

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM ON MONDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2012

PRESENT: S Firbank, D Lawes, M Withers, P Williams, L Jones, C Price, A Miller, G Miller, H Baker

APOLOGIES: -

ATTENDING: H Ransley (The Clerk), A Cattaway, Hannah Smith – Area Planning Team Leader (North Area) NDDC, 97 members of the public

12.155 OPEN FORUM

New Noticeboard at Chaffeymoor: Harriet Palmer asked whether the Parish Council had put up the new noticeboard by the pillar box in Chaffeymoor. SF replied that no they hadn't. It is not known who put it up but the Parish Council thank them.

12.156 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Simon Firbank and Cathy Price declared a personal interest in Bourton Mill (neighbours).

Mike Withers declared a personal interest in the New Village Hall development.

Alan Miller declared a personal interest in the Blackwater Farm planning application and the wind turbines at Holly Home.

Geoff Miller declared a personal and pecuniary interest in the wind turbines at Holly Home.

12.157 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd October 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record.

12.158 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING

12.158.1 Snow Clearing

HR to purchase dumper bag of grit.

12.158.2 Toddler Swing Seats

Phil Cowell has installed these. They require inspection every 3 months. HB to build this into her playground inspection schedule.

12.158.3 Traffic Calming

The road markings around the school have been marked out. The traffic lines were installed to monitor number and speed of vehicles. HR to monitor progress.

12.158.4 Pavement Flooding

DCC inspected the depressions in the pavement by Beechcroft and deemed them not bad enough to warrant repair at this stage.

12.158.5 Suters Bench

SF had spoken to a member of the family and it had been suggested that the bench be placed near the telephone exchange (Kittymead).

Item 10 on the Agenda relating to Wind Turbines was covered next as an open item.

12.159 WIND TURBINES – OPEN DISCUSSION

GM opened the debate. He stated that we are all encouraged to provide new forms of energy for future generations. He started looking at wind turbines about 4 years ago, originally a 15m / 15kw output for Holly Fields School. Approval was gained but it was not financially viable. On the back of that, 4 different energy companies registered an interest to rent the land for turbine development. GM asked Hallmark (a long established company in the agricultural world) to investigate. They initially proposed an 50m height turbine which GM rejected as not acceptable

to the community. Hallmark proposed 2 smaller turbines which GM said he would consider if there were no objections locally. Hallmark have put in the application to NDDC to find out whether an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. There is no planning application in the system.

Hannah Smith, Senior Planner, NDCC confirmed that the only application is a request for an EIA screening to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required prior to the planning stage. There are 2 turbines each 30m to top of tower, 45m to blade tip, 250kw output. Anything over 15m in height has to be screened to determine whether an EIA is required. The recommendation for the EIA is done by the Planning Officer.

Andrew Sturt requested that plans be uploaded to accompany the application to put it into perspective. HS advised that there weren't any plans because this wasn't a planning application but that she would upload the letter that accompanied the application.

MW said that the Bourton Village Design Statement's comments on the importance of views into and out of the village had been raised by the Inspector at the recent Silton public enquiry as a reason for rejection of Appeal and he asked that this be taken into account in NDDC's deliberations. HS said they would.

A question was raised regarding the appeals process. HS said that the applicant can object if an EIA is approved otherwise the process would continue. There is no route for 3rd party right of appeal in this circumstance. The only route would be a judicial review where it would need to be proved that the decision that an EIA was not necessary was flawed.

A member of the public noted that the turbine specification fell within the 'lucrative' category as per the recent article in the Spectator. HS advised that they were not looking at the merits of the scheme at this stage.

PW showed pictures of the projected site and pointed out exactly where the turbines would be placed. He also summarised the Public Inspector's grounds for rejection of Ecotricity's Silton wind farm appeal, namely landscape sensitivity and proximity to Heritage assets. He pointed out that this was relevant since the West Bourton wind turbine site is located only 2kms from the Silton site.

A Palmer questioned GM on his opening comment that he would only go ahead if he had the support of the community. GM made reference to the Kyoto and European agreements. He believed he was doing his bit for climate. He was aware that there is no local support for wind turbines here. He supported the community by opposing the Silton turbines but the proposed Bourton ones would be smaller than the Silton ones.

