

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 18TH AUGUST 2014**

PRESENT: S Firbank (Chairman), M Withers,
G Miller, P Williams, D Lawes, C Price, L Jones.
APOLOGIES: A Miller, H Baker, Andrew Cattaway (County Councillor)
ATTENDING: 11 members of the public and Iain McVie (The Clerk)

14.100 OPEN FORUM

SF welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting. He reminded all present that the 'Open Forum' is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make statements. Once the 'Open Forum' is concluded the public are present to watch and listen to proceedings only.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could look at the condition of the village benches and cover any costs to re paint or repair them if needed. She further stated that there were recycled plastic benches available to replace wooden ones if needed. LJ confirmed these are already in use in the school and the Parish Council had purchased such benches and for the village playground. SF confirmed the wooden benches were in Breach Close and by the War Memorial. He stated the council had purchased suitable weatherproof stain or paint which was being stored in his garage. After a discussion it was agreed to take the following action.

ACTION: SF/IM will arrange for benches to be checked and remedial work undertaken.

Another member of the public asked if the work could be completed by volunteers to save council funds. SF stated the council would consider this depending on the work to be completed.

A member of the public asked if the proposed daily 'turn off' of street lights at midnight by the county council was going to take place. SF confirmed that DCC have stated this will happen but there is no confirmed date. IM informed the meeting that DCC would complete the work to arrange the daily 'turn off' as part of a maintenance programme on the street lights to avoid attending villages and towns on two occasions. PW reminded the meeting that DCC were due to reduce the height of the street lights in the village and complete the 'turn off' work at the same time.

ACTION: IM to confirm when DCC will arrange the street lights daily turn off and what other work they will be completing with the street lampposts in the village.

A member of the public asked if the wooden barrier on the path in East Street could be repaired. SF agreed this would be arranged. (Please note this is part of footpath 12)

ACTION: IM to arrange (Please note action complete via dorsetforyou on 19/8/2014).

PLEASE NOTE Any member of the public can contact DCC on the dorsetforyou, footpaths section and report a problem on line.

A member of the public asked what will be happening with the grass verges and banks next year. SF stated this would be discussed formally in the meeting under any other business.

A member of the public reminded the meeting of a previous occasion when he had raised a planning issue in Bridge Street concerning the illegal building up of an earth bank that does not have planning permission. He confirmed that a Mr Hitchcott of NDDC had visited the location and decided that the bank did not obstruct other resident's views, but, that it was of a height that required planning permission. At this time NDDC have stated they are not prepared to take any enforcement action and have informed the landowners that they can put in retrospective planning should they wish. He pointed out that the banks do not have any structural support which the NDDC made no comment on. SF asked for a copy of the letter from NDDC which was supplied.

ACTION: SF will write to NDDC enforcement officer and asked that they re-visit the location to assess the risk of an unstructured earth bank that exceeds the 300mm height limit set out in legislation.

The member of the public continued and thanked Councillor Withers for visiting Bridge Street as part of the planning application process for a proposed extension to a property. He pointed out that the current maps used by NDDC appear to be incorrect and due to the scaling of the dimensions on the maps and plans there is a misleading appearance in that on the plans the scale makes the proposed extension look smaller than it is within the overall site. GM confirmed that NDDC do have problems with some of the maps currently used. MW undertook to ensure that this point is considered by the planning sub-committee and that site visits to proposed planning applications are made to ensure this type of issue does not get missed by the Parish Council.

The member of the public also asked if the Parish Council could provide the current number of proposed developments in the village, including a breakdown of total houses and bedroom numbers. MW confirmed that the NPG currently do not have this detail of information.

ACTION SF: To ask NDDC to provide this information to him and he would pass it on.

A member of the public asked if there was going to be a public meeting for residents to see the proposed plans including access points to and from the factory site for the new development. MW reminded the meeting that the Section 106 has been granted and that as of yet no further detailed plans had been submitted by the developer. Once this was done there would be consultation including a public meeting for the developer to explain the detail. SF stated that as soon as the developer submitted such plans the Parish Council would ensure all residents are informed.

Another member of the public asked if the Clerk could write to DCC thanking them for clearing all the roadside vegetation in Bridge Street. He also asked if the factory site owner could be asked to now do the same.

ACTION: IM to write letter of thanks to DCC (Note action completed by e mail 21/8/14).

ACTION: SF to ask owner of the factory site to cut back roadside vegetation.

(Note: Ashley Design sent an e mail 20/8/14)

14.101 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

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

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

G. Miller declared an interest in relation to the item on Solar/Wind/Photovoltaic Sites.

14.102 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

SF confirmed the previous minutes of the July Meeting. All present agreed they were accurate.

14.103 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

GM confirmed he had obtained the outstanding rent for new cemetery site action complete.

IM confirmed that all other outstanding actions would be covered in the main agenda.

14.104 REPORTS BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

SF confirmed that there were no updates for this meeting from the County Councillor.

GM reminded the meeting that the NDDC were now seriously looking at possible 'back office' mergers with other district councils to meet the future budget shortfall.

14.105 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications received – None.

Applications granted - None

Applications withdrawn - None

All applications can be viewed on dorsetforyou planning portal or via the village website.

14.105.2 Bourton Mill

SF stated he has had no further update but would be speaking to the owner's representatives on a regular basis and would keep the Parish Council and village informed of any progress on site.

