

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM ON MONDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT: M Withers, L Jones, H Baker, G Miller, P Williams, C Price
APOLOGIES: S Firbank, D Lawes, A Miller
ATTENDING: Iain McVie (The Clerk), Mr A Cattaway (County Councillor) and 14 members of the public.

13.221 APOLOGIES – AS ABOVE

13.222 OPEN FORUM

M. Withers (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the 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 provided an update concerning the **Wildlife and Habitats Group**. The group was set up as a result of discussions in the Neighbourhood Plan Natural Environment Focus Group, and has recently held a meeting to discuss potential first initiatives.

He confirmed that the basic principle of the group is to offer ideas and assistance to anyone in the village who wants to help protect and enhance our threatened wildlife and their habitats. The local farming community sets a high standard in this respect and the group would hope that the rest of the community will also want to contribute. He said that three areas have been identified where the Group hopes to make a start.

Firstly hedgerows are interspersed with mature trees but few, if any, saplings and, as the mature trees are damaged or lost; there will be none to replace them, changing the character of the countryside. To address this issue, the group is hoping to discuss with landowners the possibility of planting well spaced saplings in, or adjacent to, hedgerows so this important habitat isn't compromised in years to come.

Secondly there has been a severe decline in the barn owl population in recent years and the Group intends to help this beautiful bird to survive by erecting well-sighted owl boxes and providing habitat for their principle source of food, the field vole. The Group is in touch with an expert, Chris Sperring, the naturalist broadcaster, who is prepared to provide further advice. The Group also intends to talk to landowners, some of whom are already taking the initiative in this area.

Thirdly, as you know, the bee is vital as a pollinator of fruit, vegetables and crops and it too has suffered significant losses in recent years. So the Group wants to encourage the growth of wild flowers on verges and grass banks, in open spaces and gardens, with the aim of establishing bee friendly habitats and creating bee-lines through the village.

In pursuit of this aim, the Group would like to take the banks to the north of the main road through the village, from the village hall access road to a point opposite the garage, to be kept uncut until the end of June. This would allow the spring wild flowers to blossom and set seed – with a knock-on effect next year. The Group would like to plant more native wild flowers on these banks, with the help of St George's school children. The Group are hoping that honey from the Bourton beeline will be on sale later this year.

The Parish Council were asked to approve these initiatives and to support the grass banks project. This was discussed and agreed. **Proposed by MW and Seconded by CP.**

A member of the public reminded all present of the excellent Bourton Village Website that provides information about Bourton and advertises local events and matters of interest. All those present agreed.

A member of the public asked if the Public Meeting held on the 10th February was minuted and if so would the minutes be made public? She also stated that it had been a very good and informative meeting. MW confirmed that an account of the Q and A sessions had already been published on the Village Website and that the individual presentations made on the evening would also be going onto the Village Website.

13.223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

13.224 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. **Proposed by MW and Seconded by GM.**

13.225 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cemetery Wall: IM confirmed that there was a potential funding stream through the Heritage Lottery Fund that he will apply to once a second quote for repairs was obtained.

PW asked if this would include both the complete front wall and the alleyway wall. LJ stated at this time the quote was for the front wall only. MW stated that it will be important to ensure the alleyway wall is monitored and if repairs are needed to utilise funding provision made in the 2014/15 Precept.

ACTION: LJ to obtain a further quote and IM to apply for funding.

Village Sign

IM on behalf of SF updated the meeting with three quotes for the repairs. These were discussed and it was agreed to ask Jerry Davis from Mere to complete the works.

ACTION: LJ to arrange for Paul Orr to remove sign and progress repair as a matter of urgency.

Village Gates

IM on behalf of SF updated the meeting with two quotes and confirmed that NDDC had agreed to erect the gates without charge. These were discussed and LJ proposed the purchase of resin rather than wooden gates to avoid annual maintenance costs. The Councillors agreed this should be investigated. MW reminded all that this had been dragging on for too long and needed to be progressed.

ACTION: LJ to arrange two quotes for the March Meeting as a matter of urgency.

Benches

IM on behalf of SF updated the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to progress the purchase of new metal or synthetic material benches that would be fixed into the ground.

ACTION: HB to arrange two to three options for the March Meeting as a matter of urgency.

Zeals Planning application

IM confirmed action completed and that the original planning meeting had now been deferred to a date in March that is yet to be confirmed.

ACTION: IM to monitor and once a date is known CP to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Planting of wild poppies - Centenary of the First World War.

CP provided the meeting with an update and options which were discussed. MW asked if it would be possible to have poppies planted as part of the previously agreed grass banks project.

ACTION: MW to ask the Wildlife and Habitats Group the viability of planting poppies within the grass banks.

Village War Memorial

IM confirmed an application had been submitted to the War Graves Charity and he is awaiting a reply as to if we have been successful.

ACTION: IM to update March Meeting.

Village Fete Coordinator.

CP confirmed that Jim Mann (PTA) had agreed to initially coordinate this years Village Fete.

