



Bothenhampton & Walditch
Parish Council since 1886


**MINUTES OF BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at WALDITCH VILLAGE HALL at 7pm on 10th FEBRUARY 2020**

Initials	Present	Initials	Present
JB	Cllr Jim Basker (Chair)	CD	Cllr Chris Dobbs
AL	Cllr Ann Langridge	MW	Cllr Martin Warne
GS	Cllr Gill Smith	CS	Cllr Colin Sparkes
Also Invited		TC	Tan Cox (Clerk)
Cllr Sarah Williams / Cllr Kelvin Clayton / Cllr Dave Bolwell			

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
	Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Eligibility: No Declarations were received	
	Apologies: Cllr Sarah Williams, Cllr Kelvin Clayton, Cllr Dave Bolwell	
1	Reports from Dorset Council Councillors: No Dorset Councillors attended the meeting.	
2	Democratic Half Hour: See pages 11 and 12.	

Minutes agreed: on9th March 2020

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
3	<p>Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – Monday 13th January 2020: There being no issue with the minutes these were signed and handed to the Clerk.</p> <p>The following actions were dealt with: Councillors were asked to comment on the Summary of Actions on page 10. As follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regarding the proposal by BTC concerning Jellyfields and Bothenhampton Nature Reserve – the Clerk duly wrote a letter confirming that the Parish Council will work in partnership with BTC. The Parish Council had not received a reply from BTC regarding this and Cllr JB telephoned BTC to establish whether or not the Parish Council’s offer had been acceptable. DarylC confirmed that the offer was acceptable, and he is meeting with officers of Dorset Council (RG and GN) to finalise the arrangements. Cllr JB advised that there will be a solicitor’s fee to pay which will be shared between BTC and the Parish Council relating to the transfer of the nature reserves. <p>NEW ACTION: The Clerk to write to BTC to confirm the telephone conversation that Cllr JB had with DarylC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regarding Climate Change – Cllr JB attended the BLAP meeting on the 6th February and reported that very few other parish councils had done anything on Climate Change; he confirmed that there were no positive ideas put forward. <p>Councillors discussed the arrangements that Char Valley Parish Council are making that include working with their community. Char Valley have published their plans, and these were briefly discussed. Councillors were of the opinion that they were too complicated, and they may not get buy in from village residents. Char Valley PC is providing an event on 21st March 2020 at Whitchurch Cononorum Village Hall. As this event is after the 9th March (the date of the next Parish Council meeting) and IT WAS AGREED to discuss attendance at this event at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regarding WD/D/19/002645 Walnut Cottage – inspect and check plans, Clerk to update Dorset Council. Action completed. ● Regarding tree survey in John Holt Play Area – contacted Dorset Council as the only qualified arboriculturists able to provide survey. Action completed. 	TC

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4	<p>Reports from External Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WATAG – meeting on 23rd January 2020 – see briefing paper from Cllr CA. Cllr CA said that he would send minutes if councillors request them. ● BLAP – Meetings on 6th February 2020 and Parish Liaison 22nd January 2020 Cllr CS fed back on the issues raised and Cllr JB referred to the Climate Change discussions detailed in 3 above. ● BANP/JCC – no meeting as awaiting results of referendum. 	
5	<p>Planning:</p> <p>Planning Consultations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WD/D/19/002968 22 VALLEY ROAD, BRIDPORT, DT6 4JS – Cllr CS gave some information about this planning application which is to legalise the building that is in place. The owner requires a Certificate of Lawfulness. The Parish Council is neutral on this matter. ● WD/D/19/002990 11A UPLANDS, WALDITCH, DT6 4LE Cllr CS was unable to contact the owner, but spoke to neighbours. Cllr CS described the planning application in detail. The Parish Council is neutral on this matter. <p>Planning Decision Notices (for information only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WD/D/19/002659 1 PASTURE WAY, BRIDPORT, DT6 4DL ● WD/D/19/002842 2 BOTHEN DRIVE, BRIDPORT, DT6 4DJ ● WD/D/19/002645 WALNUT COTTAGE, BRIDPORT, DT6 4BT 	
6	<p>Finance and Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the following payments were approved: ● Payments for Approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dorset Council 3rd Party Payments (Jan 2020) ● Dorset Council Arboricultural Service ● Town & Country Tree Care ● Clerks Expenses ● Footprints ● Bothenhampton Village Hall <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  Approved </div>	

