



**MINUTES OF THE BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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, T Bates, B Benjafield, C Pacham

**Chair:** Cllr I Ventham

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** No 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**

There being no members of the public present, the Chair proceeded to the main body of the meeting.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

20.091 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Simon Munnings (work) and Amy Yeats (prior engagement).

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

20.092 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 Benjafield and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

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

20.093 Manor Farm Road yellow lines – the Clerk will chase Highways to find when this work is going to be undertaken.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Skate Park – The chair met with Jethro Loader to discuss the suggested location of a temporary site offered by Savills. He came to the conclusion that, to turn the area into an effect bike area, would involve considerable investment. It was decided that, at this time, it would not be worth doing. Thanks have been extended to Chris Jowett of Savills for his help.

Grants to Scout Hut and school – Both received the £10,000 grant from Dorset Council so the immediate need for assistance with the purchase of PPE was no longer necessary.

Play Inspection Certificates – The next training sessions are in October. Cllr Pitcher and the Lengthsman are both booked in.

Broken bench – This is on the Lengthsman’s job list.

Certificates of Appreciation – No additional names were put forward. The list will be passed to the Chair.

**ACTION: CHAIR**

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

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

Signed: .....

## **5. To receive the Dorset Councillor's reports**

20.095 Cllr Wharf reported that the bus that leaves Dorchester at 4pm has been commandeered for the school as schools have to have unique transport and are not allowed to mix with members of the public. The 4pm service from Dorchester has been cancelled. There has been less than 3 people on it most of the time. It is a subsidised service and the Council has no funds to replace it. This will be included on our Facebook report.

Purbeck Shooting School – there are 2 applications. One is for an extension for the use of the clubhouse. This is to regularise and made permanent. The other application is for an outbuilding which the Officers have decided to refuse under delegated powers.

He and Cllr Benjafield will shortly be finalising the calendar and asked members to agree to loan the cost of the calendar as in previous years. This will be put on the agenda for the October meeting. Any profits will go to the Emergency Fund and if there is any money left at the end of the Covid19 crisis it will be split between the Ed Kent Trust and the Williams Trust.

The Independent Remuneration Panel made a recommendation to increase councillors' remuneration. Members declined this and agreed to accept the 2.75% increase in line with all other employees.

## **6. Key Topics**

20.096 Implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing to add.

20.097 To receive an update on the status of the Lockyer land

The Parish Council has been approached by the landowner and a site meeting has been set for the 18<sup>th</sup> September to discuss leasing the land. There is quite a bit of work that needs to be undertaken on the site. Cllr Bates has undertaken a report on the ecology of the site and has highlighted the existence of the Butterbur which grows prolifically on the Elder Road edge of the site. It is also known that water voles inhabit the site. Cllr Pitcher has commissioned a company to undertake a tree survey.

It was felt that a long lease basis would be the most desirable. The issue of Common Land will also be raised at the meeting.

20.098 To consider created a working party to draft a response to the Purbeck Transport Strategy

A copy of proposal had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. It was agreed that Cllrs House, Morgan and Mathers would look at this and bring a report back to the October meeting.

**ACTION: CLLRS HOUSE, MATHERS & MORGAN**

Cllr Wharf suggested any comments should be sent to Dorset Council. The report will be based on the requirements of Bere Regis.

20.099 To consider a response to the Devolution survey

A copy of the relevant papers had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

It was felt that there was nothing in this that applied to us at parish level. Everything seems to be County and above. Cllr Ventham suggested saying that we have nothing to comment on. The Clerk will respond accordingly.

**ACTION: CLERK**

20.100 To consider creating a working party to draft a response to the Planning for the Future White Paper

A copy of the papers had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. This does affect parishes and the Planning Working Party were asked to draft a response for October.

