

## **RECORD OF BOURTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023.**

Present: Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Cattaway, who chaired the meeting, 8 Parish Councillors, 5 members of the public and the Parish Clerk, Eve Wynn who took notes of the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

Belinda Ridout.

### **2. Record of Last Meeting**

The record of the 2022 annual meeting had been published and is available on the website.

**Agreed as accurate by all Cllrs present.**

### **3. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2021 to 2022 year.**

AC gave a verbal report:

**“General** – *A stable year, with no member resignations.*

**Planning** – *Over the last year progress has been made with development of the Bourton Mill site. Approval was finally granted for the planning amendment whereby the number of dwellings was increased from 35 to 39 with more smaller dwellings included than was originally the case. Unfortunately, the spoil head has remained uncovered throughout, and in dusty (global warming!) conditions the contaminated soil continues to represent a health risk. The Parish Council has raised this as a serious issue with Dorset Council on a number of occasions, but their enforcement officers have failed, thus far, to do anything effective about it.*

*T & A Land’s Sandways site application for development of 30 dwellings was refused in March, which was a disappointment to many, especially to the Village Hall trustees, as the loss of the gift of a new village hall (part of the application) is a major blow to them and the whole village community.*

*Another disappointment is the appeal lodged against refusal of the planning application on what is known as “Land north of Old Pound Court”. Though now for only 3 dwellings, a decision in favour of the Appeal would degrade views of the church and other heritage assets from several public footpaths; it would also impact negatively on the privacy of immediate neighbours.*

*The Appeal against DC’s refusal of the Voscombe Farm application for 8 dwellings was upheld some months ago. The site has now been sold with planning approval granted.*

*Another farm expected to be developed is Chaffey Moor Farm. The application is remarkably restrained, so we should anticipate approval in the near future.*

*Finally, the illegal home known as “Doctors Orchard” site near to the junction of the West Bourton Road and B3081 is now subject to an enforcement order after refusal of the retrospective application. With no Appeal lodged we may expect this green field site to be vacated come the end of the year.*

**Finance** – *in January we raised the precept for year 2023/24 by 2.5%, the same as 2022/23.*

**Village Hall** – *Trustees organised excellent events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee (and a sapling oak was planted in the Jubilee Meadow), and King Charles III Coronation, as well as opening up the new 4 metre screen for England Rugby matches. Huge thanks you to all involved.*

**Road Speed Reduction Campaign** – *our petition was successfully submitted after outstanding work by Councillor Fran Gillett and her team, and although we are warned of likely slow progress within DC, our prospects appear to be extremely good. Huge thank you to Fran.*

**And finally**, - *as I stand down as Chairman, my own personal thanks go to Eve, the Parish Clerk (new Facebook Group booming and a second defibrillator imminent); to Sheila Williams and the Speedwatch Group; to Bernie Sullivan and his Wildlife and Habitats Group; to our diligent litter picking teams; and of course to faithfully supportive Community Members (MoPs).”*

### **4. Parish Council Accounts for the Financial report for year ending 31st March 2023**

The Parish Clerk reported the following summary:

**Total payments:** £25,512

**Balances Carried Forward:** as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 the final balance is **£32,554.78, with no outstanding cheques.**

**Precept:** The Clerk reported that the precept for 2023/24 was kept to the same amount as 2022/23. A total increase of 2.5% which is comparative to previous years: (figures have been rounded up)

2016/17	£24,053
2017/18	£19,003
2018/19	£19,040
2019/20	£14,986
2020/21	£21,451
2021/22	£22,136
2022/23	£22,689
2023/24	£23,257

The budget analysis sheet identifies itemised expenditure incurred during the Financial Year compared with the budgeted amounts, which councillors had received prior to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit had been completed by Sarah Mann prior to being submitted to the external auditor for finalisation. A copy of the 2022/23 Parish Council Accounts will be placed on the website once the audit has been completed and signed off.

**The meeting was formally closed at 6.47pm**