

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

**PRESENT:** Bourton Parish Councillors: Kevan Barton, Paul Curry, Simon Firkbank, Fran Gillett, Roger Moores, Andrew Sturt, Peter Williams (Vice Chairman).  
Dorset Councillors: Belinda Rideout  
Parish Clerk: Eve Wynn

**APOLOGIES:** Dorset Councillors: Val Potheary, David Walsh.  
Bourton Parish Chairman: Andrew Cattaway.  
Bourton Parish Councillors: Ian Cooper;

**ATTENDING:** Approximately 18 members of the public

**APOLOGIES – AS PER ABOVE.**

### **19.149 Introduction**

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **19.150 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **19.151 OPEN FORUM**

A MoP raised the issue of various planning applications (both current and proposed). The Neighbourhood Plan wished Bourton to remain a village – the boundaries set within the NP were carefully planned, agreed and voted on. Unless a tough line is taken by the PC then Bourton may well see a repeat of what is happening in Zeals. Several MoP's raised concerns about planning application 2/2020/0033/FUL at Weavers Cottage, Brickyard Lane.

Trevor Bailey confirmed that Bourton Village Day was taking place in July (date to be confirmed) and a grant application would be submitted in time for the March PC meeting.

A MoP reported issues with mud on Forge Lane and Factory Hill. **Action: FG to chase this up with Dorset Highways.**

A MoP reported Brickyard Lane was 4" deep in mud and various highways drains in the village were blocked. A MoP raise safety concerns regarding the exit from the highway at Brickyard Lane onto West Bourton Road and this was reiterated by several other MoPs present. Suggestions of how to improve the exit included installing bollards or making the hatchings bumpy such as rumble strips. **Action: FG to have further discussions with Dorset Highways.**

A MoP said she agreed with other comments regarding the NP and said she was disappointed that DC had now stated that the recommendations within the NP would now only be valid for 2 years. PW reported that he had been in conduct with CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). A precedent would be set with the Hall and Woodhouse pre-application development at Pound Court and this could well open the floodgates for other developers. PW encouraged people to write to their MP since, being national policy, revision of NPPF would need to be instigated by the relevant minister.

### **19.152 MINUTES**

Agreed by all and signed by the vice chairman.

### **19.153 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY MINUTES**

19.132 - KB to confirm repair of village gate that this has now been done.

19.136 - AC volunteered to carry the report with a supporting letter stating that it was not from the PC, a proposal that was agreed by all councillors.

19.137.1 - AC stated that he would invite relevant DC officers as well as Mark Hitchcott, Senior Planning Enforcement Officer, to address the March 2020 Parish Council meeting on subject of test results and contamination remediation. (The clerk agreed to do this on behalf of the chairman). Done.

19.140 - Clerk to contact Gary Phillips regarding repairs to both noticeboards. Done.

19.142 - Clerk to arrange meeting between Roger Bell, Councillor Fran Gillett G. Done.

19.144 - SF to secure quote from Bourton Fencing regarding the school play area fence and clerk to request quote from PM Cowell. Done.

19.145.3 - Clerk to contact Tom Shean regarding electricity supply to the defibrillator; to arrange necessary defibrillator training; to source costs of another machine. Done

- 19.147 - Clerk to report blocked highways drain by the garage to Roger Bell. Done.  
 19.147 - Clerk to send link to KB for the Dorset Explorer interactive map <https://explorer.geowessex.com/> . Done.  
 19.147 - AC to contact C.Field regarding pools of water on Bridge Street.  
 19.147 - Clerk to report to Roger Bell that an old gully on Kites Nest Lane was blocked. Done.

#### 19.154 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

BR gave this report:

**Climate Change & Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel (EAP)** 'Task & Finish' topic areas: **Transport, Waste & Energy, Buildings & Assets, Leadership & Influence and Natural Environment.**

**Climate Change Inquiry Days** – the first of these took place on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 10am to 3.30pm at South Walks House, Dorchester. A very interesting and inspiring day, when 15 members of the public came to present their ideas to the EAP Panel. Ideas including making use of the River Stour for hydro-electric power, solar car parks, 'Ditch the car', Hydrogen based energy storage, 'War on Waste'. Earth Protector Towns. Another session will take place on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 4-9pm. All ideas will go to the 'Task & Finish' groups for further investigation for suitability to be included in the Climate Change Forward Plan.

