

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

PRESENT: M Martin, M Chapman, P Williams, M Withers, T Heaton, I McVie, A Gillett, A Miller, G Miller, E Wynn
(Clerk)

APOLOGIES: A Cattaway

ATTENDING: 9 members of the public.

18.75 APOLOGIES – AS PER ABOVE

MW welcomed two new councilors, Iain McVie and Andrew Gillett, to the meeting.

18.76 OPEN FORUM

A MoP reported that several people had concerns regarding the flood mitigation basin on the Mill site as to whether it had been built to the correct depth. JM said she has already spoken to NDDC Planning and they would be speaking to the Planning Enforcement Team but as yet JM hadn't had a response. The same MoP asked if the road closure on Bridge Street could allow access for pedestrians but JM explained that this would not be allowed due to the fact that it is still considered a working site and therefore it wouldn't be deemed safe for this to happen. Another MoP raised a question regarding the white boarding panels that had been erected alongside the Mill site; he wondered if they could be painted green otherwise he felt that the white boards would be a target for graffiti artists.

18.77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

AG said he had a personal interest in one of the proposed new village hall sites.

18.78 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

18.79 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

LGBCE – Clerk to forward letter to all BP councillors – done.

18.80 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor McVie and Councillor Gillett signed these and Pecuniary Interest Forms would be sent via email from the Clerk.

18.81 REPORTS BY THE DISTRICT AND/OR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

PW said the road closure on Bridge Street is now proving to be very inconvenient for those who live on Bridge Street / Factory Hill but also for people wanting to view the new houses. PW reported that he had raised this issue with AC. Re the new Unitary Council PW reported that Matt Prosser has been appointed the new CEO.

18.82 PLANNING

18.82.1 Applications received - none

18.82.2 Bourton Mill

JM reported that the vehicle restraints are due to be put in place during the third week of October as well as the required signage. During the next three weeks the top soil would be put onto the compensation basin and this should raise it. The river walk pathway will be done in three weeks' time and a foul water pipe and the diverted culvert will be connected to the existing pipe work at the top end of Bridge Street. Factory Hill should definitely be open by the second week in November. Although Wessex Water road closure signs are still in place JM doesn't think that the work to connect the mains water will begin for some time. This is causing increasing problems for the residents of Bridge Street as it means that Dorset Waste Partnership then seems to think that they are unable to make a collection, despite being advised otherwise. JM will contact both companies concerned this week to resolve this issue. TH commented that the compensation basin wasn't meant to be a deep, lake forming structure but rather the idea is that in the event of a surge the river would overflow and flood that area, with the water then going back in to the river in a controlled manner. PW asked what the long-term management of the compensation basin and JM said it was down to the management company. MC was slightly alarmed by this and asked that a request be made in writing to confirm this. MW asked JM if she would write to C.Field.

18.83 FINANCE

18.83.1 PROPOSED CHANGES TO BPC'S CURRENT BANKING PROCEDURES

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's bank account with Lloyds had been set up some time ago with online banking facilities. With more and more companies now stipulating preferred payment via online and less accepting cheques the Clerk suggested that the Council move forward and agree to online banking where possible. Procedures have been set in place by the Clerk to ensure that good accounting procedures are followed at all times.

Proposed by PW, Seconded by IM, a unanimous decision by councillors with one objection. **ACTION: Clerk to amend the Financial Regs.**

18.83.2 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID

E Wynn	September wages: £403.53 (net) £20.50	£424.03
PM Cowell	Invs 1565 (£60.00); 1565 (£183.60) 1566 (£152.40)	£396.00
Village Hall	Hall Usage May/June/July 2018	£60.00
Five Flow Media	Production of Bourton New Village Hall Sites 4k video	£1250.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2017/2018 Accounts	£240.00
HMRC	PAYE August, September, October	£302.80

18.83.3 Accounts received

Bourton Bash	Loan	£600.00
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Proposed by MC, Seconded by MM and agreed by all Cllrs present.

18.83.4 Grants and Donation Applications

None received.

