

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 2024**

PRESENT: Bourton Parish Councillors: Peter Williams (Chairman), Paul Curry (Vice Chairman), David Calvert, Keith Hallett, Tim Rose, Martyn Westwell.
Belinda Ridout – Ward Member and Dorset Councillor
Eve Wynn – Clerk and RFO.

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED: Kevan Bartlett, Fran Gillett, Rick Moore

19:00pm – MEETING OPENED

24.24 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

An MoP raised concerns about the failure of the 30 mph speed reduction to extend as far as Bourton's parish boundary (with Zeals). The Chairman acknowledged this and showed the MoP how in the initial 30 mph speed reduction map produced by Tony Burdon, the limit was due to have been extended as far as the parish boundary, which also amounts to the border between Dorset and Wiltshire. PW said that he would raise this matter with Cllr Fran Gillett who throughout has been the PC's very effective point of contact with Mr Burdon, and that hopefully it will be possible to get DC to extend the 30mph speed reduction to the Bourton / Zeals boundary. There would then be a strong case for getting Zeals/ Wiltshire to remove the short 40 mph section on their side of the county border.

24.25 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)

None received.

24.26 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 22nd May 2024 were approved & signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

24.27 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MAY MEETING

- 24.6.6 Clerk to forward new Financial Regulation's to all councillors. **Action: Move forward to July.**
- 24.6.9 Clerk to include Civility Pledge within the Member Officer Protocol policy. Done.
- 24.2.12 Cllr Barton to review the Quotation and Tender policy. **Action: move forward to July.**
- 24.6.14 Cllr Williams to review the Standing Orders Policy. **Action: Clerk to send to PW**
- 24.22 Clerk to report low hanging overgrowth pavements to DC.

24.28 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR, BELINDA RIDOUT

A report from Councillor Ridout was received and circulated to all councillors 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/>

24.29 COMMUNITY SAFETY

24.29.1 – Speed Watch Team.

SW gave this report "After a long sustained bid to reduce the speed limit in Bourton, the new 30mph speed restriction came into force on 21st June. This has been welcomed by many village residents, particularly those living close to the main road. We have been instructed to suspend Speed Watch for one month until 21st July, after which time we will be able to monitor traffic again"

24.30 VILLAGE HALL

KH read out a report from the VH Chairman, Cindy Hallett “Owing to holidays and other commitments the Trustees have not met in the last month. A coffee morning was held for the trustees and volunteers which everyone felt was useful to aid communication between the groups. It was agreed that one will be held every six months. Various ideas were put forward for future consideration. The village lunch and cinema programmes are on their summer break and will be resumed in September. An energy survey of the hall was carried out as required for our accreditation project. It produced no great surprises and the recommendations will be added to the list of works that will need to be done to the hall in the not-too-distant future”.

24.31 PLANNING

24.31.1 Applications Received:

- **24.31.2 – Application Number:** P/OUT/2024/00603 **Proposal:** Erection of up to 50 dwellings with new cycle/pedestrian link to West Bourton Road and the provision of public open space (outline application to determine access only) **Location:** Land at E 376630 N 130225 Chaffeymoor Farm, New Road, Bourton. **Action:** PW to draft and circulate a revised and updated letter of objection to all councillors for approval before submitting it to Dorset Council planning department.
- **24.31.3 – Application Number:** P/HOU/2024/03029 **Proposal:** Erect timber gates and wall to driveway **Location:** Mill Lake Manor, Kites Nest Lane, Bourton, SP8 5FY. Following discussion of this application it was proposed by KH; seconded by PC and agreed by all councillors that BPC should object to this application. **Action:** PW to draft and circulate a letter of objection to all councillors for approval before submitting to Dorset Council planning department.
- **24.31.4 – Application Number:** P/HOU/2024/03233 and P/LBC/2024/03232 **Proposal:** Erect single storey sun/garden room extension **Location:** Bush Cottage, High Street, Bourton, SP8 5AT. It was agreed by all councillors that this application should be permitted by DC since it would not have any impact on the occupants of neighbouring properties. **Action:** Clerk to post comment of support on planning portal.

24.31.2 Update on Outstanding Planning Applications:

Ser.	Application No. Location & Summary	Status as at 26.06.2024
a.	P/OUT/2023/06654 Sandways Site	PW reported that there is no news as yet as to when this application is due to be considered by DC’s Planning Committee
b.	P/OUT/2024/00606 Land east of Chaffeymoor Farm	Covered under item 24.31.2
c.	Land North of Old Pound Court – Appeal	PW reported that the Planning Inspector had finally determined the Land North of OPC Appeal, by allowing the Appeal and granting planning permission for 3 dwellings. He commented that this was illogical since within the decision report, the Public Inspector had stated, ‘... that the proposed development would not be in a suitable location when judged against the relevant LP and NP policies and would cause moderate harm to the character of the countryside’. Despite this she subsequently stated, ‘...the overall adverse impacts of the development do not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of 3 additional homes. Therefore, the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies... and that permission should be granted’ PW felt that this amounted to an extremely undemocratic process as the planning application had been objected by Bourton PC and refused by Dorset Council, however, short of initiating a Judicial Review, which would be extremely costly, there was nothing that BPC could do to reverse this decision.
d.	P/FUL/2024/00218 - 5 Mill Lake, Factory Hill, Bourton – Retain change of use from Residential (Class C3 to Office (Class E)	Clr Ridout informed members that, following BPC’s objection to this change-of-use planning application, it was due to be considered in the near future by DC’s (Northern Area) Planning Committee.

