

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM ON MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT: S Firbank, G Miller, P Williams, M Withers, C Price, D Lawes, L Jones

APOLOGIES: A Miller, H Baker

ATTENDING: Iain McVie (The Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

13.188 APOLOGIES – AS ABOVE

13.189 OPEN FORUM

S Firbank welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A member of the public updated the meeting concerning the formation of a 'Bourton Habitat and Wildlife Group, which has been formed as a result of work completed by the Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG), Natural Environment Focus Group.

Following a successful visit to Bourton by Joy Wallis of the Dorset Wildlife Trust, this included visiting locations in the parish and identifying locations of interest. There will be a Wildlife and Habitats Evening on the 10th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall where Joy Wallis will give an illustrated talk.

This was confirmed by the NPG Chairman and Councillor MW who also asked that this event be supported by Council members.

A member of the public asked the Meeting when the NPG would be advising residents of the responses from owners of land who were considering any housing developments in the future. MW stated that such enquiries to landowners were requested as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process and responses were voluntary and with an agreement of confidentiality. However without naming individuals the responses would be included within any consultation and recommendations concerning future housing development and settlement boundary matters. MW also reminded the Meeting that the plan would be evidenced based with independent scrutiny and following a referendum of the residents. He also confirmed that any recommendations would be evidence based and be referenced in the back up papers.

Another resident stated that he had seen a form used by Dorset County Council that had stated all such landowner responses would be in the public domain.

MW informed all that this was not the same situation and that the NPG had confirmed any responses would be treated confidentially.

MW also reaffirmed the NPG process has transparency, independence and will ensure consultation with villagers throughout.

A member of the public asked if the 'give way' signage at Pen junction could be improved, as the markings are worn and obscured by fallen leaves.

ACTION: IM request DCC Highways resolve. (Note action complete DCC Job Reference 1003448)

A member of the public raised an issue concerning people leaving their plastic bags with dog waste inside on footpaths. It was noted as an issue caused by a few irresponsible individuals.

A member of the public asked if a damaged stile on one of the village footpaths could be repaired or replaced. The location was confirmed.

ACTION: DL to arrange for repair or replacement. (Note: DCC visiting 16/1/14 to resolve).

13.190 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

S Firbank and C Price declared a personal interest in Bourton Mill (neighbours).

M Withers declared a personal interest in the potential Village Hall site (neighbour).

G Miller declared a personal and pecuniary interest in the wind turbines at Holly Home.

13.191 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by all and signed as a true record.

13.192 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Village Signs: LJ confirmed he would chase up the quotes to repair and repaint.

ACTION: LJ to update the December meeting.

Cemetery Wall: LJ confirmed he was awaiting quotes as per the October Meeting. LJ also stated that there may be a need for some work on the side retaining wall, but, he would ensure BPC only repair its boundary wall.

SF confirmed whilst there was monies set aside in this year's budget BPC would need to factor this additional cost into next year's precept.

ACTION: LJ to update the January meeting.

All other actions covered in main items on the agenda.

13.193 REPORT BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Report from County Councillor

DDC Public transport re-organisation update.

ACTION: AC will update as per the November Meeting at the January Meeting.

Report from District Councillor

GM updated the Meeting concerning the proposed Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) changes that affect Bourton Parish. He stated that the NDDC were now going to propose an alternative to LGBC which would see Bourton Parish have one Councillor with a slightly enlarged area that would bring it to within 2% of the 1628 voters to Councillor Ratio. This proposal will go to NDDC on 18/12/13 to be formally agreed and then sent to LGBC.

GM asked that the Parish support this.

IM provided the meeting with procedural advice and confirmation that the November action of producing a report for Councillors to consider had been completed and circulated.

GM proposed that the Parish Council support the new NDDC proposal once agreed and he will forward written confirmation on 18/12/13 to IM who will circulate to all and then write to LGBC to confirm the Parish Council support for the NDDC proposal.

Proposed PW, Seconded by DL and agreed by all.

GM updated the meeting that the DCC will be reviewing its current approach to communities who wish to introduce 20mph speed limits and he will keep the village updated as this develops.

IM confirmed that this was also a view of the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner.

IM informed the meeting that he had obtained information for the village to operate its own 'Speedwatch' system. This would involve volunteers being trained by Dorset Police to complete speed checks in the parish and in particular locations of concern such as outside the school.