Village Grit Bins

IM confirmed this action had been completed by AM.

All other actions covered in main items on the agenda.

13.226 REPORT BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Report from County Councillor

AC confirmed that following three years of a freeze the DCC Council Tax element would increase by 1.99% for the 2014/15 year. This decision was made on the 13th February by DCC.

Report from District Councillor

GM confirmed that the NDDC had also taken the decision to raise its element of this year's Council tax by 1.99% which equates to an annual rise of £2.18 per Band D house. He further stated that NDDC will continue to look at working with other authorities to reduce costs and maintain services.

13.227 PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

13.227.1 Applications Received –

App.2/14/0070 Rosling Cottage – Extension to existing property
App.2/14/0043 Grounds of Kiama, New Rd - New house
App.214/0141 Wood View, Mill Lane – Raise roof height of sun lounge, add porch.
All applications returned to NDDC no objections from the Planning Sub Committee.

Permissions Granted

2/2013/1024. 2 Mede Close, New Road – 2 storey ext, garage, porch, driveway.
2/2012/0066. Bourton Mill Site – Granted 27/01/14.

13.227.2 Bourton Mill

MW stated that he was not aware of any other updates for the site.
IM confirmed he was waiting for an update from the NDDC Inspector and that NDDC had removed the fly tipping waste that had previously been dumped on the front of the site.
CP confirmed that there had been efforts made to re-secure the site, but, they were not ideal. She also stated that one entrance to the site was a shared access which needed to be maintained.
PW raised concerns as to the viability of the site for the current owner or any future owner to actually build housing on the site given that the project has to resolve any issues of flooding and ensure the dam remained fit for purpose. He also questioned how individuals would get mortgages and insurance for properties that would sit within a flood risk. HB asked if there had been any flooding problems on the current site. PW stated that he was unaware of anything to date but reminded all that the site is within a flood plain. He further stated that whilst he hoped the developer will proceed he questioned what Plan B would be with the site continuing to deteriorate and represent not only an eyesore to the village but a potential danger.
GM stated that this was now a matter for the owner of the land and that the Parish Council are powerless to intervene at this time.
MW reminded all of previous discussions on the limited powers available to Councils to resolve environment or health and safety issues on land that is privately owned.
MW also reminded all that there is now an improving housing market that will improve the possibility of development on the site within the agreement and conditions of the planning proposal.
ACTION: IM to continue communication with NDDC Planning and Environment to ensure the site is kept as safe and secure as is possible. (Action ongoing)

13.227.3 Wind Turbines/Photovoltaic solar arrays

PW informed the meeting that the photovoltaic array construction is progressing, but, NDDC's Enforcement Officer has been alerted recently to breaches of planning conditions by the developer/builder.

13.227.4 NDDC Electronic Planning Consultation.

IM updated the meeting and confirmed that the first electronic application had been processed. IM confirmed the process for the Bourton Parish Council Planning Sub-Committee and requested the Council to consider the purchase of a larger computer screen, a printer and computer security. He provided three options which were considered and it was agreed to purchase the additional equipment in April as this expense had been accounted for in the 2014/14 Precept.

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

ACTION: IM to purchase agreed equipment in April 2014.

13.228 FINANCE

13.228.1 Accounts to be paid

Parish of Upper Stour.	Advert for NPG	£ 7.00
Parish of Upper Stour.	Advert for NPG	£10.00
Parish of Upper Stour.	Advert for NPG	£ 5.50
M.Withers	NPG	£27.00
M.Withers	NPG	£37.80

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

13.228.2 Accounts received

13.228.3 Grants & Donations

IM on behalf of SF asked for the Parish Council to donate £125 to the Parish of Stour Magazine.
Proposed by HB, Seconded by LJ and agreed by all.

13.228.4 Council Precept 2014/15

IM confirmed that the action from the previous month had been completed and the Precept 2014/15 submitted to NDDC within time and there were no issues from NDDC.
 IM also confirmed that the quarterly independent audit of the Parish Council Accounts had been completed without any issues.

13.229 NEW VILLAGE HALL

PW stated that the Public Meeting held on the 10th February had been well attended and progress had been made. He stated there is no easy route to progress the new village hall and that it is constrained to follow the Neighbourhood Planning process. He further stated that whilst there was disquiet about having to take this route, this did not detract from the sterling work being done by the Neighbourhood Planning Group in very difficult circumstances, any frustration on the part of the VHMC relates to the NP process and its interpretation by NDDC.

PW concluded by stating that the VHMC New Village Hall Project is very much a part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

ACTION: PW to arrange a meeting between NPG and Brimble Lea after the results from the forthcoming questionnaire are known.

13.230 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MW stated that the NPG hosted a Public Meeting in the Village Hall on Monday 10th February to update residents on progress, discuss various issues where there have been changes, and introduce a second questionnaire to be delivered shortly.

The meeting was attended by 83 people and there were presentations from NPG members, NDDC's planning policy department and Peter Williams on behalf of the VHMC.

