

**DRAFT MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 6.30 PM ON FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2025**

PRESENT: Bourton Parish Councillors: Peter Williams (Chairman), Paul Curry (Vice Chairman), Kevan Barton, David Calvert, Keith Hallett, Rick Moore, Tim Rose, Martyn Westwell
Clerk and RFO, Eve Wynn

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED: Councillor Fran Gillett; Ward Councillors Val Pothecary and Belinda Ridout.

18:30pm – MEETING OPENED.

24.174 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

No questions received during this item.

24.175 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Nil

25.176 PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT

The main purpose of calling the extraordinary meeting was to propose and agree the purchase of 3 new items of play equipment for installation in the existing play area. The Clerk had circulated a quote to all councillors prior to the meeting, which included a play house, a set of swings and a roundabout. Members of the public suggested that rather than a play house, a slide would be better received by the age group of children likely to use the play area. Parish Councillors, with input from the Clerk, explained that due to the lack of information from the Pickwick Academy Trust with regards to the current lease, which ends on 31st December 2026, the play items would be such that they could be moved to another area, if required, in the future and that the three items were to be an initial point of providing a much needed improvement on the existing play area items. After further discussion, PW proposed a budget of £12,000 for the purchase of play equipment items; this was seconded by PC and agreed by all councillors present.

ACTION: Clerk to source a quote from HAGS for a slide and other possible play equipment items. This is to be done ahead of the next PC meeting so that councillors could agree on the items and quote and the Clerk could then go ahead and place the order. PW said that the aim should be to have the play equipment items installed in time for the Easter holidays.

25.177 PLAY AREA LEASE

The Clerk reported on the current situation with the play area lease. Despite numerous emails to the Pickwick Academy Trust, requesting a way forward with renewing the current lease, there had still been no committed answers from the academy. The Clerk said this was now causing much frustration within the parish council.

**25.178 UPDATE ON P/OUT/2024/00603 – LAND EAST OF CHAFFEYMOOR FARM SITE (50 DWELLINGS)
PLANNING APPLICATION**

PW thanked members of the community for their numerous objections and reported that, even though the planning officers were very much recommending the planning application's approval, Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee (at its meeting held on 4th February) refused the application. This followed varied and robust spoken objections at the meeting from the BPC's Chair and Vice Chair and two other residents, for a number of planning reasons. Our three Ward Councillors, Val Pothecary, Belinda Ridout and Carl Woode, were very supportive, such that Cllr Belinda proposed and Cllr Val seconded the Committee's refusal. All other councillors voted unanimously to refuse the application for numerous planning issues, based on a range of Dorset Local Plan and Bourton Neighbourhood Plan policies, and the National Planning Policy Framework. PW recited the detailed reasons for the planning permission's refusal by the Planning Committee, which are contained within the 'Decision Notice' included on the relevant DC Planning web-page:

'1. The site lies outside the settlement boundary for Bourton and as such is located within the open countryside. The proposed development would not represent a type of development that would be appropriate in the countryside, or otherwise have a demonstrable overriding need for a countryside location. The development of the site would therefore represent an unsustainable form of development, contrary to the spatial strategy of the adopted development plan, specifically Policies 2 and 5 of the Bourton Neighbourhood Plan, Policies 2, 6, and 20 of the adopted North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2016), and the National Planning Policy Framework.

'2. The proposed development would result in less than substantial harm to the setting of the designated heritage asset Chaffeymoor Farm which would not be outweighed by the development's associated public benefits, the proposal is therefore contrary to Policy 5 of the adopted North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2016), and the National Planning Policy Framework.

'3. The proposed development fails to respect the spatial characteristics of the area and would lead to the erosion of the sensitive, transitional, edge of settlement character and appearance of the locality contrary to Policies 1 and 2 of the Bourton Neighbourhood Plan, Policies 4 and 24 of the adopted North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2016), and the National Planning Policy Framework.'

The next Bourton Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19:10pm

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Peter Williams, Chairman.

DRAFT