

BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH PARISH COUNCIL
- - - - -

Minutes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council meeting held in the Church Hall Bothenhampton on Monday 12 of July 1993 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr G Matthews (Chairman)
Mrs F Ball
Mr G Warburton

Mr F Botham (Vice Chairman)
Mr C Casstles
Mr D Wilson (Clerk)

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 1993, having been circulated to all councillors before hand were accepted as a true record of that meeting and duly signed.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Mrs D England MBE

Rear Admiral G Pritchard

3. CO-OPTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS.

Two nominations to fill current vacancies on the Council by co-option were as follows:

Mr C J S Horton

Proposed by Mr F Botham
Seconded by Mr C Casstles

Mr D A Blythe

Proposed by Mr C Casstles
Seconded by Mrs F Ball

Both nominations were carried unanimously, and declarations of acceptance duly completed.

4. DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR.

a. Mr Ffookes was given satisfactory replies to the following points:

1. Pavement in Hollow Way in a dangerous state.
2. Thanks for letter to brewers re The George. Can anything be done to retain the street lights on the wall?
3. Requesting authority to camp on the site of the barn dance etc on ni 14/15 Aug '93 only - [approved]
4. The state of the road surface in Long Lane.

b. Mrs Udall was given satisfactory replies to the following points raised:

Jubilee seat badly in need of urgent repair

Repairs to the seat in ~~the~~ Pastures ^{way}.

Publicity of planning applications. It was agreed that future planning applications will be displayed on the Walditch notice board and the notice board at the village post office.

c. Mr Holbert asked about the weight restriction sign in Lower Walditch Lane. This will be included in the discussions on signs etc at the next council meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a. Grass in roads - Walditch. The Clerk gave details of the County Surveyor's reply. Cllr Botham agreed to give the Clerk details of the worst affected areas where the vegetation has encroached on the road to a dangerous extent. It was also agreed that the Area Surveyor be asked about the clearance of the cuttings, which at present are left in the road.

b. Speeding traffic - Walditch. The Chairman reported that following his recent meeting with representatives from Dorset County Council that a 20 mph speed limit would not receive any backing from the County Council because the accident rate in the village shows this to be unnecessary. To obtain a speed restriction costs in the region of £1,000 and the County have more pressing areas for such financial investment. The very nature of the roads through the village also provide a natural speed check. It was suggested by the County Council that this council look into the need, and possible sites, for "bends" signs and "Drive carefully through the village" signs. It was stressed that the "Drive carefully" sign MUST include the village name plate. It was agreed that the provision and siting of signs should be discussed fully at the next council meeting. In the interim it was also agreed that the police local beat officer be made aware of the resident's concern of vehicles proceeding through the village at excessive speeds.

c. Footpath No 8. The Clerk gave details of the reply received from the County Rights of Way Officer.

d. Dorset Minerals & Waste Local Plan. Cllr Warburton reported that the document he had studied made no mention, or gave any indication, of any involvement or interest to Bothenhampton or Walditch.

e. Planning consent 'The George'. The Clerk gave details of the letter sent to West Dorset District Council and the brewers.

6. REPORTS

a. Dist Cllr D Cracknell.
Made a plea for more awareness of the correct contact points within the District Council. This would save a lot of time and frustration to inquirers.
Drew attention to the unsightly, and possibly illegal, sign for a car boot sale in Norman's Field. He expressed his concern that such sales go ahead without any knowledge or approval of the local authorities. [It was agreed that enquiries be made to ascertain the legal position and if any form of planning consent is necessary for such events]

7. FINANCE

The following accounts were approved for payment.

South Western Electricity	
Lighting charge June '93	£249.92
Jim White	
Grass cutting JUNE '93	63.44
DAPTC	
Posters	4.00
Beta-Print	
Envelopes	15.15
Bridport Cricket Club	
Donation	25.00
Duke of Edinburgh Award Bridport Panel	
Donation	25.00
Bothenhampton Church Hall	
Hire of hall for July meeting	11.00

It was proposed by Clr Bell and seconded by Clr Casstles that the following are authorised signatories for the Bothenhampton Children's Committee account with the National Savings.

Clr G Matthews

Clr F Botham

Carried.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. The Clerk gave details of planning applications received by WDDC as follows:

1/W93/0348 7 Wych Hill,

No objections

b. The Clerk gave details of planning consents granted by WDDC

9. ROADS/FOOTPATHS/STREET LIGHTING

a. It was reported that Footpath No 4 is very badly overgrown

b. The Clerk gave an up to date report on the installation of two lights in Hollow Way.

c. Clr Warburton agreed to carry out a survey of the street lighting in Crock Lane and report on possible requirements at a future council meeting

10. PLAY AREA.

Clr Blythe agreed to take on responsibility for overseeing the play area. The owner of the fence on the west side of the play area has expressed his concern over damage to the fence caused by cricket players using the fence for a wicket. It was agreed that the cricket club be requested to move the wickets to another location to avoid further damage.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk gave details of the following correspondence;

- Association of Parish and Town Council's Area meeting
- NALC Centenary Conference
- Parish Casual Vacancies
- D Day 50th Anniversary.

It was agreed that this council is too small to be involved as an individual item and would therefore join with Bridport in any events to mark the occasion.

West Dorset Heritage Coast - Consultation Document Review

It was agreed to obtain 12 copies of the questionnaire for distribution to councillors and the Residents Association

Sharp Photocopier SF 760

The Clerk reported that a recent inspection of this machine showed it was beyond economic repair. It was agreed to sell the copier to Clarity Copiers (Dorest) & Co for £25.

Late postal deliveries - Walditch.

At this point it was resolved to go into confidential session. The press and public were requested to leave.

Date 9 AUGUST 1993

Chairman



C O N F I D E N T I A L

CLERK'S PROPOSED CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

The Clerk was unable to give details of the formula for the calculation of the gratuity in the proposed clerk's contract.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The Chairman and the Clerk then gave details of their recent meeting with the Senior Manager of the District Audit Service.

There are three main areas of concern over the accounts for the financial year 1992/93 as follows:

- a. During the year the telephone account amounted to £647.95 which on the face of it would seem to be grossly excessive.
- b. Photocopying was £228.02. paid to the former clerk for the use of his photocopier. This would seem to be in order had not the council also purchased 14 reams of copier paper during the year and paid £86 for the repair of the copier.
- c. The purchase of 14 reams of copier paper is considered to be grossly excessive. Included is one item for a ream of special paper costing £14.40 which does not appear to have been used for the benefit of this council.

Other smaller items are the purchase of 6 typewriter ribbons, at a cost of £23.58, when no typewriter has been used for council business; an analysis book for £12.25 which is not necessary for council accounting, and the fee for the redirection of mail on the move of the former clerk from Chard to Parracombe.

In the opinion of the District Auditor the first course of action is to approach the former clerk and ask for reimbursement of a reasonable sum in respect of the telephone account, and an explanation of the other items or a cash refund to the council.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach BT for precise details of all the telephone accounts and in the mean time this item to remain strictly confidential to councillors only.