



Bothenhampton & Walditch
Parish Council since 1886

**MINUTES OF BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at WALDITCH VILLAGE HALL on 12TH FEBRUARY 2024 at 7pm**

Initials	Councillors	Initials	Councillors
JB	Cllr Jim Basker (Chair)	GS	Cllr Graham Styles
CA	Cllr Chris Addis	MW	Cllr Martin Warne
TC	Tan Cox (Clerk)		

Also Invited: Cllr Sarah Williams / Cllr Kelvin Clayton / Cllr Dave Bolwell

Ref	Agenda Item	Owner
	Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Eligibility: No Declarations were received.	
	Apologies: Cllr Martin Warne	
1	<p>Reports from Dorset Council Councillors:</p> <p>Dorset Cllr D Bolwell attended the meeting and brought parish councillors up to date with current issues within Dorset Council, including the impending vote on the budget for 2024/25 which will take place on 13th February 2024.</p> <p>Cllr Bolwell referred to the local transport plan survey which had been sent out to all Parish Councils. (The Clerk had already forwarded this to Parish Councillors). Cllr JB said that Cllr MW, as Chair of the Traffic, Transport and Footpaths sub-committee would normally complete the survey on the Parish Council's behalf. Cllr MW is on holiday this week but could complete the Survey on his return.</p> <p>Cllr JB referred to the notices on bus services near village halls with QR codes recently issued by Dorset Council. He noted no buses have stopped at Walditch Village Hall for many years and regretted the lack of bus services in the area.</p> <p>Cllr DB said one of the biggest issues for Dorset Council is rural transport, Cllr JB noted that buses did not run along Crock Lane because it was said to be too narrow due to cars parked either side.</p>	

Cllr Jim Basker

Minutes agreed on 4TH MARCH 2024

M	Agenda Item	Owner
2	<p>Democratic Half Hour: Several residents were in attendance for this last meeting of the Parish Council in Walditch.</p> <p>Resident Robin Stapleton advised that he would be setting aside his campaign for the renewal of trees in the conservation areas and along the Sycamore Avenue. He planned to write to the MP (Chris Loder) and hopes that a younger member of the village will take the campaign over.</p> <p>Resident Pat Pullen referred to the wall running alongside the Walditch Village Hall and explained that it is in a bad state of repair. The Village Hall Committee has obtained a quotation for approximately £4000 + VAT. She asked whether the Parish Council could help with the cost of the repairs.</p> <p>Cllr JB and Cllr CA agreed a final Finance & Funding Meeting should take place to discuss this and other related issues. Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>Another resident made reference to a Bridport Parish Green Day on 23rd March. This will showcase various environmental / green initiatives and is part of the Church Eco Movement.</p>	Clerk
3	<p>MINUTES OF MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024</p> <p>The minutes of 8th January, having been agreed by email have been uploaded to the Parish Council's website.</p> <p>Carried forward Actions: Regarding Reports from External Organisations – approval of future representatives of the BANP. The Clerk has dealt with this via email sent on 13th January 2024 to BTC (WA)</p> <p>Regarding Deposit Account Balances – ringfenced monies. Letter was sent on 15th January 2024 to BTC.</p> <p>Regarding Play Equipment / Wood Treatment – despite contact with current maintenance contractors and an advert on the Parish Council's Facebook page, the Clerk was unable to attract a suitable contractor to carry out this work. It was agreed to ask the BTC Lengthsman to undertake this work and the Clerk sent an email to this effect on 29th January 2024. A response was received from BTC confirming that the work would be completed prior to the end of March 2024.</p> <p>Regarding Abolition of the Parish Council – pass any historic information on the parish council to Cllr GS. The Clerk sent relevant information to Cllr GS on 13th January 2024.</p>	
4	<p>Reports from External Organisations: External Organisation meetings are to be held later in February: BLAP Liaison – 21st February 2024 and BANP / JCC – 29th February 2024.</p>	

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
5	<p>Planning Consultations There were no planning consultations.</p>	
6	<p>Finance and Budget:</p> <p>Payments made from 9th January 2024 to 12th February 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk and Cllr Expenses • Derek Smith • Dorset Council • Ken Hussey <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Cllr Jim Basker</i> Chairman</p> <p>The Clerk said that the payments listed above had already been paid and had been authorised via email.</p> <p>The Clerk's salary for February 2024 was approved as were any expenses.</p> <p>The Bank Statement to 31st January 2024 was provided to Councillors for their perusal, the Bank Statement was signed by the Chairman and handed to the Clerk.</p> <p>The Cash Flow Forecast up to 31st January 2024 was sent to Councillors for their review and approval.</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WERE APPROVED AND/OR AGREED, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Statement and Invoice Cover Sheet (Approved and signed by the Chairman) • Cash Flow Forecast – approved by Councillors. <p>Bank Cash Surplus</p> <p>Cllr CA referred to the surplus of cash that would remain after the abolition of the Parish Council. There were several options for consideration including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either pay upfront or make a commitment for BTC to honour in relation to the repairs to the Walditch Village Hall wall. • Either pay upfront or make a commitment for BTC to honour in relation to the repairs to the Bothenhampton Village Hall entryway. • Consider making grants early to the two churchyards (outside the normal bi-annual grants that the Parish Council usually makes). 	