There was a lively Q & A session after each person's presentation and a copy of the Q & As is now on the village website. It is also the NPG's intention to post the presentation slide shows on the website.

The main issues covered, apart from NPG's update on progress, were Housing and the Settlement Boundary, the new village hall proposals and the Environment.

These issues are quite complex and work has been continuing to try to ensure that when the questionnaire goes out to the village, it is as clear and understandable as NPG can make it and also that it does not prejudice the NP process. There was a meeting with NDDC today with the NPG and VHMC representatives in an attempt to clarify and simplify the questionnaire. The meeting was fairly successful and further clarity was gained on the issues. There was agreement reached between the NPG and VHMC about the questionnaire contents

The NPG expect that the questionnaire should be ready for assembly and printing in the next two weeks and that it will be hand delivered to residents by the middle of March.

13.231 TRAINING

IM stated there were no further updates at this time.

ACTION: Councillors to diary in Training Days for 2014/15 (ongoing action)

13.232 HIGHWAYS**13.232.1 Footpaths**

IM confirmed that due to the recent bad weather and fallen trees the Footpaths Officer; Graham Stanley had to cancel the arranged visit. He will now visit on 28th February to inspect our footpaths and complete the works needed.

ACTION: DL to update March Meeting

13.233 TRANSPORT

No updates.

13.234 COMMUNITY SAFETY**13.234.1 Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch Coordinators**

IM confirmed on behalf of SF that a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator had volunteered and is awaiting a meeting with the Dorset Police point of contact to progress the setting up of a scheme. IM further confirmed that he had received interest from a resident to set up the Speedwatch system with two three other residents.

ACTION: IM to update March Meeting.

13.235 CORRESPONDENCE

29/01/14	CRW	What's GR8 in SP8 -Village Website, Filed
29/01/14	NDDC	2/2012/0066/PLNG Bourton Mill Site Application granted - File
30/01/14	NDDC	Planning App.2/14/0070 Rosling Cottage -Extension-To Planning Cm(P/C)
01/02/14	NDDC	Planning App.2/14/0043 Grounds of Kiama, New Rd - New house - To P/C
05/02/14	DAPTC	DAPTC Annual Conference 26/2/14 - Chairman Invite
05/02/14	Sowing Seeds Local Action Gp	Advert for fundraising events - Website
05/02/14	CRW	Advert for discounted rail tickets - Website
13/02/14	Environment Agency	Flood Warnings and Advice x2 - Flood Warden aware and Website
14/02/14	DAPTC	Royal Garden Party Selection Draw - Chairman informed and filed
14/02/14	DAPTC	Clerk Information concerning AGMs held in Election Years - Filed
14/02/14	Wincanton Sports Ground	Advert for over 50s activities - Website
14/02/14	Clear Mapping Ltd	Advert for services - Filed
14/02/14	NDDC	Planning App. 2/2013/124 2 Mede Close -Granted - Filed
14/02/14	Dorset POPP	Advert for events - Website
14/02/14	Dorset Community Action	Advert North Dorset Community Lunch 18/3/14 - Website
16/02/14	DAPTC	Information concerning electronic banking for Parish Councils - Filed
16/02/14	Jutxpo	Advert for services - Filed
16/02/14	PW Cowell	Quote for 2014/15 works as per advert on Village Website - March Mtg
16/02/14	DAPTC	Advert and application for Vibrant Communities AGM -
16/02/14	NDDC	Weather update and actions from DCC Silver Control - To Flood Warden
16/02/14	NDDC	Request for information concerning any incidents from weather - Replied
16/02/14	NDDC	Planning App 2/2014/0141/PLNG Wood View, Mill Lane-To Planning Cm
21/02/14	CRW	Transport Forum 26/2/14 - Filed, minutes will be forwarded.
27/02/14	NDDC	Flood Damage update request - Reply sent and filed
27/02/14	NDDC	Advert Open Homes Event Project 13/3/14 - Not applicable - Filed
27/02/14	UKIP	Advert for UKIP presentation on rural matters - Website
27/02/14	HAGS SAP	Advert for services - Filed
27/02/14	Tasty Marketing	Advert for services - Filed
27/02/14	Wickstead	Advert for services - Filed
27/02/14	DAPTC	Advert for 'BBC Allotment Programme Volunteers - Filed
27/02/14	CRW	What's GR8 in SP8 -Village Website, Filed
27/02/14	DCC	Advert for a public survey on roads in Dorset - Website -Filed

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information.

13.236 A.O.B.

CP stated that the **Village Fete** would be held on **Saturday 12th July 2014**.

CP also reminded all that the Marquee has been hired throughout the summer but was still available for hire on Sunday 13th July and Saturday/Sunday 19th/20th July 2014.

MW asked if GM had the NDDC Community Safety levy for planning applications.

ACTION: GM to provide to MW the rate per metre levy charged by NDDC.

13.237 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 31ST MARCH 2014

Chairman:

Date: 31st March 2014

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 31st March 2014.