



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2020 COMMENCING 8PM**

This meeting was carried out by video conferencing

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

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: Amy Yeats, 2 members of the public

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

The matter of speeding on Rye Hill was raised and considerable concern expressed. A petition has been set up requesting a 20mph speed limit along the road and this has been signed by 192 people so far. 17 have added comments on their reasons for signing the petition. There are also a further 14 letters of concerns from residents. The high speed of traffic, children attempting to cross the road to school, the dangers experienced when using the zebra crossing were all factors. In addition, there is a danger of pulling out of the side roads on to the main road. The petition calls for the speed limit on Rye Hill to be reduced to 20mph and for it to be reduced to 30mph at the top of the hill where it is currently 40mph. There are 9 children that have to cross the road to attend the school, so there is not sufficient to meet the requirements for a School Crossing Patrol. A couple of members of the group have offered to restart the Community Speed Watch again. The Parish Council were asked to support the petition and make recommendations to Highways to make the road safe and reconsider the existing speed levels. It is felt that it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality on the road. Local lorry companies have also been contacted asking them to speak to their drivers and making sure they take notice of their speed when going through the village.

The question of a Community Garden was raised. There are a lot of people struggling with isolation and loneliness. The garden would provide residents with somewhere safe to meet.

1. To receive apologies for absence

20.149 Apologies had been received from Cllr Simon Munnings (work).

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2020

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

The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

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

20.151 Barrow Hill – Cllr Bates will speak to the owner in due course.

Planning for the Future White Paper – The Parish Council’s response had been submitted.

Shitterton notice board – This is on order.

School access road bank - This has now been cut. The Clerk will contact Dorset Council to discuss the possibility of the Parish Council taking over the grass cutting but with some budget to go with it.

Signed:

Wildflower verges – Amy Yeats and the Clerk will liaise regarding this.

Certificates of Appreciation – There are now 34 people on the list and a supplementary new list will be put on Facebook and the Parish Magazine. Looking forward, a formal presentation will be made when public meetings are permitted.

4. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received

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

5. To receive the Dorset Councillor's reports

20.153 Cllr Wharf reported that the Climate Change consultation has been extended to January 20th.

The Government have been giving money to local authorities with very little guidance. Dorset have been given £1m for winter grants which may cover meals for children over the winter period. Guidelines for how this must be spent are expected. They will then contact the schools to make sure they are aware of it.

Fewer Council facilities have been closed during this lockdown but, from the adult and children social care perspective, it is exactly the same. Test and trace is underway and they are building up for vaccinations to take place. The first priority will be people in care homes and those who work in care homes. This will be driven by Dorset Council.

The large puddle in Shitterton – Highways are now waiting for authority from Wessex Water and the EA as it is near a water course.

Purbeck Local Plan – Following the hearings, there were changes required. Most of these have now been undertaken. In order to approve it, there is a consultation underway which will be completed on the 8th January. Many of the changes are cosmetic rather than changing the numbers.

Responsibility for maintaining the bank by the school – Dorset Council are interested in speaking to the Parish Council about transferring the responsibility for maintenance, although it was pointed out that the Parish Council own the land. However, the Parish Council might be willing to take over the responsibility for cutting it, but some funding would be required. The Clerk will speak to the Lengthsman to determine how long it is likely to take him to cut the area and how much it will cost the Parish Council. Once this is done, the Clerk will contact Matthew Piles once Cllr Wharf has spoken to him.

6. Key Topics

ACTION: CLERK

20.154 Implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing to report at this stage.

20.155 To receive the draft response to the Purbeck Transport Strategy

A copy of the proposed response had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Mathers informed the meeting that there is very little that could be done about traffic using the village to by-pass the Shell roundabout at busy times. The group used the PTAG headings as a focus for their discussions. There is parking but, if done considerately, it is not a problem. This needs to be taken into account on a case by case basis when new planning applications arise. With regard to public transport, is there now a need?

Cllr Ventham felt it depended on who we were aiming the paper at. Although originally it was to go to the Purbeck Transport group, members subsequently agreed the paper should go to Dorset Council with a copy to PTAG. This being the case, it is worth flagging concerns where we have not got a solution and recommendations of what might happen, even though it is

outside our control. Parking is an issue when it blocks the bus or fire engine from time to time. We must try to get more parking with new housing even though there is not a lot we can do about parking for existing housing.

Cllr Wharf agreed that the document should go to Dorset Council but cautioned relating to bus usage. DC have had surveys undertaken all over the county and the number of people say they want a bus do not actually use them.

