

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HAZELBURY BRYAN VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 8.00 PM**

Present: Councillors Steve Murcer (SM); Alun Read (AR); John Grayson (JG); Phil Dimmock (PD); Ken Huggins (KH) and DCC/NDDC Cllr Pauline Batstone (PB)

Members of the public – 25

Minutes: Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk

157/16 - Apologies: Received from Cllrs Maughan and Richards

158/16 - Declarations of interest: None

159/16 – Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2016: The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman

160/16 – Matters arising from these minutes: KH/MW are arranging a date to meet with Nigel Spring over the Keep; details of services not being provided by DCC Highways will be forwarded shortly by MW. Remaining items are covered on the agenda

161/16 – Public open session: It was reported that some road surface water drains along the Causeway are blocked – SM suggested this matter is reported direct to DCC Highways via the Dorsetforyou site.

Concerns were expressed by a number of those present over proposals to erect a Vodaphone mobile phone mast near Coney Lane. 15 years ago an application was approved after a planning appeal but it seems as though this will have lapsed and PB has asked NDDC Planning officers to find out the precise status of the old approval. It was reported that Vodaphone intend to submit a completely fresh application which would come before the parish council in the normal way. Some people have concerns over the potential health risks posed by masts for those living nearby. SM noted that the parish council did not have the expertise to make an informed judgement on health risks and it will have to respond on valid planning grounds, although it could make reference to community concerns over the matter. It will be most effective for individuals who wish to object to any future application to make their own representations at the appropriate time to NDDC.

162/16 – Planning - to consider planning applications received: a) 2/2016/1185 – Barwick House, The Common, DT10 2AU – erect stable block – no objections

163/16 – Finance

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

Cheque	Payee	Service	Net	VAT	Total
953	HB Village hall	Hire	28.00		28.00
954	Pestwright M	Cemetery wasp nest	45.00		45.00
955	Wilson	Sept pay	323.96		323.96
956	HMRC M	PAYE Jul - Sep	243.00		243.00
957	Wilson	Expenses	108.95	10.20	119.15
SO	Wessex Web Design	Web host	15.00		15.00
SO	IK Services	Dog bins	97.93		97.93
DD	SV&P Ptnshp	Cemetery business rates (final payment)	10.00		10.00
			Total		882.04

164/16 – Grass cutting arrangements: i) the cemetery: MW has received quotes from JB Gardens, Louis Holman and Tim Mumford. It was agreed to accept the lowest quote of £70 a cut in the growing season which

was from JB Gardens. **ii) around the play area:** It was agreed it would be sensible to link this work with the cemetery and JB Gardens has quoted £40 a cut in the growing season which was agreed.

165/16 - The Antelope/Causeway path: With no possibility of being able to secure a safe northern exit of the path it was agreed this matter is now closed.

166/16 – Highways and Rights of Way matters: MW has been advised by the agents handling the sale of the parcel of land containing the path between Coney Lane and the Antelope that no improvements or repairs should be made until the sale has gone through. It was reported that the purchaser is happy for repairs to be made but until ownership is transferred there is little we can do.

JG has the speed roundel from opposite the Antelope – MW will advise DCC Highways

167/16 – Fingerposts – update and new letters for repairs: It is hoped the Kingston post will be ready in early October.

168/16 - Recreation Field – i) to agree the way forward in developing the new community pavilion, including a) the selection of a preferred contractor from those that have submitted tenders – SM and AR explained the background and history of this project, with community fundraising taking place over the last 12 years. A generous donation from the Wonston Club had made construction a real possibility and after careful consideration the parish council felt it was time to support the project and provide the remaining finance from reserves and borrowing to enable construction to begin. It was noted that the project was too big to be handled by a community self build given the scale of risk and health and safety controls required under current legislation. Tenders have been received and the project will be overseen by appropriate professional advisers. There will still be some relatively minor second fix carpentry and decoration to be done by volunteers organised by the Recreation Ground committee. It is hoped construction can begin in the autumn before the worst of the winter weather to minimise damage to the surrounding grass area. There was support from the audience for a project that will hopefully revive village football, keep cricket flourishing and hopefully encourage village youngsters to get involved.