**ACTION: CLLRS FAIRHURST, MUNNINGS & BATES**

**7. Finance**

20.101 To approve monthly expenditure

The following payments had been requested:

Bartletts	Posts re play park repairs	198.06
HMRC	PAYE August 2020	197.38
DC Pension Fund	August 2020 pension contribution	242.00
Cheap Printing	COVID19 play park signs	43.20
Bartletts	14 sleepers for play park repairs	277.20
Bartletts	Sleepers, posts, pole for play park repairs	323.42
A Crocker	August wages + expenses	699.37
A King	July 2020 Lengthsman	2748.31
D Fairhurst	BereConnect expenses	84.15

Total payments for August 2020 from Precept **4728.94**

DC Pension Fund	September 2020 pension contribution	242.00
A King	Lengthsman duties- August 2020	3242.98
HMRC	PAYE – September 2020	197.18
A Crocker	September wages + expenses	817.60

Total to be paid from the Precept for September is **£4,583.91**

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

D Fairhurst	NeighbourCar & BereConnect May – August	30.60
Communibus	Fuel	54.43

Total payable from the schemes **£85.03**

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

**ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr Ventham requested that the precept and non-precepted payments are separated.

20.102 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.

20.103 To consider a request for a grant of £400 from Bere Regis School towards the cost of PPE

This request dates back to July when it was first requested. Following a conversation with the Head Teacher, any help would be gratefully appreciated. The main issue at the moment is that the school is struggling to find enough money for anything, particularly the Forest School teacher.

Cllr Ventham proposed that this grant is made to the school to be used as they see fit. This was seconded by Cllr Fairhurst and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION: CLERK**

20.104 To confirm the increase in the Clerk’s salary of 2.75% in line with NALC pay agreement

This increase is made in line with the nationally agreed salary increase and is agreed by all members.

**8. Planning & Housing**

20.105 To consider planning applications

6/2020/0334 73 West Street – demolish workshop. Sever plot & erect dwelling

The Parish Council objects to this application. Were it to be permitted, it would increase the amount of traffic in an already congested area during the construction process. The proposal constitutes an overdevelopment of back land and the highway access will introduce further traffic complications close to a highway junction. The work requires a considerable amount of the bank to be removed and may introduce overlooking issues.

6/2020/0254 Purbeck Shooting School – Permanent retention of chalet as clubhouse & siting of 7 storage containers, one of which provides WC facilities

Cllr Fairhurst was asked to draft a response and send it to all members for comment.

**ACTION: CLLR FAIRHURST**

20.106 To consider tree work applications

TWA/2020/075 38D West Street – T1 Cherry – crown reduce by 1m to maintain balance.

The PWP recommended no objections.

Cllr Wharf declared an interest as the following application is for his neighbour and he took no part in the discussion.

TWA/2020/077 90 West Street - T1 Ash – fell to ground level & replace with beech; T2 Bay – reduce crown

The Ash is suffering from Ash Dieback. The applicant has said he would replace it with a beech tree which is important due to the location of the tree. We would also recommend that the boundary of the property upon which the current Ash is growing is, as well as the planting of the Beech tree, planted with native hedgerow shrubs to develop an attractive wildlife friendly hedge.

The PWP recommended no objections.

TWA/2020/096 2 White Lovington - Various treeworks

Cllr Bates attended the site to review the proposed works. He felt the maintenance was all justified and recommended no objection.

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

**ACTION: CLERK**

**9. Parish Facilities & Rights of Way**

20.107 Update on the Play Park works

Cllr Pitcher reported the play park is open. There are a few things that still need to be undertaken. The swings will be repaired by the Lengthsman using the new metal brackets.

A great deal of work has been undertaken over the last month to make various trees safe on Parish Council land.

20.108 To consider the upgrade/refurbishment of the Elder Road youth shelter & purchase of benches and picnic tables

Now the area has been levelled in the play park, there is room for an additional picnic table. It was also felt that some benches could be sited on Elder Road. One of which could be placed on the area under the youth shelter once the structure was altered.

Information on various picnic tables had been issued to all member. Cllr Pitcher proposed that a log bench and a wheelchair accessible bench is purchased for the play park.

