

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HAZELBURY BRYAN VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2014 AT 8.00 PM

Present: Councillors Steve Murcer (SM) – Chairman; David Maughan (DM); Tricia Walton (TW); Alun Read (AR); Martin Richards (MR); Ken Huggins (KH) and Emma Grayson (EG).

Members of the public – 12: DCC/NDDC Cllr Pauline Batstone (PB) and Rowland Skeat (RS), Aleric Little (AL) and Graham Stanley (GS) from Dorset County Council

Minutes: Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk

Apologies: None

219/14 – Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2014: The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman

220/14 – Matters arising from these minutes: The clerk reported i) there had only been two positive responses to the request for suitable properties to have masts fitted under the Vodaphone mobile phone project and the deadline to submit an application had now passed ii) Holy Well - he is to meet a representative from the Woodland Trust at the site in the next few days. Other matters are covered in the agenda

221/14 – Dorset County Highways and Rights of Way: RS/AL facilitated a general presentation and discussion on Highways matters. Key points to emerge were

a) DCC Highways has responsibility for potholes, grips, road markings, road signs, fingerposts, kerbs, carriageways, footpaths, grit bins, hedge, licences etc

b) revenue budget has fallen from £8m in 2006 to £3.5m in 2014

c) grips (the channels that divert surface water from the carriageway into roadside ditches) are programmed for clearance shortly in HB

d) roadside ditches belong to landowners, not DCC, and are the responsibility of the landowner; if water from ditches overflows onto the carriageway DCC will try to arrange for the landowner to solve the problem, but on occasions it is expedient for DCC to take it upon itself to clear a problem with blockages; once soakaway ditches are full there is nothing to be done apart from wait (it can be quite a time on Blackmore Vale clay)

e) DCC has responsibility for watercourses passing under the carriageway

f) traffic speed is largely a matter for the Police; DCC policy is to try to reduce street furniture (road signs) as current thinking is that fewer signs make drivers more cautious – also there is no money to install new bollards, bend chevrons, entrance mirrors etc

g) road resurfacing works are in the pipeline for HB and its environs – Font le Roy, Lydlynch and Frizzels Hill are three areas where work is expected in the next few months

h) legal signs (speed roundels etc) will be kept clear of vegetation, direction signs etc will not due to budget constraints

i) winter work – the “salt” route from Sturminster Newton, Kingston, Pidney, Droop, Wonston and Kings Stag will be gritted in times of frost; the “community” route to Mappowder will be gritted in moist conditions when the temperature has been below 2% for 5 days, or when snow is forecast

j) there are salt bins at West Pleck Farm, Frizzels Hill, the Cemetery and the School. An approach might be received from Mappowder PC about siting one of its bins on HB land.

k) rural gulleys are emptied once a year; only silt from the chamber is emptied unless there is a more significant problem identified by the crew

l) the suggestion of a “person and child” , “no footpath” sign on the Causeway between the Antelope and the shop was thought to have merit and will be investigated by DCC, in addition to existing plans to reinforce the 30 mph speed limit with roundels on the carriageway

m) support and guidance is available for fingerpost maintenance from the Dorset AONB team

o) PLEASE REPORT ANY HIGHWAY FAULTS OR PROBLEMS VIA DORSETFOR YOU - PHONE (01305 221020) OR E MAIL VIA WWW.DORSETFORYOU.COM and follow the simple links

GS, Senior Ranger, DCC covered Rights of Way. Again, the key points were

p) He and his team of 2 staff have responsibility for 22 nature reserves (largely in the towns), 750 miles of ROW and all verges and roundabouts in North Dorset

q) despite lack of resources, his team will do all they can to keep ROWs open and usable, liaising with landowners where necessary

r) he confirmed that the responsibility for maintaining stiles and gates lies with the landowner, and their income from the single farm payment scheme is conditional on them fulfilling their obligations. Sometimes DCC will undertake repairs as it is quicker and more cost effective than following due legal process

