

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014**

**PRESENT:** S Firbank (Chairman), M Withers,  
G Miller, P Williams, D Lawes, C Price.  
**APOLOGIES:** A Miller, H Baker, L Jones.  
**ATTENDING:** A.Cattaway (County Councillor), 15 members of the public and Iain McVie  
(The Clerk)

**14.76 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.

Andrew Cattaway, County Councillor provided an update concerning footpath 11, as promised from the June meeting. He confirmed that both the DCC Rights of Way Officer and the DCC Ranger is continuing to establish the legality of footpath 11 and its route. He confirmed that there are a number of maps purporting to show the route of footpath 11 which continue to be researched by DCC. AC confirmed that regardless of this ongoing work he was able to confirm that whatever the circumstances there is no footpath route through the rear gardens of the houses in Mill Rise. He then updated the meeting as to any associated costs, if and when it was confirmed there is an established footpath route, to reopen this particular. He stressed the costs were an estimate and not definitive and would be in the region of £10000 to clear the ground and a further £10000 to provide hardcore and boarding to make the route safe and accessible. This estimate does not include any additional legal or administration costs. He also reminded the meeting that if diversions of footpaths were considered these would cost between £2000 and £3000 in legal fees plus the cost of any ground clearing and making safe.

**ACTION: AC confirmed that DCC would continue with the work to arrange for DCC to investigate the history of Footpath 11 and options to resolve the issue amicably.**

SF asked if there were any other comments from the public on this matter.

A member of the public stated that any costs involved in an application to divert a footpath would have to be met by the landowner and not the council. AC confirmed this is correct.

MW asked if the DCC ranger had been consulted on the estimates of costs. AC confirmed he had.

A member of the public confirmed that the ranger had visited the residents and was very helpful.

Another member of the public asked how long the footpath had not been in use. AC stated that this is difficult to confirm from the information accessed so far by DCC as some of the material is archived in Dorchester and is yet to be researched and he anticipates that the right of way officer will have this information during August.

A member of the public expressed concern, that the costs could be excessive for the return in footfall. He then reminded the meeting that costs could be reduced by the use of volunteers to complete some of the work, which has been done for other previously blocked footpaths.

There then followed a discussion on current footpaths and how many were currently blocked and the process for getting existing footpaths unblocked, cleared, re-signed and/or made safe for walkers to use. PW requested that the list of blocked footpaths in the parish be passed by relevant NPG WG to the Clerk for onward dissemination.

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

SF also reminded the meeting that the parish council have Councillor Laws as the point of contact with DCC. A member of the public also reminded all present that the Ramblers Association can also help with advice, support and volunteers if needed.

A member of the public stated that their deeds go back to the 1700's and there is no reference to a footpath in the area being discussed. Another member of the public reminded the meeting that as stated at the June meeting deeds are not what make a footpath legal it is the definitive county council map that the DCC will confirm and this will inform the village as to whether footpath 11 is legal and confirm its exact route. SF reaffirmed the action that AC is progressing with DCC.

A member of the public asked if the recently mown banks could have the grass cuttings removed. IM confirmed this would be requested later in the meeting under finance. (Please note the grass was cleared on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014).

A member of the public informed the meeting that a Mr Chris Sperring would be doing a survey for barn owl sites and delivering a talk in the village hall on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014 at 7pm.

AC asked how the planting of poppy seeds had progressed and a member of the public confirmed that over 3000 seeds had been planted but that they may take two or more years to produce. She also reminded the meeting of the completed wall hanging in St George's Church that remembers the seventy or so men from the village who served in the First World War and the fourteen who lost their lives. The parish council were also presented with a record of the project and the research completed concerning the individuals who gave their life. (Please note this folder will be sent to the archives at Dorchester to be stored within the Bourton information already held by the county).

A member of the public asked that the Clerk be thanked for arranging the cleaning of the two war graves in the village cemetery which have now been completed. She also asked if it would be possible to place a rose plant at each grave and perhaps the school could be involved in this. SF undertook to discuss this proposal with the Headmaster.