**Northern Planning Committee** is to meet at Sturminster Newton on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. There are no items within the Gillingham Ward.

**Governance Review Findings (Peer Challenge), Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January** (organised by the Local Government Association). To hear the results of the Governance Review undertaken by a team of sector experts from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019, looking at: setting priorities; leadership of Place; organisational leadership and governance; financial planning and capacity to deliver. The timing of the review early in the formation of the Unitary was thought to be beneficial. There was nothing in the review findings that was greatly concerning and Dorset Council was praised for a well-managed transition from the previous council set up, with a good sense of place, purpose and clear intent to improve outcomes in the face of many challenges – financial, transformational, travel and transport, integration and demand pressures. Comments included the recognition of an appetite for joint working from partners, e.g. town and parish councils, and the need to build on capacity and resilience of local communities. A need to build on the good communication and engagement work already carried out and to develop greater insights into resident's wants, needs and demands. To build on relationships with the Local Enterprise Partnership LEP, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and bordering authorities. Members have been asked to make comment on the actions arising from the review which will go to Cabinet for approval. The Peer Review team offered their support over the next 12-18 months.

**Full Council, Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February** – (a very long meeting!!)

**Dorset Council Plan 2020-2024** – as recommended by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 the Dorset Council Plan was approved by members. This followed engagement and valuable feedback from residents, businesses, partner organisations (including town and parish councils), colleagues and the voluntary and community sector. The Dorset Council Plan sets out the council's main priorities for the next four years: economic growth; the unique environment; suitable housing; strong, healthy communities and staying safe and well. Changes were made to reflect that the Climate change and ecological emergency is a cross cutting theme that must be emphasised across the plan and how these impacts on each priority.

**Budget Strategy Report** – as recommended by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the Budget Strategy Report was approved by members after much debate. The report sets out proposals for Dorset Council's 2020/21 revenue and capital budgets and summarises the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) to 2024/5, including the capital strategy and treasury management strategy. An increase of council tax of just under 4% will help fund the rising cost of adult social care and children's services and protect discretionary services. General council tax of 1.995% and 2% for social care, providing a band D council tax figure for Dorset Council of £1,694.79. The 2019/20 forecast overspend is supported by reserves. There have been no cuts to front line services. The 2020/21 budget proposals allow for significant increases in budget for Children's and Adults' Services through a combination of increased government funding, increased contributions from residents and efficiencies realised following the creation of the Unitary. Children's Services funding increased by a further £10.2m, from £63.7m to £73.9m with additional resources being put into the budget to provide for increasing levels and costs of support for children and young people with more complex needs. Adult Services increased by £11.7m, from £111.2m to £122.9m, with additional resources being made available to support older and more vulnerable people.

**Dorset Council Budget 2020/21: £304m** Sources of funding made up of Council Tax £252m (82%); retained business rates £47m (16%); other £5m - small specific grants such as Rural Services Delivery and New Homes Bonus (2%). There is no longer funding from the Central Government Revenue Support Grant.

**Review of the Constitution** - members approved changes to the constitution, including:

- Enabling the Leader to designate up to 6 members from the controlling group as Lead Members to work alongside portfolio holders; (to help share workload)

- To replace the existing four overview and scrutiny committees with two overview committees and two scrutiny committees with the chairmen of the two scrutiny committees being members of the largest opposition group and the vice chairmen not being members of the controlling group.

**Pay Policy Statement** – members approved the first Pay Policy Statement for Dorset Council for the financial year 2020/21 as required under the Localism Act 2011. It sets out the salary bands for the Chief Executive, plus the Executive and Corporate Directors. The statement also details the council's lowest salary grade and remuneration payment policies, such as standby allowances and overtime payments.

#### **Dorset Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel – Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February**

A presentation was given by Frances Summers, Senior Planning Officer outlining proposals for the promotion and **communication of the Dorset Local Plan**, along with a new 'leaf' logo.

Aim is to achieve an excellent user experience, reaching the widest audience possible, enabling public involvement at all stages of the new plan. There will be two consultations, the first being an 'Options' consultation this autumn followed by a second consultation in 2021 of the final draft plans, before it is submitted for inspection.

