



MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER 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

Chair: Cllr I Ventham

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: Amy Yeats, Amy Gallagher of Dorset Heathland Partnership, Alison Bennett and Rev'd Sandra Williams

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

Amy Gallagher informed the meeting that she was currently looking for ways to fund the signage for Black Hill. It was felt that, rather than just one sign, a sign would be needed at all four access points.

Cllr Ventham raised the issue of the closure of the Royal Oak. At the present time, the Post Office is to remain open and members extended their thanks to Janette Woodhouse and her team for keeping the Post Office open during lockdown. It was further noted that Rye Hill Farm Shop is now also closed. Thanks were extended to the team for keeping the village supplied with fresh fruit and vegetables throughout lockdown. Both facilities will be greatly missed.

1. To receive apologies for absence

20.120 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Simon Munnings (work), Brenda House (family) and Bryan Benjafield (work).

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020

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

The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

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

20.122 Manor Farm Road – Highways have been asked to redraw the yellow line opposite the Doctor's Surgery.

Certificates of Appreciation – the list has been passed to Cllr Ventham ready for the Certificates to be written.

4. To receive declarations of interest and review dispensations received

20.123 Cllr Ventham declared an interest in one of the tree work applications. No other interests were declared and no requests for dispensations had been received.

5. To receive the Dorset Councillor's reports

20.124 A copy of Cllr Wharf's report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

6. Key Topics

20.125 Implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan

Lockyer Land – the owner is only prepared to offer an annual lease. With the amount of work needed to be undertaken on the trees, this would not be worthwhile. However, the Parish Council has already committed to undertake a survey of the area so this will go ahead. The landowner has agreed that they will undertake the tree works required to make the area safe.

Cllr Bates asked if anything had been heard about the Barrow Hill land. He will liaise with Cllr Ventham to decide who should speak to the owner and find out what their intentions are now that the planning application had been refused.

ACTION: CLLRS VENTHAM & BATES

20.126 To receive an update on Remembrance Sunday

It has been agreed that there will be a very short service at the war memorial. There will be a small parade of the Union Flag and escort and the wreath layers from the Scout Hut to the memorial to give residents the opportunity to come out on to the street to see the parade pass. There will be a bugler and the bells will be tolled before the service. It is hoped that the parade and service will be live-streamed, and the service will be published in the parish magazine.

20.127 To receive the draft response to the Purbeck Transport Strategy

It had not been possible for members to meet to draw up the response. It is the intention to draw up a response based around what Bere Regis wants rather than what the PTAG group want. This will then be transferred to Dorset Council to fit in with their Transport Strategy. Cllrs House, Mathers and Morgan will draw up a strategy and members will then decide how they want to take it forward – whether it links in with the Purbeck Group or gets sent straight to Dorset Council.

ACTION: CLLRS HOUSE, MATHERS & MORGAN

This will be moved to the November meeting.

20.128 To consider a draft response to the Planning for the Future White Paper

The group had not been able to meet to discuss this. Cllr Fairhurst has reviewed the document and a recommendation will be drawn up and sent by email to members for consideration. The deadline for response is the 29th October.

ACTION: CLLR FAIRHURST

7. Finance

20.129 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Cheap Printing	Calendars & certificates	504.00
Dorset Council	Minibus service & MOT	192.44
Play Inspection Co	RPII Play inspection course – T King	270.00
HMRC	PAYE October 2020	272.33
DC Pension Fund	October 2020 pension contribution	288.20
A Crocker	October wages + expenses	987.30
A King	September 2020 Lengthsman	2611.88
Butterfield Ironwork	Metal brackets for play equipment	3000.00
Glasdon UK	Picnic tables & bench	2603.62
Bere Regis School	Donation towards PPE	400.00

Total payments for October 2020 from Precept **11,129.77**

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

ACTION: CLERK

20.130 To confirm the asset register

This will be moved to the November meeting.

20.131 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.

20.132 To confirm a date for the Finance Working Party to meet to draft the 2021/22 budget

The Working Party consists of Cllrs Ventham, Mathers, Wharf and Benjafield, together with the Clerk. The group will meet on the 4th November, 11am.

20.133 To agree the loan of £480 for the production of the Village Calendar

Cllr Pitcher proposed the money is loaned for the production of the calendar. This was seconded by Cllr Mathers and agreed unanimously. Any profit from the sale of the calendar will go to BereConnect or to the Ed Kent Memorial Trust.

8. Planning & Housing

20.134 To consider planning applications

There were no planning applications at the time of this meeting.

20.135 To consider tree work applications

TPO/2020/102 13 White Lovington – T1 Ash; crown lift to 4m above ground level

TWA/2020/098 5A Shitterton – fell goat willow

Cllr Ventham took no part in this discussion.

This multi-branched willow is on the edge of the Bere Stream and, if left, it is in danger of blocking the stream and could, potentially, lead to flooding. Once cut back, it will sprout again from the base.

TWA/2020/103 36 West Street – silver birch fell to ground level

This is an attractive tree, however, it is growing in a very small space, very close to the house and Silver Birch tend to be short lived. It was felt that a suitable replacement tree could be an Ash which would be a smaller tree and could be planted slightly further away from the house.

Cllr Bates reported that he had attended all three sites and proposed no objections to any of them.

Cllr Pitcher seconded the recommendations of the PWP and this was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: CLERK

9. Parish Facilities & Rights of Way

20.136 Update on the Play Park works

The Lengthsman is going to be undertaking the work on the equipment and putting the metal brackets on the feet. He will also be putting down the concrete pads for the picnic benches once the grass cutting and leaf clearing slows down.

