



Bothenhampton & Walditch
Parish Council since 1886

**MINUTES OF BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at BOTHENHAMPTON NEW CHURCH on 8TH JANUARY 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: Dorset Councillors	
1	Reports from Dorset Council Councillors: N/A	
2	MINUTES OF MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 2023 and Notes from Non-Quorate Meeting of 13th NOVEMBER 2023 The minutes and notes, having been agreed by email have been uploaded to the parish council's website.	

Cllr Jim Basker
Minutes agreed on 12th February 2024

Ref	Agenda Item	Owner
3	<p>Notes from Non-Quorate Meeting of 13th November 2023</p> <p>Residents raised the need for information on who to communicate future needs to within BTC. Cllr JB explained the Ward system which will be three councillors for Bothenhampton & Walditch and another two representing West Bay. There will be a Ward Clerk and it is hoped that communication with the Ward Clerk will be the same as it is now. Jim Basker pointed out that the BTC telephone number is an alternative method of communication.</p> <p>Residents expressed their view that there is a need to continue with the proposed footpath along the edge of The Hyde. The Hyde's gardener and administrator are keen to create a path that leads to the bench part way down Walditch Lane. James Craddock is progressing.</p> <p>Residents expressed their thanks for the good work of the Parish Council and offered a group farewell get-together to take place on 30th March 2024 at Walditch Village Hall. This is discussed further in item 8.</p> <p>Legacy Issues:</p> <p>The Chairman had drawn up a list of issues that will be forwarded to BTC at the end of March 2024 recommending that the three new Councillors should take them forward for solution. There followed a discussion with residents on the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding trees and planting new ones – Cllrs MW and JB emphasised that it had been difficult to find members of the public to maintain and take care of newly planted trees, especially those planted in Lower Walditch. James Craddock mentioned that there is a strong green movement (eco Church group) that may take on the watering and maintenance of new trees in the villages, he will make some enquiries. • Residents were very keen to continue to protect the trees in Sycamore Avenue. • More play equipment and/or upgrading existing equipment – Cllr JB said the parish council needs feedback from local residents. • 20mph zone for our streets – Cllr JB said that BTC is likely soon to implement a 20mph zone for some of the streets within the Town Centre. BTC will need to meet the expectations of the residents in Bothenhampton & Walditch for 20mph limits in their streets too. • Crossing the A35 – Cllr MW explained that National Highways are planning a controlled crossing at Pasture Way, and at the meetings that he had attended (BLAP) with an NH representative, residents were assured that the parish council will continue to work on this for as long as possible. 	

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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments for residents – Cllr JB said that finding land for allotments should be a priority for BTC, James Craddock said that the eco-Church may be able to help with this. 	
4	<p>Reports from External Organisations:</p> <p>WATAG – Nothing to report</p> <p>BLAP Liaison – last meeting 13th December 2023 (no councillor available to attend)</p> <p>BANP / JCC & BANP Future Governance. Cllr JB updated all on the two main outcomes of the previous BANP meeting. The first related to the 2024 subscription of £797. The Clerk confirmed that this had been approved and already paid. The second issue related to various Parish Councils’ approval of future representatives of the BANP under the new regime from 1st April 2024. It was proposed that this will consist of one representative from each parish plus one representative from Symondsburly.</p> <p>COUNCILLORS AGREED that this arrangement was satisfactory, and the proposal was AGREED.</p> <p>The Clerk to confirm this by email to Bridport Town Council.</p>	Clerk
5	<p>Planning:</p> <p>Planning Consultations</p> <p>The planning consultations specified on the agenda were noted.</p>	
6	<p>Finance and Budget:</p> <p>Payments made from 14th November 2023 to 8th January 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nantes Solicitors • Clerk and Cllr Expenses • Derek Smith • Walditch Village Hall • Dorset Council • John Bright Fencing <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Cllr Jim Basker</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 December 2023 was approved retrospectively as was the Clerks salary for January 2024 as were any expenses.</p>	