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7	<p>Parish Council Sub-Committees:</p> <p>Open Spaces and Play Areas (OSPA) – 22nd January 2024</p> <p>Points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Fields in Trust and plaques</u> <p>The plaques have now been received by the Chairman. A photo appears alongside.</p> <p>The Clerk to ask BTC Lengthsman to erect the plaques in each of the relevant sites (JHPA, JGPA, Walditch Village Green and Valley View Amenity Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Information panel in the Bothenhampton Nature Reserve</u> <p>The Parish Council has been in correspondence with the DIGS geology group to design an information panel on the geological points of interest of the Nature Reserve, which the PC offered to contribute towards. DIGS subsequently decided such a panel would not be appropriate, but that one describing the trees and plants of the area might be a suitable alternative. This issue should be included in the Legacy document to be passed to the BTC. Cllrs agreed that a sum of money could be made available for the manufacture of this – Clerk to place on F&F Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Holt Play Area and the need to tether newly purchased picnic tables – it was confirmed that these have been tethered. • Wood preservative to all wooden fittings in the three play areas. See page 2 above. <p>Traffic, Transport & Footpaths (TT&F) – 26th January 2024</p> <p>Points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work of the VFO – noted with appreciation. • Regarding Footpath W5/5 exit onto the A35 near the East Road roundabout. Cllr MW to write formally to BTC (WA) with a copy to National Highways (PW) to ask for two pedestrian signs to be located along the A35 adjacent to footpath W5/5. Email sent by Cllr MW to BTC (WA) and copy to (PW) on 31st January 2024. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>



Ref	Agenda Item	Action
8	<p>Other Parish Matters:</p> <p>CGR Joint Working Party Cllr G Styles' email entitled BTC Transition Plan – Cllr JB referred to the Joint Working Party plan and asked councillors whether there is anything that needed to be added or commented on.</p> <p>Cllr GS referred to the Town Council meeting on 23rd January, where the ringfencing of Parish Council monies was discussed. Dorset Cllr DB confirmed that the issue had been discussed during the meeting but that any decisions would be subject to the views of the new council from the 2nd May 2024. He did emphasise however, that the Town Council's intention is to allow current plans to stay in place, and this would presumably include the ringfencing of monies for play areas.</p> <p>Abolition of the Parish Council</p> <p>Cllr JB had drawn up a list of legacy issues that needed to be handed over to Bridport Town Council at the end of March 2024. He had sent the document to all councillors and asked whether there were any issues to be added to the paper.</p> <p>Cllr CA raised a point relating to the ringfencing of monies for the play areas and asked that the wording be changed to read "We request that the existing ringfenced funds for repair and replacement continue to be ringfenced".</p> <p>Cllr GS mentioned the following additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spate of anti-social behaviour and vandalism including in the play areas. • Planning issues, which can generate a lot of public feeling and there is a need for careful future monitoring of potentially controversial planning applications. • Parking, especially along Main Street, although he conceded that nothing much can be done about this. • EV Charging points, acknowledged that the Parish Council had not progressed this issue mainly because it had been unable to identify anywhere in the two villages for an EV point to be installed. <p>Cllr JB asked Cllr GS if he could produce a form of words for him to include in his list of issues.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Cllr JB for his hard work on compiling the list of legacy issues.</p> <p>Cllr GS confirmed that he had now completed a draft Press Article on the abolition of the Parish Council and said he had circulated this prior to the meeting. He would welcome comments in due course.</p>	

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9	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>The following correspondence was sent during the period and can be found on the council's website www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Bridport Town Council regarding ringfenced monies specifically for spending on Nature Reserves and Play Areas. • Letter to Simon White – Permissive Footpath through grounds of The Hyde Care Home 	
10	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Resident Robin Stapleton mentioned the issue that he had raised some months previously relating to the stake supporting the Jubilee Tree on Valley View. He said that the stake is too close to the tree and will start to rub the bark and cause disease if something isn't done about it soon. The Clerk confirmed that she had asked the Contractors (Derek Smith) to deal with this.</p> <p>RS said that the stake needs to be repositioned further away from the tree (not abutting it).</p> <p>The Clerk said she would write again to Derek Smith.</p> <p>Cllr JB said that he had play equipment guarantee papers in his possession and that these would need to be transferred to Bridport Town Council.</p> <p>Councillors and the Clerk expressed their thanks to the Village Hall Committee for the refreshments kindly provided earlier that day.</p>	Clerk
	The meeting ended at 8.15pm	

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 4th March 2024 at Bothenhampton Village Hall, 7pm
 Previous parish council minutes can be found on www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 12th February 2024

Action	Owner	Page
Arrange a final Finance & Funding sub-committee meeting	Clerk	2
Regarding FiT Plaques – Arrange erection with the Lengthsman	Clerk	4
Regarding DIGS information panel – sum of money to be discussed by F&F	Clerk	4
Regarding Jubilee Tree at Valley View – write again to Derek Smith about the stake problem	Clerk	6

ITEMS REFERRED TO F&F SUB-COMMITTEE – date to be agreed

Item	Page
Walditch Village Hall external wall – quote with Cllr CA	3
Bothenhampton Village Hall exterior walkway – Cllr GS progressing	3
Possibility of making grants to both churchyards prior to abolition	3
DIGS information panel – earmarking of a sum of money to ensure panel is procured.	4

External Organisations - Acronyms:

WATAG – West Dorset – Western Area Transport Action Group

BLAP – Bridport Local Area Partnership

BANP JCC – Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, Joint Councils Committee

DAPTC – Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils

NALC – National Association of Local Councils

External Organisations - Councillor representatives:

WATAG – Cllr Chris Addis (Deputy - Cllr Martin Warne)

BLAP – Cllr Graham Styles

BANP – Cllr Jim Basker

Misc

VFO - Volunteer Footpath Officer