- s) he will speak directly with Mr Porter over the concerns he had expressed in a recent note about ROWs
- t) the Rangers rely on the public to report problems. It is fine to take secateurs and cut overgrown vegetation yourself on a ROW
- u) the expenditure undertaken by HBPC to keep ROWs clear is appreciated. There is also a formal scheme where a service level agreement can be entered into so that agreed ROWs are cut twice a year – once at DCC’s expense and once at the parish council’s expense.
- v) the Rangers can help identify possible contractors for footpath maintenance quotes
- w) livestock in fields is to be expected; the only prohibited animals are dairy bulls and beef bulls over 18 months of age); electric stock fences should have a safety hook to facilitate passage for the ROW
- x) DCC has obtained extra funds to help with verge cutting; town councils are being encouraged to take responsibility for their own verges, but they tend to have the infrastructure as they look after their own parks, cemeteries etc. Rural communities are not expected to follow suit.
- y) GS would be keen to help the parish develop a path from the Antelope towards the shop – he will liaise with the clerk. He estimates the likely cost for a path with a scalping surface and safety barriers at either end to be in the region of £6-8k. PB reported that she was making some progress with DCC to make any path a formal ROW and thus the responsibility of DCC for future maintenance.
- z)) PLEASE REPORT ANY FAULTS OR PROBLEMS VIA DORSETFOR YOU - PHONE (01305 224463) OR E MAIL VIA WWW.DORSETFORYOU.COM/rightsofway/reportproblem/ and follow the simple links

The Chairman thanked the officers for their informative presentations.

222/14 – Public open session: Nothing further to add

223/14 - Ideas Please project group – report and recommendations: The recommendations made by the Project Group at its meeting on 22nd September 2014 were approved (attached as appendix 1 below). The clerk will oversee implementation.

224/14 – Royal British Legion i) Remembrance Day arrangements and anniversary tree planting: All arrangement in hand, Cllr Read will lay the wreath and the Chairman will plant the tree; donation to the local branch of the RBL will be considered.

225/14 – Dog waste bins – update: Two additional bins have been delivered and will be installed shortly. One will be at Coney Lane, the other in Kingston opposite Kingston Lane. The cost of emptying the four bins will be £18.10 per week – agreed. The clerk will investigate the possibility of a further bin in Drum Lane sited at the end of the vehicular track and purchase if a suitable site is identified.

226/14 – Hedges, footpaths and grass cutting – work schedule to be agreed: Clerk to consider possible tender arrangements in the light of this evening’s presentations.

227/14 – Web site – update: The clerk reported that the new web site was up and running. He needs to advise the supplier of some updates to content. A new e mail is established and working, but the clerk will do some further research on possible alternatives that might offer improved functionality.

228/14 – Finance

a) to approve accounts for payment: The following payments were approved: -

Chq no.	Payee	Purpose	NetVAT	Gross
833	M Wilson	expenses	181.00	181.00
834	M Wilson	November pay	314.39	314.39
835	CLP	printer ink, stationery	15.23	3.05 18.28
836	Shaw & Sons	Burial book - replace chq 842	98.23	19.65 117.88
837	Broker network	Insurance	2096.65	2096.65
838	Wessex Web Design	New web site	400.00	400.00

839	JB Garden Services	Footpath repair	65.00	13.00	78.00
840	IK Services	dog bins emptying	65.50		65.50
845	Glasdon	2 new dog bins	195.20	39.04	234.24
Total					3505.94

b) bank mandate changes: The Chairman reported on the slow progress with Lloyds Bank, but he believed matters were nearly finalised.

c) Insurance arrangements – to approve: The current agreement expires on 8th November 2014, and having tested the market it was agreed to commit to a long term three year deal through Came & Co, underwritten by Hiscox, at a premium of £2096.65 per annum. The village hall committee will reimburse the parish council for its share of the buildings cover. The premium last year was £2367.64

229/14 – Planning

a) to consider planning applications received:

2/2014/1118/FUL – Mustonfields, Park Gate – application for retrospective change of use – it was agreed to object to this application given that the original application had made no reference to the site being used for a permanent dwelling, merely an office and overnight refuge for those looking after horses. The site would have been considered inappropriate for a new residential development at the time of the application.

b) to note decisions made by North Dorset District Council:

The clerk reported that the application for 10 The Old Dairy had been approved. Cllr Batstone advised that the application for the new Church Room was being considered at NDDC Planning committee in December.

230/14 – Recreation field – (DM/EG): In the absence of a committee meeting there was nothing to report. KH is still trying to get a third quote for the play area fence.

231/14 – Village hall – report: (TW): The forthcoming film night is a showing of Oblivion (the story of a South London boy transported to a rural nightmare of dog mess, overgrown footpaths, broken stiles topped with barbed wire, overweight Labradors and a muddy BMW – his journey through therapy before finally finding redemption and his personal shambhala is an inspiring tale, not to be missed!)

