

**MINUTES OF BOURTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT 7.00 PM ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: The Chairman of the Parish Council, S. Firbank who chaired the meeting, 6 Parish Councillors, 10 members of the Public; H Ransley acted as secretary

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

*The minutes of the last meeting could not be produced because of a computer glitch. The Chairmans Report from that meeting was circulated.*

**Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Good evening and thank you for joining us this evening

- I see from last years report that I had described the then previous twelve months as being "rather bumpy," well I think that the ensuing twelve months have continued to have periods of unease and distrust. A Parish Council must expect and accept constructive criticism, but it can be very disruptive if pursued to extremes.
- The new Village Hall ---- and this of course is the major concern of the Hall Management Committee ( they have their Annual meeting a week tomorrow ). However once they are able to announce a suitable conclusion to their search for a new site and fund raising can begin, then the whole community will be able to put their considerable weight behind the Hall Committee in what may well be a daunting task. In the mean time the PC has offered £3500 towards the initial cost of professional advice.
- Bourton Mill continues to stagger towards a satisfactory conclusion. In this Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> March the District Management Control Committee were moved to agree an outline planning permission subject to satisfactory S106 and conditions being agreed between solicitors acting for both NDDC and Clublight. Today we are told that approximately some 60% of these problems have been agreed, however this does imply that there are many more items to be agreed and signed up.
- Turbines and Solar Parks are still in the news. The Silton enquiry provided success for the hard working SOS team, with the Inspector deciding in favour of " No Turbines" and in reaching his decision praised Bourton for the detail in its VDS, Well done that team and to Jane for presenting our case. However, there is an ongoing possibility of an application within the Parish and also a possibility of a Solar Park adjacent to where the Silton turbines had been proposed. Despite the Government protestations for "Localism" the continued vacillation of different Departments make it very hard to forecast the future for this Governments wind policies..
- The Jubilee Celebrations were a great success due to the hard work both in the planning and on the days of the Celebrations by Viv and Andrew Sturt and members of their family. On the sunniest day almost all the Village passed through the "gates" to enjoy a great variety of entertainment. Much food and drink was consumed and The White Lion made a most generous donation. This year our traditional Fete returns on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The hard work put in in the past by the teams who produced the Village Plan and the VDS has produced a good working base for the next stage in trying to obtain more independence under Localism. Mike Withers heads up the team tasked with producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Bourton. The team is working closely with North Dorset who are very supportive of their efforts and the team continue to consult with the Village at key stages in the process. I am sure that at the end of his programme, and as was achieved on the Village Design Statement, a structured and meaningful Plan will be put forward to a Village referendum on behalf of the PC."
- The pressure has been on to expand the current Parish website to include the Neighbourhood Plan, the new Village Hall amongst other things. I am extremely grateful to James Mann for all the hard work and time that he has put into our original website. We have many more potential users and a lot of information to disseminate to various groups and the new website should achieve this.

- At the end of my last report I drew your attention to the Tom Mitchell Salver which is awarded each year to a member of the Community who has got on, on their own or with others, for the good of our Village as a whole. This year I am delighted to present the Tom Mitchell salver to Nick Hall who has

### **Parish Council Accounts**

Heather Ransley presented the draft 2012-13 accounts. The following points were made:

- The Precept appears to have gone up considerably this year. This is because it was kept low over the last few years to use up reserves. This brings us back to normal.
- VAT Recovered shown for 2011-12. VAT repayment for 2012-13 has been applied for and will show in the 2013-14 accounts.

### **Bourton and Silton Charity Accounts**

The Bourton and Silton Charity is an amalgamation of a number of smaller charities which makes grants to needy residents. Councillor Geoff Miller presented the 2012-13 accounts. Receipts from investments and rents totalled £978. Disbursements to individuals totalled £400. This is much the same as last year.

There are 8 trustees. Income is from rent on the 10 acres owned at Huntingford plus interest on investments from the Charity Commission. The bank balance currently stands at around £3,000. Edna Gibbs asked that the trustees look at ways to increase the usage of the land at Huntingford and to therefore increase the income.

### **Open Forum**

#### Wessex Water

Factory Hill drainage works have started and the pumping station works start in earnest this week.

#### School Field

It was confirmed that the field is owned by the County Council. There is a lease agreement in place...

#### Website

Nick Hall reported that he was handing over all the information he had collated for the new website to Alex at DesignJam this week. The website should be up and running in a few weeks time.