

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 29TH JUNE 2015**

- PRESENT:** S Firbank (Chairman), G Miller, J Morgan, A Miller, M Martin, T Heaton
P Williams, M Withers.
- APOLOGIES:** L Jones, PCSO Vicki Levy (Dorset Police).
- ATTENDING:** Andrew Cattaway (County and District Councillor) and 9 members of the public and I McVie (Clerk).

15.29 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.

SF invited the village Speed Watch Co-Ordinator, S. Williams to provide an update to the meeting concerning the speed watch activities this last month. SW gave the following report.

'During the course of the last few weeks we have undertaken a number of Speed watches at various times of the day. Our aim is to create greater awareness of the 40mph speed limit and an overall reduction in speeding vehicles travelling through the village, rather than deliberately trying to catch motorists exceeding the limit.

Currently, we are authorised to stand at the corner of Old Pound Court and the Main/New Road on both sides of the road, but on different watches. We have identified three other locations which we feel would be far more appropriate and likely to achieve our objective, but those sites are being examined by the police who will let us know shortly if they have their approval. We have to be clearly visible and have a degree of space behind us in order that we don't prove to be so much of a distraction that we cause accidents or surprise leading to confrontation.

There is an assumption by some motorists that we want to photograph their vehicles or film their children. We have had two small incidents with suspicious drivers and have had to explain that our speed recorder only displays the speed of an approaching vehicle. It is not a camera. It is up to us to record make, model, colour and registration number of any vehicle exceeding the limit. The majority of mothers with children at the village school have told us they are relieved that, at last, something positive is being done to tackle the speed problem.

We find we work best doing short watches lasting, in total, about 40 minutes. Our intention is to go out every two/ three weeks at the busiest times of the day, though none of the group feel inclined to take on the 6am rush at the moment.'

AC asked how many vehicles had been checked and of those how many were speeding. SW stated that there had been a total of 140 vehicles checked and of these 2 had been exceeding the 40mph limit at speeds of 55mph and 44mph. AC reminded the meeting that this clearly showed that the vast majority of drivers did adhere to the speed limit with one or two driving inappropriately over the speed limit. PW pointed out that the volunteers wear high visibility clothing which is easily seen by approaching motorists which may account for the low number of speeders. AC pointed out that this showed that speed watch does make a difference and helps the village road safety.

A member of the public reminded the meeting that at a previous meeting she had asked for a donation from the parish council on behalf of St Georges Church. She stated she had been initially disappointed in the response but on behalf of the church wished to withdraw the request pending the introduction of a gifts and donations policy, where upon the church will consider a new application around October 2015.

15.30 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

- S. Firbank declared a personal interest in Bourton Mill (neighbour).
M. Withers declared a personal interest in the new village hall (neighbour).
G. Miller declared an interest (Trustee) in relation to Bourton and Silton Charity.

15.31 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes were agreed by all as an accurate record and signed by SF.

15.32 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SF confirmed that of the seven actions five were agenda items to come, one had been resolved as the donation application from St Georges Church had been withdrawn and that IM had completed the action in relation to speaking to Jim Mann concerning the fete and had confirmed that Mr Mann was prepared to help but not co-ordinate the whole event. SF reminded everyone that it is for either the school, church or village hall to agree who co-ordinates/organises the fete and as no volunteer could be found a village fete will not be held in 2015.

15.33 REPORTS BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

AC (County Councillor) updated the meeting concerning the long running closure and repairs to the road known as Dinahs Hollow leading up to the C13. He informed the meeting that the road should re-open within the next two weeks and there will be a traffic management system in place with full traffic lights and bollards that will regulate the flow of traffic with vehicles being allowed to alternate along a single lane stretch of road. This will ensure HGV's and larger vehicles do not cause damage to the sides to the road and ensures that the road is safe for all to use once again.