There is also a proposal to run a simple and easy to answer Opinion Pole, March – September, to get sample opinions on up to 10 questions, using social media.

Advertising the Local Plan will include social/online advertising; attention grabbing headlines; running drop-ins in towns, at events – with Dorset Councillors' help. An interesting presentation was also given on **CIL proposals (Construction Infrastructure Levy)**, which goes towards the provision of infrastructure. Unlike s106, which is a negotiation process and has to be related to the development, dealing with the direct impact of the development, CIL is non-negotiable, as it is developed through the Local Plan and developers are therefore fully aware of charges before they start. It was a good time to review CIL at the start of the new Dorset Council. The old North Dorset District area is the only area in the Unitary without a CIL charge in place. (NDDC decided to use S106 only due to lack of resources). Ideally Dorset Council needs a single charging CIL schedule in parallel with the Dorset Local Plan and the proposal is the convergence of all previous sovereign council arrangements, including the IT systems and governance arrangements. The percentage of CIL to town and parishes is: 15% if no Neighbourhood Plan and 25% with a NP. Two Papers will be going to Cabinet Spring 2020, one with proposals for Dorset Council CIL short term and long term (2023) and S106. Sovereign s106 (pre LGR) will remain ring fenced and used within that area, unless projects are no longer needed, when money could be reallocated.

#### **Other items:**

**Bee & Butterfly Garden, platform 2, Gillingham Station** – following a meeting with Robert Hodgkinson, Franchise & Access Manager (Non Lead TOCs and Community Rail), Network Rail Wessex Route, Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, a significantly reduced landscaping scheme is now back on the agenda with NR subject to business and technical clearance and drawing up of a Licence Agreement (at no cost). If all goes well, the plan is to clear the site of weeds this summer and plant in the autumn. **Dorset Local Access Forum** - which provides numerous local, regional and national organisations with independent advice in regard to improving outdoor access/green space for people to enjoy by foot, horse, bike and car will resume in May 2020. More details about this statutory body can be found on the Dorset council website. **Local Government Awards** - 18<sup>th</sup> March - Dorset Council has been nominated for a Business Transformation Award, along with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Pool (BCP). **Award to boost rural mobile connectivity** – A bid led by Dorset Council has been awarded £4.3m to help understand how rural communities could benefit from next generation mobile connectivity, 5G. A consortium of council, local, national and international partners plans to show that mobile infrastructure can be delivered cost effectively and sensitively to benefit rural businesses and communities. The Dorset project is one of seven across the UK to be funded by the government's Rural Connected Communities competition over the next two years to see if 5G can be rolled out differently and help solve rural challenges, offering greater speed, less delay and the ability to connect a lot more devices at once. Trials are planned on a small number of remote Dorset farms (agri-tech development), Dorset Innovation Park, Winfrith, Lulworth Estate and along the Dorset coast (public safety). The total cost of the 5G Rural Dorset initiative is £6.675m with the council contributing £150,000. The rest will come from industry and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Four trials in the county will look at innovative public, social and business uses of improved mobile coverage. They will test whether this connectivity can be delivered cheaper and quicker using existing masts, buildings and fibre wherever possible to minimise visual and other impacts on communities. **All agenda and minutes can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>**

## **19.155 PLANNING**

19.155.1 Applications Received:

**2/2020/0033/FUL. Proposal:** Erect 1 No. Dwelling, alter existing access and form 4 No. parking spaces.

**Location:** Land east of Weavers House, Brickyard Lane, Bourton. **Deadline:** 27<sup>th</sup> February. The vice chairman opened an Open Forum session on this application and MoPs raised several concerns and issues on the application including the following:

- Environmental surveys conducted to date by applicant have been less than thorough
- Negative impact on the lane and the historic buildings;

- The access from the lane onto West Bourton Road is already lethal;
- Great crested newts were in hibernation when the relevant officers visited;
- The development would change the character of the lane;
- Negative impact on the diversity of the wildlife, flora and fauna;
- The drainage plan shown on DC website is not correct.

PW said that he would draft an objection to the application.

Proposer: PW; Seconder: KB; 6 councillors in favour; 1 councillor abstained.