18.84 NEW VILLAGE HALL

MC reported that the community workshop held on the 15th Sept and its follow-up on the 29th marked the end of the year long period of the grant from the Lottery. During the year MC said they have held three community engagement events that have helped inform what we want from a village hall, brought new people into contact with the New Hall project and, most recently, informed the community about the choice of sites available to us. He said that they have also commissioned research on the likely needs of community service providers in the area from Dorset Community Action together with their advice on consultative processes. The community workshop on the 15th was well attended with about 100 people spread across the two sessions and with more expected on the 29th. Thanks are due to everyone involved in setting up and managing the event through the length of the day and evening. The workshop format was chosen because it enabled us to present a balanced view of the two sites and the possibilities thereon. It was also chosen because it meant that for people's views to count, they would have to engage actively with the process and its complexity. We have both as a Parish Council and as a Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation deliberately chosen this approach over any form of survey or vote that can all too easily end up with people being asked to make snap decisions on the doorstep and on the basis of scant information with much scope for bias and partiality in the conduct of any such process. MC will continue to collate the information that is flowing in piecemeal from individuals and from the workshop and its repeat on Saturday 29th September. All of those collated outputs will then be made available ahead of our next Parish Council meeting. MC asked all councillors to study this information as they determine if and how they will vote in October. Finally, the project team has made arrangements to attend the Dorset Community Action Funding Fair in October as a next step in the real challenge which is now about raising the necessary funding support. MC and MW said that a couple of reports had come in of incidents of canvassing in the village. This had been conducted by an individual and the reports from those that had been approached had said his approach was less than open or fair minded. MW asked that MC feedback to the individual. MM commented that Saturday's Workshop had been really useful with a constructive atmosphere. However, MM said she was unsure of the legitimacy of the forms due to the risk of possible corruption. MM was disappointed that of a village the size of Bourton only 100 people attended and that there might be more individuals conducting their own surveys and that when the time to vote comes those same people might raise their opinions. MM asked what would happen if the vote by the councillors was completely divided? IM said if this scenario happened then we would have to stick to the PC's Standing Orders which states that the final decision would rest with the Chairman. IM said that the process that MC had set in place ensured that sufficient consultation had taken place and people had made the choice to attend the workshop or not to. If people have further observations then these must be given to the parish council or MC well in advance of the October council meeting to enable councillors to consider the points made. PW mentioned MM's point re the legitimacy of the completed forms and said significant "coaching" had taken place at the workshop. PW said the vote at the next PC meeting will be significant and he asked the councillors how many felt comfortable voting and if anyone was minded to abstain— IM said, in his view, it would be detrimental to the democratic process if councillors abstained; TH said he might abstain; AG said because of his personal interest in the Sandways site he would be minded to leave the room before the vote took place although he welcomed guidance on this. **ACTION: Clerk to contact the Responsible Officer at NDDC and DAPTC re correct procedure for councillors who may have a pecuniary and/or personal interest.**

18.85 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

BS reported that this month, Bourton's Wildlife and Habitats Group placed a number of new signs along our wood land edge. One of the signposted attractions was the presence of ivy bees, a relatively new species to the UK that are currently in great abundance along the dry, sandy stretches adjacent to a beautiful flowering Common Ivy. Photos of

the bees taken by Spike Haynes, our local wildlife photographer, appeared in the Dorset Wildlife Trust Facebook page and received many thousands of views, it being one of their most watched items. BS reported that sadly, the strimmer operator contracted by the council, had damaged two of the new signs and several of the smaller tree and shrub identification labels; this could have been easily avoided with a little care. BS said last Saturday 4 members of the team undertook day 1 of the next stage of the Forty Pond conservation project. Once this has been completed the group will be tackling Footpath 11. This will involve firstly strimming along the route, the only one in the parish that passes through a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. Dorset Countryside Team has shown faith in the BWHG activities by supplying all of the materials necessary for the creation of a 72 foot long boardwalk over some of the wettest sections. Two informative and illustrative sign boards will be placed at each end of the SNCI section. BS thanked Ted and Edna Gibbs for giving these works their approval. On 23rd October a two man team from Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Wild Trout Trust will be surveying the entire length of the River Stour between Silton Mill and Coombe Farm, Pen Selwood. Permissions for access have already been obtained from the relevant landowners. BS explained that the purpose of the survey is purely advisory but the BWHG hoped to be able to make significant wildlife habitat improvements, as has already been undertaken successfully along the River Cale in Wincanton. Lastly, BS reported that the twice yearly litter-picking activity will continue until 30th September. BS thanked the very enthusiastic volunteers – the recreation area next to the school produced a surprising 5kg of litter. Clay Lane was littered with a considerable amount of abandoned blue filled dog poo bags – BS said the group were on the case of discovering who the culprit is.

18.86 HIGHWAYS

The clerk reported the temporary road closure of the B3081, Wyke Road, Gillingham. This closure will come into force on Monday 8th October and will remain in place for 5 days. However, the works will only take place between 21.00hrs and 06:00hrs daily and will be completed by Friday 12th October. AM mentioned that some previous road closure notices had been placed in such a way to obscure sight lines on some junctions. This needs to be reported to the Dorset for You website. MM said there were still issues on Church Track, with parents at the school going the wrong way out of Church Track. MM said that the signage here was very poor and suggested extra signs were needed. IM advised that if highways signs appear to be inadequate then the public need to report this on Dorset for You and the more people that do this then its likelier things will happen sooner. CCTV cameras were mentioned but AG explained the rules regarding the installation of CCTV were very rigid.

18.87 VILLAGE TENT

PW reported that the tent is being ably stored in AM's barn but that several side panels were still missing. The clerk suggested that these might well be in the school container. **ACTION: Clerk to check container.**

18.88 FOOTPATHS

Nothing to report.

18.89 COMMUNITY SAFETY

SW said there was nothing further to report, except that she had been asked why the Community Safety Team continues with monitoring the speed of motorists; SW explained that they were a deterrent and would continue to be so.

18.90 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

18.91 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18.91.1 RECRUITMENT OF FLOOD WARDEN

MW reported that Louise Hillier had stepped down as the Flood Warden and asked that the Council seek to recruit a new warden as soon as possible. **ACTION: Advert to be placed in village noticeboards, village website and Facebook.**

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 22nd October at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

MW closed the meeting at 8.39pm

Chairman:

Date: 22nd October 2018

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 22nd October 2018