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	<p>The Bank Statement to 31st December 2023 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 December 2023 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>Other Financial Matters</p> <p>It was noted that BTC has requested that bank accounts should be closed and funds transferred from 2nd April rather than 31st March because of the Easter bank holiday. The Clerk is corresponding with Paul Fuszard on this matter.</p> <p>Cllr CA referred to the balance in the Parish Council’s Deposit Account currently standing in excess of £30,000.00. He reminded councillors that these moneys were carefully saved by the Parish Council and some funds are ringfenced for the maintenance and replacement of equipment in the Parish Council’s three play areas and also for the upkeep of the Jellyfields and Bothenhampton nature reserves. Cllr CA was keen to ensure that this money is kept ringfenced for these particular projects in future years.</p> <p>IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would write a formal letter to Bridport Town Council asking them for written confirmation that the ringfenced money will be retained and held exclusively for these purposes.</p> <p>Cllr CA referred to the play equipment in all three of the play areas especially equipment that has been made of timber and suggested that, prior to the Parish Council’s abolition, it would be prudent to have all the appropriate timber in each of the three play areas treated.</p> <p>IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would write initially to KH to determine whether this is something he could do, if not, the Clerk to ask for quotes further afield.</p> <p>All work must be invoiced at least 7 days before the bank close down date of 31st March 2024.</p> <p>Cllr CA referred to the two grants that are currently awarded bi-annually to the two churches in the Parish, for the upkeep of church yards. Although this is included on the legacy issues that Cllr JB is drawing up, Cllr CA asked that it be included in our formal letter to Bridport Town Council.</p> <p>GRANT TO BOTHENHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL The grant application from the Bothenhampton Village Hall for exterior resurfacing WAS AGREED. Cllr GS to advise the Village Hall Committee that an early invoice would be appreciated.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
7	<p>Parish Council Sub-Committees: There were no sub-committee meetings.</p>	
8	<p>Other Parish Matters:</p> <p>CGR Joint Working Party</p> <p>Cllr JB updated councillors on the outcomes of the last CGR Joint Working Party. He said he had been asked by the Town Clerk to provide a response to Bridport Town Council on their proposal that there should be ward working groups of two councillors for West Bay and of three for B&W. Cllr JB pointed out that this raised democratic and governance issues, for example over the necessary quorum for a valid meeting. Also, the downgrading of ward representation from 'ward committees which are obliged to meet in public concerned him. It was noted that the new Town Council may decide on a different option. Cllr JB will respond to the Town Clerk. The next CGR Joint Working Party meeting will take place on 18th January, Cllr JB cannot attend, and Cllr GS will attend instead.</p> <p>Abolition of the Parish Council</p> <p>There was a short discussion on the abolition of the Parish Council and how to mark the end of its existence. Cllr GS suggested an article in the newspaper noting the long existence of the parish council and its role in the community; he also floated the idea of a small exhibition at some stage drawing on historic documentation such as past PC minutes. The Clerk said that the previous Clerk (Chris Dobbs) did provide some historic content for the website and that she will pass this to Cllr GS for his article. Cllr JB volunteered to write in The Bridge about the potential for new councillors to solve our problems.</p>	Clerk
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> <p>Letters to residents 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 70 Howard Road regarding area adjacent to garages abutting Valley View Amenity Area Letter to David Carey, Dorset Council regarding Spinners Lane Letter to David Carey, Dorset Council regarding Hollow Way Communication with DC regarding Footpath W5/5</p>	
10	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour in Bothenhampton and Lower Walditch</p> <p>Cllr MW raised the issue of the ongoing anti-social behaviour that both villages were suffering. He referred to the email received from PCSO Alex Bishop from the Bridport Neighbourhood Policing Team who has acknowledged that there is an ongoing problem with antisocial behaviour. Cllr MW urged that our continuing concern with regard antisocial behaviour should be included on the 'legacy issues' to be handed over to Bridport Town Council.</p>	

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10	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Hollow Way The Clerk had previously circulated a communication from Chris Loder MP relating to Hollow Way. This included an email from Ian Newport, Community Highway Manager, Economic Growth and Infrastructure within Dorset Council who set out the steps Dorset Council will be taking to repair and maintain the High Pavement area of Hollow Way. All Councillors were very grateful to Chris Loder for his intervention in this matter which has been outstanding for several years despite attempts by the Parish Council to have the problems resolved. Cllr GS confirmed that a copy of the letter has been sent to Bothenhampton residents via WhatsApp and posted on the Village Hall noticeboard.</p> <p>Spinners Lane Cllr CA referred to the correspondence received recently regarding a very large tree that has fallen partially blocking the Lane. Dorset Council have investigated the matter but are unsure as to whether Spinners Lane is a 'highway' or a 'footpath' because the matter will be dealt with by the relevant department. The DC tree team did not feel able to do the work to remove the tree because of the size of the trunk and the matter has now been referred to higher authorities within Dorset Council who will need to take a view on the matter. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved soon.</p> <p>CGR Briefing for Candidates Cllr JB had written a draft paper for the CGR Group. This paper serves as an aide-memoire for potential candidates who apply to be ward members of Bothenhampton and Walditch under the new arrangements within the new Bridport Town Council. The paper had been emailed to other councillors and the Clerk agreed to place this on the agenda for the 12th February 2024 Main Committee Meeting. Councillors agreed to read and comment as necessary.</p> <p>Clerk's eventual termination of employment Cllr CA raised the issue of the eventual termination of employment for the Parish Clerk and asked whether she had met with Bridport Town Council yet to discuss options. The Clerk confirmed that a meeting has been arranged for the 22nd January and she said she would email a report to councillors at some point subsequently.</p>	
	The meeting ended at 8pm	

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 12th February 2024 at Walditch Village Hall, 7pm
Previous council minutes can be found on www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 8th January 2024

Action	Owner	Page
Regarding Reports from External Organisations – approval of future representatives of the BANP under the new regime from 1 st April 2024. Confirm by email to Bridport Town Council.	Clerk	3
Regarding Deposit Account Balance – ringfenced monies. Confirm by formal letter to Bridport Town Council that the ringfenced money for the maintenance and replacement of equipment in the Parish Council's three play areas and the upkeep of the Parish Council's nature reserves will held exclusively for these purposes.	Clerk	4
Regarding Play Equipment / Wood Treatment – contact KH and/or seek quotes for work.	Clerk	4
Regarding Abolition of the Parish Council – pass any historic information on the parish council to Cllr GS	Clerk	5

ITEMS REFERRED TO OSPA SUB-COMMITTEE – 22nd January 2024

Item	Page
None	

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

Item	Page
None	

ITEMS REFERRED TO TT&F SUB-COMMITTEE – 26th January 2024

Item	Page
Spinners Lane issues	6

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