

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT: S Firbank (Chairman), G Miller, J Morgan, T Heaton, A Miller,
P Williams, M Withers, L Jones and P Withers (Stand in Clerk).
APOLOGIES: M Martin, Andrew Cattaway and Iain McVie
ATTENDING: 10 members of the public, PCSO Vicki Levy (Police).

15.85 OPEN FORUM

SF welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting and 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.

PCSO Levy informed the meeting that there had been two incidents of crime to report. Firstly, there had been damage caused to four vehicles in Bridge Street in the early hours of the morning of 16th September and that an investigation is ongoing. Secondly, two cat-scarers had been taken from a garden in Breach Close on 26th September. She went on to say that, as Halloween was coming up she had provided a number of notices for people to put up if they did not want to be the subject of "trick or treat" calls. TH asked if the damage to vehicles was the only crime or was there also theft? PCSO Levy said that it was only damage including smashed windows and seemed to be aimed at cars in the one location – it was not something that had occurred widely in Bourton. The damage may have been caused by a pedestrian or by persons in a car driving past.

SF wanted to express his and the Parish Council's thanks to Emma and her team for the recent production in the village hall which was much enjoyed by those who attended. SF thanked two members of the public for a very good letter concerning a recent planning application in their response to NDDC. SF confirmed he would circulate this to councillors.

A member of the public representing the Wildlife and Habitats Group gave a report of its recent activities. This included (1) the clearance of Himalayan Balsam from the river bank. There needed to be further work on this downstream of Bourton but upstream was now clear (2) twelve people completed a litter pick and collected ten sacks of rubbish (3) there was an evening bat walk using a frequency analyser which had detected four species. There were a large number of bats detected. Two small trees had been planted in the wildlife bank. They had submitted a proposal to the PC to be incorporated within the PC's public liability insurance including a risk assessment. The PC had made suggestions on the risk assessment about appropriate dress and the use of power tools and the correct use of warning signage.

The Chairman then opened the meeting and said that the Parish Clerk could not attend the meeting for personal reasons and he proposed that P Withers be appointed as clerk for this meeting only. This was agreed by all of the councillors.

15.86 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

S Firbank declared a personal interest in Bourton Mill (neighbour)

A Miller declared a personal interest in Clapton Farm (neighbour)

M Withers declared a personal interest in the new village hall (neighbour), in the planning application on 2 The Gables (neighbour) and Sandways Farm (owner) and said that he would not participate in any discussion on either. P Withers declared the same interest in these items.

15.87 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes were agreed by all as an accurate record. Subsequent to the meeting it was discovered that the final two items on page 20 of the minutes had been incorrectly numbered and should have been 15.83 and 15.84 and not 15.65 and 15.66. **ACTION: IM** to amend numbering and get signed by the Chairman. (Note original minutes amended and signed by Chairman).

15.88 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Regarding **Item 15.72, MW** confirmed that he had written to NDDC about the split of any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) benefitting the PC by more than the proposed 25%.

PW confirmed that all other actions were covered by agenda items.

15.89 REPORTS BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

SF confirmed that there were no new updates for this meeting from the county council.

PW (District Councillor) had a number of points for information. (1) The period for public consultation on the NDDC Local Plan was now finished (2) NDDC were unhappy about the threshold for demanding that affordable homes be included in a planning application started at eleven houses. This was also a national issue and an objection had been taken to, and upheld by, the high court. (3) Tri-partite arrangements are still progressing with the other councils (4) The disposal of the Nordon site was still under discussion.(5) There had been a meeting between Somerset and Dorset attended by cabinet member David Walsh where the road investment strategy was discussed, including the A303 proposed works. A decision on funding was awaited in the next Government statement. JM said that she had heard that a decision on funding may have been made already to put back works by five years to 2020. PW said that he thought that any decision had yet to be made. He further stated that for an integrated transport policy to work there had to be investment in the main rail link to dual the track. GM said that it was important to keep the pressure up on Government for the provision of affordable housing by lobbying through the District Council and generally making this more of an issue.

15.90 PLANNING MATTERS

15.90.1 Applications received – Three

1214/15 Colbourne House High Street – Rebuild collapsed section of natural stone wall – No objections and NDDC informed by the clerk via the planning portal.

1006/15 2 The Gables, New Road – Additional dwelling of an annexe to existing house/plot – Due to time constraints an objection to this proposal had been sent to NDDC and copied to councillors. A further letter had been received from neighbours to the site and this had also gone to NDDC and would be copied to councillors. **SF** said that it was important that this application go before the full planning committee at NDDC and that a representative from the PC should attend. (Note: The clerk has requested NDDC consider a full planning committee to consider this application).

