

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM ON MONDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: S Firbank, G Miller, P Williams, M Withers, A Miller, L Jones, H Baker, C Price
APOLOGIES: D Lawes
ATTENDING: Iain McVie (The Clerk), 10 members of the public

13.155 OPEN FORUM

S Firbank welcomed everyone to the meeting.
He introduced the new Clerk, Iain McVIE and on behalf of the Council expressed his gratitude and best wishes to the outgoing Clerk Heather Ransley.

Ruth Hounsell provided a transport update. See item 13.173 below.

13.156 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

S Firbank and C Price declared a personal interest in Bourton Mill (neighbours).
G Miller declared a personal and pecuniary interest in the wind turbines at Holly Home.

13.157 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

13.158 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Village Signs: LJ confirmed that quotes are being obtained and that the post will not require sand blasting prior to painting.

ACTION LJ to update next meeting.

Cemetery Wall: LJ confirmed he is progressing quotes to repair the wall. This will include a quote to replace 1.the damaged/missing top stones only, 2 to repair fully the smaller wall and 3 to repair fully the remaining longer wall. The latter two options would include a retaining wall behind the original stones.

ACTION LJ to update next meeting.

Grit Bins: AM confirmed the bins are ready for winter with sufficient grit in storage.

All other actions covered in main items on the agenda.

13.159 REPORT BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Report from District Councillor

GM updated the meeting concerning the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) proposals in relation to boundary changes for North Dorset and in particular the area covered by Bourton Parish Council. He confirmed that there would still be 33 District Councillors across North Dorset, but the proposal for Bourton would be to go from a single District Councillor to two Councillors sharing the Bourton and Motcombe/Ham districts.

He confirmed that the District Councillors strongly disagreed with this proposal for two reasons:

1. He stated this would lead to confusion as to who was responsible for what and has the potential to see residents' issues 'falling between two stalls'.
2. That the consultation had based its recommendations on current population numbers to the ratio of Councillors but at a local level have failed to take into account the proposed build of 1700 dwellings to the south of Gillingham (land by the current Orchard Park business park). Whilst this would not increase the Bourton population it could bring a population increase of 5000 plus to the area.

GM requested that this proposal be opposed by Bourton Parish Council.

ACTION GM to bring a formal proposal with supporting information to the November Meeting
SF asked if Gillingham Rural have taken a view on the proposal.

GM stated he was not aware of their view at this time.

PW asked what the momentum behind the proposal is.

GM stated that at this time he was unsure, but, that there had been meetings with the LGBC prior to the consultation period and that there should be some form of public meetings to

compliment the consultation process.

ACTION IM to speak with the Motcombe Clerk, confirm with LGBC if any public meetings are planned and report back for the November Meeting.

HB asked what benefit local residents would get from these proposed changes.

GM stated that the consultation documents do not identify any.

IM confirmed that the timetable for public consultation was from 15/10/13 to 6/1/14 and that the link for consultation is on the Bourton website, an advert is on the village notice board.

IM confirmed the website link to the consultation documents and process is www.lgbce.org.uk and consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

13.160 PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

13.160.1 Applications Received

2/2013/0818 Request for EIA Screening Opinion – Single Turbine at Feltham Farm, Silton
IM confirmed NDDC had replied and that EIA screening was not a required part of consultation and that if individuals or Councils had comment on such matters they should access the individual application through the 'Dorsetforyou' planning section of the website to provide feedback and comment.

2/2013/0791 Installation ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays – Manor Farm, Silton
IM confirmed the letter had been drafted by PW, agreed by all and posted to NDDC as per the October meeting. He also updated the meeting that the application is to be heard by the Development Management Committee on 5 November 2013 in the Council Chamber at Blandford Forum. PW confirmed he would attend to represent the previously agreed views of the parish council.

ACTION IM to confirm allotted time of the hearing with PW

2/2013/1028/PLNG (LB) Hollyfields School, Blackwater Lane
Change of use from former School (Class D1(a)) to 1 No. Dwelling (Class C3).
No objections or concerns were raised. Agreed by all.