Cllr Mathers will circulate an updated version to include the 20mph discussion on Rye Hill. Members are asked to send any thoughts they may have to Cllr Mathers.

ACTION: CLLR MATHERS

20.156 To consider the purchase of the West Street telephone kiosk

The Clerk reported that the kiosk is available for purchase at the cost of £1. Members all agreed that this should be pursued. *Post meeting note: The kiosk was subsequently removed by BT before this could be done.*

7. Finance

20.157 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Cheap Printing	Lettering for post box	14.40
M Gee	Mesh fencing for Souls Moor pond	30.15
Rempston Tree Man.	Remove ash tree by Scout hut	265.00
Play Inspection Co	Operational Instructors course – R Pitcher	672.00
AG Tree Services	Tree survey of Lockyer land	216.00
PKF Littlejohn	External audit re Ye 31.03.20	360.00
HMRC	PAYE November 2020	208.18
DC Pension Fund	November 2020 pension contribution	248.60
A Crocker	November wages + expenses	955.14
A King	October 2020 Lengthsman	2450.00

Total payments for October 2020 from Precept **5,419.47**

NeighbourCar, Lunch Club and Communibus payments

These payments are made from the funds each initiative holds and do not come from the Precept.

Dorset Council	Minibus tyre	126.60
D Fairhurst	NeighbourCar trips Sept-October 2020	50.40
B Duke	NeighbourCar August & October 2020	32.85

Total payments for October 2020 209.85

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

ACTION: CLERK

20.158 To confirm the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget

The reports had been issued to members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made, or queries raised.

20.159 To accept the external audit report for the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020

The accounts have now been finalised and the External Auditor had made no comment. An unqualified audit had been given. Cllr Wharf proposed that the report is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously.

20.160 To review and agree the Asset Register

A copy of the current Asset Register had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Cllr Ventham reminded members that assets are recorded at their original cost value.

The moon seat at the Elder Road play park will be removed from the register. Once this is done, the register was proposed to be accurate by Cllr Pitcher and unanimously agreed.

20.161 To agree the budget for the year to 31st March 2022

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

The majority of costs have been held at the same level as the current year with the following exceptions:

- The Clerk's salary has been increased by 3% in line with national discussions
- Computers/web site has been increased by £400 to take account of the new accounts package annual fee
- The grants budget has been increased by £200 to £2,000
- Telephone costs have been increased to £300
- Two new project lines have been included- Tree work at £2,000 and pathways at £2,500. To date, this sort of work has been included under the umbrella of the Lengthsman but he does not have the time to do this. This allows for the work to be undertaken by external contractors.
- Play area costs have been reduced from £9,000 to £3,000 as the work has largely been completed in the current year

This leaves a budget figure of £74,000 but £4,000 will be taken from reserves to offset some of the cost. Cllr Fairhurst proposed a Precept of £70,000 – an increase of £6,004 on last year, or 9.39%. This was seconded by Cllr Bates and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk will submit the appropriate request to Dorset Council.

ACTION: CLERK

8. Planning & Housing

20.162 To consider planning applications

6/2020/0391 Bere Lodge, Hyde – Demolish existing rear flat roof conservatory & erect single storey rear garden room

The PWP recommended no objections.

20.163 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2020/110 37 West Street – T1 Spruce - fell

Cllr Bates had attended the site and recommended no objections.

The recommendations were seconded by Cllr Pitcher and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

9. Parish Facilities & Rights of Way

20.164 Open Spaces update

Cllr Pitcher reported that the metal legs are currently being fitted to the play equipment. This will extend the life of the equipment by many years.

He and Amy Yeats met to look at possible storage and tools for the play park. A small survey had been undertaken of park users and all were happy to do a little whilst they were there – sweeping, litter picking, etc. A small shed for tools would cost about £90 and tools about £150. A combination lock could be purchased. Cllr Pitcher will meet up with Amy when he returns from holiday and produce a firm proposal with prices.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER/AMY YEATS

20.165 To consider the location of a bench near Stanbarrow/Shitterton

A resident has offered to pay for a bench to be placed on the grass area running from Stanbarrow Close to Shitterton. Cllr Pitcher will meet the Lengthsman on site and consider the best location for it.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

20.166 To consider a possible location for a Community Garden/Garden of Hope

Cllr Pitcher reminded members that this item had been raised some years ago. He agreed that it was important to have somewhere for residents to meet when the evenings start getting lighter. He suggested that it would be necessary for a working party to be put together to consider the various options. It could be started as a community project and, once the site was agreed, a tightly mown area could be set aside, and some benches located on it in the first instance. It could then be turned into a garden as time went along.