232/14 – Public open session: Nothing further

233/14 – DCC/NDDC Cllr Batstone: She had circulated a detailed report in advance of the meeting

234/14 – Correspondence to note: None

235/14 – Other matters to note: The clerk is sourcing a new battery for the community defibrillator held at the Antelope public house – the cost will be £200; the school has an open day on 28th November between 9.00 – 11.00 am – all welcome; there is a firework display on Alex Field on Bonfire night.

236/14 – Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held at Tuesday 2nd December 2014

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

Appendix 1 to Minutes of 4th November 2014

HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the “Ideas Please” project group held on Monday 22nd September 2014 at 8.00pm.

1. Present: Cllrs Richards (Chairman), Huggins, Maughan and Walton and the Clerk

2. Purpose of meeting: The aim of the meeting was to consider the wide range of suggestions as to how the parish council could best spend un-earmarked accumulated reserves for the benefit of the community. This sum was set at £15,000 at the last parish council meeting on 2nd September 2014. The group’s findings and recommendations would then be considered at a subsequent parish council meeting.

3. Background: The suggestions received had been well documented and summarised by Mr Mills, the previous clerk, and formed the basis for a wide-ranging discussion. The summary is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes, annotated with the group’s comments.

4. Discussion: The following key points arose:

- i) the suggestions had been grouped into 6 main groups – hall, footpaths, playing field, allotments, cemetery and general
- ii) a suggestion was made that each committee running a function be given a chunk of money and then be left to choose which of the suggestions to adopt – but the parish council would have to ensure the money was actually spent on Ideas within a reasonable period and not just salted away for longer term dreams.

- iii) **Hall** – some suggestions have already been implemented; income from hiring meets day to day running costs, any capital expenditure has to come from grant funding or other sources; film club is really a separate entity; acoustic/sound system/hearing loop matters were all linked
- iv) **Footpaths** – the parish council has an earmarked reserve of £3k for a new footpath from the Antelope towards the shop, it is recognised this will be insufficient; much of the other footpath Ideas are managed by the parish council or are the responsibility of landowners
- v) **Playing field** – there is a demand for extra fencing around the perimeter of the entire children's play equipment; aspirations for a new pavilion would not at this stage be significantly helped by money from the parish council; the facility is a asset used by much of the village
- vi) **Allotments** – this is a valuable amenity, but the benefit of any expenditure would always be restricted to those with plots
- vii) **Cemetery** – responsibility for this really lies entirely with the parish council; there is reasonable capacity at present; there is the potential to expand in time; funding for land acquisition could be from a Public Works Loan Board loan with repayments met from cemetery fees, alternatively, or in addition, an earmarked reserve could be started with some funds allocated each year from surplus revenue. The clerk will begin to consider long term site extension options.
- viii) **General** – only one of these Ideas was felt to be potentially practical, the Award scheme for youngsters, but it would be up to those proposing the Idea to work out and manage such a scheme – see Appendix 1 for comments on specific suggestions

5. AGREED OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS: It was agreed to recommend the following proposals to the parish council:

- i) A sum of £5k will be added to the existing reserve for the footpath from the Antelope towards the shop and the clerk was asked to move this forward as quickly as possible, liaising with landowners and Councils as appropriate.
- ii) A sum of £4k be allocated to the village hall for use as it best sees fit from the list of Ideas, but probably focussing on new chairs and the sound system; funds would only be available for 12 months and would be paid by way of a grant once specific items from the Ideas list had been purchased. The parish council will not purchase the items itself. (The hall committee might consider arranging an exploratory site visit from an acoustics consultant or company to see how much an improvement scheme might cost – the clerk would be happy to help if needed)
- iii) A sum of £750 will be allocated to the allotments committee as a contribution towards a new community hut or hard standing or both. Again the money will be made by way of a grant and the funds will be available for 12 months.
- iv) A sum of £100 will be made available if the Award scheme for youngsters can be made to work by those proposing the scheme
- v) A sum of £3450 will be allocated to the cost of replacing and extending the fence round the perimeter of the entire play equipment – this will be undertaken by the parish council.
- vi) A sum of £1,700 will be made available for other work on the playing field – as above this will be available by way of a grant to reimburse expenditure on specific Ideas over the next 12 months.
- vii) If these proposals are agreed the clerk will work advise recipients of amounts and conditions

Malcolm Wilson
Clerk to the Council
24th September 2014