

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

**PRESENT:** Bourton Parish Councillors: Andrew Cattaway (Chairman), Peter Williams (Vice Chairman), Mike Chapman, Paul Curry, Simon Firbank, Fran Gillet, James Peddle, Belinda Ridout

**APOLOGIES:** Guy Nelson,

**ATTENDING:** Two members of the public.

### 22.200 OPEN FORUM / QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A MoP raised concerns about illegal fox hunting which they suggested was taking place within the parish. Previous to the meeting, the Clerk had advised councillors that this issue was not a matter for the PC; this was proposed by AC at the meeting and agreed by 5 of the councillors present.

### 22.201 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

FG declared an interest regarding item 9.2.3, application number P/FUL/2021/04282.

### 22.202 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

All pages of the minutes approved.

### 22.203 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR, BELINDA RIDOUT

No report received. However, ward reports can be seen on the village website [www.bourtondorset.org](http://www.bourtondorset.org) and on the Parish Council Facebook group. To contact Councillor Ridout please email [Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or call 07496413114. For those residents not online, who have important questions or concerns, call Dorset Council on 01305 221000, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week or email: [communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk). All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>.

**Action:** BR to investigate the lack of a bus service in Bourton.

### 22.203 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY MEETING

- 22.189 – MC to meet with owners of the sheep to discuss access to Jubilee Meadow, etc. Done. MC reported that he had since met with the owners of the sheep and they propose to put 6 or 7 sheep in the meadow in time for lambing. They would also be donating a couple of kilos of wildflower seed for the meadow. FG asked if the owners of the sheep had the relevant public liability insurance and requested that this be confirmed. FG also asked who would be responsible for the fencing, MC confirming the owners of the sheep would be. MC requested that the Clerk contact Allan Miller to request the removal of the fallen tree on the meadow's northern boundary.  
**Actions:** Clerk to contact Allan Miller; MC to confirm that owners of the sheep have the relevant insurance.
- 22.195 – Clerk to contact Zeals Parish Clerk regarding their defib machine which doesn't have a cabinet and to seek advice. Done. The Clerk reported that another supplier had been contacted and she was awaiting a quote. ACTION: To report back at the March meeting.

### 22.204 COMMUNITY SAFETY

#### 22.204.1 - Speed Watch Team.

SW gave this report: "Nothing to report as we had to cancel two sessions this month due to ill health, but will be out on Friday and also next Tuesday, when the Police will be joining us. Dorset Police has issued a warning that anyone seen loitering on standing near SIDS, can expect to be questioned – there has been a lot of vandalism of SIDS across Dorset recently".

### 22.205 VILLAGE HALL

PC gave this report on behalf of Heather Ransley "Glynis Overington is giving up her role as Treasurer and is handing over to Claire Reed. Glynis will continue to be an active member of the VH Volunteers group. The VH trustees would like to give Glynis a big thank you for her hard work and invaluable advice and we welcome Claire to the fold. Our regular events continue, with the recent addition of Moo Music on Wednesday mornings for the toddlers; yoga and meditation beginning soon on Thursday mornings. The 6 Nations England rugby games showing on the big screens have been well supported, as was the half term children's film Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon. In addition to our advertised film nights, we are planning to show Top Gun Maverick towards the end of March. The next rugby game showing will be Wales v England on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February. The March and April films are 'Mrs Harris Goes To Paris' and 'See How They Run'. Check out Facebook and posters for more information".

## 22.206 PLANNING

### Applications Received:

**22.206.1 Planning Application:** P/LBC/2023/00248 **Proposal:** alterations to facilitate the conversion of barns to 3 no. dwellings & home office. Demolish modern barns & erect a pair of semi-detached dwellings. **Location:** Chaffeymoor Farm, New Road, Bourton, SP8 5BX. **Comment Deadline:** 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (Clerk has requested confirmation that this is as the planning portal – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023)

**22.206.2 Planning Application:** P/FUL/2023/00247 **Proposal:** Change of use & conversion of barns to 3 no. dwellings & home office. Demolish modern barns & erect a pair of semi-detached dwellings. **Location:** Chaffeymoor Farm, New Road, Bourton, SP8 5BX. **Comment Deadline:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (Clerk has requested confirmation that this is as the planning portal – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023) AC proposed support; Seconded by 5 councillors; Objection from 1 councillor; 1 councillor abstained. **ACTION: PW to provide a response that is supportive of the applications.**