SF informed meeting that there had been a concern raised over building works at 2 Mede Close, both NDDC and Highways had visited. There were no planning issues and Highways will provide the owner with advice concerning the grass verge to the property.

13.160.2 Permissions Granted / Applications Withdrawn

None.

13.160.3 Bourton Mill

SF stated that the fence had been repaired.

He informed the meeting that he had received an email confirmation from John Fay that the Section 106 conditions had been agreed by the solicitors. SF stated he had also spoken with John Hammond who was hopeful these would be signed off within the next two weeks.

GM stated he was pleased to see this progressing.

13.160.4 Wind Turbines/Photovoltaic solar arrays

PW confirmed that there were no further updates at this time.

13.161 FINANCE

13.161.1 Accounts to be paid

DAPTC	Clerk Seminar	£35.00
Allum & Sidaway	Engraving	£11.20
St Georges School	Rent/Maintenance	£373.50
Mr IJ McVie	Salary	£217.58
PM Cowell	Cemetery Cutting October	£149.00
PM Cowell	Verge Cutting	£50.00
PM Cowell	Tree Work Church Close/School path	£390.00
PM Cowell	Footpath 16,23,24,25 half year maintenance	£445.00
PM Cowell	Tree Work Beech Close/Millers Close	£150.00
H Ransley	Back Pay	£33.89

Proposed by MW. Seconded by PW. Agreed by all.

13.161.2 Accounts received

None.

13.161.3 Grants & Donations

No requests received for S137 payments.

GM asked if the local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) had been allocated a donation as had occurred in previous years.

SF pointed out that individuals must apply for grants or donations.

ACTION GM to contact CAB for them to apply for a grant/donation should they wish to

13.161.4 Council Precept 2014/15

SF introduced this item and explained that at this point the Council were awaiting further information from NDDC concerning the final process. He informed the meeting that NDDC had confirmed though that they would not be passing on the council support grant to parishes for the 14/15 year. It would appear at this stage all other District Councils would be.

IM informed the meeting that the NDDC had last year informed all parishes that this would be their stance with the support grant only being passed on for the 13/14 year.

CP asked what Councillors needed to do at this stage.

SF stated that as soon as information arrived all Councillors would be informed to ensure all can contribute to the precept setting process.

13.162 NEW VILLAGE HALL

SF introduced this item and informed the meeting that it had been agreed at a joint meeting on 10/10/13 with the Parish Council (BPC), the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), the Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) plus Simon Rutter and Phillip Proctor (Proctors) that to move the process forward Proctors would arrange a meeting with Brimble Lea and that a representative from BPC, VHMC, NPG plus Mr Rutter and Mr Proctor would attend. In arranging this though Brimble Lea has stated they would prefer only to talk with the VHMC. SF concluded that we do need to move forward sensibly and asked PW for an update.

PW stated that it was important to view this as a positive step as it is initiating discussion with Brimble Lea and will allow the developer to outline their application. The proposed meeting will be on 14/11/13 and PW would be one of the VHMC attendees to ensure transparency and that this would able BPC to be updated.

SF asked if there was a need to have a pre meeting briefing with the original proposed group.

SF asked who would be attending as the VHMC representatives.

PW stated it would be Harriet Palmer, Biddy Robinson and himself all who are members of the reformed VHMC.

SF stated that this though was not the originally agreed meeting composition and that BPC are crucial players in the planning process. This in turn would mean that at the proposed meeting the VHMC would be there to listen but not discuss planning matters.

PW stated there would need to be some discussion but obviously no negotiation, as it would be a meeting to discover exactly what Brimble Lea are proposing on the site and establish some common ground.

CP asked whether Proctors had not already made this clear in terms of the proposal.

PW stated that they had only proposed the initial scheme concerning the Village Hall.

MW stated that any discussions with Brimble Lea would involve planning issues and that was one of the reasons everyone had agreed to BPC, VHMC and NPG being in attendance at any meeting. He also reminded the meeting that BPC have previously stated there should be no housing on this site. Therefore if housing is within the proposal any meeting would involve discussion around planning issues of which VHMC are not empowered to undertake. He further stated that Brimble Lea would appear have chosen to ignore the decision of Proctors, BPC, VHMC and the NPG. This suggests they are, for whatever reason, ignoring BPC which is at the very least discourteous.

