

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY, 27TH JANUARY 2020

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

APOLOGIES: Dorset Councillors: Val Pothecary, David Walsh.
Bourton Parish Councillors: Ian Cooper;

ATTENDING: Approximately 20 members of the public

APOLOGIES – AS PER ABOVE.

20.1 Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20.2 Declarations of Interest

None.

20.3 OPEN FORUM

There were no questions from those members of the public present.

20.4 MINUTES

Agreed by all and signed by the chairman.

20.5 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER MINUTES

- Planning Application: 2/2019/1529/FUL; Erect 20 No. dwellings. Location: Site of Bourton Mill, Factory Hill, Bourton. Register BPC support for this application. **ACTION: Clerk to email PW's wording to DC planning. DONE.**
- PW reported that that concrete surround at the war memorial is breaking up. **ACTION: AC to contact the National Memorial Trust for advice. DONE. AC reported that the village war memorial isn't currently on the official NMT list so AC said he would do this via their website and then request a grant.**
- PC reported that the tree which was hanging over the River Stour had now been completely removed and thanked Councillor Roger Moore for his help.

20.6 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

BR gave this report:

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

Single Use Plastic and Call for Ideas progress: Members of the EAP met on Friday 20 December to discuss progress on the Council's 'Task and Finish' groups, as well as hear updates on other climate related work. Officers from 'Litter Free Dorset' came to present a proposed Dorset Council Single Use Plastic (SUP) Policy to the EAP. They explained how the team is currently helping Dorset Council employees remove and reduce single use plastic across council offices. They also set out the proposed Single Use Plastic policy, designed to remove or reduce the amount of SUP used in wider services delivered by Dorset Council. Written and developed in conjunction with elected members and officers, the policy was given unanimous support by the EAP and will be taken to the Council's Place Scrutiny committee and Cabinet for approval within the next month.

There was a brief update on the launch of Dorset Council's 'Call for Ideas', which has attracted over 200 responses from members of the public so far. Some of the more developed ideas will be selected for presentation at the panel's forthcoming Inquiry Day. This will take place on Friday 21 February and will see people present their ideas directly to the EAP. The session will be open for the general public to view and details will be publicised nearer the time.

Members of the EAP were updated on progress of the Buildings Task & Finish group. Councillors were given information on the current state of the Council's emissions via its own buildings, as well as possible areas for action and opportunity in the future when looking at carbon reduction.

While the panel were satisfied with the progress being made, members remained keen to explore how the Planning system can help mitigate climate change by potentially introducing new incentives and regulations for future

developments. Dorset Council planners will be invited to attend a future panel meeting and discuss how climate change is being dealt with as part of the emerging Local Plan, as well as clarifying national planning policy. Panel members agreed that the continuing ambition is for Dorset to become “green” – reach a net-zero carbon emission state – as quickly as possible. There is also an aspiration for Dorset Council to produce its own green energy, rather than buy it in from external suppliers, although the door remains open to all green energy options in the meantime.

In other business, the panel reiterated their intention to visit local schools to talk to students directly about climate change in the new year, as well as continue to find ways to put pressure on central government to provide better support for councils who have declared a climate and ecological emergency. Members were also pleased to hear of the appointment of a new Corporate Sustainability Officer, who will have a lead role in pulling the Task & Finish groups’ work together and formulating the Council’s climate change strategy and action plan. If you have strong views and ideas on what we should be doing to mitigate climate change, please complete the ‘Call for Ideas’ online form.

Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel, Dorchester. As a member of this panel we are tasked with keeping the preparation of the Local Plan for the whole of the Unitary authority area on track for the next 4 years. Cllr David Walsh has update on this and a forthcoming Local Plan Engagement Event for parishes.

Northern Planning Committee met at Sturminster Newton in December. Application No. 2/2019/0613/HOUSE - Wyke Cottage, Wyke Road, Gillingham to erect a two storey extension (demolish existing conservatory) was unanimously approved.

Village Safety meeting at the Coppleridge, Motcombe, Friday, 10th January. I attended this very well supported village meeting to discuss pedestrian safety and speeding. Also present, Simon Hoare, MP, along with representatives from Highways, Parish Council, local schools, etc. Good suggestions put forward along with actions to take forward.

Thursday, 16th January – Planning Peer Review – Dorchester – organised by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) which gives advice to councils, this was a chance for members to speak frankly about their views on Dorset Council’s planning service. In attendance were representatives from North Lincolnshire Unitary and the Borough of Southwark (London). An interesting discussion with common concerns regarding communication between parishes and the LA, need for more training and the urgent need for climate change policy from central government. Dorset Planning is currently going through a transitional period to bring all former areas into one, including IT systems.