AC (District Councillor) updated the meeting concerning the tri-council partnership, he reminded all present of the history and stated that the new senior leadership team (SLT) had now been agreed by the three councils and that NDDC had two representatives on this important strategic team. He stated that the three councils were now in the process of setting up the middle management structure which should be resolved about October 2015. AC stated that NDDC staff were enthusiastic about the changes and there is a strong and significant view that this tri partnership arrangement is the only way to keeping a viable council that delivers local services. He stated that by 2020 central government aim to remove all central funding and local council will operate on what they raise through council precept and other local funding. MM asked if given the continuing cutbacks will the A303 proposed widening still take place. AC stated that while there had been some recent rumour his understanding is that A303 widening scheme is still progressing albeit there may be some issues concerning the viability of all sections being widened to two lanes due to issues concerning locations of historical value.

PW (District Councillor) updated the meeting concerning the amended NDDC Local Plan that was produced following initial comments by the public inspector. All the recommendations have been incorporated in the amended plan including extending the plan to cover up to 2031, the provision of more housing outside the four main towns in North Dorset which will result in 825 new dwellings in the countryside out of a total of 5700. PW stated that 39% of all new dwellings in North Dorset will be built in Gillingham as it has good transport links including a mainline train service. PW confirmed that there will be a further public consultation on the modifications that were approved by NDDC on 26th June 2015.

PW informed the meeting that NDDC had also appointed five Honorary Aldermen and that Geoffrey Miller had been selected as one of the five in recognition of his services to the public as a District Councillor. All present congratulated GM on this achievement and recognition.

15.34 PLANNING MATTERS

15.34.1 Applications received - None

15.34.2 Applications granted – Two

277/15 Grange Cottage, Chaffeymoor Hill – Install two replacement windows.

512/15 Glencote, New Road – Subdivide existing dwelling to create additional dwelling

15.34.3 Applications withdrawn - None

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

15.34.4 Bourton Mill

PW stated there were no further updates this month and that he will be speaking again to NDDC.

ACTION: PW to continue working with NDDC to resolve the security and safety of the mill site.

15.34.5 Solar/Wind/Photovoltaic Sites

PW and SF confirmed they would be attending a solar farm open day at Manor Solar Farm on Saturday 4th July 2015.

15.35 FINANCE

15.35.1 Accounts to be paid

Sarah Mann.	Internal Audit 2014/15	£100.00
HMRC	PAYE	£ 312.08

DAPTC	Training course	£ 30.00
DAPTC	Subscription 2015/16	£276.17

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

15.35.2 Accounts received

T. Twisten-Davis	Hire of marquee.	£ 200.00
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15.35.3 Grants and donations policy

SF confirmed that all councillors had received an amended draft policy that reflected the councillor's discussions last month and following discussion three further amendments were made within sections 1.4 and 7.

(Note: These amendments were made and the policy published on the village website on 30/6/15).

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

15.35.4 Grants and Donations. None.

15.36 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MW updated the meeting and stated that the NPG had met with all the short listed landowners who wanted their sites to be considered as part of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) site selection for a new village hall site, car parking, amenity land and enabling housing development. These sites have also been assessed by the NPG's consultant, Planning Aid England, whose final report is expected shortly. MW explained that the NPG have had discussions with the agent acting for the VHMC's preferred site for the new hall and have clarified what they are prepared to offer the village. The agent has agreed to put this in writing for the NPG and this is expected shortly. MW confirmed that offers have been received on the other short listed sites and it has become clear that there are other credible alternative offers to consider for the siting of a new village hall. NDDC continue to lose staff who had been assisting the NPG on the neighbourhood plan in the run up to the tri partnership change programme for the three district councils. As a result a critical meeting to go through the NPG's draft plan, discuss the SEA document and site selection process and to learn where NDDC is in its discussions over their local plan proposal with the inspector, has had to be put back for three weeks to 8th July 2015.

15.37 NEW VILLAGE HALL

PW stated there was no further updates and that he was pleased to see that the agent for the preferred site had now engaged with the NPG.

15.38 TRAINING

SF confirmed no updates at this time and took the opportunity to inform the meeting that a new DAPTC chief executive, Hilairy Trevorah (current Chickerell Town Clerk) has been appointed.

15.39 FOOTPATHS

TH stated that a report had been made to DCC in relation to footpath 16 where a member of the public had reported a damaged and dangerous plank on the small bridge.