ACTION: IM to arrange an advert for a Volunteer Coordinator/Volunteers. (Note: advert placed)

GM updated the meeting confirming that NDDC would not be passing on the Precept Grant subsidy for 2014/15 as it had done for this financial year.

SF stated that he understood they were reconsidering this as all other Districts were passing the grant on.

GM stated his understanding was not the same.

13.194 PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

13.194.1 Applications Received – None.

13.194.2 Permissions Granted / Applications Withdrawn – None.

SF informed the meeting that there is a further application in Zeals for the land by the new Playgroup for commercial use, including Lorries visiting and leaving the site. Neither Zeals nor Wiltshire had informed us of this application. He suggested we should support Zeals Parish in opposing this application as it could affect Bourton in terms of noise and road debris.

Proposed by MW, Seconded by PW and agreed by all.

ACTION: SF to pass papers to IM who will submit a letter.

13.194.3 Bourton Mill

SF confirmed that both actions from the last meeting had been completed and that we were awaiting a response from the owner and NDDC.

CP and PW asked if all the information and photographs had been passed to NDDC.

SF confirmed they had.

ACTION: SF/IM to chase up owner and NDDC for next meeting.

13.194.4 Wind Turbines/Photovoltaic solar arrays

PW confirmed that both EIA(s) are awaited on in relation to the existing applications previously discussed and that work had commenced on the Manor Farm Solar Array.

LJ noted that the Government Policy is now encouraging farms to install small scale alternative energy sources and this may see a rise in future applications of single wind or solar units.

13.195 FINANCE

13.195.1 Accounts to be paid

PW Cowell	Additional Cemetery Cut	£64.00
Parish of Upper Stour	NPG Advert	£5.50

Proposed by DL, Seconded by CP and agreed by all.

IM requested on behalf of HB that the Council agree to repair works on the playground surface. He confirmed two quotes had been obtained one in excess of £600 and one for £350 from Wessex Groundworks, who had also completed a site visit. IM explained these works were to complete the medium risks identified in the annual inspection of the playground.

Proposed by PW, Seconded by MW and agreed by all.

ACTION: IM arrange (Note: Action completed and works to be carried out when there is no rain)

13.195.2 Accounts received – None

13.195.3 Grants & Donations

SF on behalf of GM asked that £350 be given as a grant to CAB.

Proposed by CP, Seconded by MW and agreed by all

13.195.4 Council Precept 2014/15

IM confirmed that he had completed his action to provide Councillors with some initial figures. He stated that he would provide further updated figures to all in early January and would also keep the Council updated with information from NDDC.

By the January Meeting the Council should be in a position to agree the precept of which the final submission date is still set at 4/3/2014.

ACTION: IM to keep Councillors updated and provide refreshed figures for January.

13.196 NEW VILLAGE HALL

IM confirmed that copies of PW notes were sent to Councillors with the November minutes.

PW confirmed that to date Brimble Lea had not produced a proposal and that they were continuing discussions with Proctors on behalf of the New Village Hall (NVH).

PW suggested that once any proposal had arrived it would be sensible if the Council met informally to examine and discuss it. He also suggested that it may be beneficial to ask Brimble Lea and/or Proctors to present any proposal.

ACTION: PW to forward the proposal from Brimble Lea to all, once it has arrived.

SF stated he was unsure what the present management set up is for progressing the new village hall project.

ACTION: IM to write to the VHMC to clarify who was on what Committee (Note: Action completed)

SF informed the meeting that the NVH and NPG would be meeting on 13/1/14.

SF confirmed that all Councillors had received the report from MW that provided context to his comments made at the last Parish Council meeting.

SF invited any comment from Councillors.

PW reiterated that it is Proctors view that the barn is technically not a 'brownfield' site and if any planning application went to appeal the likelihood would be that the Inspector would consider the benefits of a residential build outweighing any harm within such a site.

MW stated that the emerging NDDC Local Plan 2011-2026 defines 'brownfield land' and additionally makes it clear that 'land that is or has been occupied for agriculture or forestry use would be excluded from the definition of previously developed land'.

MW also reminded all that the site is currently outside the settlement boundary, making any application to develop housing on the site as one that would go against the current NDDC policy.

MW further stated his opinion is that the position of Brimble Lea and their client is not as strong as they would wish people to believe and that the Parish Council should be aware of this and that there can be little doubt that, if BL truly believed the strength of their position, then they would have already sought planning themselves before now.

PW reminded the meeting that the NPG and the NVG have agreed to meet on 13/1/2014 and that it is important there are no pre conditions. He reminded all that it is for the VHMC to come to the Parish Council with a proposal, that, if considered appropriate would go to the village for consultation.

