

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2018**

**PRESENT:** M Martin, M Chapman, E Wynn (Clerk), A Miller, P Williams,  
M Withers, G Miller,

**APOLOGIES:** T Heaton, S Firbank, A Cattaway

**ATTENDING:** 11 members of the public.

**18.41 APOLOGIES – AS PER ABOVE**

**18.42 OPEN FORUM**

A member of the public stated that she would like her comments regarding the resignation of Simon Firbank recorded in the minutes "It is not my intention to comment on the events that have led to Simon's resignation, however, whatever the rights and wrongs I do feel that after 27 years of service and commitment to the village through his role as Councillor and Chair of the Parish Council there should be some kind of acknowledgement and recognition for all he has done to benefit the community. He has devoted hours of his time generously and unstintingly to unravelling knotty situations and mediating pathways through the quagmires of village politics and in my opinion that deserves an expression of gratitude and appreciation. I know I am not alone in my feelings and I am sure that others will have expressed them too". Comments were also made about the success of the Bourton Village Day and thanks were made to Sharron McVie and Trevor Knott for all their hard work. Another MoP wanted to register their thanks to Simon Firbank and also wanted this minuted.

**18.43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**18.44 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

MW asked if there were any proposals for chairperson. PW proposed MW; GM seconded. Unanimous decision reached. MW proposed MM as Vice Chair. MC seconded; Unanimous decision reached. MW and MM would now sign Acceptance of Office papers.

**18.46 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The June minutes were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

**18.47 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Asset Register - PW handed out copies of the asset register and explained progress made so far. He said the register needed to show that items are depreciating but this was a work in progress to be reported on at the next meeting. AM asked if the village milestone was an asset but PW explained that the PC owned the plaque but not the stone. MW thanked PW for his work.

Grants and Donations – MW explained this item had to be revisited as a vote wasn't taken at the last meeting re the requested £600 loan for the Bourton Bash. Proposed by PW; Seconded by MC. Unanimous decision reached.

New Village Hall – MC stated that the £3k budget was proposed and seconded in the May minutes and it was agreed there was no need to revisit this.

Village Deeds – EW said this was done.

**18.48 REPORTS BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

PW reported that NDDC and DCC councillors were now members of the Shadow Dorset Council in preparation for the new unitary council which becomes the statutory authority with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Key issues are being addressed in connection with the migration from district/county councils to a single unitary authority. These include service continuity; IT systems; workforce/TUPE considerations with any redundancies to be mainly voluntary, etc. Head of Paid Services is Matt Prosser who is effectively the acting CEO. Looking ahead the local issue for BPC is the consultation period for the local boundary review. The proposal is for there to be only 82 councillors for the new unitary council and that Gillingham and Gillingham Rural should be a single Ward with just 3 councillors. PW asked if anyone was prepared to take on the role of drafting a reply on behalf of BPC. MM and MW agreed to draft a reply with help from PW.

**18.49 PLANNING**

**18.49.1 Applications received**

None

**18.49.2 Bourton Mill**

JM reported that Factory Hill is scheduled to be tarmaced on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> or Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Although this means that the road will be finished the pavements have to be completed before the road can be reopened. JM is hopeful that this will be achieved by August 12<sup>th</sup>. The cabins on the south side were due to be removed on the 24<sup>th</sup> July which means that work on the compensation basin can begin in earnest. The north side can be closed and made secure while work continues. MW reported that he had asked the Clerk to write to Hannah Smith at NDDC Planning to enquire about the current position regarding the Mill developer's S.106 contributions and the affordable housing. This has been done.

**18.50 FINANCE**

**18.50.1 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID**

E Wynn	June wages: £403.62 (net) £20.50 (expenses) £25.73	£424.12
P Cowell	Invs 1525 (£152.40) 1526 (£60.00) 1527 (£183.60)	£396.00
DesignJam Ltd	1 years website and email hosting	£144.00

**18.50.2 Accounts received**

HMRC	VAT Reclaim	£114.96
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Proposed by AM, Seconded by PW and agreed by all Cllrs present.

**18.50.3 Grants and Donation Applications**

None received.

**18.51 NEW VILLAGE HALL**

MC reported that the community workshop for the 2 proposed sites had been confirmed for 15<sup>th</sup> September. Aerial photos via drones will take place in August. Iain McVie has agreed to be moderator for the workshops and the NVH Team were actively recruiting new volunteers. MW asked about the timings for the workshops and MC stated they are 2-5pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> September with the opportunity to record comments and then to regroup at 7pm to discuss peoples comments. MM asked if the consultation was part of the process we needed to go through to get the grants. MC said that BPC has the remit to decide which of the 2 sites is chosen or we can engage in other forms of consultation. He said the least contentious and less divisive approach was to have the workshops followed by a debate, this will then inform BPC of the views of the community and it will give the PC a very good idea of what the community wants. MM said she was concerned that those who have a view might not come forward and MC explained that this is why the proposed communication strategy is the way to engage people so that everyone will have the opportunity to have their voices heard and that the decision will ultimately reside with BPC.

