

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2024**

PRESENT: Bourton Parish Councillors: Peter Williams (Chairman), Paul Curry (Vice Chairman), Kevan Barton, Andrew Cattaway, Mike Chapman, Fran Gillett, Keith Hallett, Rick Moore, James Peddle. Eve Wynn – Clerk and RFO.

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED: Belinda Ridout.

18:30pm – MEETING OPENED

23.228 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

- A MoP said that the issue with one of the trees in the cemetery, as reported previously, was still in situ. **ACTION: Clerk to contact the maintenance contractor.**
- A MoP asked if the PC could arrange to refurbish the metal pole of the signpost on the West Bourton/B3081 road. **ACTION: KB volunteered to look into this.**
- A MoP said the large fallen bush just inside the cemetery gates had not been attended to. **ACTION: Clerk to contact the maintenance contractor.**

23.229 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Councillors to declare any interests, including any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e). (NB: this does not preclude any later declarations)

FG declared an interest in item 9.2.1 of the agenda.

23.230 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AS A TRUE RECORD (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting had been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting to allow for any inaccuracies to be brought to the attention of the Clerk.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2024 were approved & signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

23.231 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MARCH MEETING

- 23.214 Clerk sign the PC up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. Done.
- 23.215.2 Clerk to purchase bleed control kit. Done. The Clerk had taken delivery of the bleed control kit on the day of the meeting. PC volunteered to install the kit in the defibrillator cabinet at Forge Garage and will monitor the kit when performing the weekly checks on the defibrillator.
- 23.222 Clerk to publish agreed increase to cemetery fees on the website. Done.

23.232 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR, BELINDA RIDOUT

There was no report received from BR prior to the meeting.

To contact Councillor Ridout please email Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or call 07496 413114. 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. All minutes of the meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk> and the Ward Reports can be found on Bourton Parish Council website <https://bourton-pc.gov.uk/>

23.233 COMMUNITY SAFETY

23.233.1 – Speed Watch Team.

SW reported that she had followed the suggestion from FG to contact Jill Farndale, Head Teacher at St George's School, to report the poor attitude displayed by some of the parents towards the Speedwatch Team. On a recent watch, a van driver had been clocked travelling at nearly 70mph, approaching Voscombe Farm. SW said the team as a whole were feeling very frustrated with the glacial progress

23.234 VILLAGE HALL

MC read out a report from the VH Chairman, Cindy Hallett *“The income in March was approximately £250 generated by film night, six nations and village lunch. The village lunch and film night will this year also take place in June after which there will be a break for the summer. Work needs to be done on the outside lights as they seem to go on and off randomly. It may be that the whole system needs replacing due to the age of elements. The application for a free energy assessment through VCSE has been declined as the demographic of the village is not deemed to be needy enough! We will be looking at another way of getting an assessment done to ascertain potential modifications and development. The hall will again be used for polling day. The trustees are using the anticipated footfall to promote the hall. A poster has been created to appeal for new volunteers and trustees, and there will also be a table with a questionnaire in the hall in the hope that voters will see how they can help their hall. This is a long shot but the cost is minimal and so worth trying”.*

23.235 PLANNING

23.235.1 Applications Received: None.

23.235.2 Update on Outstanding Planning Applications:

Ser.	Application No. Location & Summary	Status as at 27.03.2024
a.	P/OUT/2023/06654 Sandways Site	PW reported that the deadline for comment had passed on 4 th April and there was still no sign of the application being determined by DC planning officers. There are a total of 103 objections showing on the planning portal.
b.	P/OUT/2024/00606 Land east of Chaffeymoor	As with the Sandways application, it is anticipated that this one will be considered by the DC Planning Committee, in due course. There are 75 objections to this application evident on the planning portal.
c.	Doctors Orchard - Enforcement	PW reported that there had been no sign of the occupant being evicted from site, possibly due to DC accepting that the owner has valid personal reasons for continued occupation of the site
d.	Land North of Old Pound Court - Appeal	PW reported that even though it is 9 months since the Appeal was initiated (on 1 st August 2023) there is still no indication of which direction the Public Inspector’s decision will go.

23.236 FINANCE

23.236.1 - Monthly Report: Balance as of 19th April: £33,129.03

23.236.2 – To Approve the Payment Schedule for April 2024:

PM Cowell	Contract Maintenance	£406.00 (SO)
HMRC	Clerks PAYE	£545.68 (BACS)
Turtle Engineering Ltd	Bleed Control kit x 1	£108.98 (BACS)
DAPTC	Annual subs.	£383.48 (BACS)
Mrs Eve Wynn	HP Instant ink 3 x 9.99 2 x 11.99 taken by DD from Clerks own bank account	£53.95 (BACS)

RESOLVED. Proposed by: KB; Seconded by: FG; Agreed by all councillors present.

23.236.3– Accounts Received: None.

23.236.4 – Grant Applications Received: Life Education – ‘£155 towards our work of providing health, well-being and drug prevention education to approximately 119 children at St George’s CE School (Bourton) when we visit them on 20/6/24 for 1 day.’

RESOLVED: Proposed by: PW; Seconded by: KB; Agreed by all councillors present.

