

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 6.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2025**

PRESENT: Bourton Parish Councillors: Peter Williams (Chairman), Paul Curry (Vice Chairman), Kevan Barton, David Calvert, Fran Gillett, Keith Hallett, Rick Moore, Tim Rose, Martyn Westwell
Ward Councillors Val Potheary, Belinda Ridout and Carl Woode.
Clerk and RFO, Eve Wynn

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED: None received.

18:00pm – MEETING OPENED.

24.156 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

No questions raised.

24.157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Nil

24.158 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF 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 BPC meeting held on 18th December 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

24.159 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING

- 24.147 – Clerk to send a follow up email to Jonathan Mair regarding the play area lease. **Done.**
- 24.149 – KH to report back on progress made regarding the ash trees adjacent to the Jubilee Field. **Done.**
- 24.150.1 - Request an increase to the financial contribution from Dorset Council's Rights of Way Officer, Graham Stanley; Ask GS for agreement to the PC installing the French drain first, ahead of any other works; Source three quotes for the construction of French drains and provision of 20 tons of stone. **Done.**
- 24.152 – KB to speak to his neighbour regarding the refurbishment of the Bourton Pole. **Done.**

24.160 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

The Chairman reported that Councillor Ridout had submitted a report prior to the meeting. With Ward Cllr Val Potheary being present, the Chairman welcomed her to the meeting and gave her the opportunity to inform the council about devolution. Ward Councillor Potheary explained that this had been put to DC around 1 year ago and that the new government administration is pushing ahead countrywide for devolution of local councils and was highly likely to go ahead, but Dorset Council would remain a sovereignty.

24.161 HIGHWAYS

FG reported that she had been trying to contact the clerk at Zeals PC but had not received a reply. FG said having read the minutes from the most recent Zeals PC meeting, which had reported that Zeals Parish Councillors Zeals PC have voted not to do the speed survey for the New Road section between the existing 30mph zone and the Zeals/ Bourton parish boundary..

24.162 COMMUNITY SAFETY

SW reported the Community SpeedWatch Team had conducted two speed watches. The most recent survey from beside Voscombe Farm had resulted in 12 drivers being reported for speeding. There had been a Dorset Police speed camera van on site in the village on the 27th December.

24.163 VILLAGE HALL

CH gave this report *"In December the hall income was £2167.69 with outgoings of £1860.49. This was mainly accounted for by £503 for Broadband and £742.63 for electricity (the monthly heating bill) . This highlights the massive running costs of the building that is so unfit for purpose. Going forward in 2025 we are looking at various works. We are still awaiting a quote for stabilising the bank and gabions which will need doing in the next 12 months. The old lorry body in the car park will be replaced shortly at a cost of £2200 plus VAT as it is now too damp and mouldy for use. The old one will be disposed of. Progress in being made with regard to applying for a new lease. Peter Williams has agreed with full support from all the trustees to present the request to the Upper Stour PCC to approach the Diocese. Forthcoming events include:*

Film night - Gladiator

Six Nations rugby

The Bourton Players pantomime.

Finally, sadly Heather Ransley has after 5 years' service to the village hall resigned as a trustee . She will be hard to replace particularly as it is so difficult to find new trustees and volunteers. To this end Cindy will make an appeal before each pantomime performance for new volunteers as this event as it attracts different people from the usual events".

24.164 PLANNING

Applications Received:

24.162.1 Application Number: P/PABA2/2024/07126 **Proposal:** Install temporary slurry store. **Location:** Blackwater Farm, Midney Lane, West Bourton, SP8 5FW **Comment Deadline:** 5th February. This application was supported by all councillors. **ACTION: PW to draft the PC's response in support of this planning application.**

24.164.2 Application Number: P/RES/2024/06695 **Proposal:** Demolish existing barn and erect 8 No. dwellings, new vehicular access and ancillary works (reserved matters application to determine access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following the grant of outline planning permission number P/OUT/2022/00060) **Location:** Voscombe Farm, New Road, Bourton, SP8 5BX. **Comment Deadline:** At the request from the Clerk, the comment deadline had been moved from 19th December 2024 to 23rd January 2025. PW reminded all those present that despite BPC's objections to the Voscombe Farm planning application for 8 dwellings and DC Planning Committee's subsequent refusal of the application in May 2022, following an Appeal **by the applicant** the Planning Inspectorate allowed the Appeal in Jan 2023 and granted approval for the outline proposed development. In view of this, PW said that there was no point in BPC objecting to what now amounts to being a full application for 8 dwellings on this site, which was bound to be approved by DC since there was no point in the application going to Appeal once more.