MW stated that the NPG will be offering to help the NVG to progress their proposal. He reminded all that a Neighbourhood Plan could improve the process of obtaining planning permission without a need to involve NDDC.

PW asked if the timetable for the NPG would mean that a new village hall development would be ahead of any final Neighbourhood Plan.

MW stated this was unlikely as the NPG are looking to go to the village with the completed and independently verified plan by July 2014.

MW stated it was important that the NPG and the NVG work together in an open and transparent way and that the meeting on the 13/1/2014 shows this commitment by everyone.

PW stated that everyone was looking forward to the meeting to progress the new hall for the village.

ACTION: MW and PW to update the next meeting.

13.197 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MW updated the meeting that the NPG are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan progress report and questionnaire in order to gather further evidence for the final report. This will cover whether the village wish to plan for more new housing beyond those which are likely to be built following the planning consent for twenty nine houses at the former Mill/Factory site and taking into account the additional houses which are likely to be built. The last area will cover what if any, action the village wishes to take in respect of the protection and enhancement of our native wildlife habitats. It is proposed to hold a public meeting in late January/early February to discuss these issues and follow this up with a questionnaire, which will be delivered and collected by volunteers to each household in the village.

MW stated this is felt to be the fairest way of determining the village's opinion on these important issues and meets the standards required of the NP process and contained in the Governments best practice guidelines.

13.198 TRAINING

SF confirmed that we are awaiting the 2014 dates for Councillors Updates and Training.

13.199 HIGHWAYS

None.

13.200 TRANSPORT

SF confirmed that all Councillors had received the initial report, kindly provided by Ruth Hounsell in relation to a proposed subsidised taxi scheme for residents.

IM stated that legal advice has confirmed such a scheme would be legal, but, that there is a restriction on what residents could use such a scheme. SF stated that there would need to be

some further research before the Council could agree to provide funding and that he would work with Ruth Hounsell and come back to the Council.

ACTION: SF to bring a revised proposal to the January meeting.

13.201 CORRESPONDENCE

IM confirmed he would now show what has been done with correspondence within the minutes so that members of the public are kept informed.

DATE	FROM	CONTENT and ACTION
27/11/13	NDDC	Enquiry to all Councils for minutes dated 1979 - Reply sent and filed
27/11/13	DCC	Advert for interactive road collision map - Placed on Village Website
27/11/13	St Georges PTA	Information concerning School Xmas Fayre - Placed on Village Website
27/11/13	Broxap Litter Bins Ltd	Advert for services - Filed
28/11/13	Julie Gurling MEP	Newsletter – Placed on Village Website
28/11/13	CRW Gillingham	Invite Safe and Vibrant Community section - Gillingham N P 11.12.13-SF going.
28/11/13	Mr Robert Green	Enquiry re rubbish dumping in lay by - Resolved with DCC and by phone
28/11/13	Wessex Groundwork	Advert for services - Filed
04/12/13	DAPTC	Advert for temporary clerical assistant DAPTC for existing Clerks - Filed
04/12/13	DAPTC	Advice request for a PC on investment of monies - Filed
04/12/13	DAPTC	Copy of letter sent to NDDC re precept setting 14/15 - Filed as info only
04/12/13	NDDC	Copy of NDDC decision to not pass on grant for 14/15 precept - Info only
08/12/13	DCC	Updated contact list - Filed
08/12/13	CPEND	October/November Minutes – Circulated to Councillors and VHMC
08/12/13	DAPTC	Schools Admissions Poster – Placed on Village Website
12/12/13	DAPTC	Request for Clerk cover in North Dorset - Filed
12/12/13	DAPTC	DAPTC Circular – Circulated to Councillors
12/12/13	Dorset Fire Service (DFS)	Advert for DFS newsletter and information – Placed on Village Website

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information.

13.202 A.O.B.

SF updated the meeting in relation to his attendance at the DAPTC quarterly Executive Meeting, a talk from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the NDDC Consultation on the Part One of the Local Plan 2011-2026.

He confirmed that all Councillors had received copies of the DAPTC and the CPEND Minutes.

ACTION: IM to provide VHMC with a copy of the funding items from Meetings. (Note action has been completed).

PW asked for an update on the repair to the playground benches.

ACTION: SF will update the January meeting.

13.203 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2014

Chairman:

Date:

Note: These minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 27th January 2014.