

**RECORD OF BOURTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Chairman of the Parish Council, Simon Firbank who chaired the meeting, 9 Parish Councillors, 1 County Councillors, 17 members of the public and the Parish Clerk, Eve Wynn who took notes of the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Geoffrey Miller

**2. Record of Last Meeting**

The record of the 2017 annual meeting had been published and is available on the website.

**Proposed by PW, Seconded by JM, agreed as accurate by all Cllrs present.**

**3. Presentation by Brian Austin (Operations Manager Dorset Police) and Martha Perry (Dorset Road Safe)**

Brian gave a short but extremely informative presentation about road safety in Dorset. He said that Community Speed-watch really does work and that volunteers such as those in Bourton are the eyes and ears for Dorset Road Safe and the police. Brian asked that the community as a whole need to report any incidences of speeding as the more people that do so then the more information the police have to act upon. Martha reiterated this and said that education, awareness, deterrents such as community speed-watch are all key in ensuring our roads are made safer.

**4. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2017 to 2018 year.**

This is my 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive report as Chairman! When you live so close to the action, or happenings, it is difficult to pick out the more relevant and important matters. However, I can, with great sincerity welcome those of you who have come to support your Parish Council this evening and many of you have been keen followers throughout the year - thank you all. Please bear with us as this is a very full programme! Now to my view as to what we have been doing, in no particular order:

**Bourton Mill.** Much has at last been accomplished. The long awaited closure of Factory Hill has been achieved in order that major work in clearing the complicated site has been sorted, including the River Stour which has been diverted into an adjoining field whilst the new channel was prepared and this is now flowing peacefully in the new channel. The first six houses to the south of Factory Hill are up and running and a well-attended viewing has recently taken place.

**Sycamores or Ash Grove.** Not to be out done this development now has all ten houses completed in what must be described as a very cosy corner at the bottom of Church Track.

**The Village Hall** still continues to exercise deep thought with both its own Trustees together with your Parish Council. Progress is being made but it is both slow and at times frustrating.

**The Neighbourhood Plan** has, with great perseverance, frustration and red wine, finally jumped through all the many hoops put in its complicated way forward and was accepted as made in January this year. Very well done to all those who survived that tortuous journey.

**The Estate.** The three year contract has proved beneficial for the contractor and his team, together with the continued input from The Bourton Wildlife and Habitat Group. As the reorganisation of Rural Dorset evolves, we will have to fund more of the facilities needed in the Village.

**SID** The Speed Indicator Device's and the stalwarts who regularly turn out to man it in all weathers are to be congratulated.

**Dorset Alert** continues to fire out warnings that need to be taken into account in our daily lives. Our thanks to PCSO Vicky for her time as our Rural Beat Officer who has, in the current reorganisation, been reassigned elsewhere. However, Chris Mullins re-joins our part of Rural Dorset. Messages for him and his team should be sent to [northdorsetrural@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:northdorsetrural@dorset.pnn.police.uk) I would like to see many more members of the community signing up to the Dorset system as police intelligence has to work both ways.

**The Village Website** is still looked after with great enthusiasm by Nick Hall. Our website should contain nearly all matters that you may wish to know about. See [www.bourtondorset.org](http://www.bourtondorset.org)

**Our Christmas Tree** is surely the best in the area and thanks again to the presenter of the tree, the tireless team who put it up and take it down, and to Forge Garage for their continued support.

**The Tom Mitchell Salver** this year has gone to the Neighbourhood Plan Team so tirelessly encouraged and led by Mike and Pat Withers. No wonder that they have moved up the hill to Pen Selwood!

**And Finally**, I must give thanks to Michael Salisbury and his enthusiastic team at St George's School, more importantly now, as sadly Michael is off to pastures new. Thanks also to the team at our pre-school who have to compete for scholars with Leaping Frogs; to Anne Martin for the Cubs and Scouts and the very many unrewarded members of our great community who scud about in the background to make life easier for others. And lastly, with a twang of his guitar and a twinkle of the keyboard, thanks to Graham, our priest in charge.

#### **5. Parish Council Accounts for the Financial report for year ending 31st March 2018**

The Parish Clerk reported the following summary: **Staff costs** had increased to £6565.66 due to the agreed increase in salary and during the month of November the outgoing Clerk and incoming Clerk were both on the payroll for a handover month. **Total other payments** were **£15,152.24, considerably less than last year's accounts due to less expenditure compared to 2016/2017, such as the SIDS and the village defibrillator.**

**VAT of £2024.17 was claimed back and has been paid by HMRC to the parish council in the 2017/18 year** although another smaller reclaim is due to be paid and will reflect in 2018/19 accounts.