1315/15 Sandways Farm, New Road – Outline planning application with all matters reserved to develop land by the erection of one dwelling using existing access. - PC planning sub-group, chaired by **SF** to prepare a report to NDDC and copy councillors (excluding **MW**) to send back to NDDC before latest date. **ACTION: SF** to liaise with planning sub-group to prepare, circulate and send report to NDDC before 9th October.

15.90.2 Applications granted – One

213/15 15 Mill Rise – Erect staircase and first floor landing and replace windows

15.90.3 Applications withdrawn - None

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

15.90.4 Bourton Mill

PW reported that he had spoken to Rob Firth in the NDDC legal department who had shown him correspondence with the developer John Fay. Mr Fay had provided him with a specification of works that he intended to carry out by the end of October 2015. These works appeared to be fit for purpose for the first time. He had heard no news regarding the additional funding sought by the developer for the main development works. GM said that as there was now additional monies to be made by developers from affordable housing then perhaps we ought to be encouraging the developer to build more of these. PW said that we could only act on the current extant outline planning consent and not pre-judge any future scheme which may emerge on the site as the outline consent still had some eighteen months to run.

15.90.5 Solar/Wind/Photovoltaic Sites – Clapton Farm, Cucklington – Solar Farm 15/03373

PW reported that South Somerset Council's decision date for the Clapton Farm solar array application was 21st October. Following fierce opposition from Cucklington the applicant had reduced the size of the proposal and moved it further away from Cucklington but nearer to West Bourton. South Somerset and NDDC had not consulted Bourton PC. PW had a meeting arranged with the planning officer concerned to discuss this later this week. **SF** confirmed that as Bourton had been much disadvantaged by the changed position of the array then we should be compensated by the applicant. PW said that the main objective was to stop the development.

15.91 FINANCE

15.91.1 Accounts to be paid

Ian McVie. Expenses	£26.00
OST Technology – provision of S I D equipment	£3180.00
Phil Cowell – 4 invoices for cemetery, verges and footpaths	£516.00

Proposed by MW, seconded by PW and agreed by all.

15.91.2 Accounts received

Clublight Development (Mill Site). Repayment for verge cutting £492.00

15.91.3 Grants and Donations. None.

15.92 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MW updated the meeting and said that the Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) had met with NDDC Planning Policy officers to discuss issues relating to the retention of the Settlement Boundary and the Site Allocation process within the draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It had also had a meeting with Steve Savage of Dorset County Council's Highways to discuss highways aspects of the short-listed new village hall sites. As a result, agreement had been reached with NDDC as to how the site selection process will work in the preparation of the draft NP. This is needed to ensure that only the agreed number of houses is built on the enabling housing development. Also, following these consultations, the NPG has written to two of the short-listed landowners inviting them to amend, improve and re-submit their proposals within the next two weeks, because their current proposals do not comply with basic concepts expressed by the community in the village surveys. Whether they do so or not is entirely up to them. The NPG has received approval for a new government funding grant, via Locality, for £6,044. This will be used to commission essential ecological surveys on the short-listed village hall sites, write up the Basic Conditions Report, check the Consultation Statement and generally assist the group on outstanding NP and planning issues generally. It should also cover the printing costs of the draft NP for the public consultation and examination process. This will mean that most of the monies budgeted in the precept for the NP need not be spent. Once all the surveys and reports from consultants have been completed, it is proposed that there will be a presentation to an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council regarding the short-listed sites for the new village hall and the Parish Council will select one of these sites for presentation in the draft NP as the selected site. It is proposed that, prior to the presentation, councillors will receive a factual presentation pack for all the short-listed sites. The presentation will be led by the NPG's planning consultant, Liz Beth, of Ib planning. Nicola Laszlo from NDDC's Planning Policy department has agreed to attend to answer any queries. The NPG and VHMC will also be in attendance to provide background information. He added that he had just received a response from one of the landowners and had agreed to meet with them.

15.93 NEW VILLAGE HALL

PW said that **MW** had briefed himself and the Chair of the VHMC in advance on events relating to the site selection process and that this had been most helpful.

15.94 TRAINING

SF confirmed that he was waiting for a response from the DAPTC about training issues **SF** confirmed that the clerk would now look to progress a training evening delivered by DAPTC at Bourton for all councillors to attend once a reply has been received.

ACTION: IM to progress the training evening for all councillors once DAPTC had replied to **SF**.

15.95 FOOTPATHS

TH confirmed there was nothing to report for this meeting.

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

15.95.1 Mile markers and posts.

PW said that it was good to see that the post and rails in the Clearwater area of the village had been removed. **SF** confirmed the mile markers were being progressed by Mere Fabricating.

