

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

**PRESENT:** M Withers, M Martin, P Williams, A Miller, A Gillett, M Chapman

**APOLOGIES:** G Miller, I McVie, A Cattaway, E Wynn (Clerk)

**ATTENDING:** 35 members of the public

## **19.91 APOLOGIES – AS PER ABOVE.**

### **19.92 Open Forum**

MW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Simon Firbank asked the Council to confirm that standing orders were being reviewed. MW said that this process was in hand and would be completed in time for adoption at the May meeting.

Trevor Bailey asked on behalf of the Democratic Site Selection Group why the community was not being given the opportunity to choose the site for a new village hall and from where did the Parish Council derive its authority to make the decision. MC responded by indicating that the views of the community had been sought at the workshops in September 2018 and formed part of the balance of judgement made by councillors at the October meeting. MW reminded the meeting that the Neighbourhood Plan made it clear that the Parish Council would make a recommendation, that Councillors are elected representatives not delegates and that the decision on this matter would be made by Dorset Council as the Local Planning Authority. Paul Curry said that he believed the Democratic Site Selection Group to be a single-issue pressure group and that it would not have been formed had the Parish Council opted to support the Sandways site for the New Hall.

Andrew Sturt said that he believed the Briefing Document prepared following the workshops was misleading, but he did not say why he believed this. MC said he had faithfully transcribed all of the comments made by residents during the workshops and had presented a balanced case for each site. Nick Hart requested to have sight of the preference slips that had been completed by residents during the workshops. MC said he did not think this was appropriate and that he had already turned down a similar request from Andrew Sturt. MC said he had been disappointed that the exercise had been very much devalued by the level of coaching that had taken place during the workshops. This view was supported by PW and by two members of the public. Andrew Sturt commented that in his experience coaching or lobbying for a particular outcome was common during planning consultations.

Reference was also made by MW to the manner in which petitions had been conducted, eliciting complaints from members of the public. Carol Brake said that she had collected 92 signatures without incident.

Other members of the public expressed support for the Sandways Site due to the dangers of speeding traffic at Chaffey Moor and due to the greater size of the Sandways site. It was also stated by a member of the public that all the community wanted was somewhere they could easily walk to and "play Bingo". Angela Ambrose asked why the village could not conduct a fresh poll of all households. MC replied saying that the Parish Council had discussed all options before deciding to pursue the workshop idea.

Chris Jenkins commented on the number of housing developments being mooted for the village and asked if this was the result of policy. PW said that although there was a need for more housing at a national and regional level, decisions at the local, village level were made on the merits of each case against the backdrop of the Neighbourhood Plan and the (still extant) NDDC Local Plan.

Andrew Sturt launched a strong but generalised criticism of the Parish Council and its leadership and said that this was the reason he had stood for election.

A member of the public expressed a desire to see greater respect shown for the work the voluntary councillors undertake on behalf of the community.

MW then closed the Open Forum which had lasted 65 minutes and during which all present had been given the opportunity to speak.

### **19.93 Declarations of Interest**

AM declared an interest as a neighbour with regards to the planning application relating to Ashbrooke, West Bourton Road.

AG declared an interest as a neighbour with regards to the planning application from 2, The Gables, New Road.

### **19.94 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the March 2019 meeting were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **19.95 Actions Arising from the Minutes**

There were no actions arising

## 19.96 Report from County and District Councillors

PW reported that the County and District Councillors remain as such until the 6<sup>th</sup> May when the councillors to be elected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May assume office.

## 19.97 New Village Hall

MC reported that the Village Hall has been successful in applying to the Calor Rural Community Fund for a project to develop a bespoke website for the Hall including a booking calendar and payment system. This has been needed for a while to relieve the administrative burden. Local web developer Tim Thornley has provided the technical wherewithal for the project. The project now needs everyone to vote on line for it with voting open from 2<sup>nd</sup> May until 17<sup>th</sup> June. Further information will be posted on noticeboards, on Facebook and the village website.