Other items:

LGA Peer Review (October 19) – a report will be presented to Cabinet by the end of January 2020.

Gillingham Station Bee & Butterfly Garden proposal – due to significant fees required by Network Rail to convert a small grassed area adjacent to Platform 2 into a Bee and Butterfly Garden (part of Gillingham Town Council’s Gateways Project), a totally different approach will be considered following advice from the MP, Simon Hoare.

Surgery held every Thursday evening at the Town Hall, Gillingham, between 5-7pm to discuss any issues you may have. It would be advisable to make an appointment by phoning 07496413114 or email the town council: cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

All agendas and minutes can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>

20.7 CORRESPONDENCE

The chairman brought forward item 17.1 from the agenda. AC explained that a letter had been received by the clerk from Sue Ashby (regarding the contamination issues at the Bourton Mill site) which was duly forwarded to all councillors. AC had sent a personal reply which was not on behalf of the PC. AC proposed that the PC invite Mark Hitchcott and Hannah Smith via Michael Garretty to the March meeting. AS asked that the report he had written be sent the Monitoring Officer at DC. A discussion then took place regarding AS’s report and it was proposed that AS send the report as an individual rather than it coming from the Parish Council. 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.

20.8 PLANNING

There were no new applications received but the following planning issues were discussed;

20.8.1

Bourton Mill

This was partly discussed earlier in the meeting under Actions item 19.134. PW said he had read through the many objections to Application 2/2019/1529/FUL on the Dorset Council Planning Portal and that most of them did not constitute relevant or valid planning reasons for refusal of this application, since they cited issues such as non-provision of AH, new-build properties elsewhere in Bourton remaining unsold, etc. He also pointed out that traffic movement along Bridge Street was unlikely to exceed volumes which would have accompanied the originally approved Bourton Mill application which had included 6 x ‘work/live’ units on the south side of Factory Hill, since replaced by 6 x terraced dwellings. In relation to contamination remediation, PW stated that reference

had been made to this in Bourton PC's response to Dorset Council (DC), namely: '*...Bourton PC requests that Planning officers should insist on proper and complete remediation of the large on-site spoil heap, known to contain various contaminants, prior to any further construction activity. This is to ensure public safety, especially that of residents in nearby properties and of Bourton Mill construction workers*'. AS said he had read the contamination risk assessment and the report from the developer and he had concluded that until an agreed, acceptable consultation had taken place then works should not progress. PW advised that the environmental consultants LBH, acting on behalf of C.Field and WPA, acting on behalf of DC, had agreed a methodology for testing of the spoil heap. Testing is due to be undertaken by end-Feb 2020. Test results will be submitted as part of the application. 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.

19.9 PARISH PRECEPT PLANNING

The clerk reported on the PC accounts. The precept for 2020/2021 was reviewed by those councillors present. Proposed by: AC; Seconded by: PW; Agreed by all councillors present.

Precept Planning 2020-21

Item	2019/20 Precept	01/04/19 to 27/01/20		2019/20 Est to YE	2020/21 Est Precept
		Receipts	Payments		
Precept	14,986	14,986			
Clerk's Salary	5,358		5,358	6,990	7,500
HMRC PAYE	1,197		1,197	1,548	1,548
Councillors Expenses	72		72	400	400
General	0		0	0	0
Insurance	977		977	977	977
Office expenses	245		245	450	450
DAPTC Subs, Training & publications	145		145	300	500
Hire of Village Hall	0		0	150	150
Cemetery Maintenance	1,474		1,474	1,474	1,474
Income from cemetery	620	620	0		0
Miscellaneous	4,858	500	4,858	8,000	8,000
New Village Hall	4,386	2,712	4,386	5,000	5,000
Playground	75		75	200	1,500
VDS / VP / N'HOOD PLAN	0		0	0	0
Grants & Donations/CAB/Village Fete	3,300		3,300	3,300	3,300
VAT recovered			0	0	0
VAT	1,114		1,114	1,300	0
Village Fete	0		0	0	0
S.137	0		0	600	600
Total	23,821	18,818	23,201	30,689	31,399

Closing balance 2019/20	41,162.64
Receipts (est)	18,818.00
Payments (est)	30,689.00
Earmarked funds	24,500.00
Carry over	53,791.64