24.164.3 Planning Application Update:

Site/Planning Application No:	Update as of 22 nd January:
Sandways Site	No evidence of an appeal being registered on the planning portal.
Chaffeymoor Farm P/OUT/2024/00603	This application is going before the Planning Committee meeting on 4 th February. PW and PC and two members of the public had been registered to object to the application.
Doctors Orchard, West Bourton Road	At the request of PW, the Clerk had submitted an FOI request to DC regarding the continued occupancy and development of the site, to which a response had been received on 22 Jan. PW said that since it is now more than 12 months since the expiry date of the relevant Enforcement Order, one would expect there to be justification within the FOI response as to why DC has done nothing over the past year to prevent the continued occupancy of this site. Indeed, there is no indication of any legal action being taken by DC to enforce the mobile home's removal from the site, let alone restoration of the location as per the list of enforcement requirements. Whether DC, ' <i>...will continue to work towards resolving the planning breaches</i> ' remains to be seen, especially as the Planning Enforcement Manager who has produced the FOI response is leaving DC on 10th March. PW asked Ward members to investigate this matter further, since there was risk that this precedent might be copied on a field next to Church Road, Silton, near Silton Village Hall where the owner, who has had two planning applications refused over the past two years, has recently increased the size of the field's entrance via the installation of two metal gates with a combined width of 30 feet, There is therefore the risk that Silton is about to see a repeat of what has taken place at Doctors Orchard, ie. the installation of a large mobile home, due to the absence of enforcement action by DC in relation to Doctors Orchard

24.165 FINANCE

24.165.1 Monthly Report: Balance as of 17th January: £33,234.04

24.165.2 To Approve the Payment Schedule for January 2025:

Mrs Eve Wynn (Clerk)	Purchase of a new laptop (already paid for using Clerk's own debit card)	£598.99 (BACS)
----------------------	--	----------------

Mrs Eve Wynn	Microsoft 365 – 1 year subscription (already paid for using Clerk's own debit card)	£59.99 (BACS)
--------------	---	---------------

RESOLVED – proposed by PC; seconded by PW; agreed by all.

24.165.3 Accounts received: None.

24.165.4 Grant application received from Brie Logan (Clerk, Shaftesbury Town Council) for a fundraising appeal for BPC to consider for works required to the Shaftesbury Lido.

All councillors agreed not to donate to this appeal as it didn't really affect the people of Bourton, especially as BPC had granted significant funding support for the RiversMeet, Gillingham Leisure Centre & Swimming Pool.

24.165.5 Precept 2025/26

The Clerk had presented a comprehensive document to all councillors prior to the meeting, setting out various scenarios for precept figures. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had been in a minus situation with regards to receipts and outgoings for 7 years and that it would not be financially viable or astute to continue with this indefinitely, particularly with a predicted budget of £47,000 for 2025/26, based on the need to fund new playground equipment. The Clerk advised Councillors that the precept should therefore be increased above the current rate of inflation. The Parish Council considered the detailed budget and the precept required for the council to meet the expense of running it, which includes the Clerk's salary, verge management and grass cutting; management of the cemetery; emptying of the dog bins; and this year, the cost of the speed reduction scheme. The councillors listened to advice from the three Ward Councillors in attendance to increase the precept. KB suggested an increase of 24.63%; KH suggested an increase of 25%, in which case the precept amount payable by occupants of a List D property (for example) would increase from £57.93 p.a. to just £72.41 p.a., ie. an increase of st £1.20 per month. The Clerk asked for a proposer for 25%, which will increase BPC's annual precept income to £30,088.73; KB proposed; MW seconded; The precept increase was agreed by all councillors present. Members of the public present wanted it minuted that they fully approved the increase, with one suggesting that it should be increased to £35,000. **ACTION: Clerk to submit a precept request of £30,088.73 (25%) to Dorset Council ahead of 31st January 2025.**

ESTIMATED OUTGOINGS FOR 2025/26	
Staff Costs inc HMRC:	£13,000
General Maintenance:	£3,500
Contract Work:	£3,500
Public Rights of Way:	£6,000
Play Ground:	£12,000
Other Costs (VH hire, insurance, office expenses, S137, grants, DAPTC etc	£9,000
TOTAL:	£47,000
BANK BALANCE 19TH JANUARY 2025	£33,234.04

Year on Year Receipts/Expenditure/Precept:

YEAR ENDED	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURE	PRECEPT	DIFFERENCE (EXP-PRECEPT):
31/3/2019	£20,436.31	£19,683.47	£19,040.00	-£643.47
31/3/2020	£21,251.87	£29,667.65	£14,986.34	-£14,681.31
31/3/2021	£21,729.22	£23,687.37	£21,450.67	-£2,236.7
31/3/2022	£22,172.99	£24,260.20	£22,136.35	-£2,123.83
31/3/2023	£29,365.70	£25,512.22	£22,689.76	-£2,822.46
31/3/2024	£28767.78	£27,322.96	£23,256.99	-£4,065.97