SF formally opened the Parish Council Meeting

#### **14.77 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).

#### **14.78 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

#### **14.79 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**ACTION:** GM to speak to farmer to pay outstanding rent for new cemetery site for August Meeting.

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

#### **14.80 REPORT BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

No updates for this meeting.

#### **14.81 PLANNING**

##### **Applications received**

14/775/ Rugby Cottage, Church Track outline application, erection 10 dwellings.

14/700/ Old Parsonage, West Bourton Rd, demolish garage and shed build double garage

##### **Applications granted**

14/442/ Kiama – demolish and build new dwelling.

##### **Applications withdrawn**

14/491/Bourton Cross Brickyard Lane – Replace a single storey extension.

IM provided update on all applications. The meeting then discussed the Rugby Cottage application and MW updated the meeting concerning the original outline planning application and this current application that the planning sub-committee had objected to. SF read out the objection details that were submitted to NDDC. MW confirmed that the site does not have any outlying consent as the original application had lapsed and it is not a 'committed site'. MW also confirmed that the application lacked detail and that the now published design and access statement is incorrect. Following discussion the council agreed not to support the application.

**Proposed by PW, Seconded by DL and agreed by all.**

**ACTION:** IM to confirm Parish Council objections to the application (Note action completed 3/8/14)

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

#### **14.82 Bourton Mill**

SF stated he was awaiting a reply from the developers and that this would be inserted into the minutes for everyone's information. The owner and development partner have met on site with the bank; which has given agreement provisionally for the necessary funding. They have called for an update on the quote for the removal of the asbestos with the intention to make a start on site in a few months given that working drawings have to be produced and the statutory authorities provided with all the necessary information such as the environment agency and Wessex water. IM confirmed that the action from last month of writing to NDDC had been completed.

#### **14.83 Solar/Wind/Photovoltaic Sites**

PW reminded the meeting of the updates on sites and potential developments near to Bourton and that at this stage there was no further activity known about that might affect Bourton.

#### 14.84 FINANCE

##### 14.84.1 Accounts to be paid

I. McVIE	Expenses (inc. purchase of book)	£ 15.00
Design Jam	Annual village website domain	£96.00
Upper Stour Magazine	Advert for marquee	£ 8.00
P. Cowell	Cemetery/Verge Cuts	£299.00
S.Firbank	Engraving costs	£ 11.50
Mrs S Mann	Independent audit fees 14/15	£ 64.38
G.Overington	Printing costs for NPG.	£130.00
P.Cowell	Clear grass away from mow banks	£ 75.00

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

##### 14.82.2 Accounts received - None

##### 14.82.214.82.3 Grants & Donations

SF provided an update on the North Dorset Local Action Group and confirmed that this covered all of north Dorset, all of rural east Dorset and the Sherborne area of west Dorset.

IM updated the meeting of the action to research the Victim Support Dorset (based at Poole) request for a donation. Following a discussion it was agreed not to provide a donation.

**Proposed by CP and Seconded by DL.**

#### 14.83 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MW stated that there would be a public drop-in session in Bourton Village Hall when the full results from the second questionnaire will be displayed, including all comments and opinions received.

This will be from 5pm to 8pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014. This follows the letter drop to all households with the summary of results carried out earlier in the month. A meeting was held with officers from NDDC and Planning Aid to discuss the SEA process on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

NDDC confirmed that an SEA was unavoidable because there was a proposal for private housing development as well as a new hall. There was a long discussion on how the NPG should approach the SEA task. NDDC provided initial notes as a guide to establishing a framework of issues and objectives for Bourton which will need a lot of local input and refinement, which emanate from the results of the 2011 census and deal amongst other things, with social, economic and environmental issues. MW confirmed that once the framework has been set, it was thought that initially a quick run through and paper sifting exercise will be carried out on all the sites considered by the VHMC with the obviously unsuitable ones discarded against the agreed set of criteria. This process must be recorded and reasons given for including or excluding any site. Following this a more detailed assessment should then be carried out on each of the remaining sites, perhaps five and the result should determine the most suitable site for allocation for a new village hall and associated housing development. MW stated that in order to pass the public examination of the SEA and NP, the sites must all be assessed in the same way against the baseline framework criteria, to the same degree of detail, and be achievable. There will be ongoing support from NDDC and Planning Aid England during the course of the SEA process. Finally MW informed the meeting that the NDDC timetable for the emerging local plan had suffered delay due to an issue raised by a statutory consultee concerning a proposed development site in Blandford. As a result there would have to be another round of public consultation which is likely to add three months to the process. MW stated it is not clear if there will be a knock on effect for the neighbourhood plan. GM stated that he did not believe there will be a knock on effect as the issue is in Blandford and not in or near Bourton. MW stated that once the report comes out and if it does not mention Bourton then the Parish Council can make a decision to progress based on a risk approach.