14.105.3 Solar/Wind/Photovoltaic Sites

PW informed the meeting that there are three proposed wind turbine developments in central and south Dorset totalling 15 large turbines, which will have a significant cumulative effect on the county. PW also informed the meeting that the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the more local wind turbine sites (at West Bourton and Silton), remains but there appears to be a lack of information as to if an EIA has a time limit as is seen in other planning decisions, such as a grant of a Section 106.

ACTION: IM to seek advice as to whether EIAs have time limits.

14.106 FINANCE

14.106.1 Accounts to be paid

M. Withers	NPG Travel Expenses	£ 27.00
M. Withers	NPG Expenses	£10.00
N. Hall	NPG Expenses	£ 10.60

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

14.106.2 Accounts received – None

14.106.3 Grants and Donations - None

14.106.4 2013/2014 Accounts

IM updated the meeting that the 2013/2014 accounts were still with the external auditors BDO as they are behind in the annual review of accounts from local councils. He stated that BDO are completing the audit and that by the next meeting the accounts should be ready for sign off.

14.107 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MW informed the meeting that the recent public drop-in session displaying the full results from the second questionnaire was attended by only eighteen people which was disappointing. MW thought this may be as a result of the previous delivery of the headline results to every household in the village some two weeks earlier. Two comments were made by visitors and their queries were addressed. MW confirmed that the NPG are continuing with work on the strategic environmental assessment with assistance from NDDC and Planning Aid. He stated that the group has yet to decide whether or not to employ an external consultant to assist in the process. He stated the need to balance expense against return as a consultant would need NPG members to brief them and provide relevant information which is time that could be used to complete the work themselves. MW stated that NDDC are intending to appoint a member of staff to solely deal with neighbourhood plans which is seen as being helpful to the NP process.

PW asked if the NPG had any idea of the time it will take to complete the SEA for the new hall selection. MW stated he hoped it would take no longer than three to four months.

14.108 NEW VILLAGE HALL

PW stated that there was no further update as the SEA process has to be completed first. MW asked about the village hall management committee's progress in terms of developing its business plan and in particular plans to raise funds. PW stated that serious fund raising cannot take place until there is an agreed site on which to build a new hall and outline planning permission has been obtained. He confirmed that the VHMC had invited Hillary Ritchie who was employed by NDDC to provide advice on taking the existing business plan forward and suggestions on how to fund raise effectively. SF confirmed that she has good knowledge of both these areas due to her previous experience in NDDC.

14.109 TRAINING

IM confirmed the August and September training sessions to the council.

14.110 FOOTPATHS

SF confirmed that the County Councillor and DCC would continue with the work to investigate the history of Footpath 11.

ACTION: Andrew Cattaway will arrange for DCC to investigate the history of Footpath 11 and options to resolve the issue amicably.

SF confirmed that the application to open a footpath from New Close to Mill Lane is continuing and the actions from the previous meeting were completed.

IM confirmed that the current issues of footpath 1 - barbed wire across path, footpath 26 (in the meeting this was referred to as footpath 2) blocked and broken stile and footpath 5 – a request to reduce the incline to make walking safer, had all been placed on the dorsetforyou website.

PLEASE NOTE Any member of the public can contact DCC on the dorsetforyou, footpaths section and report a problem on line.

14.111 HIGHWAYS

SF stated there were no further updates.

14.112 TRANSPORT

SF confirmed there were no new updates.

14.113 COMMUNITY SAFETY

SF confirmed there were no new updates.

14.114 CORRESPONDENCE

05/08/14	Local Enterprise Partnership	Advert to join the board of the Dorset LEP Board - Website
05/08/14	Northern Area DAPTC	Update on 'Blandford fly' and spraying on River Stour - Chairman
05/08/14	DAPTC	Copy Dorset MP correspondence in Blandford - Filed NFA

05/08/14	Healthwatch Dorset	Adverts and information of services - Website
05/08/14	DAPTC	Advert for two events for North Dorset LAG - Councillors and website
05/08/14	DAPTC	Email concerning consultation on travellers pitches - To all councillors
05/08/14	DAPTC	DAPTC Northern Area Minutes - To all Councillors and filed

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information.

14.115 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PW congratulated the craft group for the excellent remembrance wall hanging that had been completed and placed in the church and also the effort taken to research the individual villagers who had lost their life in the First World War. All present agreed.

SF confirmed that there would be a need to have a clear plan for next years verges and grass cutting that ensured the wildlife and habitats good work continues and that issues such as road safety are dealt with. He asked all Councillors to consider this and suggested one solution for next year would be to have the wildlife and habitats group maintain the bank that is the responsibility of the Parish Council and is the area that the group have worked hard on this year. Then have DCC cut and maintain all verges in the usual way with two or three cuts a year rather than one.

IM informed the meeting that Councillor Helen Baker had submitted her resignation as a Councillor from 18th August. He confirmed that NDDC had been informed and that adverts for a casual vacancy will be placed on both notice boards and the village website on 19th August to ensure the council complies with election legislation.

SF asked that the minutes reflect the Parish thanks to Helen for her efforts and that the Parish Council wish her well in the future.

ACTION: IM to place adverts as stated (Note action completed on 19/8/2014)

SF provided the meeting with the update and process for selection of the new vicar and confirmed this information will be in the next edition of the Upper Stour magazine.

14.116 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2014

14.117 SF thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

Chairman: S.Firbank

Date: 19thAugust 2014

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 29th September 2014

VIEW THE BOURTON VILLAGE WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION and NEWS

www.bourtondorset.org

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