MC also reported that three-quarters of the work to re-stain the outside of the hall has been completed. The Hall team will proceed to tidy the car park and the grassy banks and remove the accumulated rubbish to ensure the hall is as attractive to users as it can be so that utilisation is maintained and can be used as part of the case for raising money in the future.

With the new Dorset Council due to be elected this week it is expected that information about how and when the new Planning Authority intends to proceed with the new village hall site applications will shortly be made known.

Trustees have met during the month which is now standard practice to review policies, administration and finance whilst the Volunteers group under rotating chairmanship continues to run with the operational/manning aspects of Hall life. This approach seems to be working well.

## 19.98 Planning

### 19.98.1 Bourton Mill

Jenny Morgan reported a generally deteriorating picture of the progress on the Bourton Mill development. It was noted that the monies owed under the S.106 agreement have not been paid although they were due when development commenced. MW and MC agreed to discuss drafting a letter to the Managing Director of C. Field.

### 19.98.2 Cotemead

MW reported that the Planning Group of the Parish Council has no objection to this internal development of a listed building. Councillors concurred unanimously.

### 19.98.3 2, The Gables, New Road

MW reported that this application has taken account of some of the issues raised by the Parish Council when a previous application was declined, including a move to a single storey building and more sympathetic external treatments. Nonetheless, the Planning Group suggested that this remains an over-development of the plot. Proposed by MM, seconded by PW, the Council voted to object to this application on these grounds (AG abstaining due to declared interest).

### 19.98.4 Ashbrooke, West Bourton Road

MW reported that the Planning Group raised no objection to this application on the basis that there was a building already there and that there was no impact on neighbours. Proposed by PW, seconded by MM the Council agreed to raise no objection (AM abstaining due to declared interest).

### 19.98.5 Land next to Somerville, New Road

MW reported that he and MM had met with the developer making the application. MW also drew attention to two letters of objection from neighbours. An earlier application for 4 dwellings on this site had been turned down by the Local Planning Authority on the grounds that the development would adversely impact the semi-rural character of the village. In response to aspects of the objector letters MW explained that the level of unsold new houses built or approved and yet to be built is a market not a planning issue, that affordable housing was not a requirement for this scale of development and that a biodiversity plan had been approved. AM said that he thought the proposal for 6 houses was an overdevelopment of this site. AG and MM expressed similar concerns. MC shared the Bourton Wildlife and Habitat Group concern at the impact on wildlife. Proposed by PW, seconded by AM, the Council voted unanimously to object to this application.

## 19.99 FINANCE

### 19.99.1 Accounts to be paid

Mrs Eve Wynn	April Wages £403.62 (net) and £20.50 (expenses)	£424.12 (BACS)
Mr M Withers	Expenses claim: £15.00 (printing ink); £43.20 (mileage)	£58.20 (cheque)
Wessex Water	Water supply to the cemetery	£22.47 (BACS)
P M Cowell	Invs: 1689 £183.60; 1690 £152.40; 1691 £60.00	£396.00 (BACS)
Accounting & Office Solutions	Clerks Payroll 2018 – 2019	£150.00 (BACS)
British Recycled Plastic	Supply & delivery of new bench	£378.72 (BACS)
Bourton Bash	Grant application as agreed at the February meeting (minute no:	£1000.00 (cheque)
Bourton Village Day	Grant application as agreed at the February meeting (minute no:	£1000.00 (cheque)

All the above were Proposed by PW, Seconded by AM and agreed by all Cllrs present.

**19.99.2 Accounts Paid:**

None		
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**19.99.3 Accounts Received:**

None		
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**19.99.4 Grant Applications Received:**

St George's Church	Maintaining the surrounds of the church.	£400.00
Bourton Wildlife & Habitats Group	Supporting the environmental work of the group.	£400.00

The two grant applications were proposed by PW, seconded by AG and agreed by all Cllrs present.

**19.100 Dorset Council and Bourton Parish Council Elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

MW confirmed that since nine nominations had been made for the nine available positions on the Parish Council these individuals were deemed to be elected unopposed. MW reported that a complaint had been received against the clerk and indicated that a response had been sent. PW commented that all of the relevant information on the process of nomination was available through the Dorsetforyou website as provided by the formal overseer of such matters, the Returning Officer. PW expressed disappointment that those who were so opposed to the actions of the current Parish Council had failed to make the effort to put themselves forward for election in their place (with the exception of Mr Sturt and one other individual).