PW asked which individuals will conduct the detailed assessment of the five remaining sites. MW asked why this detail was needed and PW responded that it was needed to ensure transparency. Following a discussion MW confirmed that the VHMC are and would be represented and that following the NDDC meeting the NPG would complete the sifting exercise quickly and ensure the process used is transparent.

#### **14.84 NEW VILLAGE HALL**

PW stated that the outstanding action to arrange a meeting with Brimble Lea should be cancelled until after the SEA process is completed. This was agreed by all.

#### **14.85 TOM MITCHELL SALVER 2014**

SF confirmed that the 2014 winner was Cathy Moorby and that he had presented the trophy to her.

#### **14.85 TRAINING**

IM confirmed the August training sessions to the council.

#### **14.86 FOOTPATHS**

PW pointed out that the issue of footpath 11 had not been resolved and that whilst he understood the point made earlier concerning the cost of reopening such a footpath the issue is whether the definitive map confirms it is a footpath and its actual route. Any issues on costs to re introduce or divert are a separate issue. MW reminded the meeting of the legislation and that if it is confirmed as a footpath then the DCC have been saving money as they have done no maintenance work on this particular path for many years. SF reminded all that it will be DCC who will make the decision. **ACTION:** As stated in the open forum Andrew Cattaway will arrange for DCC to investigate the history of Footpath 11 and options to resolve the issue amicably.

SF then introduced a DCC request to open a footpath from New Close to Mill Lane. He confirmed that this route was already being used as a path by residents and that all councillors had been sent information on this proposal that the parish council had previously discussed and agreed a number of years earlier. Following a discussion it was agreed to support the proposal.

**ACTION:** SF and DL to speak to the residents and ensure they are in agreement.

**ACTION:** IM to write to DCC to confirm support for the introduction of the new footpath as per the original application made and supported by local residents and the parish council in 2007.

(Please note this action was completed on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014).

#### **14.87 HIGHWAYS**

CP stated that she had been asked by Phil Cowell to raise the issue of the difficulties with cutting the banks only once as there was the issue of removing the cut grass and during the cutting increased difficulties such as adders and grass snakes. SF confirmed that the bank would have the cut grass removed. He also stated that he had met with one of the Wildlife and Habitats Group and asked that there should be a more detailed programme and requirement for next year. In turn any grass cutting contract in the future would reflect this. PW asked that this should not lead to the parish council failing to support the wildlife and habitats project on the banks. SF stated it would not although the cutting of the road verges would need to be considered and discussed with DCC to ensure road safety.

**ACTION:** IM to ask P Cowell to clear grass and pay him the £75 as agreed. (Action completed).

#### **14.88 TRANSPORT**

SF confirmed there were no new updates.

#### **14.89 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

SF confirmed that a school parent, Mrs C Cowell, has volunteered to take over the monthly playground safety checks. IM confirmed that there will be a need to remove one piece of old equipment and tighten a number of bolts on some equipment to meet the findings of this years ROSPA inspection.

**ACTION:** IM to arrange for this to be completed. (Please note action completed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014).

#### **14.90 VILLAGE SIGN**

SF confirmed work was completed including the broken piece and the sign will be refitted soon. SF stated the original cost of £385 would have to have the addition of the cost to replace the broken item and paint the lamp post. SF confirmed this would all be accounted for in the invoice.

