 1 against.

The Clerk rejoined the meeting.

18.181 To consider a grant request for £375 from Bere Regis School for the Life Education bus

Cllr Munnings reported that the Thomas Williams Fund has already funded £325 towards the Life Education Bus. This, combined with the grant from the Parish Council, means the bus will be fully funded. Cllr Bishop proposed that this grant is awarded. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will raise the cheque for signing at the December meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Wharf reported that he has spoken to the school regarding the proposed academisation and they have decided to go ahead and be linked to Thomas Hardy School. It is hoped that the Governors now understand that the Parish Council can help the school if they ask for it.

8. Planning & Housing

18.182 To consider planning applications

6/2018/0538 A31 Milestone at Bolton's; In situ conservation to a Grade II listed milestone

6/2018/0550 7 Southmead; loft conversion and single storey extension

6/2018/0565 50 West Street; construct 2 new rear dormer windows, insert conservation roof light & internal alterations.

18.183 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2018/192 13 White Lovington – T1 Ash; crown reduce by up to 5m

The PWP recommended no objections to any of the applications.

Cllr Fairhurst proposed the recommendations of the PWP are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bishop and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

9. Environment & Facilities

18.184 Open Spaces update

Lengthsman Contract – only one application was received, this being from the current Lengthsman. It was suggested that the length of contract is extended from 3 to 5 years with a review at 3 years. It was also requested that the contract remains on an hourly basis, as opposed to the original concept that it would be 1/12th of an annual amount. If the hourly rate is to be increased from £15 to £17.50, a greater level of accountability will be required.

Cllr Pitcher noted that, for a contractor, £17.50 is very cheap – contractors of a similar nature, would charge in the region of £20-23/hour.

The hourly rate will be fixed for three years at £17.50 per hour. However, this may be the subject of an annual review if the amount of work increases.

The springers have been ordered.

The Wildlife Group met and carried out some work on the river over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th November. The immediate area around the outflow on the northern bank of the stream, near the Scout Hut has been brought up to the level of the surrounding area with the top soil and gravel that has been removed from the pond on the nature reserve. Vegetation on the south side of the stream has been cleared to give a

more uninterrupted view across Souls Moor to the school and new pond. A notice has been requested asking for volunteers. This will be reviewed and brought back to the December meeting.

The Lengthsman has installed the beacon, with the assistance of Eddie Butterfield. Our thanks are extended to both.

The ponies are now gone but will be back in the Spring.

Cllr Fairhurst requested that Rights of Way go back on the agenda as a regular item.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Ventham reported that no response had been received regarding his request to Tilhill to upgrade the stretch of footpath from the nature reserve to Shitterton. This runs across May's land and it had been hoped that they would be willing to bring the path to a level whereby it could be used, regardless of weather conditions, by the disabled and those with pushchairs. Is this now something we wish to take on board? This will be held for future discussion.

18.185 Defects

- Donkey Lane, Bear Heath, Culeaze and Hollow Bottom signs are all broken – to be posted on the D4Y site.
- Drain outside the Drax has been posted on the D4Y web site
- Fingerposts – Culeaze. Cllr Morgan will undertake another survey of the sign and finger posts in the area.

ACTION: CLLR MORGAN

10. Police, Traffic and Roads

18.186 To consider a response to the Puddletown Area Parish Council bus services request

Members had all received a copy of the proposal at the October meeting. Whilst we sympathise in particular with the first point, that there should be no further reduction in the current levels of service, the other three points are not strictly true as we already have what they are asking for. Realistically, whilst we do need more buses, if the numbers using them are very small, it is difficult to quantify the money spent on more buses. We would rather see the subsidy of £1.8million currently used on the buses, split between the parish councils to enable local transport schemes to develop. The Clerk will respond to Puddletown Area Parish Council accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Wharf, assisted by Cllr House, is working on the possibility of getting our own mini bus for the use of residents and groups within the village.

18.187 Winter road preparations – snow ploughs

The Clerk reported that a response is still awaited from Highways regarding the use of ploughs by farmers and how much they are likely to be paid if they do clear the carriageway. If nothing is done, then the Parish Council may be able to pay them £50 each time they come out. We would not be able to consider the £35 an hour requested by one local farmer. Cllr Morgan will put our suggestion to the farmer but, in the meantime, we continue to pursue Highways for a response.

Grit bins – Highways are in the process of filling the bins. Cllr Morgan will continue to follow this up.

Cllr Ventham reported that the stretch of road at the western end of the village is in the 30mph zone but many vehicles appear to be travelling faster. 30mph repeater roundels would be a help.

A sign is needed on the bypass saying 'Roundabout ahead.' There is already a sign saying 'No right turn' which could be removed and the post utilised for a new sign.

11. Community Liaison

18.188 Community Hall update – Memorandum of Understanding

A copy of the proposal had been issued to all members and to the Drax Hall Committee prior to the start of the meeting.

The Drax Hall Committee had requested additional time to review the terms as several of their number were currently away. They will provide a response for the December meeting at which time the MoU will be reconsidered.

12. Children & Youth

18.189 Cllr Bishop reported that he has spoken to the garrison officer who has, in turn, contacted the person dealing with the anti-graffiti paint. The Scouts are keen to be involved with this.

13. Correspondence received since the agenda was set

18.190 Nothing further received.

14. Public Relations

- 18.191 - NP with PDC
- Christmas trees
- School grant
- Winter maintenance plan
- Open space update
- Report from 11th November

15. Items for the December meeting

18.192 Members are reminded to pass any items to the Clerk for inclusion in the December agenda by the 30th November 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.45p.m.