24.32 FINANCE

24.32.1 - Monthly Report: Balance as of 20th June 2024 £39,402.98

24.32.2 – To Approve the Payment Schedule for June 2024:

PM Cowell	Contract Maintenance	£406.00 (SO)
Elite Playground	Annual Playground Inspection	£85.20 (BACS)

Bourton Village Hall	Hire of hall Invoice 24-202	£36.00 (BACS)
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RESOLVED. Proposed by: PC; Seconded by: PW; Agreed by all councillors present.

24.32.3– Accounts Received:

Fine Memorials	Payment for additional inscription to existing headstone	£50.00
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24.32.4 – Grant Applications Received: St George’s Church £400 towards maintenance of the grass.

Proposed by: PW; Seconded by: KH; Agreed by all councillors present.

24.32.5 – Conflict of Interest Form. Form signed by the Clerk and the Chairman, so that it can now be submit with the AGAR to the external auditor.

24.33 HIGHWAYS

FG sent this report: “After a long campaign and a well supported petition from members of the community, I am so pleased to see the 30mph limit introduced in the village. This project has been a huge amount of work for all involved. Thank you to the outgoing Parish Council and current Parish Council for their support. Thank you to Sheila Williams and her team for their support and ongoing efforts with speed reduction in the village, and Andrew Gillett who helped me draft the Application to Dorset Council. Lastly, a huge thanks to Tony Burden and his team at Dorset Council who have made the process far easier than it could have been and have been very efficient throughout”. Furthermore, PW mentioned that once the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) have been recalibrated, they will be erected at either end of the village, which will reinforce the new 30 mph speed limit. He also said he hoped that, in due course, several ‘30’ signs will be painted on Bourton’s main roads to act as reminders, as are in-situ throughout Gillingham.

24.34 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

PW reported that fortunately Bernard Sullivan will continue as the lead on this working group. No report received.

24.35 LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP

24.35.1 – Verge Management. It was agreed that the verge opposite the War Memorial should be cut back, including all the overgrowth around the bench and the noticeboard. **ACTION:** Clerk to send request to PC contractor to carry out these works as soon as possible.

24.36 FOOTPATHS

KB reported that Graham Stanley had asked for photos of the issues on footpath N 57/19 at Bullpits but no further update from GS with regards to surface improvement works to Clay Lane. It was also reported that the hedges adjacent to the footpath along Tan Lane were very overgrown.

PW reported that a team of (mainly Silton) volunteers planned to clear the footpath from Silton Surgery down to the B3081 shortly. It might be that this approach will need to be replicated in order to make the Tan Lane footpath more accessible

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.

24.37 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PC suggested that, with new councillors now on-board, it was time to reintroduce the PC to the community by updating the bio’s on the website and using the Facebook group to introduce a different councillor once a month. **ACTIONS:**

- All councillors to send an updated bio and photo to the Clerk
- Clerk to introduce councillors via the Facebook group
- Clerk to arrange for each councillor to have a .gov.uk email address

24.38 CORRESPONDENCE

- MoP regarding the pedestrian gate into the play area – gate latch has broken off and needs repairs.
- Bernard Sullivan re the management of the grass verges and proposals for managing the Jubilee Field.
- St George’s School – one of the rails has separated from the upright on the field gate and is a finger pinch hazard at the moment.
- MoP email regarding the play area equipment “on behalf of grandparents parents and children please can it be fixed quickly as it is normally in constant use throughout the summer”.
- MoP email regarding the play area equipment and offer of help to repair.

24.39 ANY OTHER MATTERS

- DC asked if there was any news from Wessex Internet on the installation becoming up and running. MW reported that he had been informed by Wessex Internet that due to issues with the sub-contractor, the roll out of 'fibre-to-the-premises' broadband would be delayed until later in the year, or possibly early 2025.
- DC reported that the hedge near the Maycroft houses is across the footpath
- DC felt that there was a lack of attention from Dorset Council in regards to overhanging foliage obscuring the new 30mph signs in two locations.

24.40 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Bourton PC meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th July 2024 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:16pm

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Chairman

Note: The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified (signed) at the meeting on Wednesday 24th July 2024.

DRAFT