PW stated that the view of Simon Rutter is that they (Brimble Lea) hold all the trump cards and may come in with their own scheme for the site, but, without a Village Hall.

SF asked the meeting what dangers would there be if VHMC meet with Brimble Lea.

MW said that the next step should be what had previously been agreed in terms of attendees.

PW pointed out that the VHMC is empowered to progress the Village Hall as agreed by BPC from the 25.6.13 meeting.

MW stated that in negotiation terms Brimble Lea will always go for housing if they believe that opportunity exists, even though it is against the NDDC views on development and at odds with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

HB stated that perhaps BPC are getting ahead of itself and that all PW is proposing is discussion to establish what any planning proposal is and then to report back. She further stated that we do need to move this forward.

SF then asked Harriet Palmer, Chair of VHMC (HP), who was present as a member of the public, if it would be possible for MW to go to the meeting with Brimble Lea.

HP stated she was not in a position to say and stated that this meeting would be a discussion only and that whatever the outcome further consultation would be required.

GM reminded all that BPC had agreed they would support VHMC and Brimble Lea do not want this as they are acting on behalf of the landowner. Until they actually propose something it is not for BPC at this early stage, because, at the moment we are all only guessing as to what is in the proposal so we need Brimble Lea to talk to the VHMC to progress this.

MW stated that they (Brimble Lea) have already met with the VHMC.

SF asked if that was correct as he did not think that this was the case.

MW said it may have been via Proctors who represent the VHMC.

SF asked if this was the case.

HP stated that she was aware of only phone and e mail communication.

CP asked what the objective of attending the meeting on 14/11/13 would be.

SF stated it would be to progress and move forward.

IM (Clerk) offered to write to Brimble Lea to clarify the role of VHMC within any planning process

MW asked the meeting to consider why Brimble Lea does not want BPC at this meeting.

SF assumed it was because they wished to discuss their initial plan and client instruction.

MW stated they could just send a letter to VHMC with their initial plan.

HP stated that the VHMC do not know what instruction Brimble Lea has been given.

SF told the meeting that the Parish Council would be briefed on the content of any meeting with Brimble Lea regardless of attendees.

GM said that there was only one option which is for Brimble Lea to talk to the VHMC but all should remember that historically the Council have voted against any housing on this site.

SF asked the meeting for proposals.

SF asked if there was a need to confirm with Brimble Lea what the meeting was for and further discuss, between now and the 14/11/13 who should attend the meeting

MW Proposed and CP Seconded

HB said she could not see the point of this.

PW supported this and further added that whatever proposals came about they would have to be put to the village. He further added the need to move forward and not miss an opportunity on what could be a superb site for a Village Hall?

SF said that two other sites had been considered.

AM stated that the VHMC could go to the meeting to listen to Brimble Lea and start to progress the new Village Hall.

HB stated she had a counter proposal that the three representatives of the VHMC attend the meeting on 14/11/2013 with Brimble Lea, to listen to their proposals for the Village Hall site.

Proposed by HB. Seconded by PW

SF then asked for a vote on the counter proposal which was **6 For and 2 Against**.

13.163 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

MW updated the meeting stating that on 14/10/13 the NPG met with 21 volunteers. The purpose of the meeting was to provide volunteers with an update on the process so far, to inform them of what was still required and introduce them to the five main topics where further evidence was being sought. Each team leader then met with volunteers who were interested in each topic so that each group could progress research and evidence gathering. The feedback and ideas coming from the volunteers was very encouraging and this work will progress through November and December, with the aim of providing a solid evidence base so that the NPG can draft robust policies for discussion with residents.