**18.52 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS**

This is a new item on the agenda and Mr Bernard Sullivan (BS) thanked the Chairman for adding this to future agendas. This item would give the W&HG the opportunity to report on the work of the group and these reports would be given by BS or MC. BS reported the following:

- Woodland Edge - environment has been cut and will now be tidied in preparation for the autumn/winter. More bulbs and plants will be added
- Village Gates – trees and shrubs doing well. Spring bulbs in place. We have three volunteers keeping the areas looking attractive.
- Nest Boxes – we continue to monitor our 4 barn owl and other next boxes.
- Forty Pond – the hide is complete, open to visitors and equipped with a bird identification book and binoculars. Many thanks to Mary Taylor, the landowner.
- Footpath 11 – all materials have now arrived and our volunteers will be completing the construction of a partial boardwalk with illustrative signage shortly. Dogs must be kept on short leads throughout this Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).
- Litter – our twice annual litter pick covering the entire parish will take place in the last two weeks of September.
- New Venture – we would very much like the council's encouragement and landowners support to undertake a survey of the condition of the River Stour and its banks as it passes through our parish, with the aim of improving biodiversity. To this end, we hope to engage the Wild Trout Trust, Wessex Water, Dorset Wildlife Trust and our volunteer colleagues in Wincanton and Gillingham who have made great improvements to their own river environment.

MW thanked BS and the group for their work.

**18.51 HIGHWAYS**

PW raised concerns about the gutters on the Siltan road being full with vegetation. EW to contact DCC Highways and Andrew Cattaway.

**18.52 VILLAGE TENT**

MW raised the issue of the village tent to try and ascertain its future. AM said he is happy to store the tent in one of his barns. MW asked if BPC should think about hiring a tent when needed or purchasing a new one. Comments had

been made about the cost of hiring the tent - £200 – being too expensive. PW suggested a rate of £150. MC asked if there was a previous tent, which there wasn't. MM said the asset register suggests another 3 years of life in the current tent and she suggested that BPC look carefully at renting one in the future. MW said this issue will be raised again at the next meeting.

### **18.53 BOURTON VILLAGE DAY**

MW said he hoped everyone would agree that this event was a great success and we owe our thanks to Sharron McVie, Trevor Knott and the rest of the BVD Team. SM reported; "10 months ago, at a Parish Council meeting I was tasked with the job of organising the village fete. At that same meeting Trevor Knott tapped me on the shoulder and said "I'll help you". I am lucky, and the village is fortunate that he moved to Bourton. Our mission was to create a Village Day for those who live, work and play in and around Bourton. We wanted to showcase all that was good about the village, your village. A plan evolved and people became involved. It all came together yesterday on what was a beautiful sunny day. Trevor and I would like to thank everyone who did their bit. We know you put up tents, picked up litter, sold beer, made a cake, put up tables, put out signs, cleaned toilets, found electric cable, sorted out your cupboards for the tombola. And most importantly you came and supported. A survey will be sent out to all those involved for their comments and a financial report will be given at the next meeting. Before I finish I would like to give special credit to Mrs Sheila Williams who, on the day, sold raffle tickets to the value of £421! Thank you". SM said that the next possible Village Day should take place in 2020.

### **18.54 FOOTPATHS**

See Wildlife and Habitats report.

### **18.55 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

SW reported that the team had recruited two new members and this evening the group had been out in the parish to try out a new piece of equipment. SW said this equipment is great and that the group would be looking for support from BPC to purchase it at a cost of around £180. MW thanked the Speedwatch Team for their sterling work.

### **18.56 CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

### **18.57 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**18.57.1** Millers Close – EW reported that works were still yet to be completed on the drainage channel and in the paddock at the rear of the close. The paddock cutting was awaiting completion of harvesting by the farmer.

**18.57.2** Resignation of Councillor Jenny Morgan. MW reported that he didn't have the chance at the last meeting to register or show appreciation for JM's hard work as a councillor, which he then did with the agreement of all councillors. It was agreed that all present were happy for JM to continue to report to the PC on the Mill site development.

**18.57.3** Oil Spillage – BS gave an update on this and reported that the Environment Agency had been informed but their response was that this type of spillage was extremely difficult to find the source. However, the EA did say they would a) check for chlorine and b) check for heating oil. BS reported that the only way for householders to check for a leak with their oil tanks was to have a pressure test. Both JM and BS have tried to spread the word to householders to have this check done as this could avoid someone having an EA clean-up bill running into tens of thousands of pounds. MW asked if this fact could be advertised to try and encourage people to carry out this test. ACTION: MW with input from BS to draft a poster to go in the garage noticeboard.

**18.57.4** Expressions of Interest for Parish Councillor position. MW reported that at 17.00pm that evening SF had submitted his resignation as a parish councillor. MW agreed that BPC should mark SF's incredible contribution and long service to the PC and said that the village does owe SF a tremendous amount of thanks. He asked that the Parish Councillors think how we can achieve this and to let him know their suggestions. MM said we need to ask the wider community about what can be done to mark SF's service as the whole village would want to thank him. MW then asked the Members of the Public to leave as the need to discuss the now two available parish councillor positions would take place.

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

**MW closed the meeting at 8.18pm**

Chairman:

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

**Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018**