GM was again asked whether he would withdraw the plan if all residents from Bourton did not wish it to go ahead.

SF reminded the meeting that the application was not at the planning stage at the present time.

SF asked whether anyone was in favour of the turbines at West Bourton. No hands were raised.

SF asked who was against the turbines at West Bourton. Almost all hands were raised.

R Elvidge asked GM whether he had signed anything asking Hallmark to go ahead with the project. GM said he had asked them to look at the feasibility of the project.

A member of the public asked how high St Georges tower was. PW thought it was about 90ft and the turbines would be 160ft.

J Frederick said the Bourton turbines would be twice the height of the Bainley Hill turbines which were 26m to tip height. She also advised that the Hallmark website says that they will only select a site for turbines if it more than 410m away from the nearest property. However in this case the nearest property is only 350m away.

P Nathan asked GM whether he had signed an agreement with Hallmark and could he withdraw from it. GM said he didn't know.

Rik Elvidge asked whether GM was aware that if his turbines went ahead then that would open the way for the Silton wind turbines again as the land would be reclassified as industrial.

GM was again asked whether he would write to Hallmark to withdraw from the scheme if the majority objected to the turbines. GM said he would certainly think about it.

A Sturt raised the point that in other circumstances the village would look to their District Councillor for support in this matter. He appreciated that GM was in a difficult position but if the village wanted council support, how would this be handled? GM advised that it would be possible to speak to any council member about it.

A Palmer reiterated A Sturts comments and noted that GM had served the village for over 30 years but where would the local representation come from.

HS advised that it would be possible to speak to the leader of the council or anyone in planning.

M Martin said that GM was our elected representative and that if he were to persist with the turbines then the only honourable route would be for him to resign.

Andrew Cattaway had consulted with representatives of bordering councils on the matter of local representation. Peter Webb of The Stours voting ward would be happy to represent local views should a planning application be submitted. The Parish Council would need to put in a formal request to Mr Webb. **HR** to action.

A Sturt said that HS needed to make a recommendation for the EIA and requested the Parish Council to act as our representative in this matter.

A member of the public asked whether the turbines being so close to the A303 would be a distraction to passing traffic. The consensus was that there are other turbines closer to main roads than this.

MW said that Bourton was preparing the Neighbourhood Development Plan and one of the questions in the questionnaire would be whether or not areas such as West Bourton and Chaffey Moor should be considered as potential Conservation Areas. This was also listed for consideration in the adopted Village Design Statement. Would NDDC take this into account? HS said that it depended on how close the Plan was to adoption. If adoption was close then it would carry significant weight. MW pointed out that this is already in the Village Design Statement.

HS said that an EIA screening request must be responded to within 21 days and that the deadline was today. The EIA screening process has no statutory consultation status so is not publicised in the same way as planning applications. HS has already spoken to the applicant who is happy to extend the deadline for 7 days. **HR** to verify.

There is a facility on the website which enables the public to make comments on this. This is not working properly at the moment. HS to investigate and correct. It is not the number of comments or letters that will sway judgement, it is the content and the grounds for objection, e.g. obstruction of views.

J Frederick asked HS whether she had considered the Village Design Statement. HS said yes she had and she had also been to the site.

Representatives for Penselwood, Cucklington, Stoke Trister, Milton on Stour and Buckhorn Weston were also at the meeting and stated that they were in full support of the objection to the proposed Bourton turbines.

PW asked HS why NDDC didn't let the Parish Council know about the EIA screening. HS reiterated that this only applies to planning applications

SF advised the public to write to Planning to express their objections. Emails to be sent to devcontrol@north-dorset.gov.uk for the attention of Hannah Smith, Development Services.

The Chairman closed the meeting for 10 minutes to review options.

12.160 WIND TURBINES – RESOLUTIONS

The Parish Council proposed and voted on the following 3 resolutions:

In the light of the overwhelming objections of the 97 members of the public who attended the Bourton Parish Council meeting on 26th Nov 2012, Bourton Parish Council wishes NDDC to conduct an EIA due to the concerns about Heritage and Landscape Issues as reflected by the Public Inspector in the recent Silton Appeal Decision.