It was noticed that, during the latter end of the lockdown, many local families used the area down by the stream for family gatherings and picnics. Cllr Ventham proposed that two picnic benches are put in the area by the Scout Hut. He further proposed that two eco rest benches are purchased to go under the shelter.

Cllr Pitcher proposed that, in the first instance, the three picnic benches and one log bench are purchased now and the benches for the youth shelter are looked at once the work is undertaken to the shelter. This was seconded by Cllr Maters and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Ventham suggested that something is added on Facebook asking if anyone would like to fund them by putting a plaque on them.

**ACTION: CLERK**

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

**10. Environment and Conservation**

20.110 Black Hill update

Cllr Bates reported that he has emailed Amy Gallagher and she is going to send a draft of a notice which will be discussed before being finalised.

20.111 Update on tree planting on ‘No-man’s Land’

Amy Yeats has spoken to Rachel Palmer of Trees for Dorset and it was felt that we would need a maximum of 30 trees. Those supplied would be under 1m tall, as they have a better success rate and grow faster than larger trees. The next step is to decide whether we fall into the large planting or small planting category. Amy has arranged to meet their Tree Officer on site and discuss which trees would be the most suitable. Trees for Dorset will fund 50% of the cost of the trees, any tree guards and stakes, as needed. It will be necessary for the Parish Council to sign a form to commit to maintenance of the trees and to follow the Trees for Dorset environmental code. They would also like the Parish Council to do some publicity when the trees are planted, and they are happy to provide the photographer for any such event. The likely timescale for receiving the trees is November.

Cllr Bates reported that he and Amy Yeats had visited various sites around the village and were deciding which verges would best be suited to wildflower verges. This will be brought back to the October meeting. Cllr Bates will provide a map showing where the relevant verges are.

**ACTION: CLLR BATES**

**11. Police, Traffic and Roads**

20.112 Nothing to report although Cllr Morgan highlighted the need for the fingerpost around the parish to be repaired. He will drive around the parish and produce a list of all the fingerposts that are damaged, in need of repair or replacement and pass this to the Clerk.

**ACTION: CLLR MORGAN**

The Clerk highlighted the possibility that the Remembrance Day parades will not take place, but councils are setting up the road closures just in case. Cllr Morgan will organise this.

**ACTION: CLLR MORGAN**

## **12. Community Liaison**

### 20.113 To consider the nominees for the Certificates of Appreciation

Already discussed.

### 20.114 To receive the monthly report from the Community Volunteer Co-ordinator

Nothing to report. Cllr House attended a recent training session in the hope that it would be possible to get the Lunch Club up and running. However, with the new rules regarding only six people allowed to meet, it now seems unlikely.

It was noted that there are many people who are suffering from isolation and want some company. Perhaps on an individual level, it may be possible to take someone out for a drive or lunch. Cllr House has discussed this but only two people had volunteered their assistance. She has spoken to Alison Bennett and said it may be possible to look at a different way of doing things – this could involve some of the volunteers going to visit those that are known to be struggling. Perhaps groups of 6 could be organised and cream teas arranged.

Cllr House to organise a Zoom meeting with other groups to try to come up with some ideas as to how this can be arranged.

**ACTION: CLLR HOUSE**

### 20.115 Pop Up Market follow up

Stallholders were down as, unfortunately, some of the farmers markets had opened. However, those that were there were happy and felt they had a good day. The organisers would like to look at a Festive Market, perhaps on the car park of the Sports Club and the bar could be open if it was held late afternoon or early evening.

## **13. Children & Youth**

20.116 Nothing to report. There is no plans for the Scouts to re-open or the Sports Club, although one or two activities have restarted and the children are back at school.

## **14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set**

20.117 Connect Emergency Fund. A statement of the current position was issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting and is available on request from the Clerk.

## **15. Public Relations**

- 20.118
- 4pm bus from Dorchester
  - Benches/ donations
  - Play park update
  - Grant for the School
  - Feedback from the Market
  - Trees on No-Man's Land

## **16. Items for the November meeting**

20.119 Any items for the agenda should be passed to the Clerk by the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:23pm.