

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM ON MONDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

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

**APOLOGIES:**

**ATTENDING:** H Ransley (The Clerk), Andrew Cattaway, 30 members of the public, guest speaker Martyn Underhill, Police & Crime Commissioner

### 13.138 OPEN FORUM

Ash Tree on West Bourton Road: Viv Sturt said this needed attention. Phil Cowell to liaise with Harry Lawes.

Travel Ruth Hounsell said that all of the 105 travel brochures had been used so more needed to be printed. There would be some changes to the Bristol to Weymouth line. There is a meeting next month about the Wincanton hub.

Martyn Underhill, Police & Crime Commissioner A summary of Mr Underhills talk and the subsequent questions and answer session are given as an appendix to these minutes.

### 13.139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

M Withers declared a personal interest in the New Village Hall development (neighbour).

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

### 13.140 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

### 13.141 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Village Signs: LJ reported that some of the missing pieces will need to be cast. **LJ** and **AM** to progress.

Solar Park: NDDC have not been prompt in letting BPC know about planning issues.

Cemetery Wall: Still to confirm what type of stone has been used in the wall. LJ reported that some stones need replacing completely and the cock and hen coping needs to be redone. A small repair could cost a few hundred pounds but a major repair could cost much more. **LJ** to progress.

Bikers from Hunters Lodge: GM reported that the roads have been much quieter lately however this could be related to the weather.

Grit Bins: AM said there were 15 grit bins, 6 strategic and 9 community. NDDC will top up the strategic bins at no charge. There are 1¾ dumpy bags left for the rest and this is probably enough for the coming winter. Members of the public are advised to use grit sparingly - only a small amount needs to be used to reduce risk of slippage.

### 13.142 REPORT BY THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Andrew Cattaway reported that the only major controversy at this time is the reduction in bus services county wide. This will be going to cabinet shortly.

On Health, Dorset has combined with Bournemouth & Poole to form a single organisation, the Clinical Commissioning Group, consisting of 120 GP practices. Changes in the NHS Reform have taken spending power and decision making away from PCTs and put them in the hands of the CCG.

Public Health has moved away from the NHS and into local authority control at County Council level. Local GP groups and district councils wish to be involved in the decision making process.

### 13.143 REPORT BY THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cabinet has approved the North Dorset Local Plan 2011-2026. The next step is public consultation and subsequently submission to Secretary of State.

## 13.144 PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

### 13.144.1 Applications Received

2/2013/0818 Request for EIA Screening Opinion – Single Turbine at Feltham Farm, Silton  
Information had been erroneously posted on DorsetForYou stating that an EIA was not required for this and BPC had sent a letter to Chief Exec NDDC. PW confirmed that in fact the developer is required to produce an EIA. There has been no response to the BPC letter. **Clerk** to follow up.

There is no obligation for Planning to notify anyone about an EIA screening request in the same way as planning applications. However they are both published together on the DorsetForYou planning search.

SF asked **GM** if the procedure could be changed.

PW said there was no further information available regarding the West Bourton turbines.

2/2013/0791 Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays – Manor Farm, Silton

PW had represented Bourton at a Silton public meeting. Solar array to be in a 39 acre plot near Slaughtergate but not as visible. Part of it will be on the site of the old quarry which is poor agricultural land. The panels will face away from Bourton. Arguments against relate to encroaching industrialisation of a rural area, adding to the existing 18 acres. This is partly on the site of the rejected Silton turbines. If the site is deemed to be inappropriate for turbines, is it appropriate for a large scale solar array?

The Chairman opened the debate to the public.

A number of people expressed concern about the gradual encroachment of industrialisation into a rural area. The panels are no good in the winter when we need additional energy because of poor daylight levels. Solar arrays were not thought to be as intrusive as turbines. No-one is looking at water power. Creeping industrialisation of the area is definitely a problem. The land is of poor quality for agricultural purposes. There was concern that there was nothing to stop all of our fields from being made over to solar arrays. Some didn't have a problem with smaller solar or turbines for personal use. The turbines at Silton were refused because of treasured rural views. Installation of large scale solar panels may cast the area as industrial and so may affect the outcome of future turbine applications.