### Planning Applications update:

### 22.206.3 Update on Outstanding Planning Applications:

<b>Application No. Location &amp; Summary</b>	<b>Status as at 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b>
P/VOC/2022/03470 Bourton Mill - Application for 20 x dwellings) – Variation of Condition No.1 under Planning Permission 2/2016/0610/REM to allow amendments to Plot 14 & Plot 20	PW reported that, according to the DC Planning Portal, this application is still 'Under Officer Consideration'
P/OUT/2021/04282 - Land West and South of Sandways Farm, New Road, Bourton - Erect 30 No. dwellings, construct village hall with parking area and provision of wildlife area & public open space	On the agenda for the DC Planning Committee meeting on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of March. PW said that the planning officers report relating to this application had not yet been published.
EN/2021/00137 – Land at Doctors Orchard, West Bourton	PW confirmed that no Appeal has been lodged by the site owner/ occupant, so the Enforcement Notice is now in force, although the occupant has until end-2023 to comply with it.
APP/D1265/W/22/3304091 – Appeal for Voscombe Farm, New Road, Bourton.	PW reported that the Appeal for the Voscombe Farm application has recently been upheld by the Public Inspector so, in parallel with this, planning permission for the relevant development (8 x dwellings) has now been granted.

## 22.207 FINANCE

**22.207.1 - Monthly Report:** Balance as of 16<sup>th</sup> February £

### 22.207.3 - February Accounts to be paid:

Dorset Council	Carry out traffic surveys in Bourton	£720.00 inv VAT (BACS)
SLCC	Purchase of The Clerks Manual 2023	£67.50 (clerks d/card)

Payments proposed by AC; Seconded by PC . Agreed by all councillors present.

**22.207.4 – Grant Applications Received:** None,

## 22.208 COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE

### 22.208.1 – Pavement Edging/Redefinition

These works had been sanctioned by the Clerk. Many supportive comments were made regarding the apprentice who has been diligently carrying out the works and the PC as a whole thanked Jamie Rogerson for his continued work in the pavement redefinition.

### 22.208.2 – Clearance of Leaves

FG requested that the PC arranged for the contractor to carry out the necessary works to clear the fallen leaves from the pavement which runs from Sandways Farm. This was agreed by all councillors present. **ACTION: Clerk to contact the contractor.**

## 22.209 VILLAGE WEBSITE

PC and the Clerk said this was still a work in progress but that they would get started on this asap.

## **22.210 LAND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**

This was covered under item 22.203.

### **22.211 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS**

BS gave this report: "The Bourton Wildlife and Habitats Group met on 30th November last in order to exchange ideas and implement plans for the upcoming year. During the meeting which was attended by around 14 members, we decided to replace most of our owl boxes with a more sustainable design which should last for many years. This has now been completed with the approval of landowners. Four of our group have also received owl box monitoring training from Chris Sperring MBE, from the Hawk and Owl Trust. They have now commenced remote monitoring of our boxes and reporting activity, together with assistance from several landowners. In order to do this with minimal interference, we have purchased a long reach pole camera which can be used by our monitors under the strict guidance of Chris Sperring if they suspect occupation of any of our boxes.

The group also decided to purchase one or two battery operated trail cameras, with long lasting battery packs, tripods and clamps. These cameras can detect movement by day or night and record activity. They will be freely available on loan for members to use as they wish to observe wildlife. Examples could be in their own gardens, along the River Stour, Forty Pond, or any other potential wildlife sites. This summer, we have arranged a visit to Down Farm near Sixpenny Handley, famed for its wildflowers and its archaeological discoveries. This will be on Saturday June 10th at 11am and will be led by owner Martin Green. It is currently being advertised on the Bourton FB group and all are welcome to join us.

Meanwhile, all of Bourton's footpath signposts have been checked and replaced where necessary, footpaths cleared, and the old bridlway between Brickyard Lane and Silton Road cleared and signposted. We are delighted to see that it is now being used by local horse riders.

While on the subject of footpaths, our group also decided to promote a gradual change from wooden stiles to steel gates and are pleased to see that the parish council and Dorset Countryside have enthusiastically taken up this initiative, under which, if the council and will to pay for the hardware, Dorset Countryside rangers and volunteers will erect the gates at no cost.

Regarding Bourton's only public footpath through a Site of Conservation Interest in the village, the group will be installing two more boardwalk sections next week.

Coming up next month, there will be another litter picking fortnight. It will cover every road, street and right of way, and we would strongly encourage everyone in the village to assist us in picking up litter ongoing throughout the year to ensure that once cleaned, our parish remains as clean as it can be.