15.96 HIGHWAYS

15.96.1 A303 noise reduction petition.

JM confirmed that she was maintaining contact with Highways England to resurface both sides of the A303 Dorset section by the end of 2018 and following a discussion would check out her contact regarding the overall funding of the A303 proposals and let **PW** know what the up to date position is on re-surfacing.

ACTION: **JM** to verify the current funding position and inform **PW** and the next meeting.

15.96.2 Marked bays to reduce speed and cross hatchings

DCC had visited the village today and will provide a report to the parish council.

ACTION: IM to chase up DCC and report back to the next meeting.

15.94.3 Wildlife & Habitats Group update

It was confirmed that DEFRA had not been contacted about the question of ragwort.

SF said that it would be necessary to approve the risk assessment proposal put forward by the Wildlife & Habitats Group for their own and the public's safety when they were working on the wildlife bank and other public areas, and be covered by the parish council public liability insurance subject to carrying out a number of actions required by the PC, as stated in the first section of their proposal that all councillors had received copies of prior to the meeting.

Proposed by MW and seconded by JM, and agreed by all, the PC resolved to approve the first section of the Wildlife & Habitats Group's risk assessment and insurance proposal.

15.95 TRANSPORT

SF confirmed there were no new updates.

15.96 COMMUNITY SAFETY – MOBILE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

SF confirmed that all the equipment had now been received and was being held by the Clerk. Whilst the PC had permission to use the existing pole opposite the church to mount the SID on any other site for poles MW said that any other siting of the SID would need to be on private property and not on the DCC owned public highway. There would be two further locations for the SID which would be decided by the Speedwatch Group in consultation with DCC and the police.

15.97 TELEPHONE KIOSK

SF reported that he may have found a volunteer to manage the telephone kiosk project and would report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: SF to report back to the next meeting.

15.98 PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR THE RESERVE CEMETERY

IM had prepared a paper and circulated on 10th September proposing a number of options for improvement works to the reserve cemetery. These involved the planting of various quick growing hedges and the provision of entrance gates near the south eastern boundary. GM asked if space was running out in the existing cemetery. SF said that there were still some available but, depending on the rate of burials, it may be full to capacity in 2-4 years and that the parish council should be prepared. GM thought that these works could be expensive and asked whether we needed to spend the money now, rather than later. Predictions on space available had been wrong before. SF thought that a sensible way forward and that the current clerk had previously confirmed the numbers within the existing cemetery. SF asked that a quotation for the planting of a hedge on the roadside boundary only along with the entrance gates be obtained. MW suggested that the Wildlife & Habitats Group should be consulted on the type of hedge to be planted. Following a discussion it was agreed that quotations be obtained for work to plant a hedge on the roadside boundary of the reserve cemetery, having first consulted on the type of hedge with the Wildlife & Habitats Group, and for a new entrance gateway to be provided at the south eastern end of the site.

ACTION: IM to obtain quotations for this work and report back to the PC.

SF said that, in conversation with the new vicar, there had been a suggestion that the PC should be responsible for the cost of maintaining the grass in the St George's churchyard. PW confirmed that this was common practice in other nearby parishes. MW thought that there may be a legal question as to whether or not the parish council should be spending monies on land it did not own. It was agreed to ask the clerk to investigate the legal position and SF to discuss with the vicar.

ACTION: IM to investigate and SF to further discuss with the vicar.

15.99 CONSULTATION BY DCC FOR FUTURE CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS SERVICES

P Withers reported that the consultation paper sent to all councillors stated that expenditure on these services was to be cut by nearly 50% in the future and a number of difficult decisions would need to be made. It was thought that, although individuals could respond to the consultation paper on line, it would carry more weight if there was a response from the PC. It was agreed that

P Withers would liaise with MM to prepare a response.

ACTION: P Withers and MM to liaise to prepare a response to DCC's consultation paper and send to councillors prior to the next PC meeting.

15.100 CORRESPONDENCE

SF confirmed the received correspondence as per the agenda and said that he had taken possession of an original Hindley & Maggs fixed engine and plaques as a gift from the executors of George Maggs which he hoped could, in some way, be incorporated in Mill development at some time in the future.

15.101 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SF said that the new concrete base for the Xmas Tree was being put in and that the groundworks had been sponsored by Hopkins of Wincanton. He went on to talk about the PC notice board at the garage site, which local carpenters have said is not repairable. He said that the clerk was looking at costs for a board which was similar to the other board at the garage site.

AM reported that the salt bins would be filled up in October. SF asked that the parish council marquee be put away safely for the winter and thanked AM for dealing with both matters.

15.102 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 7PM.

Chairman: S.Firbank

Date: 28th September 2015

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 26th October 2015