**Proposed by GM Seconded by CP and agreed by all.**

#### **14.91 VILLAGE GATES**

SF confirmed councillors had received the final costing and that following a discussion it was agreed to place two 1.8 metre wide gates from the Wincanton direction, two 1 metre wide gates from the Gillingham direction and either one or two 1 metre wide gates from the Zeals entrance into the village. The total cost would be £2746.80 or £2367.80 plus the cost of clearing some roadside vegetation and VAT which will be claimed back. IM reminded the meeting that there would be additional expenses to have DCC make the signs for the gates and the council needs to

agree the wording. It was agreed the gates would have the following signs on them 'Bourton' 'Please drive carefully' Following a discussion it was agreed to progress the purchase of gates. **ACTION:** IM to confirm with DCC final siting that contributes to road safety. Once this is done arrange purchase of gates with Jacs Ltd and agree wording for signs with DCC. (Please note order placed and DCC have confirmed they will fit gates for free and place painted 'slow' signs on road by each gate and re-paint the road markings outside and around St Georges School).

**14.92 CEMETERY WALLS, GROUNDS and OUTSTANDING RENT ON NEW CEMETERY**

IM confirmed the work on the front walls will commence in August.

**14.93 CLEANING WAR MEMORIAL AND WAR GRAVES IN CEMETERY**

IM confirmed the War Memorial will be cleaned within the next two months and that the war graves have now been cleaned.

**14.94 CORRESPONDENCE**

08/07/14	NDDC	Planning Granted14/442, Kiama demolish and build new house - To BPC
08/07/14	DCC	Councillor Survey on DCC services - To all Councillors for completion
08/07/14	DAPTC	Information for Chairman for AGM - To Chairman and filed
10/07/14	DCC	Information on strike on 10/7/14 - Filed as completed
14/07/14	NDDC	Planning App. The Tower House, Tunnel Head, Sandley, Buckhorn Weston - Returned to NDDC as not Bourton Parish Council.
14/07/14	NDDC	Planning App 14/775 Rugby Cottage, Church Track, Bourton, Dorset, SP8 5B Erection of 10 No. dwellings (outline application with all matters received). - Agenda for Northern DAPTC Area Meeting 16/7/14 - To Chairman
14/07/14	DAPTC	Planning App. 14/491, Bourton Cross, Brickyard Lane - Withdrawn
14/07/14	NDDC	13/1028/Confirmation of planning meeting 22/7/14 Change of use from farm School to dwelling. Hollyfields School, Blackwater Lane - To PSC
17/07/14	Environment Agency	Flood Warnings and Advice x2 - Flood Warden aware and Website
17/07/14	NDDC	Team Brief July for NDDC - Chairman and hard copy to July meeting.
27/07/14	DAPTC	Update for villages affected by C13 closure - Filed
27/04/14	DAPTC	Chief Executive Circular - To all Councillors for information
27/07/14	NDDC	Planning App 14/700 Old Parsonage, West Bourton Road demolish garage/st double garage- To Planning Sub Committee
27/07/14	DAPTC	Information to clerks concerning funding and highways - Filed
27/07/14	DCC	Public Health Dorset Bulletin - Website
01/08/14	NDDC	Local Plan 2011-26 - Changes relating to Blandford Forum - Noticeboard
01/08/14	CPEND	Minutes of July Meeting - Copy to a Councillors and filed.
01/08/14	DAPTC	DAPTC update and link to site - To all Councillors for information.
01/08/14	HAGS SAP	Advert for services - Filed
08/07/14	NDDC	Planning Granted14/442, Kiama demolish and build new house - To BPC
08/07/14	DCC	Councillor Survey on DCC services - To all Councillors for completion
08/07/14	DAPTC	Information for Chairman for AGM - To Chairman and filed

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information.

**14.95 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

CP wished to register the thanks of the parish council to Ruth and Ian Hounsell for their work in completing the display for the World War 1 commemoration and reminded all that the information for the commemoration service in the church was confirmed in the Upper Stour magazine.

**14.96 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2014**

**14.97** SF thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

Chairman: ..... Date: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014

**Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014**