Alison Scott is leading on Health and Well Being, Nick Hall on Infrastructure, Paul Overington on Business and Economy, David Scott on Natural Environment and Mike Withers on Build Environment. Of these Focus Groups the Natural Environment team met the previous week. He reminded the meeting that this aspect of village life was highlighted, in the questionnaire as very important by the residents. With over 90% of respondents stating that the rural character of the village is important to them and wished to see improvements in areas such as footpaths, bridleways and open spaces to be protected. The meeting was attended by Joy Wallis from the Dorset Wildlife Trust, who has been working with other communities who are going through the NP process and she provided much valuable advice and guidance. The group will now develop policies to protect and enhance the natural environment in the village. To this end it has been divided into three teams to focus on 'Footpaths and Bridleways', 'Open and Green Spaces' and 'Wildlife Habitat'. These teams intend to work closely with those who have current expertise and responsibility, both on the BPC and within the Village. The full Focus Group hopes to hold a public meeting to generate interest, seek the community's views and have guest speakers such as Joy Wallis.

13.164 TRAINING

IM confirmed the remaining two dates (East and West Councillors only) for this year and will circulate 2014 dates once they are published by DAPTC.

13.165 HIGHWAYS

SF re affirmed that the Highways budget will continue to reduce and that there will be an increased demand upon parishes and property owners to do more such as gully clearing where appropriate. GM confirmed that Highways will still deal with repairs and emergencies.

CP asked if they will do road cleaning including Factory Hill.

SF said they may but this is likely be an area that will see reductions.

SF updated the meeting that the landowners in Kites Nest Lane had been informed and would be arranging for the trees to be cut back.

13.166 TRANSPORT

Ruth Hounsell (RH) gave an update of the Public Transport Meeting held in Wincanton with representatives from South Somerset Council and Yarlinton Housing. She stated it was a productive meeting where South Somerset confirmed they wished to continue working closely with North Dorset. They confirmed Wincanton will be a transport and communication hub which will include Outreach and Job Centres. RH stated that the use of Mobile Library as an information hub is being researched.

The issue of cost effective bus services was discussed and some improvements outlined.

These included the use of smart cards on the 158 route which will ensure a discounted rate

and solve the issue of needing to purchase two tickets for one journey. There is a plan to introduce discounted tickets between Yeovil and Wincanton.

Bourton were congratulated on advertising bus timetables on the village website.

On the down side Bus Pass Holders do not now get half fare prices on certain buses and the concession will not start before 9.30am each day.

In relation to 'not in service' buses they do not and will not be carrying passengers.

SF Thanked RH for her update and her time. He informed the meeting that DCC are looking at whether buses used for school runs could be utilised in between times.

LJ pointed out some of these buses were privately owned.

RH reminded all that financial viability was crucial and gave an example of NORDCAP.

RH also reminded the meeting that these buses are available for hire at weekends and are likely to be a cheaper rate than hire companies.

No further questions were asked.

13.167 CORRESPONDENCE

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information:

Date	From	Subject
1/10/13	CRW Gillingham	Craft Sessions Calendar/Poster
1/10/13	DAPTC	Dates for Home Safety Training to prevent falls in the home
1/10/13	DAPTC	Advert for Polish Advocate for Dorset PCC
2/10/13	Dorset PCC	Volunteers and Specials advert for Dorset PCC
4/10/13	Environment Agency	Flood Warden Training 25/10/13
4/10/13	CRW Gillingham	Information/Poster for Training as a Volunteer
4/10/13	DAPTC	Chief Executive Newsletter 7/13
5/10/13	CRW Gillingham	Advert for Community Taxi/Car Link services
5/10/13	Ambulance Service	Advert for First Responder Volunteers
7/10/13	DAPTC	Agenda and Motions for DAPTC Area Mtg 15/10/13
9/10/13	DAPTC	Information re Localisation of Tax Support and Precept 2014/15 Information
10/10/13	DAPTC	Notification of Code of Conduct Training 21/10/13(Note: Cancelled 18/10/13)
14/10/13	NDDC	Confirmation of Planning Inspector visit to 2 Mede Close
16/10/13	Village Plan Committee	Copy of VPC Meeting held on 7/10/13
18/10/13	Local Govt. Boundary Comm.	Proposed electoral boundaries consultation (www.lgbce.org.uk)
22/10/13	Dorset Public Health	Update bulletin - October 2013
22/10/13	Francis Carne Associates	Dog fouling in Dorset Stickers
22/10/13	Dorset Community Action	Advert for Trustees

13.168 A.O.B.

None.

13.169 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2013

Chairman:

Date: