

**MINUTES OF A VILLAGE MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY, 21ST AUGUST 2017**

PRESENT: P Williams, M Martin, M Withers, J Morgan, S Firbank, H Bedford, G Miller, M Chapman, A Miller, T Heaton
APOLOGIES: PCSO V Levy, Cllr A Cattaway
ATTENDING: 7 members of the public

17.62 APOLOGIES – PER ABOVE

17.63 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public asked who decided which roads were selected for renewal of top dressing as not all roads in the village have been completed. He also commented that many potholes have been omitted. The Clerk confirmed that she had been in touch with Steve Higgs (Dorset Highways) with regards to the unfinished roads and was presently waiting to hear from him.

PW queried why Main Road had not had full resurfacing rather than the top dressing.

MM noted that the West Bourton Rd, which is yet to be re-tarmacked, could be put on hold until after the present building works (Ashford homes) are further progressed.

Another member of the public noted that the resurfacing work was incomplete at Primrose Lane and that it does not run to the top as she had previously been advised it would be. The member of the public is also of the opinion that Primrose Lane needs more drainage to avoid the water runoff from the fields causing flooding along the lane as without it, damage is caused by excess water runoff.

ACTION: The Clerk to add the road resurfacing queries to further correspondence to Steve Higgs and to arrange a meeting onsite with the relevant parties.

A member of the public reported on the recent work and progress of the Bourton Wildlife and Habitats Group. Much work with Dorset Wildlife Trust as well as Gillingham, Milton and Silton has been taking place and is ongoing to rid the parish of Himalayan Balsam. Progress is good and the project is likely to take a further 2 years. MW asked if the group is also consulting upriver, the member of the public confirmed that it is. The member of the public also reported that a local landowner has permitted the group to clear and restore the pond in an old quarry which will (in time) be cleared and a bird-hide will be installed for use by local groups. He also commented that the Banks and Verges are ongoing work. SF thanked the group for their ongoing efforts.

17.64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SF declared a pecuniary interest and personal interest within the Bourton Mill agenda item as he is an adjacent landowner to the site. SF confirmed that he would step aside as Chair during the agenda item regarding The Mill and pass the role of Chair to MW for that item.

17.65 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The July minutes for the monthly meeting were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman with the amendment on P14 of a typo of WWI not WWII.

GM raised concern regarding the ongoing planning challenges facing Dorset – see planning below

17.66 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Planning applications: The Clerk had collated Planning sub-group comments and decisions and uploaded to the Dorsetforyou Planning Portal.
- Planning – Bourton Mill: The Clerk thanked PW for forwarding the previous correspondence relating to The Panel Engineers reports to the relevant parties.
- Community Safety: The Clerk confirmed that PCSO Levy will attend the Sept meeting.
- Tent: SF to collate varying costs to present at the Sept meeting.
- Tent: Clerk is yet to add to the SOs that the council will use its discretion with charging/not charging for the use of the tent. Private use will require a £200 / hire fee. Groups which benefit the village can be loaned the tent for free or at a reduced rate.
- AOB - Fete: MM had drafted a note for the Upper Stour magazine Sept issue.

17.67 REPORT BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Report from District Councillor. PW reported that the Unitary Council report is still in the hands of the Secretary of State and that a decision is unlikely before the end of October. It is not a given that the Unitary option will prevail.

17.68 PLANNING

In response to GM's concerns relating to the planning decisions losing localism, PW reported that the tripartite team arrangement continues to struggle during the interregnum due to recruitment issues and on-going uncertainties relating to the Unitary decision. PW reported that the loss of the 5yr HLS status is a significant concern: it means that a 'tilted balance' now exists in favour of developers. AONB and Settlement Boundaries no longer provide the same degree of protection which is a great loss and a national concern. PW reassured the Council that, in spite of the changes to the way that planning applications are now being considered by NDDC, there is still a measure of oversight by elected ward members. However, the latter have to be vigilant and 'call in' any planning

applications which warrant debate by the NDDC Planning Committee in a timely manner rather than waiting for the monthly Parish meetings. GM voiced that he felt this was a retrograde step.