Proposed by PW and seconded by CP –8 in favour, 1 abstention

That a letter be written to a suitable councillor of a neighbouring council to ensure that there is representation at District Council level in the matter of the wind turbines at Holly Home.

Proposed by MW and seconded by CP –8 in favour, 1 abstention

That in future NDDC will inform the Parish Council in good time of any development proposal where an EIA assessment maybe required.

Proposed by HB and seconded by CP – 8 in favour, 1 abstention

12.161 REPORT BY THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Dorset Waste Partnership with Bournemouth have allocated £22 million for enhanced facilities.

Parliamentary boundaries are being reviewed. Bourton will come under Warminster and Shaftesbury.

A total of £38 million has been allocated to Superfast Broadband project which will include Bourton. Andrew Cattaway advised that the timescale is unknown but that the project is going to tender.

12.162 PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

12.162.1 Applications received

2/2012/1231 Blackwater Farm Erect agricultural workers dwelling and form new access

2/2012/1205 Queen Oak Croft, Fantley Lane Erect 2 storey extension, replacement front porch and new loggia to side elevation to replace existing conservatory

The Parish Council Planning Committee had no objections to either of the applications.

It was noted that there was notice of a planning application for a house and 3 parking spaces in Silton Road published in last weeks Blackmore Vale Magazine. **HR** to request more information from NDDC.

12.162.2 Permissions received

None

12.162.3 Bourton Mill

The Parish Council is expecting a briefing in the next week or so. No date has been set for the hearing.

12.163 FINANCE

12.163.1 Accounts to be paid

B&M Crop Services	Hedge Cutting around Kites Nest Lane	£126.00
M Withers	Neighbourhood Plan Expenses	£157.26
Phil Cowell	Invoice 363 Footpath Cutting	£445.00
Phil Cowell	Invoice 364 Verges Grass Cut	£25.00

Proposed by CP and seconded by DL it was resolved to pay the above accounts

12.163.2 Accounts received

Cheques received in respect of B&M Crop Services Hedge Cutting invoice above:

	Fay & Sons Ltd on behalf of Clublight Developments	£50.00
	S Firbank	£25.00
	J Mann	£15.00
DCC	Grant for Footpath Cutting 2012-13	£445.00

12.164 NEW VILLAGE HALL

PW reported that Philip Proctor (architect) had presented his initial draft drawings to the New Village Hall Planning Group. The Planning Group will review, suggest changes and present to the Village Hall Management Committee who, in turn, will present to the Parish Council.

12.165 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

MW reported that it was hoped that a questionnaire would be delivered to every household in January 2013.

North Dorset is planning to revise its' Draft New Plan. The consultation period ends on 21st December 2012. There are 28 questions in the response document. **MW** to put together a proposed response for resolution at the next Parish Council meeting.

12.166 WESSEX CROSS BORDER/INTER PARISH LIAISON

There is still a lot of email being circulated regarding co-operation with neighbouring counties. SF will continue to be the point of contact for Bourton and will report back in January.

12.167 WEBSITE

The current website is hosted by 1&1 Websites and is managed by Jim Mann. HR had spoken to 1&1 Websites who advised that the package could be upgraded at a special rate of £4.99 per month for the first 12 months rising to £10 per month thereafter. However, it will not be possible to move the website into the upgraded package as it is, it will have to be redeveloped. Someone who is familiar with Adobe Dreamweaver software would have to be found to do this.

CP was aware of a local company in Zeals who may be interested in developing a new website. **CP** to pass contact details to HR.

12.168 NEXT YEARS PRECEPT

Dispensation forms to participate in the meeting had been signed and handed to the Clerk.

HR circulated draft precept figures for discussion and 2 amendments were made. The updated figures are at the end of this document. It is planned to approve the figures at the next Parish Council meeting. Please pass any further feedback to HR as soon as possible. Final figures must be submitted to NDDC before Fri 18th January 2013.