Proposed 2019/20		
Carry over		53,791.64
Receipts		
Payments (est)		31,399.00
Inflation 3%		-941.97
Parish Precept		21,450.67

Precept 2019/20	£ 14,986.34	
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Precept Request 2020/21	£ 21,450.67	
Difference	£ 6,464.33	

Taxbase Information for Bourton

Band D Equivalents		
2019/20	393.5	2020/21
		401.3
Increase/(Decrease) Year on Year		
		7.8

Precept Modelling

Actual Precept 19/20 & Proposed Precept 20/21		
2019/20	£ 14986.04	2020/21
		£ 21450.67
		£ 6464.33
		% Increase/(Decrease)
		43.13%

Band D Equivalent Charge

Precept Divided by Taxbase		
2019/20	£ 38.08	2020/21
		£ 53.45
		£ 15.37
		% Increase/(Decrease)
		40.35%

PC pointed out that although the proposed £53.45 Band D rate for 2020/21 represented a significant increase on the 2019/20 figure, the preceding years' figures should also be taken into context, namely:

2017/18	£64.45
2018/19	£51.00
2019/20	£38.08
2020/21	£53.45

SF advised that the 2019/20 Precept had been scaled back due to the extent of the PC's financial reserves at the time.

20.10 FINANCE

20.10.1 – Accounts to be paid:

Mrs E Wynn (Clerk)	January Wages	£544.39 (BACS)
The Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath 2019	£30.00 (BACS)
Accounting & Office Solutions	Unpaid Invoice for PAYE	£150.00 (BACS)

Proposed by AC; Seconded by PW; Agreed by all councillor's present.

20.10.2 – Accounts Received:

Dorset Waste	Credit note (overpayment for dog waste bin emptying)	£499.20 (credit note)
CPRE	Contribution towards fingerpost refurbishment	£200.00 (cheque)

20.10.3 – Grant Applications Received: None.

20.11 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

BS gave this report:

- Our Footpath team has completed another section of the boardwalk between Sandways Lane and Kites Nest Lane. The Dorset Countryside-provided materials have been used to cover the wettest sections. The plan is to let things settle for some months when Graham Stanley the countryside ranger will decide if more is needed. His team will be providing ongoing maintenance as and when required. At this time

- of year, it is walkable with care. Wellies are strongly recommended. DOGS MUST BE ON LEADS as deer are often present and it is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.
2. Barn Owls nested this year in our box at Whistley Farm. Tawny Owls attempted to nest in our box on the FP opposite Bulpitts, but sadly abandoned the nest leaving 7 eggs. Our box at the Ox Stall in Silton has never been occupied and the box on Coombe Farm in Penselwood needs replacing.
 3. Regarding ideas for tree planting and further verge management for wild flowers, feedback has been mixed so for the time being this is in abeyance. More ideas and suggestions welcome.
 4. Forty Pond is in good shape with pond plants now well established, though very quiet for birds at this time of year.
 5. Village Gates volunteers. Thanks to all our loyal volunteers. Can the PC please advise regarding the repair of the damaged Gillingham gates. **ACTION: KB confirmed that the gate would be repaired within a few days time.**

20.12 NOTICEBOARDS INCLUDING PARISH MAP REPLACEMENT

PC reported that he and Nick Hall had removed the map from the main noticeboard as it was an eyesore due to being warped and faded by sunlight. AS suggested that the noticeboard be angled differently; AC suggested installing an adhesive surface to protect against sunlight. The clerk reported that Dorset Council GiS team had offered to supply 2 x A1 size laminated maps at a cost of £20. The clerk reported that Gary Phillips had supplied a quote for £460 to repair and re-stain both the village notice boards:

West Bourton road notice board - replace rear Plywood panels with marine ply; rub down and re-stain existing structure.

Garage notice board - replace rear plywood panels; rub down and re-stain. PW noted that the quote compared very favourably with one obtained in early-2019 for the same work.

ACTIONS: Clerk to look into sourcing a new parish map; clerk to contact Gary Phillips and confirm that his quote for the works has been accepted by the council.

20.13 FINGERPOSTS

PW reported that a grant of £200 had been received from CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) towards the refurbishment of the fingerpost. PW also reported that he was in contact with Coles Foundry regarding (Fingerpost) letter manufacture and was booked onto a Fingerpost Refurbishment course taking place at Blandford on 20th February. It was noted at the meeting that both Martyn Westwell and Gary Phillips had offered to volunteer their help with this project.