### 19.155.2

#### Bourton Mill

AS said there wasn't any further progress other than that his report had been sent to the Monitoring Officer at Dorset council and a request had been sent to DC inviting Michael Garrity to attend the March meeting. PW reported that the spoil heap had been moved in preparation for testing and, although this may have triggered concern from residents, given the amount of rain it was doubtful than any potential airborne contaminants would have taken flight. The testing of the spoil is due to be complete by end-February with results hopefully available at the next meeting.

### 19.155.3

#### East View Farm

PW reported that there had been a series of applications with the latest one being opposed by the PC. However, the applicant had gone to appeal, and this had come back in favour of the applicant.

### 19.155.3

#### Hall and Woodhouse

PW reported that a pre-application had been submitted by Hall and Woodhouse for development of land at the rear of Old Pound Court. Although a planning application is yet to be received PW suggested that the PC fight this application with vigour when it does appear. PW said he had been engaging in discussions with a planning consultant, Jo Witherdean [www.dorsetplanningconsultant.co.uk](http://www.dorsetplanningconsultant.co.uk) in regards to the Neighbourhood Plan and would continue to maintain dialogue. PC asked BR if Shillingstone had already started to feel the impact of planning developments because they had completed their NH at the same time as Bourton. BR said nothing had been submitted recently but there would be a push from developers soon. BR also encouraged those with strong views about this application to register them on the planning portal.

### 19.156 FINANCE

#### 19.156.1 – Accounts to be paid:

Mrs E Wynn (Clerk)	February Wages	£544.29 (BACS)
PM Cowell	February Invoice	£3024.00 (BACS)
HMRC	PAYE on clerks' wages	£385.99 (BACS)

Proposed by RG; Seconded by SF; Agreed by all councillors present.

#### 19.156.2 – Accounts Received:

HMRC	VAT reclaim	£2233.08 (BACS)
------	-------------	-----------------

#### 19.156.3 – Grant Applications Received: None.

### 19.157 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

MC reported that the 6 monthly meeting session was taking place this week.

### 19.158 NOTICEBOARDS INCLUDING PARISH MAP REPLACEMENT

The noticeboards are due to be refurbished by Gary Phillips once the weather dries up. PW asked the clerk to arrange for samples of replacement maps to be produced at the March meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to contact the GIS Team at Dorset Council.**

### 19.159 FINGERPOSTS

PW reported that he had attended a 3-hour Signpost Refurbishment course and Roger Bond (Dorset Council's fingerpost expert) is very supportive with the task of refurbishing the West Bourton Road signpost. PW said he had now removed the wooden fingerposts from the signpost and that work was now underway on them at Guys Marsh Prison.

### 19.160 HIGHWAYS

FG reported there were now further updates. KB said there were more blocked gullies and he would report these online at [www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk)

#### **19.161 FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

No report received from IC. A MoP said the footpaths in the village were a disgrace.

#### **19.162 SCHOOL PLAY AREA FENCE**

SF reported that two quotes had been received and the choice of fencing would affect the pricing of both. RM said a chain link fence would be more effective than a picket fence. It was agreed that the clerk forward the quotes to all councillors and this then be an agenda item again at the March meeting. PW suggested a temporary solution in the meantime and KB volunteered to source some orange utility fencing and install this in the interim. **ACTION; Clerk to send quotes to councillors. Action: KB to install utility fencing.**

#### **19.163 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

19.163.1 – Dorset Police Update. None received.

19.163.2 – Speedwatch Team Update

SW reported that the Speedwatch Team are not allowed to operate in the wet and had therefore only been on duty once. SW said a True Cam vehicle had been deployed for one hour in one of the villages worst areas for speeding. FG asked if this was effective and SW said yes because the operatives can issue speeding tickets but that on that occasion drivers had been very well behaved. PC reported that there are 108 Speedwatch teams in the county and the police are very proactive and supportive. All the Speedwatch Teams are volunteers and do not cost anything but are extremely effective in keeping the roads safer.

19.163.3 – Defibrillator

The clerk reported that training is to take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the village hall.

#### **19.164 CORRESPONDENCE**

The clerk reported that an email had been received complimenting the works carried out by PM Cowell's contractors on redefining the pavements in the village.

#### **19.165 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE APRIL AGENDA**

None.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at 7.00 pm.

PW closed the meeting at 8.36pm

Chairman:

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

**Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.**