TH stated that someone keeps on removing the marker post to the newly opened footpath 11 and on at least three occasions the removed post has been found in nearby bushes and replaced. He pointed out that this is unacceptable behaviour and that he intends to place a suitable sign on the post reminding people of their responsibilities. All present agreed with this action and IM confirmed it had also been reported to DCC.

IM updated the meeting in relation to a proposal to re-surface the tarmac section of footpath 25 that runs from the High Street to New Road. DCC estimates the cost to be £7000 and have asked if the parish council were prepared to fund this work. Following a discussions it was agreed that this was a DCC matter and not a suitable use of precept money.

ACTION: IM to inform DCC. (Note: DCC informed by e mail on 1/7/15).

SF confirmed that TH was working with Bernard Sullivan as the public footpath and rights of way team representing the parish council and working with DCC to ensure footpaths are well managed.

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

15.40 HIGHWAYS

15.40.1 Refurbishment of mile markers and post and rails

IM confirmed that the costs for replacing two possibly three mile markers around the village would be in the region of £215 per marker, which included VAT. Following discussions it was agreed to

progress this work and use the services of Mere Fabricating who have all the necessary templates from work previously done.

ACTION: SF/IM to arrange this work (Note: SF has contacted Mere Fabricating to progress works). SF then explained that the post and rails are located in front of the corner house of Bridge Street and the main road (New Road), either side of the brick wall diagonally opposite the entrance to his own property and a final set that are located on the main road opposite the telephone exchange 100 metres from the junction with the High Street. SF stated that the first two sets of railings are clearly for safety to avoid people falling into the river, while the last set may be a legacy of the old A303 and could be suitable for removal. SF suggested that before any action is taken to refurbish these railings there is a need to confirm ownership, which is likely to be DCC and seek the views of residents whose property is directly affected by the railings. Following a discussion it was agreed that the council will establish ownership, seek the views of residents and individually visit the locations

ACTION: IM to confirm ownership of railings (Note: Action completed the owner is DCC).

ACTION: JM to consult with residents to ascertain their views.

15.40.2 A303 noise reduction petition.

JM confirmed that she was still progressing action with the Highways England and is working with them to clarify exactly what stretch of the Dorset section of the A303 is likely to get resurfaced in the future. She informed the meeting that resurfacing by Highways England will only be done if there is a problem with the road surface and that if it is noise reduction then DEFRA would assess this and consider any action. She stated that the first step would be to have a test of the decibel level conducted. AC pointed out that NDDC would not have this equipment but DCC possibly do and he would make some enquiries and report back.

ACTION: AC to check if DCC can conduct noise tests or access equipment to do so.

ACTION: JM to progress and report to the next meeting.

15.40.3 Speed Limits

SF updated the meeting stating that Zeals were continuing to progress trying to get Wiltshire County Council (WCC) to reduce the speed limit in Zeals to 30mph. He also reminded the meeting that some residents in Bourton have been asking if Bourton would try to get DCC to re consider to also reduce the speed limit in Bourton to 30mph. Following a discussion it was agreed to ask DCC to contact WCC to establish the current county council position in this matter.

ACTION: IM to contact DCC to arrange this. (Note: DCC informed and replied back on 1/7/15).

TH asked if there was a possibility that Bourton could have installed parking bays as has been done in Zeals, as this would help reduce speed and encourage better driving. AC confirmed that this has been considered in the past but unlike Zeals, Bourton main road has more bends that do affect where parking bays could safely be placed. He reminded the meeting that DCC have assessed the speed limit in Bourton on a number of occasions and had always made site visits and taken action such as re marking lines around the school, placing 'slow' markings on the road by the village gates and placing additional speed warning signs on the approaches to the school. He suggested that the parish council should contact DCC and ask for a site visit to re-assess the viability of painting parking bays in appropriate locations. There was a discussion and it was agreed to do this.

ACTION: IM to contact DCC to arrange a site visit to assess the viability of installing parking bays in suitable and safe locations on the main road through Bourton. (Note: DCC contacted on 1/7/15 and have agreed to visit Bourton on a date to be confirmed).