Following our close cut and grass removal last month, the verge opposite the war memorial received further sowings of Yellow Rattle and ox Eye Daisy, and is already beginning to sprout wildflowers and bulbs again. It will in future have a crescent-shaped line of sight short section maintained for safe access to adjacent householders. We would very much like to thank the parish council for encouraging positive initiatives like this in support of our wildlife and environment.

Finally, Jubilee Meadow. It is good to see that discussions are continuing on management of this field. Dorset Wildlife Trust's conservationist has offered to do a professional site survey and to advise on management for wildflowers etc. The cost is estimated to be in the region of £150. They strongly recommend that soil sampling be initially conducted across the site and have provided detailed information on how to achieve this".

### **22.212 HIGHWAYS**

FG had circulated an update to all councillors prior to the meeting: "Mr Burden has been reviewing our request to reduce the speed limit in the village by looking at the petition and all the supporting documentation we have submitted, together with the recently gathered traffic data and the applicable guidance.

We were very pleased to hear that Mr Burden is, in principle supportive of a 30mph speed limit in Bourton but this was subject to potentially needing road calming measures that could cost very significant sums and may not be feasible or desirable. This support in principle is good news and a huge step forward for this important community issue. However, Mr Burden was initially of the view that some form of traffic calming measures would need to be implemented alongside a 30 mph limit. This was discussed at length in the meeting. Those present made it clear to Mr Burden that the community did not want any heavy infrastructure like that in Zeals. Mr Burden will be further considering all the factors, including those views voiced today. We have asked him to consider the three following options as alternatives to heavy traffic calming infrastructure:

An experimental traffic regulation Order, so a 30mph limit for say, a year or more and then gather further traffic data to assess whether it is viable without traffic calming infrastructure.

1. An experimental Traffic Regulation Order;
2. The same as above with light traffic calming infrastructure;
3. Reduce the speed limit to 30 mph alongside lighter touch traffic calming measures, such as additional road markings, etc permanently without the need for an experimental period.

He cannot give us time scales regarding how quickly he can revert to us as the teams involved are very busy, but he has assured us that he is keen to progress this matter forward. He will inform us when he has weighed up the options and then we will need to consider if we wish to proceed. We also discussed financial contributions to any future schemes, we indicated that a contribution would be considered by the PC but we would need to

consider the figures as and when they are available to us at a full PC meeting”. AC thanked FG and all involved for the work involved in this outcome and also extended thanks to BR for her support.

#### **22.213 FOOTPATHS**

PW had circulated a report to all councillors involved on the Stiles to Gates Project and had included a map showing the footpath stiles identified for replacement, in order to improve accessibility for those with mobility issues. The cost to purchase 8 x metal gates would be £2149.00. This was proposed by AC; Seconded by SF and agreed by all councillors present.

**For members of the public wanting to report issues on a public right of way please use this link: <https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem> or call 01305 221000.**

#### **22.214 BOURTON DAY**

PC reported that Heather Ransley has volunteered to lead this event, due to take place in July, and that it would be called Bourton Fete.

#### **22.214 DEFIBRILLATOR**

This was discussed under item 22.203.

#### **22.215 KINGS CORONATION**

PC reported that he had received an email from Caroline Worthington who had offered to lead on this event.

#### **22.216 CORRESPONDENCE**

- From DC: Section 53, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Application for a Definitive Map Modification Order; Bourton Parish – T762.

NB: information since received from Vanessa Penney, Definitive Map Team Manager “the application you refer to is an application made by the BHS to record a Byway Open to all Traffic. Notification of the application was sent to the Parish Council to inform them of something that will affect their Parish. They do not need to respond, it is for information only. The BHS are undertaking a national project to submit applications to record routes which they believe should be shown on the definitive map. The project was initially set up to submit as many applications as possible before the “cut-off” date of January 2026, which is the date after which no further applications could be made. The cut-off date has since been repealed by the Government, but the project is continuing. The applications are all based on documentary evidence and may or may not be successful. The BHS are not trying to prevent off-road users using bridleways (the route claimed is not recorded as a bridleway), they are trying to establish what public rights do exist and how they should be recorded. We have a very large backlog of similar applications which means that this one is unlikely to be investigated for many years. When it does reach the front of the queue, all interested parties including the local member, landowners and the Parish Council will be notified and will have a chance to make representations. Until the application is fully investigated, there will be no change to the current situation”.

#### **22.217 ANY OTHER MATTERS**

PC reported that Martyn Westwell had supplied and filled two grit bins: one at Millers Close and another at the bottom of Kites Nest Lane. PC & PW requested that thanks to Martyn from the Parish Council be recorded in the minutes

#### **22.218 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**The next Bourton PC meeting will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.27 hrs.

Chairman:

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**