Keith Harris of Silton Farm explained that 2/3rds of the site was ex landfill and poor ground for agricultural use. Installation will damage the land initially but the grass will grow back. Sheep will graze the entire site. The land will still have some agricultural purpose. There are screening requirements. Governments around the world are encouraging energy schemes such as this. The arrays will be 2m high, set at a 20 degree angle, 0.8m above the ground.

GM stated that Slaughtergate was an 18 acre field but the solar farm only covered 9 acres.

The Chairman closed the open debate.

The Chairman called for a vote. 4 were in favour of the solar arrays, 3 were against and 2 abstained.

It was agreed to support the application with reservations, requesting:

- Proper vegetation screen all year round
- That the site will be cleared if the management company goes into administration
- Acknowledgment that the area has reached its capacity for renewable energy installations

**PW** to draft a letter and circulate to BPC.

2/2013/0991 Victoria Lodge, Tan Lane Erect 1 no. storey and 1 no. single storey extension (demolish existing side extension) (part retrospective)

### 13.144.2 Permissions Granted / Applications Withdrawn

None.

### 13.144.3 Bourton Mill

John Hammond has confirmed that the request to call in the Secretary of State has been refused. JH met with John Fay to clarify some issues regarding payment trigger points and is hopeful the agreement will be completed within 2 weeks or so.

The perimeter fencing was damaged by a recent fire at the mill site. Roger Smith has agreed to investigate and repair.

### 13.144.4 Wind Turbines

It is not thought that there has been any progress on the West Bourton turbine.

## 13.145 FINANCE

### 13.145.1 Accounts to be paid

Upper Stour Mag	Clerk advert	£5.50
HMRC	Quarter 2 PAYE	£153.40
Phil Cowell	September Cemetery grass cut	£219.00
Phil Cowell	September Verge cut	£50.00
BDO	Annual return	£282.00

*Proposed by DL and seconded by AM it was resolved to pay the above accounts.*

### 13.145.2 Accounts received

DCC	Footpath cutting	£445.00
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### 13.145.3 Clerks Pay

Clerks pay has been increased from £8.43 to £8.63 per hour back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. This is the first pay rise since 2009.

*Proposed by PW and seconded by HB it was resolved to pay adopt the pay increase and to pay back pay of £36.40 to HR.*

### 13.145.4 Grants & Donations

No requests received for S137 payments. HB & CP raised the question of whether BPC would make a donation to the proposed skate park. GM pointed out that there would need to be sound business case and confirmation that it would go ahead before a donation could be made.

## 13.146 NEW PARISH CLERK

Following a formal selection process, Iain McVie has been chosen as the new Parish Clerk.

*Proposed by MW and seconded by HB it was resolved to appoint Iain McVie to the position of Parish Clerk with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October. It was agreed to pay the existing Clerk for a 1 month handover period.*

## 13.147 NEW VILLAGE HALL

PW said that Brimble Lee had produced an initial proposal which was thought unacceptable. Harriet Palmer and Nick Hall are due to meet with Proctor's on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept to seek guidance.

## 13.148 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

MW reported that on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept, the full NPG met with a representative from the government funded Planning Aid (who are providing some planning support) and Sarah Jennings from NDDCs Planning Policy department.

The purpose was for everybody to get to know one another, to review progress to date, to discuss potential problems moving forward and to plan for completion of the process to submit the consultation draft of the NP to NDDC by the end of July 2014.

The meeting was extremely useful and both Planning Aid and NDDC were pleased with the teams progress generally and especially with the way in which the group had engaged and consulted with the village.

Plans have been discussed to set up further engagement events with residents, in particular in relation to parts of NDDCs emerging Local Plan where this has an impact on evidence already gathered by the group.

The NPG have set up a meeting in October with volunteers to discuss their input into 5 main topic areas: the built environment, the natural environment, health and wellbeing, infrastructure and the economy/business.

### 13.149 GATES AT ENTRANCE TO VILLAGE

The gates will cost a total of £767 - £480 for the gate structure and £287 for the village name plates. DCC will install at no charge.

*Proposed by CP and seconded by HB it was resolved approve this expenditure.*

### 13.150 TRAINING

SF said that all councillors should attend at least one training session per year. **Clerk** to circulate list of available DAPTC courses.

### 13.151 HIGHWAYS

SF reported that the Highways department at DCC had been reorganised and staff had been cut by about 50%. They are now looking for volunteers to help repair roads.