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
	<p>Finance and Budget:</p> <p>The Bank Statement as at 4th February 2020 was provided to councillors for their perusal – it showed a balance of £18,977.73; a copy was signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>The Clerk’s salary for February 2020 was agreed as were the Clerk’s expenses.</p> <p>Cllr CA explained the figures within the Cash Flow Forecast and confirmed that it shows that the Parish Council will have a similar amount of money available at the end of the year as they did at the beginning.</p> <p>Cllr CA said that the Parish Council will need to decide on additional expenditure in March, mainly to ensure that the precept is spent. He confirmed that the Finance sub-committee would make suggestions regarding replacement play equipment and/or repair of same and/or financial assistance to Walditch Village Hall at the end of March.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she had opened a second bank account (deposit account) and Cllr CA proposed the Parish Council use this as a pot to spend on matters relating to the three play areas as they arise. The Clerk confirmed that a sum of £1000 had been transferred into the deposit account.</p>	
7	<p>Parish Council Sub-Groups: none have met yet and the information below is for reference only.</p> <p>Open Spaces and Play Areas Sub-Committee arranged for 21st February 2020. The Clerk confirmed that Joe Hackett had been invited to give a presentation on his tree project to councillors at the meeting.</p> <p>Finance and Funding Sub-Committee arranged for 6th March 2020</p> <p>Traffic and Transport Sub-Committee arranged for 21st February 2020</p> <p>Parish Council Plan Working Group arranged for 20th March 2020, 3pm at Greystones. Co-opted councillors are JB/AL/GS/MW.</p>	
8	<p>Other Parish Matters:</p> <p>Dog bins Following an email from Mr T J Lewis, the Parish Council have initiated the provision and siting of additional dog bins at the following locations:</p> <p>Valley Road, Bothenhampton - there could be scope for two dog bins in Valley Road, one located at the top of Tony’s Track. The other at the far end of Valley Road in the nature reserve (off Coopers Drive). Spinners Lane, Walditch one located at the bottom by the entrance.</p> <p>IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will contact the Lengthsman and ask for his advice on the practicality of these locations, and if he agrees to include the provision and emptying of the dog bins in his schedule of work.</p> <p>Cllr GS referred to the machines at West Bay with bags in for dog walkers.</p>	TC

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
	<p>Howard Road rewilding Public consultation is to be commenced during March 2020. However, before this can be progressed Cll JB said that he needed to find someone to draw an illustration of the area and how it would look like once it is rewilded. Without an illustration it will be difficult to explain to residents what is proposed. Cllr AL referred to the creation of the Parish Plan and said that prior to agreeing the priorities of the Parish Council, residents should be surveyed to find out what they want.</p> <p>Tree planting and/or heeling in Following an email from Mr J Hackett regarding a tree planting campaign in Bridport and surrounding parishes. The parish council has invited Mr Hackett to their Open Spaces and Play Area Sub-Committee meeting on the 21st February where he will provide more information.</p>	
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 Mr D Chambers (BTC) regarding Parish Nature Reserves • Letter to Mr M Watters regarding Bothenhampton Old Church Mr • Letter to Mr S Christopher (Dorset Council) regarding Homestead Farm 	
10	<p>Miscellaneous:</p> <p>CAB Financial Assistant Grant – The Parish Council had received a written request dated 9th January from the Bridport and District Citizens Advice Bureau asking for financial assistance. It was noted however, that they had not provided their bank details in order for this to be paid electronically. Cllr JB met with the CAB manager and asked for these details to be forwarded. The grant was paid on 9th February 2020.</p> <p>Axe Valley & West Dorset Ring and Ride Financial Assistant Grant – The Parish Council had received a written request from the above, however they had not provided their bank details in order for the payment to be made. Bank details are awaited, and the Clerk said that once received the Grant will be paid.</p> <p>Parish Council Plan – working group – see page 4.</p>	
11	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Walditch Village Hall Windows The Secretary of the Village Hall Committee attended the meeting and spoke at the Democratic Half Hour outlining the reasons why the Village Hall were seeking help with funding for the replacement of the village hall windows. Notes from the DHH are on page 7 below.</p>	