12.169 CORRESPONDENCE

Please contact the clerk if you require any further information:

Date	From	Subject
17/10/12	DAPTC	Reminder of DAPTC AGM on Sat 3rd Nov
17/10/12	DAPTC	Revised Agenda for next Northern Area Meeting
17/10/12	Jim Mann	Flood Alert for Upper Stour & Tributaries
19/10/12	Dorset Highways	Notes from Meeting on 18th Oct
23/10/12	NDDC	Statement of persons nominated for PCC Election
24/10/12	Dorset CC	Invitation to briefings about the new 'recycle for Dorset' collection service (our local event will be at 3pm on 6th Dec at Gillingham Town Hall)
26/10/12	DAPTC	Chief Executives Circular 09/12
26/10/12	DAPTC	DAPTC Annual Report 2011/12
29/10/12	DAPTC	Policy Briefing on Precept Setting from NALC
30/10/12	DAPTC	Precept Setting and Dispensations
01/11/12	Dorset CC	Footpath 11 Signage
01/11/12	Dorset CC	Dorset Countryside News - Nov/Dec 2012
05/11/12	NDDC	Notice of Polling Stations for PCC Election

05/11/12	Dorset Community Action	Invitation to Dorset Community Action AGM
06/11/12	DAPTC	Chief Executives Circular 10/12
08/11/12	NDDC	Appeal Decision - Silton Wind Farm
14/11/12	DAPTC	Gypsy & Traveller National Awareness Training Programme- Mon 21st Jan 2013
16/11/12	CPRE	Reminder for AGM on 24th Nov at Cerne Abbas

Footpath 11 – DCC Highways had received a request to signpost Footpath 11 – requestor is unknown. Highways have a duty to sign a path where it leaves a metalled road but do not have to do so if it is deemed unnecessary and if the Parish Council agrees. Footpath 11 is impassable in some places. It was decided that some councillors would attempt to walk the footpath and report back at the next meeting.

Gypsy & Traveller Sites – GM advised this is still under consultation

12.170 A.O.B.

Cemetery – Harry Lawes had noticed that one of the graves had sunk. **HR** to follow up.

Playground – HB advised that the age restriction notice is in need of replacement. LJ and HB will investigate costs for next meeting.

Crime – SF reminded all to be alert and to call the police if they observe anything suspicious.

12.171 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 7PM

Chairman:

Date:

Precept Planning 2013/14 - DRAFT

Item	2012/13 to date		2012/13	2013/14
	Receipts	Payments	Est to YE	Est Precept
Precept	21,325			
Cemetery Loan		0	0	0
Clerk's Salary		2,356	3,165	3,200
Councillors Expenses		470	550	600
General		415	415	500
Cornhill Insurance		1,665	1,665	1,700
Office expenses		0	200	1,300
DAPTC Subs, Training & publications		400	400	500
Hire of Village Hall		240	240	280
Cemetery Maintenance	300	1,150	1,150	1,200
Miscellaneous	1,000	2,190	2,300	1,500
New Village Hall			3,500	5,000
Playground		1,180	1,180	1,500
New Cemetery		0	0	0
VDS / VP / N'HOOD PLAN		330	500	1,000
Grants & Donations		300	300	300
Planning Matters				5,000
CAB		350	350	500
Gillingham Leisure		0	5,023	0
VAT	6,800	600	700	700
Village Fete / Jubilee	950	2,620	2,620	500
S.137		350	350	350
Total	30,375	14,616	24,608	25,630

mileage etc to attend meetings, courses
 adverts, internal/external audit, safe keeping fee
 may need to add new play equipment
 photocopying, stamps and stationery. New website development
 may be additional training required next year
 may need additional meetings for planning items
 grass cutting.
 general maintenance - verges, tent repairs
 £3500 given but not allowed for in 2012/13 precept.
 replacements/overhaul due to wear and tear

to include all grants other than S137 grants eg NORDCAT

contribution to 2013 village fete
 Dorset Air Ambulance and other community activities

2011/12

Receipts (est)	30,375.00
Payments (est)	-24,608.00
Carry Forward	5,767.00

2012/13

Brought Forward(est)	5,767.00
Receipts	0.00
Expenditure	-25,630.00
Inflation 5%	-1,281.50
Contingency 10%	-2,691.15
Working Balance	-4,000.00

Parish Precept **-27,835.65**

NDDC divisor	401.10
Charge per Band D property	69.40