The overhanging trees in Kites Nest Lane have been reported to DCC and a job number has been allocated.

Phil Cowell has quoted £390 to sort out the trees around the school. DL to ask if Phil can include the tree in Breach Close.

*Proposed by LJ and seconded by HB it was resolved approve this quote.*

### 13.152 CORRESPONDENCE

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information:

Date	From	Subject
19/08/13	Liz Goodall	Acknowledging receipt of letter re 2/2013/0818/PLNG Request for EIA Screening Opinion
21/08/13	Rod Mainstone, DCC	Changes to street lighting - switch off from midnight to 5:30am.
22/08/13	DAPTC	Increase in Clerks hourly rate effective from 1st April 2013
27/08/13	NDDC	The Tree Council bulletin
27/08/13	Liz Goodall	Response to letter re 2/2013/0818/PLNG Request for EIA Screening Opinion
27/08/13	DCC	New Footpaths 29 and 30
29/08/13	DAPTC	Police & Crime Commissioner Summer Newsletter 2013
29/08/13	Access Dorset	Notice regarding DIAL Access Dorset telephone help line
30/08/13	DAPTC	Invite to a Neighbourhood Planning event on 04.11.13 in Blandford
30/08/13	DAPTC	Details of the consultation on the future of the Quality Council Scheme
30/08/13	DAPTC	Special constables recruiting by Dorset Police starting 02.09.13
02/09/13	DAPTC	Request for feedback to Martyn Underhill, PCC
03/09/13	Freestyle Skateparks	Advertisement
03/09/13	Sandra Deary, NDDC	Electoral Registration Canvass advert for Parish Magazine
03/09/13	DCC	Guidance on unauthorised encampments on council land
04/09/13	DCC	Information pack on new health structures
04/09/13	DAPTC	Essential Finance and IT Skills training
04/09/13	Dorset Community Action	Autumn training and event programme
04/09/13	Three Rivers Gillingham	Bus consultation closes on 24th September
05/09/13	DAPTC	Invitation to Open Afternoons
06/09/13	DCC	Countryside News Sep-Oct 2013
06/09/13	DAPTC	Chief Executives Circular 06
11/09/13	Sandra Deary, NDDC	Consultation on Dorset Home Choice Draft Allocations Policy - closes 22.10.13
11/09/13	DAPTC	Minutes of Northern Area DAPTC meeting of 17th July
11/09/13	Cranborne Chase AONB	Invite to "Influencing the Planning & Transportation Aspects of the AONB Management Plan 2014-2019" on 15.10.13
16/09/13	Hygenza Cleaning	Offering one off or regular 'deep cleansing' services of restroom facilities

### 13.153 A.O.B.

**Benches** The 2 benches on the school playing field have been vandalised. The damage has been reported to the police. Quotes for repair are being prepared.

Police Commissioner: SF to write letter of thanks to Martyn Underhill for coming to speak to everyone this evening. All agreed it had been a very useful session.

Bullpits Golf Club: CP said that 8 to 14 year olds are able to play golf free of charge at the Youth Golf Club on Friday afternoons until the Autumn half term. All local schools had been informed.

**13.154 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

Chairman: .....

Date: .....

## **Guest Speaker: Martyn Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner**

Mr Underhill started by giving an overview of what his job entails:

### **Police:**

Scrutinize the police force. Set police and crime plan. Set police budget. Hire a Chief Constable. Sit on various panels

### **Crime**

This takes up about 50% of his time.

Criminal Justice System – speed up the process

Reduce re-offending by supporting people when they leave prison, helping them to find employment. This has not been helped by the recent announcement that the resettlement prison in Dorchester is to be closed – this is the only one in Dorset.

Early Intervention Scheme – this works on the basis that if children can read, write and speak properly before they start school, then they are less likely to go astray.

There are a number of schemes in operation in different parts of the county that would be more effective if they were standardized and implemented county wide.

Working with Clinical Commissioning Group to improve road safety with regard to the older driver.

Amalgamation of Fire, Police and Ambulance control rooms – all services controlled from one location.

### **Commission**

Working with organizations to commission services to make Dorset a safer place.

This has a £555k budget. Next year, the victim support budget will be £750k.

The Chief Constable reports to him. They have recently been working to improve the 101 service.

There are 15 elected representatives and 2 independent representatives on the Police Crime Panel which keeps him in check. The Audit Committee check how he runs his finances and how the Chief Constable runs hers.