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
	<p>Councillors discussed the issues with regard the leaking windows and made reference to the financial assistance that the Parish Council had provided to Bothenhampton Village Hall.</p> <p>Councillors were of the opinion that there were still several issues outstanding including an approach to the church to gain permission from them to change the look of the windows from wood to aluminum, they could also ask the church for a financial contribution, however it is unlikely to be granted. Another issue is the need to get Dorset Council's Conservation Officer on side as the entire area surrounding the village hall is within a conservation area. Permission may be needed to change the windows from Dorset Council. There is also a need to obtain a quote for hardwood replacement windows, this is outstanding.</p> <p>Cllr JB referred to a government funding stream specifically for refurbishing church halls but said that this had been closed last year.</p> <p>IT WAS AGREED to delay a decision on this until the end of March 2020 by which time the Parish Council will be able to determine how much money it has from the 2019/20 precept.</p> <p>Dorset Councillor attendance Cllr CD said he was disappointed that none of the Dorset Council councillors had been able to attend, especially as the owner of Homestead Farm had attended the meeting and provided feedback during the Democratic Half Hour.</p> <p>Letter received from Mrs Irvine, Main Street, Bothenhampton Councillors had been forwarded a scanned copy of the letter received from Mrs Irvine and agreed that a lot of the points raised were outside the purview of the Parish Council. IT WAS AGREED that a letter would be written to Mrs Irvine and Cllr JB will work on the text and forward to the Clerk.</p> <p>Late invoice from Bothenhampton Village Hall Councillors agreed to pay the invoice received late the night before the meeting.</p>	JB
	Items for next Agenda:	
	The meeting ended at 9.00pm	

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 9th March 2020 @ 7pm Bothenhampton Village Hall

Previous council agenda and minutes can be found on www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 10^h FEBRUARY 2020

Action	Owner	Page
Regarding Parish Nature reserves, the Clerk to write to BTC to confirm the telephone conversation that Cllr JB had with DarylC.	TC	2
Regarding Dog Bins, contact the Lengthsman and ask for his advice on the practicality of the suggested locations, and if he agrees to include the provision and emptying of the dog bins in his schedule of work.	TC	4
Regarding Homestead Farm, letter would be written to Mrs Irvine and Cllr JB will work on the text and forward to the Clerk.	JB/TC	6
Regarding Sycamore Avenue, Walditch, a follow up letter relating to the lack of action by landowner on maintaining the trees along the roadside	TC	8
Regarding Temporary Road Closure Barriers - notify Dorset Council	TC	8
Regarding 30 Mile an hour limit – write follow up letter to Dorset Council	TC	9

ITEMS REFERRED TO FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEES

Item	Page
Make suggestions regarding replacement play equipment and/or repair of same and/or financial assistance to Walditch Village Hall at the end of March after which the extent of unused precept would be evident.	

External Organisations - Councillor representatives:

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

BLAP – Cllr Colin Sparkes (Deputy – Cllr Ann Langridge)

BANP – Cllr Chris Dobbs (Deputy Cllr Gill Smith and/or Cllr Jim Basker)

MATTERS RAISED IN THE DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR – Monday, 10th February 2020

SYCAMORE AVENUE

Mr Robin Stapleton attended the meeting and raised the issue of Sycamore Avenue and the fact that there had been no progress on replacement of trees or on ensuring the existing trees were properly looked after in particular six lime trees are in a very poor state. The Clerk referred to her previous letter to Dorset Council and said that she had received no reply. **IT WAS AGREED** that a follow up letter to Dorset Council will be written.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE BARRIERS

Mr Stapleton also alerted the Parish Council to the dumping of six temporary road barriers which had been left in Mark Lane's field on the Hyde (in the corner). **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would notify Dorset Council of the barriers.