As a Council, members were fully in agreement with the proposal for a Community Garden. Cllr Pitcher will take the lead on this from the Parish Council and get a small group together with Alison Bennett and come up with some costings.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER

20.167 To consider quotes received for tree works and a full survey of trees on land owned by the Parish Council

A copy of the tree survey had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. The removal of the Ash tree will cost £225. It is located near the kick wall and has extensive dieback. Cllr Pitcher proposed this quote was accepted, together with a full survey at a cost of £400. This would cover all the trees from the Scout Hut to Shitterton Bridge. There would be a further cost of £1,250 to undertake work needed to a group of Poplars alongside Elder Road at the edge of the Lockyer land. Cllr Benjafield seconded the proposal, and it was unanimously agreed.

- 20.168 Defects –
- There is a tree down on the bank opposite Rye Hill Farm
 - Shell Garage signage. Highways had originally said they would white line the exit. There was a two-way vehicle sign, but this has disappeared. The Clerk will contact Highways and ask to have it replaced. The Shell Garage will be contacted to ask if they would consider putting white lines across their exit.

ACTION: CLERK

10. Environment and Conservation

20.169 To receive an update on the wildflower verge initiative

Amy Yeats has sent an email to Ian Styring of Highways to arrange a meeting and discuss this but has yet to receive a reply.

20.170 To receive an update on the tree planting on No-Man's land

Due to the lockdown, all tree planting has been postponed until the New Year. Cllr Mathers asked at the fire station about watering and they would be willing to be involved in a rota.

When Amy spoke to Trees for Dorset, she was told that we may be able to get some fruit trees for the proposed garden if we want them.

11. Police, Traffic and Roads

20.171 To receive an update on the Dorset Council 20mph guidelines

A copy of the Dorset Council parameters for introducing a 20mph speed limit had been sent to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Wharf reported that the 'multiple deprivation' referred to tends to be more for inner cities. The area along Rye Hill has a mean speed of 32mph so is outside the guidelines but it is close enough so may be considered. Dorset Council recommended that we take another look at a Community Speed Watch (CSW) initiative and proceed with a SID.

It is understood that there are about 10 children who need to be able to cross the road safely.

Cllr Wharf suggested that County and Highways would not give a 20mph limit consideration until other possibilities were tried in the first instance, i.e. the SID and a CSW.

Cllr Pitcher agreed that we need to proceed with the SID and the CSW but need to keep in mind the fact that nearly 200 people have requested a 20mph limit and we should support it.

It is resolved that the Parish Council supports all efforts to reduce speed and increase safety on the C6 within the 30 and 40mph zone. We will do this in a staged way so the impact of each stage can be measured. The first step will be the installation of the SID, whilst recruiting people for the CSW. Then the CSW will come on line at a later date and will complement the SID and help enforce the speed limit. If it is found that this is not working after a period of time, we will then actively pursue a 20mph zone. The CSW will be maintained and operated by residents and will not be run by the Parish Council. This will give it more credibility.

12. Community Liaison

20.172 To receive the monthly report from the Community Volunteer Co-ordinator

Cllr House reported that the organisation of the hampers is underway.

13. Children & Youth

20.173 Cllr Ventham reported that the Chair of the School Governors has raised two issues via Cllr Packham – one is an urgent need for laptops and other IT equipment for those children who do not have access to them. The Clerk has offered a number of laptops and a note will be put in the Parish Magazine for anyone else who has anything they can give – Ipads, etc. The Chair of the School of Governors can arrange to have them cleaned.

Cllr Wharf reported that the Department of Education works with all schools and has said they will assist with the supply of laptops, etc. There could be a better line of communication between the school, Dorset Council and the Parish Council and, perhaps, this could be reinstated.

The second issue was the continuing need expressed for food for certain families over the Christmas period. Cllr Ventham has raised several questions regarding this and awaits a

response from the school. The school is also welcome to submit an application via the Parish Council grant system.

ACTION: CLLR PACKHAM

14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set

20.174 Nothing to add.

15. Public Relations

- 20.175
- Rye Hill speed
 - Tree works
 - Budget and Precept
 - New bench
 - Village garden

16. Items for the December meeting

20.176 Any items for the agenda should be passed to the Clerk by the 30th November.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:51hrs.