20.14 HIGHWAYS

FG reported that a meeting would need to be arranged to take place with FG, Roger Bell (Dorset Highways) and the clerk to discuss what methods would be needed to move forward on the possibility of securing a speed reduction through the village. **ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting.**

20.15 FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

No report received from IC. PC reported that FG had spoken to a representative from Sovereign Housing and it had been confirmed that SH had booked to repair the broken gate on Breach Close on 20th February. FG raised the subject of the request at the previous meeting for a grit bin to be placed at the bottom of Breach Close. Dorset Council had confirmed to the clerk that they wouldn't supply one here as the land belonged to Sovereign Housing. Martyn Westwell said he had 4 grit bins and would be willing to install one on Breach Close and another on Kites Nest Lane. The clerk reported that Alan Miller was still willing to top up the parish owned bins as and when needed.

20.16 SCHOOL PLAY AREA FENCE

FG reported that more holes had appeared in the hedge alongside the play area that is within the school playing field. FG said she had spoken to the Gill Farndale (headteacher) who had said that during school hours the children are not allowed either on the play equipment or to play near/in the hedge. FG recommended that the PC should now act on this and arrange and pay for a suitable fence to be installed as soon as possible. SF suggested that Bourton Fencing be asked to quote and the clerk added that another quote be sought from PM Cowell.

Proposed by: SF; Seconded by: KB; Agreed by all councillors present.

ACTIONS: SF to secure a quote from Bourton Fencing and the Clerk to secure a quote from PM Cowell.

20.17 COMMUNITY SAFETY

20.17.1 – Dorset Police Update. None received.

20.17.2 – Speedwatch Team Update

SW reported that in accordance with a directive received from Rob Camp, Dorset Council, last week, the two SIDs have been removed, temporarily, as he has said that they are not to become permanent fixtures. Rob Camp has asked that they be deployed in rotation, so shortly, there will be one SID in position just below the brow of the hill near the school monitoring traffic travelling eastwards. This will move back to the Chaffeymoor site in due course. The SIDs are very heavy and moving them too frequently risks causing damage to them, however, we have to abide by the Council's ruling. Cleaning, repairs and maintenance have been carried out on both SIDs, one of which was damaged three weeks ago by a stone. Three members of the Speed Watch team attended a conflict training session earlier in the month on how to deal with roadside aggression which was very helpful and informative. The team continues to go out on a weekly basis.

19.145.3 – Defibrillator Training/Possible requirement of a second machine. A MoP reported that the cabinet where the current defib is kept wasn't being heated and therefore in the cold weather the red light was showing on the machine. Therefore, in the cold weather the machine was being kept in the garage shop and during the night the owners of the garage were keeping the machine in their property. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Tom Shean regarding the electricity supply.** The clerk reported that, in accordance with the South West Ambulance Service Trust agreement, she needed to organise the annual Defibrillator Training course. EW said the last training event had been very poorly attended, despite the publication of posters both in the village and via the school. However, EW reported that she had published a post on the Bourton Village Facebook page and had subsequently received approximately 30 replies from people showing interest in attending a course. **ACTION: EW to organise and book an evening training session.** EW also raised the subject of the possible requirement of a second defib machine to be installed at the western end of the village. **ACTION: EW to report back at the next meeting the costs of purchasing another machine.**

20.18 CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk reported that an email had been received regarding the overflowing dog waste bins.

20.19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KB reported that he had spoken to the owners of the garage regarding the drains and it would appear that the highways drain is blocked. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Roger Bell at DC.**

KB reported that tree surgeons had appeared at the Somerville site and removed various trees. KB asked how it was possible for someone to apply for notice and the works to be carried on the same day. **ACTION: Clerk to send KB the link for Dorset Explorer.**

It was reported that pools of water on Bridge Street are not draining away. **ACTION: AC to contact C.Field.** A MoP reported that an old gully on Kites Nest Lane was blocked and would need some construction works to fix it. **ACTION: Clerk to report this to Roger Bell.**

KB and PC informed the meeting that the Village Panto starts on 20th February.

PW reported that the planning application for the dwelling at Mill Lane (2/2019/1471/FUL) had been refused, by reason of its elevated position, excessive size and suburban design amongst adjacent traditional rural buildings. Its siting would also risk endangering road safety.

BR informed the meeting that for those with electric cars, the location of charging points could be found using an app called Zap Map www.zap-map.com

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 24th February 2020 at 7.00 pm.

AC closed the meeting at 8.57pm

Chairman:

Date: 24th February 2020

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 24th February 2020