WALDITCH VILLAGE HALL WINDOWS

The Secretary of the Village Hall Committee spoke about the need to replace the existing village hall windows that she estimates are approximately 160 years old and are beyond repair. She referred to the amount of water that is now leaking through the rotten wood and which is pooling on the floor of the village hall; the floor, which is the original flooring will suffer if this continues. She referred to two quotes that she has already got one for aluminium replacement windows and the other for softwood, she is in the process of trying to get a hardwood quote.

She referred to the lease that the village hall has with the church (who is the owner) and said that it is termed as a 'repair lease' and it therefore falls on the village hall committee to find the money for the replacement windows.

There was discussion around the best type of wood to use or whether the aluminium solution would be the best, and to also ensure a double-glazed solution. It was confirmed that although the building is not listed, it is within the conservation area. The village hall committee will consult with the Diocese and Conservation Officer. The village hall committee does have some monies available themselves but not enough to cover the costs of replacement windows.

The Secretary said that she needs to approach the church for permission to install new windows. Councillors urged her to also ask for a financial contribution – which she agreed to do. Councillors said that the matter will be discussed again once further facts have been established.

JOHN GUNDRY PLAY AREA

Several residents had attended to give their views on the closure of the play area and there was much discussion surrounding the trees, especially the removal of ivy and felling. Cllr JB explained what had happened so far and referred to the advice of the Dorset Council arboriculturalist which was to close the play area until the trees had been made safe. Cllr JB made reference to Chris Trevett who has felled many of the trees in the area and subsequently has volunteered to take the ivy off the trees, once this is done Dorset Council will come and inspect the trees, which may give rise to additional felling. Councillors explained the health and safety issues of the dead and/or dying trees and highlighted the fact that the Parish Council are responsible for the play area and the safety of the equipment and environment. There was further discussion relating to the equipment and Cllr JB referred to the playground inspector's report which highlights major structural problems with the equipment especially the rotting timber frames. Cllr AL pointed out that the Parish Council commissioned an annual inspection which also led to the same conclusion.

There was concern surrounding the time it will take the Parish Council to repair and/or replace the equipment, and the fact that the area will be closed until this has happened. A resident referred to the Section 106 monies that had been available for 'open spaces' and Cllr JB explained the monies have been earmarked for the Lower Walditch play area.

There was a suggestion from within the group of residents that they form a community group to drive the matter forward using the Chairman Cllr JB as a conduit who would feed back to the Parish Council.

WALDITCH 30 MILE PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT

Mr Stapleton referred to the speed limit and asked what had happened as nothing seemed to be changing. Cllr CA confirmed that the Parish Council have a commitment from Dorset Council that the speed limit will be in place in the 2019/20 financial year and that there is a month or so to go yet. He said that the consultation is done but the Parish Councillors do not know what the outcome is. **IT WAS AGREED** to write a letter to Dorset Council to find out what has happened.

HOMESTEAD FARM

The owner (Mr Hughes) attended the meeting and provided an update on the Homestead Farm issue. He said there has been no communications from the Dorset Council planning service, and it is now 5 weeks without any news. Mr Hughes presented a heritage report from an unnamed person employed by the architect's planner. This Heritage Statement asserts, with no evidential backing, that "there is no greater impact than the approved scheme'. Cllr GS asked for a summary of the Heritage Statement and Mr Hughes went through the various findings of the Heritage Consultant. There followed a discussion between councillors and Mr Hughes as regards the various anomalies within the planning application, he admitted that the extra height was 'a mistake' and that he talks to his architect twice weekly.