

Minutes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council meeting held in the Church Hall, Bothenhampton on Monday 9 February 1998 7.30pm.

Present: Mr.R.C.Batten [Chairman],Mr.G.L.Matthews, Mr.P.G.Hulbert, Mr.F.Botham, Mrs.F.M.Ball, Mrs.D.M.England MBE, Mr.J.Challis, Mrs.J.Regan, Mr.M.C.Farnham [Clerk]

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 12 January 1998, having been circulated to all members, were accepted as a true record of the meeting with slight amendments and duly signed.

2. APOLOGIES

Rear Admiral Pritchard CB

3. CO-OPTION/ELECTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

No person having come forward so far, this matter would be carried forward to the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

[a] Wessex Water proposed planning application; Mrs.England confirmed that she had raised the issue of reducing the speed limit along Burton Road when she attended the open day concerning this application. The Clerk confirmed that he had received a copy of a letter from Wessex Water to West Dorset District Council and the speed limit was one of the points they had raised. The Clerk also informed the meeting that the formal planning application for the development had been received. It was agreed that Mrs.England and Mr.Matthews should look at the application and reply as required. A similar site such as this is in Poole and if required a visit could be arranged.

[b] A35 access road to Betterment Development, the Clerk was asked to investigate the situation as it would appear that Dorset County Council are holding up matters?. A further letter should be sent to O.Letwin MP on this matter.

[c] Mr.Hulbert reported on his meeting with Mr.Blair from Highways Area Office concerning the blocked drains. It would appear that most have been dealt with. Also they have been to Manor Barn and the problem relates to land drainage system which West Dorset District Council have investigated. The problem appears to be the drains under the John Holt Play area and these may have to be relayed.

5. SPECIAL ITEM; Use of Walditch Green & Provision of Play Area in Walditch

[a] Mr.Batten informed the meeting that the vote taken on the banning of ball games on the Village Green had to be discounted as the matter under discussion had not appeared in the agenda or the notices displayed concerning the January meeting. He went on to state that notices put up originally concerning the playing of ball games on the Village green were at his own instigation and the purpose at the time was to state the situation as far as he was aware. He apologises if this did upset people, this was not his intention.

[b] Mr.Batten also informed the meeting on the situation concerning the provision of a new play area. The site had been measured out on the ground and will be 50 x 100 metres. The required tree felling order is being investigated, as are access and rights of way matters by the landowners' solicitor.

[c] A set of all the papers available had been sent to each Councillor with the agenda for this meeting and therefore they should have had time to read them. Mr.Batten therefore asked each Councillor for their views on the matter. Mr.Hulberts' view was that the Village green was not suitable as a play area in this

instance. The area in Bothenhampton is suitable and suggested a by-law to ban ball games was required. Mr.Challis view was when the new area was available would a by-law be necessary? could we be limiting the Councils' options for all types of ball games at Village fetes etc.?. Mr.Botham agreed with the comments made by Mr.Challis, at this time the area is a Village Green and therefore people are entitled to use it as such. Mr.Matthews also agreed with Mr.Challis, proposed that we start the process for a set of by-laws, the timing of which to coincide with the opening of the new play area. Mrs.England agreed with the points put forward by Mr.Matthews, future fates could be held on the new play area. Mrs.Regan, agreed with Mr.Challis, defer any restrictions on the use of the Village Green until the new area is available. Mrs.Ball agreed with the points put forward by Mr.Challis. Following further general discussions it was agreed that all papers would be passed to the Parish Solicitors to confirm the Parish position. A proposal was put forward by Mr.Matthews and seconded by Mrs.Ball "that providing we have the legal right to do so, the Parish Council should seek to draw up a list of rules [by-laws] to govern the running of the Village Green. An amendment to the proposal "that the Parish Council defer any discussion on restricting the use of the Village Green until the opening of the new play area" was put forward by Mrs.Regan and seconded by Mr.Botham. The amendment was voted upon, resulting in 4 votes and against 4 votes. The Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the amendment defeated the original motion and thus keeping the status quo.