Council Tax Bands for Bourton 2024/25:

PARISH	BAND A up to £40,000	BAND B £40,001 - £52,000	BAND C £52,001 - £68,000	BAND D £68,001 - £88,000	BAND E £88,001 - £120,000	BAND F £120,001 -	BAND G £160,001 -	BAND H MORE THAN £320,000
Bourton	1626.41	1897.48	2168.54	2439.61	2981.74	3523.88	4066.02	4879.22

Bourton Parish Precept per Band 2024/25:

PARISH	PRECEPT	TAX BASE	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
BOURTON	24070.98	415.5	38.62	45.06	51.49	57.93	70.80	83.68	96.55	

All Council Tax valuations are based on the price a dwelling would have fetched if it had been sold on 1 April 1991, subject to certain assumptions. Any increase or fall in a dwelling's value which results from general changes in the housing market since then will not affect its valuation. The valuation band for your dwelling is shown on your Council Tax bill.

Bourton Parish Precept per Band – sample increase/ effect per year:

(Tax Base Band D increase from Dorset Council £415.50 to £426.30 Increase of £10.80 per year; 2.60% increase)

TARGET PRECEPT (£)	TARGET PRECEPT INCREASE(%)	TARGET PRECEPT INCREASE (EXTRA FROM LAST YEARS AMOUNT)	BAND D (cost per year)	BAND D (cost per month)
£45,000	86.95%	£20,929.02	£47.63	£4.77
£35,000	66.18%	£15,929.02	£35.90	£3.59
£30,000	45.40%	£10,929.02	£24.17	£2.42

24.166 PLAY AREA LEASE

The Clerk confirmed that this week she had received an email from Jonathan Mair's PA to say that her original email had been referred to the legal team to answer with regards to the new lease that has been agreed between Dorset Council and The Pickwick Academy Trust. The Clerk also reported that on Monday she had attended a meeting with Mike Jones (Pickwick Academy Trust Head of Facilities) and Jill Farndale (Executive Headteacher). At the meeting MJ had asked for support from the parish councillors for the installation of a 1.8m high fence to be installed between the play area and the school field. After a long discussion, all councillors agreed unanimously that the proposed installation of the fence would be of no benefit to the village community and therefore would not be contributing financially to any costs involved. **ACTION: Clerk to contact MH and JF to inform of them of this decision.**

A further discussion took place regarding the current lease which expires on 30th December 2026. MW said the PC needed to move forward with this as it is now 6 months since the condemned play equipment was removed. KH suggested that the PC agree to purchase at least two items of play equipment that can be installed asap but also be easily removed if the renewal of the lease doesn't go ahead. It has also been previously suggested that the PC explore the possibility of creating a new play area within the Jubilee Field, which is owned fully by the PC. **ACTION: Clerk to source suppliers of play equipment and report products and pricing between now and the next meeting.**

24.167 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS

Nothing to report.

24.168 LAND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KH reported that he had spoken to Phil Cowell who had reported that Allan Miller would be removing the fallen Ash tree from the boundary of the fence at Jubilee Field.

24.169 FOOTPATHS

All councillors agreed that the PC accept the contribution of £1,490 from Graham Stanley so that works can start on the footpath to the rear of Breach Close towards Clay Lane.

24.170 COUNCILLORS .GOV.UK EMAIL ADDRESSES

ACTION: Clerk will send the links to those councillors who do not yet have a .gov.uk email address.

24.171 BOURTON CROSS

The pole and cross are showing signs of deterioration and need to be refurbished. KB reported that a local company in Bourton, Welder Beast UK, would be looking what works need to be undertaken. KB will report back once these details are confirmed.

24.172 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from a MoP "to confirm their support and thanks to the PC for their logical and strong opposition to the untenable proposal for 50 dwellings" at the Chaffeymoor site.
- Email from Graham Stanley (Dorset Council Rights of Way Officer) re proposed works to Clay Lane.
- Email from Claire Reed (Village Hall Treasurer) regarding the small increase in charges for hire of the Village Hall.
- Email from Brie Logan (Clerk, Shaftesbury Town Council) regarding a fundraising appeal for the Shaftesbury Lido for Bourton PC to consider.

24.173 ANY OTHER MATTERS

- Cllr Carle Wood mentioned Dorset Council's 5 year land supply will comply with the relevant planning standards within the latest version of the National Planning Policy [Framework](#)
- FG asked if future PC meetings could return to a start time of 18:30, this was agreed.

The Chairman thanked our three Ward members for attending the meeting and said that their interest and contributions were gratefully received.

The next Bourton Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 6.00pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19:23pm

.....
Peter Williams, Chairman.

DRAFT