A suggestion had been made some time ago that it might be possible to have a small group of parents who keep an eye on the play park. It was further suggested that a rake could be kept on site for sweeping the chippings back into place. Amy Yeats very kindly offered to take this on if there was any support. Cllr Pitcher will liaise with Amy on how to take this forward. Once this is a firmer prospect, something could be put on Facebook asking for volunteers.

ACTION: CLLR PITCHER/AMY YEATS

Cllr Pitcher reported that the Lengthsman had just undertaken a refresher Play Park Inspection Course and he had taken a renewal course.

20.137 To consider the purchase of a new notice board for Shitterton

The current notice board is rotten and needs to be replaced. The metal stands can be used for the new notice board. The Clerk recommended an oak notice board, large enough for 8 sheets of A4 with a rounded headboard with the Bere Regis name on it. The cost will be in the region of £835 plus £79 for the rounded headboard.

Cllr Ventham proposed that the board is purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

20.138 Defects – Both the foot bridges need a ramp put in for disabled access.

- Phone box on West Street is in a very poor state of repair. Do the Parish Council wish to buy it? This will be included on the November agenda.

10. Environment and Conservation

20.139 To receive an update on the Dorset Trees initiative

Amy Yeats met with Toby Branston on the site and he recommended between 20 and 30 trees and suggested using native trees – a mix of spindle, rowan, hawthorn and wild cherry. There are already some trees planted on the site – oak and silver birch. The site will need to be trimmed and the nettles cutting down. Then, during the growing season, it will be necessary to trim around the trees two or three times a year. The trees will also need to be watered if the spring and summer are particularly dry. This work will be undertaken by the Wildlife Volunteer Group. Amy will speak to the school about the possibility of getting a water supply from them, if necessary.

Cllr Mathers offered to ask the Fire Station if it would be possible to use the Land Rover to water the trees.

Dorset Trees have 6 experienced volunteers who are able to plant the trees. This will take place on a Saturday morning some time in November.

A request will be put to Cllr Wharf asking him to organise having the school access road banks cut.

ACTION: CLERK

20.140 To receive an update on the wildflower verges initiative

Amy Yeats had produced a report which had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. The next step is for Amy, Cllr Bates and Cllr Pitcher to meet with the Lengthsman and Ian Styring of Dorset Highways. The Clerk will co-ordinate the meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

11. Police, Traffic and Roads

20.141 To receive the report on fingerposts throughout the parish

A report had been sent to members prior to the start of the meeting. All those fingerposts highlighted are already on the list of work for the Lengthsman. They will remain on the list and, as the summer work declines, the Lengthsman should be able to start looking at these.

It may be possible for Dorset AONB to undertake some of the repairs, but this could be costly. The Clerk will look into this.

ACTION: CLERK

20.142 Speeding on Rye Hill

The annual surveys have been running since 2014. The statistics show that the mean speed on Rye Hill is 32mph, with those travelling up the hill moving faster. 60% of the traffic travels at more than 30mph, 20% is more than 35mph and 1% over 40mph. Whilst there is a small speeding problem, the majority of traffic is not exceeding 32mph. There is a perception of speed as the size of the vehicles have increased. Volume wise there is very little difference over the years.

Speeds did start to increase slightly when the school closed as there are no longer cars parking on Rye Hill.

As a Parish Council, we can do little, but we can make recommendations.

Cllr Bates felt that there was very little signage coming into the village from the Poole Hill roundabout and this area is perceived to be a danger zone.

Cllr Pitcher pointed out that the repeater signs the Parish Council put up on the lampposts from Poole Hill roundabout to Southbrook were removed. This was at the request of the Police as the signs were put by the Parish Council and were in contravention of Highways practice.

A petition was underway for a 20mph speed limit on Rye Hill and down to Southbrook. It was pointed out that, when a survey was carried out to see if it would be a possible location for a SID, the statistics came back saying that there was virtually no speeding in this area and a SID would not be permitted at this point.

In March, the Parish Council began the process of purchasing a SID which will now be continued. Once this is in place, a request will be submitted for the existing flip-flop sign to be removed.

At this time, the Parish Council will not back the 20mph petition but would rather wait until the 20mph template guidelines are released by Dorset Council, then consider the applicability of a 20mph restriction against the Dorset Council criteria.

12. Community Liaison

20.143 To receive an update on the Certificates of Appreciation

There are now 27 names on the list. The list will be published in the Parish Magazine and on Facebook, giving the name of the person and the reason for the nomination. Separately, Di Ventham will be drawing up the Certificates. We can then either wait until we are able to have a public event to give the Certificates out or they can be delivered beforehand.

Members felt it would be preferable for the Certificates to be given out at a public meeting as soon as it is possible to do so.

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

Cllr House was unable to attend the meeting but had previously reported that Purbeck Community Group wished to hire the bus as they had 5 children who needed to get out and about. They would be charged £20 a hire.

Cllr Pitcher suggested that something be done for Christmas – a delivered lunch or a hamper, perhaps, for some of the more vulnerable people in the parish.

It was suggested that some of the Distgen donation could be used for this. Cllr House will be asked to organise this.

ACTION: CLLR HOUSE

13. Children & Youth

20.145 Cllr Ventham asked members to consider if anything could be done for the youth of the village who have been affected by lockdown and Covid19. This is something that could be considered in conjunction with other village groups. This will be put on the agenda for the November meeting.

14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set

20.146 Nothing to add.

15. Public Relations

- 20.147
- Black Hill signage
 - Post Office
 - Remembrance Sunday
 - Village Calendar
 - Play park
 - Lengthsman's work
 - No-man's land
 - Speeding on Rye Hill

16. Items for the November meeting

20.148 Any items for the agenda should be passed to the Clerk by the 31st October.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:44pm.