**19.101 Wildlife and Habitat**

MC reported on behalf of Bernie Sullivan that recent work had been undertaken on the verges, in gathering in further materiel for the completion of Footpath 11 boardwalks and in pursuing the objectives of the River Stour project. MC indicated that he had agreed to provide the focal point on the Parish Council for the communication of activity on this project.

**19.102 Highways and 19.103 Footpaths**

There was no discussion on these topics

**19.104 Community Safety**

Sheila Williams reported that during April a Police speed control van had made twenty-four bookings during one morning when stationed at Sandways.

**19.105 Memorial Trees**

MM reported that she had held a successful meeting and site visit with Roger Bell from Highways. It is proposed that the village plant a number of trees as a memorial to those who fell in service of the country and to plant a copse of trees in the over-flow cemetery field opposite the Church with an inclusive approach to memorial and dedicated to peace and reconciliation. It was noted that this planting would be of native trees and should also enhance the safety of New Road. Further exploration of the memorial tree-planting options possible is to be considered, including consultation with residents in neighbouring properties.

**19.106 Facebook**

Following discussion, it was agreed that MC and the Clerk would develop the details of implementing a Parish Council presence on the village Facebook page in discussion with the administrator of the page.

**19.107 Correspondence****19.107.1 Responses to Complaints**

MW indicated that the responses to recent complaints against the Council would be placed on the website.

**19.107.2 Mill Lane site**

MW said that a response had been sent to the owners of this site to the effect that the Parish Council had no involvement in and therefore will not pay any costs associated with the temporary cessation of work on clearing the site.

**19.107.3 Land behind Old Pound Court**

MW reported that a developer has asked to have the opportunity to discuss development of this site. The developer has been asked in turn to provide written information prior to any meeting. No response has yet been received.

**19.108 Any Other Business****19.108.1 Church Car Park**

MM reported on the continuing occurrence of illegal parking in the Church Car Park and requested Parish Council support. It was suggested that the Church raise the matter with the Police through the local contact, PC Vicky Biggs.

**19.108.2 Canine Faeces**

MW conveyed an idea from the Clerk that a competition be held through the school to design an anti-dog poo poster which together with further posting of the notices defining levels of fines might serve to ameliorate the situation. This was agreed for the Clerk to action.

**19.108.3 Microphones**

It was agreed that the Parish Council should proceed to a demonstration of the system identified by the Clerk.

#### **19.109.4 Councillor Geoffrey Miller**

MW addressed the meeting, paying tribute to Councillor Miller. He said, "before we close this evening's meeting I would just like to say a few words about Councillor Geoff Miller who has decided not seek re-election to the Parish Council from 5<sup>th</sup> May. Unfortunately, Geoff could not attend this evening's meeting and we will no longer be seeing the familiar face of Geoff at this Council table in future.

Now, many people come and go on Councils as part of everyday workings. However, very few, to my knowledge, have given some 49 years of continuous service to this village as a councillor, for a long time, as its chairman. In addition, up until 2015 Geoff also served as an Independent District Councillor with NDDC for a similar period.

Not everyone appreciates the amount of time and effort that it takes to sit as a councillor, be it at Parish or District level, let alone both. Many of us, I am sure, sometimes wonder why on earth we continue doing a job which has so very few things to recommend it and for which we suffer continued criticism. To do it for nearly half a century, as Geoff has, takes a great deal of fortitude, dedication and commitment over what must have been a massively changing situation in the village.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to express our sincere thanks for his long service on behalf of the community and we wish him and his family good health and happiness for the future.

I would also like to say that we hope to see Geoff again in the not too distant future when we would like to celebrate with him and say thank you more formally."

#### **19.110 Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm

MW closed the meeting at 9.15 pm

**Chairman:**

Chairman:

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the BPC on 20<sup>th</sup> 2019**

DRAFT