Proposed by AR, seconded by JG it was agreed to accept the lowest tender of £99,736.37 from R B Snook Building Ltd

b) the appointment of Align (Chartered Surveyors and Chartered Building Consultancy) to prepare the necessary contracts and oversee and confirm progress of the development – Very helpful advice on the tender process had been given by Align (Chartered Surveyors and Chartered Building Consultancy) on a pro bono basis. Proposed by AR, seconded by JG it was agreed to appoint Align to prepare the necessary contracts and oversee and confirm progress of the development.

c) the amount of the parish council's financial contribution to the project, including an appropriate contingency – It was noted that the cost of the project, including professional fees and a 10% contingency would be £113k. Community funds held total approx £60k (which includes £5k already allocated by the parish council as an earmarked reserve). Proposed by AR, seconded by JG it was agreed the parish council would provide a further financial contribution of £53k.

d) the profile of the parish council's funding contribution to the project by way of a mixture of existing reserves (some potentially earmarked for other purposes) and a Public Works Loan Board loan – Parish council reserves currently stand at £46.4k. Some of these are allocated for specific purposes (including £5k for the pavilion) but, proposed by AR and seconded by JG, it was agreed to utilise the £8k currently set aside (but not now required – see minute 165/16 above) for the Causeway footpath and £12k from general reserve towards the project – a total of £20k.

The parish council had investigated a Public Works Loan Board loan. These are available from central government via the United Kingdom Debt Management Office. No security is required and fixed rate loans can be taken over periods from 4 to 50 years. For a 25 year loan the current fixed rate is 1.97% on which the annual repayment of principal and interest will be £1,679 per annum. MW had prepared draft budgets to confirm affordability. Ongoing maintenance costs and tasks will be carefully managed by the Recreation Ground Committee and offset by rental income from the pavilion. SM noted that a small rise in the Precept would probably be necessary but this would only be a few pounds per household each year. Proposed by AR,

seconded by JG, it was agreed to apply for borrowing approval from the Department for Communities and Local Government to draw down a PWLB loan of £33k repayable over 25 years.

Grant fundraising will continue to be explored and MW will write formally to local businesses etc to seek one-off donations towards the cost. If additional funds are accumulated it is possible to make an early repayment of all or part of the loan.

ii) report and update from Chairman on other matters Nothing to report

169/16 - Neighbourhood Plan - i) draft minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Committee of 2nd August 2016 to be noted: The minutes had been circulated and were noted **ii) update on progress:** The committee had met at 7 pm, just before this meeting. The village consultation event is scheduled for Saturday 8th October to engage the community in the development of the Plan. The content of the flyer advertising the event has been agreed and will be delivered with the next edition of Bryan Bytes. These should be ready for councillors to deliver in the next 10 days or so. It is important that parish councillors attend if at all possible to help answer questions and demonstrate their support for the Plan. The number of volunteers working on the Plan is still much too few and it is hoped more might come forward on the day. Without a good response to the day in terms of attendance, feedback and help it is doubtful if the development of the Plan can continue.

170/16 – Village hall – report: Nothing to report, apart from a film – Bridge of Spies – on 1st October

171/16 – DCC/NDDC Cllr Batstone: Her main focus is on the public consultation on the future of local government in Dorset. It is clear the status quo is not an option. Left to its own devices North Dorset District Council will eventually run out of money. The likely way ahead is for two unitary authorities for Dorset, with one potentially centred on Bournemouth and Poole (and possibly Christchurch), and one for the more rural areas. Whilst these changes will save considerable money (and seem to work ok in places like Wiltshire and Cornwall) it will have implications at the local level. Given there will be far fewer councillors, it will be harder for them to provide the same level of support to parishes and have as much knowledge of local issues. Council tax will also rise and at a faster rate. Currently NDDC can only increase its element of council tax by 2% per annum; Dorset County Council can increase its element of council tax by 4%. Any unitary authority will thus be able to increase the entire council tax by the higher amount. Additionally, there will need to be a harmonisation of council tax rates across the new authority – given council tax is lower in North Dorset than most of the other councils in Dorset our council tax will need to be further increased. The extra funding will not feed back into local services like libraries, verge cutting, footpath maintenance etc, but will fund the soaring costs of adult social care and children's services, both of which are now a local responsibility. Once a strategy is set after the consultation, individual district councils will not have any power of veto and will have to join in the new arrangement. The consultation runs until 25th October and the public are urged to have their say. The parish council could also make a collective response.

172/16 - Public open session: It was suggested the whole question of whether the community wants or needs a mobile phone mast and where it might be located should be considered, rather than just this specific potential application.

173/16 – Correspondence to note: Nothing to note

174/16 – Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held at Tuesday 4th October 2016.

175/16 – Close of meeting: With no further business to discuss SM closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.