**Balances Carried Forward-** as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 is **£40,992.18** with outstanding cheques of **£582.38** giving a final balance of **£40,409.80.**

The budget analysis sheet identifies itemised expenditure incurred during the Financial Year compared with the budgeted amounts, which councillors had received prior to the meeting. For the forthcoming FY 2018-2019 the Parish Council have potential one off expenditure to contribute funding to costs for the new village hall legal and agent fees and the agreed works on the new cemetery. Therefore the current level of funds in the bank account can cover the projected additional costs that could be incurred in the 2018/19 year. The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit had been completed and she would forward the accounts to the independent internal auditor and external auditor this week for finalisation.

**Proposed by PW, Seconded by JM, agreed by all Cllrs present.**

#### **6. Bourton and Silton Charity Accounts**

Simon Firbank reported that Parish Councillor Geoffrey Miller will provide a brief update and confirmed that the Parish Councillors will be in receipt of a copy of the 2018/19 accounts at the June meeting.

#### **7. Open Forum**

Members of the public raised the following points:

- Alex Ross said he had completed and returned an application for funding towards the Bourton Bash event. The Clerk explained that this had been received but was too late to be included on the agenda. The application will be presented at the next meeting to be held in June.
- Tony Benge reported on the WW1 Exhibition. This project was set up and delivered by Sue Ashby & Tony Benge with grant support from Bourton Parish Council, Dorset Rural Fund, The Heritage Lottery, Waitrose Community Fund and individual donors. Started in March 1917 it reaches its conclusion in July 1918. Completed 3 visits to Foundry site, 3 visits to Keep Museum, no foundry visit but information exchanged via email with a Foundry in the Midlands which explained the Mills Bomb casting process. Research included visits to North Dorset and Wiltshire Collections, The Keep Museum Dorchester, Taunton History Collection, Somerset Regiment Museum, South West History Archives, The Maggs Papers (original foundry owner's documents, letters, production records and employees' health reports, children's exemption certificates), Gillingham Museum, Bourton School Log Book, the Women's Engineering Society in Hertford, local family historians and many other sources. Exhibition: Bourton 1914 - 1918 photographs, personal testimonies, historical records, maps, certificates and letters covered the following themes: the Foundry, What School Children did during the War, The Soldier and The Officer - 2 of the Bourton's war dead, Life On The Home Front, The Village Policeman's Wartime Duties & The 1917 Flood. The Exhibition was in Bourton Parish Church for 3 weeks to be moved to other venues including St Peters Church, Stourton (from 21st May) and Gillingham Museum (in July). 'On Them Our Lives Depend' a community play about Bourton Foundry 1915-1918 was written, produced and performed between April-July 2017 to a total audience of 360 people from the village and surrounding area. The play was performed by Bourton Players and local school children. 30 people took part in the production. A themed version was presented to Gillingham

History Society in September 2017 (audience 68). An Evening with Major Nick Speakman & Bonny Sartin took place on February 10th 2018 at Bourton Village Hall with 70 people attending. The website [www.bourtonww1.com](http://www.bourtonww1.com) is now online, consisting of exhibition content and will shortly include biographical details of all those on the Bourton War Memorial plus information from recent and ongoing research. The website invites contributions to add to the archive. The Project's legacy to the village includes: \* A website that local people can add to with WW1 photos, stories and memorabilia that relate to Bourton and the surrounding villages \* LED lighting in the village hall for use by the Bourton Players & Touring Companies \* A second set of steps to the stage.\* 4 display boards (16 display areas) to be shared between the church and the village hall (if required). Our thanks go to Bourton PCC for its generous support for this project. SF thanked Tony and Sue for all their hard work.

- Shaun Dandy put forward details of his planning application at Brixey's Farm. He explained that having worked for many months at the Factory Hill/Mill Site and after spending so much time in the village he would now really like to live in this community. He said his application to build one dwelling would very much be in keeping with the rest of the area and this small development would affect no one but Brixey's Farm and they have agreed to his plans. Mr Dandy explained that he understands that it might set a precedent but he felt that all applications have to be decided on individual merits.

**The meeting was formally closed at 7.42pm**

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