17.68.1 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – ONE SINCE PUBLISHING THE AGENDA

Planning Consultation - 2/2017/1088/HOUSE - The Old Schoolhouse West Bourton Road Bourton Dorset SP8 5PG

Proposal: Erect a first floor side extension and install 1 No. rear first floor window

The planning subgroup confirmed that there are no objections to this application.

ACTION: The Clerk to collate Planning sub-group comments and decisions and upload to the Dorsetforyou Planning Portal

17.68.2 BOURTON MILL – SF HANDED CHAIRMAN TO MW FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM

JM reported that she is awaiting updates concerning the removal of the ICB c/o Adler and Allen (the EA's recommended contractors) and that the River divert is still under consideration.

PW confirmed he was recently in touch with Hannah Smith (Dorset Planning) who is awaiting the comments from the EA which are due by August 25th. Given the nature of some objections he cautioned that there might be some slippage to timelines, however, Hannah Smith was hopeful that the river diversion would be approved by mid-September.

MW expressed thanks to both PW and JM for their ongoing hard work.

MW handed Chairman back to SF

17.68.3 RUGBY COTTAGE

MM confirmed that she has been in touch with Ashford Homes who indicate that sales will commence in September and that the progress nearest the road is rapid.

17.69 FINANCE

17.69.1 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID

H Bedford	July Wages and Expenses (£20.50)	£ 508.95
BDO LLP	Annual Audit of Parish A/C's 16/17	£ 276.00
LB Planning	NPG (Final payment)	£ 700.00
PM Cowell	#1329 £240.00, #1330 £60.00, #1331 £178.80, #1332 £150.00	£ 628.80

Proposed by PW, Seconded by AM and agreed by all Cllrs present.

17.69.2 - Accounts received – None

17.69.3 Grants and Donations – None

17.70 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MW Nothing direct to report as we have not heard from the Examiner to date. NDDC have announced that they no longer have the government-required 5-year supply of future housing sites in the District. Exactly what this could mean both for the Local Plan and our draft Neighbourhood Plan are not known. It has been reported in the local press that it could mean an open door for developers wishing to build on possibly unsuitable sites as there will be a presumption in favour of development in the absence of an "approved" Local Plan. We can only wait and see how the Examiner responds.

PW confirmed he has been in touch with Nicola Laszlo who said that she hopes to have the inspector's comments within the next fortnight and that the process will hopefully reach referendum stage 2 months thereafter. PW has also been in touch with Rob Firth (Dorset Planning Legal) who has advised that, in spite of the recent Housing Land Supply (HLS) set-back, communities should continue with their NP activities, since an approved NP will provide at least some level of defence against unwanted development.

17.71 NEW VILLAGE HALL

MC confirmed that following further contact with the Big Lottery, we expect to hear in September of progress on our application. The Trustees of the Hall have held a further meeting during August to confirm the programme of consultative events during the autumn. These will be held in the Hall on the 17th October and the 28th November together with the circulation/online availability of a questionnaire about the community's needs and aspirations for a new hall. A final presentation of the findings of the consultation will be held on 23rd January 2018. Dorset Community Action will be supporting this activity provided that Lottery funding is confirmed.

SF confirmed he is yet to retrieve the VH trust deeds from Lloyds in Gillingham as it is closed for refurbishment.

17.72 TRAINING – No comments

17.73 HIGHWAYS – No comments

17.74 TRANSPORT – No comments

17.75 FOOTPATHS – No comments

17.76 COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mrs Sheila Williams reported on behalf of the Speedwatch team that she is in touch with Winterborne St Martin who have requested advice regarding installing SID's in their village. Mrs Williams is dealing with this. The Council extended their thanks to Mrs Williams and the Speedwatch team.

The Clerk read a statement from PCSO V Levy: "There have been no crimes reported in Bourton in the last month. Elsewhere in North Dorset there have been several breaks to vehicles and items stolen. Please do not leave any valuables in your vehicle."

17.77 HEALTH AND WELLBEING – No comments

17.78 TENT

SF will update the Council in the Sept meeting.

17.79 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence for the period between the July min and up to the Sept Agenda will be shown on the Sept Agenda

17.80 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.81 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER AT 7PM

SF closed the meeting at 7.55pm

Chairman:

Date: 25th August 2017

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 25th September 2017