6. PARISH REVIEW

The Clerk referred to the letter dated 29 January 1998 from West Dorset District Council copy of which were sent out with the agenda. It was agreed that a separate meeting to discuss this matter may be required if a reply had to be made by the 28 February 1998. The Clerk was instructed to confirm this matter, if a reply was not required until after the March meeting then the matter would be discussed at that meeting.

7. DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR

At this point the meeting adjourned to enable members of the public to air their views on matters of local interest. The meeting then re-convened to complete the Council's agenda. A list of items raised is attached at the end of the minutes.

8. REPORT BY COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REAR ADMIRAL PRITCHARD CB

The Rear Admiral was unable to attend this meeting

9. REQUEST FOR GRANTS

[a] The Clerk referred to the letter dated 24 January 1998 from St.Mary's School Association [copy of which was attached to the agenda] requested a grant towards the provision of a new safety surface for a slide in the playground. This matter was discussed and it was proposed by Mr.Matthews and seconded by Mrs.Ball that we reply to the School Association, stating that no funds could be made available at this time, however, if they apply in May this year the Parish Council would consider the matter again. This was agreed by all other Councillors.

[b] The Clerk referred to the undated letter from Walditch Village Hall secretary [copy of which was attached to the agenda] requesting a grant towards the general improvements of the Hall. This matter was discussed and it was proposed by Mr.Botham and seconded by Mr.Matthews that we reply to the secretary that further details are required concerning other funds that are available and approximately the total cost of all the works that are to be carried out. This was agreed by all other Councillors.

10. FINANCE

- [a] The Clerk informed the meeting of the current situation.
- [b] The following accounts were approved for payment;
 - [1] G.Truscott maintenance of shrub area Walditch Green £82.25
 - [2] M.C.Farnham Salary for February 1998 £183.82
 - [3] Austen Whetham & Guest Betterment Development transfer of land interim payment £756.70

11. PLANNING

- [a] Applications received from West Dorset District Council; Application No 1/W/1998/0037 Dorwest Herbs Ltd. Firch Lane, Walditch erect industrial building. Application No 1/W/1998/0072 Land Adj. 1 Hyde Cottages, Walditch erect house, garage, construct new vehicular access.
- [b] Decisions by West Dorset District Council; Application No. 1/W/1997/0673 land adj. to Blossoms, Quarry Lane, Bothenhampton erect house & garage, modify existing vehicular access, permission granted. Application No. 1/W/1997/0742 Southfield, Marsh Gate, Burton Road, Bothenhampton erect single storey extension permission granted.

12. REPORTS FROM;

- [a] Footpaths and Roads; It was suggested that we ask Community Services if they could provide people to litter pick along the verges? Water in gutters outside No 3-4 Hillview. Provision of give-away signs at the junction of Betterment development onto Lower Walditch Road.
- [b] Street Lighting; NTR
- [c] Neighbourhood Watch; Mrs.Regan is now the N.W. Co-ordinator for Main Street Bothenhampton, she had attended a meeting with PC Green and others on N.W. matters.
- [d] Conservation and Open Spaces; cutting back of scrub along paths, putting up bird boxes and information boards will be going up shortly. The Tip will be landscaped when it is no longer in use.
- [e] John Holt Play Area; NTR.

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- [a] Dorset County Council; Local Public Transport Guides questionnaire
- [b] From West Dorset District Council; Good Dog Owners Guide to West Dorset
- [c] Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils., Circular 1/98 Table of Parochial Fees, 2/98 Your Right to Know: proposals for a freedom of information act, 3/98 Councillors as School Governors, 4/98 Clerks Annual Symposium, 5/98 change of DAPTC Office Address, 6/98 Implications of the Single Status [unions], 7/98 Royal Garden Parties 1998.

There being no further business for discussion the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

Date 9/3/98 Chairman 

List of items raised in the Democratic Half Hour and noted by the Parish Council

- [a] The use of Walditch Green for ball games.
- [b] The provision of a play area for ball games etc. at Walditch