23.237 LAND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

MC reported: *‘Bernie and I on behalf of the Wildlife and Habitat Group would like to thank Bourton Parish Council and members of the community for their support over the last four years. Now is an opportune time to celebrate some past achievements and to look forward to some new projects for the future.*

The bird hide at Forty Pond, an area managed for wildlife, has been refurbished with an upgraded roof and full repaint. The planting of specialist pond-loving and willow-loving plants has been a great success since the huge original effort to clear the once pitch-black oxygen-less waters.

Trail cameras belonging to the group and individual members have revealed just how much wildlife is around. There is footage of Herons, Ducks, a rat or two, Fox, Badger, Hedgehog, Roe Deer, Muntjac, an Otter family and even a Beaver as well as numerous other bird species. Go to the Bourton Wildlife and Habitat facebook page to take a look-see.

The verge opposite the war memorial managed by our group has produced quite an abundance of wild daffodils and Snakes Head Fritillary this year as they become established. Wessex Internet provided a couple of hundred more bulbs this year which should prove beneficial in years to come.

As for the village gates, with their surrounding wild flowers native shrubs and small trees, these have been regularly kept clean by our volunteers. Sadly, we may have to hand back control for the Gillingham Rd. gates as we can't seem to raise a further volunteer team.

It is believed that Himalayan Balsam has been eradicated from the Stour between its source and Gillingham as a result of our local efforts. This has been a major achievement over a number of years.

Monies we have raised from local supermarket schemes as well as grants from the Parish Council have enabled the purchase of very robust and practical Barn Owl boxes with 4 now deployed across the locality. We know there are Barn Owls around so hopefully they will get the message. The problem, of course, is that such boxes are lovely warm places for other owls, birds and especially squirrels.

Footpath 11 across the very wet area between Sandways and Kite's Nest has been a continual struggle. The path is now almost secured as a boardwalk but does require consistent attention. The range of flora and bird and insect life to be seen from the boardwalk is astonishing. The path itself provides a quick route up onto the top of the hill.

The excellent team of litter pickers deployed twice a year and now under the guidance of Ian Rawlings has been busy again during March, clearing every road and lay-by within the parish by filling and disposing of a large number of bags of rubbish.

The next project could be to introduce a mown walkway around Jubilee Meadow, together with the introduction of a bench or picnic table and various wildlife attractive features, in harmony with the grazing by sheep to help maintain a good environment for the spread of further wild flowers. It is understood that other necessary measures will supercede this as and when the meadow needs to be converted into a graveyard but that is likely to be many years hence so there is no reason the community should not enjoy this Parish owned amenity in the interim.

Regarding wildlife protection, there has been a recent meeting with David Sidwick the current Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner and contact has been made with each of the candidates in the forthcoming election. Recent issues with multiple fox and badger corpses in the village underline the importance of trying to keep the subject on the local police active agenda.

The group has not found it necessary to appeal for more funds this year and have a healthy £500+ in the account from fund-raising activity.

There is a clear need for the handing on of batons, for a moving on to new generations of volunteers. We cannot bleat about the schemes of Planners and Developers if we do not take some preservation and enhancement measures into our own hands.

Please would the new elected Council continue the support that has been forthcoming in the past to these and other environmental projects in the five years ahead".

23.238 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

As above item.

23.239 HIGHWAYS

23.239.1 – Speed Reduction

FG reported that there had been no resolution on the issue of placing a sign at the start/end point on High Street. Therefore, Tony Burden has suggested to slightly reduce the scheme, by omitting the section of High Street above the White Lion carpark as per the map and email that FG had circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED.** A vote took place and all councillors present agreed to the revised scheme.

AC said that with the growth of foliage every year, it should be the PC's moral responsibility to either request that all those residents living near the new signs keep the signs clear or to ensure that all the new signs are kept clear and visible to all drivers by adding this to the contract maintenance works. FG suggested the PC arrange for a leaflet to be placed in the Parish of Upper Stour once the scheme is put into place. **ACTION: FG and the Clerk to draft a leaflet.**

23.240 FOOTPATHS

KB reported that he had received no correspondence from Graham Stanley regarding footpath N 57/21 on Clay Lane and N 57/19 at Bullpits.

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.

23.241 LOCAL ELECTIONS

2nd May – election day; 4th May – Parish and Town Council vote count.

23.242 CORRESPONDENCE

- MoP email regarding the publication of minutes and agendas on the new website. This issue was resolved by the Clerk, prior to meeting.

23.243 ANY OTHER MATTERS

- FG asked if any progress had been made with the roof of the bus shelter opposite Forge Garage. KB said there has been issues with sourcing the correct tiles.
- AC thanked the councillors for “some of the most interesting times of my life” whilst serving alongside them over the years.
- PC thanked AC for helping to stabilise the parish council, which was done with authority and wisdom.
- PW asked if there had been any progress with Wessex Internet and the provision of the superfast broadband. AC reported that he had spoken to the sales team; June was mentioned as the time for going live and that there would be no charge to customers until the service is up and running.
- PW requested that all councillors consider who should be this year’s recipient of the Tom Mitchell salver. **ACTION: All councillors to email their proposed candidate(s) to PW by COB 3rd May.**
- PW sincerely thanked Andrew Cattaway and Mike Chapman, both of whom are stepping down as parish councillors. All those present, including the members of public, applauded and expressed their appreciation.

23.244 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Bourton PC meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. This will include the AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.33pm

.....
Chairman

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified (signed) at the meeting on Wednesday 22nd May 2024.