15.41 TRANSPORT

SF confirmed there were no new updates.

15.42 COMMUNITY SAFETY

IM read out an update from PCSO Levy. He stated that there had been no reports of any crime during the last month in Bourton.

15.43 TOM MITCHELL SALVER 2015

This item was dealt with in a closed session where there were three nominees and following a presentation from a councillor nominating an individual there was a discussion. Then following a vote a recipient was agreed and this will be announced at next month's meeting.

ACTION: SF to inform recipient and arrange engraving.

15.44 PARISH COUNCIL TRUSTEE for BOURTON and SILTON CHARITY

SF explained that the charity had written to the parish council asking that a different trustee is selected as GM is on the board of trustees as a life trustee. The charity confirmed that the

appointment did not have to be a councillor, but, someone who could represent the council and report back to it. Following a discussion it was agreed to appoint Danny Laws.

ACTION: IM to inform the Bourton and Silton Charity. (Note: Done by e mail 1/7/15).

15.45 PENHOUSE FARM, PENSELWOOD – DEPOSITING of IMPORTED SOIL.

SF explained that a Mr Hopkins has been depositing soil and demolition waste on property he owns in Penselwood, which had been brought to the attention of the council by a resident in Bourton. There is a petition locally opposed to the actions of the landowner and any subsequent planning application(s). Bourton Council would not be consulted by Somerset Council concerning this as the village is not affected by what is going on and what is proposed. SF pointed out that individuals can always join the petition and make representations to Somerset Council, but this in his view was not a matter for Bourton Parish Council. All present agreed.

15.46 CORRESPONDENCE

31/05/2015	DAPTC	Info concerning collection on retirement CEO DAPTC-Chairman
31/05/2015	DAPTC	Safer Dorset Funds (4) - Filed
31/05/2015	DAPTC	Nominations Dorset Young Peoples Award 2015 - Website
31/05/2015	DAPTC	Update on training courses to clerks - Noted and filed
31/05/2015	NALC	Advice on prayers at council meetings - To Chairman
31/05/2015	NDDC	Planning consent 512/15, Glencote, New Rd-To PSG & website
31/05/2015	NDDC	Planning consent 277/15, Grange Cottage - To PSG & website
17/06/2015	Superfast	Dorset broadband expansion - Not applicable Bourton & filed
17/06/2015	Mr Sullivan	E mails concerning verge cutting - Contractor informed
17/06/2015	DAPTC	Clerk training for planning - Reply sent 17/06/15
17/06/2015	VHMC	2014/15 accounts - To all councillors and filed-----
17/06/2015	Mr Wood	Cutting vegetation Tan Lane - Reply sent on 17/06/15
17/06/2015	Light-Source	Email 7 letter invite to open day 4/7/15 - To Chairman
21/06/2015	DCC	Flood equipment - To Flood Warden for information
21/06/2015	Wessex Water	Road closures, 13/7/15 for 15 weeks - Forge Lane/Fantley Rd.
21/06/2015	Mr B Sullivan	FP11 signs removed - Reply sent copy to Chairman and DCC

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information.

15.47 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GM informed the meeting that he had possession of the original manuscript of a book written about Bourton by a former Master of Bourton School, entitled 'History of an English Village'. After discussion it was agreed to lodge the document at the Dorset Heritage Centre. IM confirmed he would do this when he takes the next box of documents to the Heritage Centre, Dorchester.

AM informed the meeting that there has been a marked increase of dog owners leaving their dog foul on fields, which poses a health risk to animals. Following a discussion it was agreed that AM would e mail to IM a suitable reminder notice for placing on the notice boards and the website. PW suggested that a suitable poster should go on footpath entrances and gates to fields reminding owners.

ACTION: AM to arrange suitable poster/notice, IM will place copies on noticeboards and website. (Note: Poster kindly created by B. Sullivan copies placed on noticeboards, website and suitable locations where footpaths enter farmers' fields within the parish).

15.48 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 27TH JULY 2015.

Chairman: S.Firbank

Date: 29th June 2015

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 27th July 2015