Independent Police Complaints Commission – Mr Underhill believes that police should not investigate police. This process should be transparent and accountable.

Engaging with the older community is key as 1 in 3 in Dorset falls into this bracket. He is keen on using voluntary advocates as the eyes and ears of the community. He will be advertising for 6 more volunteers in the older sector shortly.

Budget – 85% of the budget goes on staff. It is inevitable that there will be cost cutting measures and it is expected that about a third of the staff (officers, PCSOs, staff) will be lost by the next election.

Avoiding postcode lotteries – streamlining and standardizing systems across Dorset, e.g. there are 15 different CCTV systems in use across the county rather than a single system used by all to a common set of guidelines.

Manifesto and achievements – He reversed the decision to get rid of the marine communities section which has been welcomed in coastal towns/marinas. There are now 2 helicopters instead of 1. He has ring-fenced PCSOs and hopes to maintain numbers and keep them visible.

Detection rates could be improved further. There was initially a 1 in 5 success rate which has now been improved to 1 in 4 and he is working towards a 1 in 3 rate.

### **Priorities**

1. Remember victims of crime
2. Reduce cases of serious harm – on the roads, assault
3. Reduce serious threats
4. Reduce re-offending

5. Improve satisfaction  
Dorset is in the top 3 nationally for confidence in the police force but in the bottom 3 for satisfaction because of a failure to keep victims of crime informed
6. Preserve neighbourhood policing  
Needs to be more PCSOs, greater visibility, use of mounted PCSOs in rural areas. He is recruiting 6 wildlife PCSOs at the moment.

Victim Support – He is in the process of setting up Dorset Victims Bureau to support victims of crime. This has come about as a result of Victims Forums held to find out about peoples experiences. It will incorporate legal professionals, probation service etc, offering a coordinated support service to victims of crime from a single location. Communication will be by their choice of means – email, phone, in person, Facebook etc. A Dorset Victims website will follow.

Olympic Surge – 1 in 10 volunteered to help police the Olympics. There are 160 volunteers now which is twice as many as 9 months ago. Processes for recruiting volunteers were reviewed and have been changed. 3 more are to be recruited in North Dorset.

He is involved in more than 20 road safety petitions, the nearest one to us being in Kington Magna.

Road lighting – in areas where the lights have already been switched off at midnight, crime has gone down. Many people prefer the lights being off.

### **Questions**

Viv Sturt asked who would be monitoring the mounted PCSOs and how.

MU – rider must own their own horse and prove they are in control. Improve visibility of PCSOs in rural communities. He is meeting with NFU to work out how to assess riders and horses.

Pat Withers raised the point that riders can take competency and road safety exams through the British Horse Society.

Peter Nathan asked how PCSOs would liaise with the regular police force without upsetting them.

MU – PCSOs attend regular briefings with police, communicate and work together. There is work to be done to keep PCSOs rather than lose them as recruits to the police force, as often happens.

Cathy Price asked how the police communicate across county borders.

MU – discussions have started on cross border communication with a view for example of putting a number of Dorset police in a Wiltshire office. By nature, borders are more lightly policed so this option offers improved cover in border areas. He is applying for money for a North Dorset hub/custody centre to help borders. He would like to see a new radio system, common to all but this is proving tricky.

Andrew Cattaway asked where 999 calls are answered.

MU – 999 rings in the Police Control Room in Winfrith. 101 should be answered in Winfrith as well. Mobiles are tricky because the system can't tell where the caller is calling from.

David Scott asked about how administration could be slimmed down to counteract cuts.

MU – looking at a mobile data strategy to reduce the need for paper based systems. There was £300k in last years budget for this. £2 million has been invested in Niche law enforcement software. Hand held equipment to plot the location of its carrier, tell them what's happened in the area recently, what to look out for etc. Require the ability to write and send statements electronically.

Richard Price asked how he was getting feedback from younger people.

MU – Parish Council meetings are the older audiences. The population breaks down into 3 groups: firstly the older people, secondly the Polish speaking community (Polish is the second language of Dorset) and thirdly the younger people.

When he addresses youth forums, topics are completely different to those discussed this evening. The top 3 subjects are cyber-bullying, alcohol and drugs. Lines of communication are also different using Facebook, Twitter etc.