

**RECORD OF BOURTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 23rd MAY 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Chairman of the Parish Council, Simon Firbank who chaired the meeting, 7 Parish Councillors, 9 members of the public and the parish clerk, who took notes of the meeting.

1. Record of Last Meeting

The record of the 2015 annual meeting had been published and are available on the website.

Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2015 to 2016 year.

Well, here we are again! Some of us for a very long time and others just one year. Last year I started off with two elephants in the room and this year of course we have three elephants as The Hall and Bourton Mill are joined by the Neighbourhood Plan. I must at this early stage thank all those many people in this village who have worked so hard throughout the last twelve months to keep such a varied number of projects on the move. Let me start with the elephants.

Bourton Mill. Whilst security and continued deprivation have maintained high priority and kept the Parish Council and NDDC occupied, Clublight have managed to obtain Government funding and were able to receive Outline Planning Permission from NDDC on 27th March, albeit with 42 Section 106 conditions to be signed off. These are being worked at by both NDDC and the developer who hopes to be able to start work in June.

The Village Hall conundrum is still occupying much time for the Village Hall Management, the Neighbourhood Plan Team and your Parish Council. There are many questions to be answered and the VHMC will have a busy year ahead.

The Neighbourhood Plan has managed to maintain momentum by virtue of long hours of slogging over many documents and trying to interpret endless Government documents and changing advice from NDDC. Suffice to say, we hope to send the Pre-Submission Draft on its way tonight and into its first six week public consultation.

The Estate. The second year of funds have been obtained from DCC to enable our own contractor to look after "County" Grass and Verges besides mowing and maintaining the Cemetery. This has made for efficient control and better liaison with the Bourton Wildlife and Habitat Group who have continued to improve roadside habitat, besides gallant work trying to eliminate Japanese knotweed which is invading the banks of the River Stour. They have several other schemes ranging from Owl Boxes to litter picking.

The Speed Indicator Device, SID to those in the know, is now up and flashing, after much niggling with DCC over the selection and erection of the three nominated sites. This managed by our hardworking Speed Watch Group who continue the regular speed checks which contribute to our safe roads.

We bought the old fashioned **Red Telephone Box** at the top of Tan Lane which has been excellently refurbished by Mr. Bob Taylor. A use has yet to be established for its future.

The Neighbourhood Watch has morphed into "Dorset Alert" either way I ask all of you to register with one or the other and remember that to be successful information has to pass both ways!! Every household has now had an information leaflet from the police and our PCSO, Vicky Levy will keep us informed of the uptake on this scheme.

The Village Web Site is still very much alive and has all manner of useful information on it. Mr. Nick Hall works tirelessly to ensure this site is updated and full of useful information for all residents and visitors to Bourton. Thankyou.

2. Parish Council Accounts for the Financial report for year ending 31st March 2016

The parish clerk reported the following summary:

Staff costs increased from **£3039.04** to **£3617.76**, due to the agreed increase in salary and a payment of PAYE from the 2014/15 year in the 2015/16 year. One cheque for £300.00 from the 2014/15 has not been cashed and has now been cancelled.

Total other payments were **£38343.09**, payments included the total payment of **£6590.40p** for the purchase of a new playground surface and overdue repairs. There was a payment of **£6,156.00** for the cemetery wall repair and general maintenance. There was also **£9,457.96** NPG costs although it should be noted the NPG obtained a grant of **£6094.00 for this year.**

VAT of £4,259.38 was claimed back and has been paid by HMRC to the parish council in the 2016/17 year.

Balances Carried Forward- Balances carried forward at 31st March 2016 are **£45,076.61** with outstanding cheques of **£4,135.39** giving a final balance of **£40,641.22.**

The final closing figure for 2015-2016 corresponds with the total amount of monies held in the two bank accounts at the close of the 2015-2016 financial year, a final balance of **£40,641.22**. The budget analysis sheet identifies itemised expenditure incurred during the Financial Year compared with the budgeted amounts, which councillors had received earlier in the month. For the forthcoming FY 2016-2017 the parish council have potential one off expenditure to **contribute** funding to potential legal costs in planning applications such as the mill site, contribution 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 2016/17 year. He confirmed that the internal audit had been completed and he would forward the accounts to the independent internal auditor and external auditor this week for finalisation.

3. Bourton and Silton Charity Accounts

Parish Councillor Geoffrey Miller provided an update and provided the parish councillors with a copy of the 2015/16 accounts. Parish Councillor Martin asked what the terms and conditions are for the provision of funds from the charity. Councillor G Miller confirmed they have been used in the past for local organisations who provide a local community benefit but are mainly for individuals who live in the parish and who find themselves in a financial need. The trustees review each application on its individual merit and award a sum of money if appropriate. Councillor Martin asked that the parish council highlight this fund in the minutes, including the monthly meeting (Note: AOB item in May monthly meeting refers). Parish councillor Tim Heaton asked why this was an item in the parish council annual public meeting. Following a discussion it was agreed to clarify why this report was made and what if any role the parish council have in the management or governance of the charity. (Note: Will be an agenda item at June Meeting).

4. Open Forum

Members of the public raised the following points.

Who will have archaeology oversight during the demolition and building phases of the mill site development?

Parish Councillor Peter Williams reminded the meeting that this aspect of the development is one of the 42 conditions placed on the developer by the district council and that it is the responsibility of the developer to adhere to these and the district council will oversee this development.

The meeting was formally closed at 7.20pm