

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD BY THE MEANS OF A REMOTE CONFERENCING FACILITY USING ZOOM ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 7.15 PM UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020.**

**Present:** Councillors Steve Murcer (SM), Martin Richards (MR), Val Rubie (VR), Ken Huggins (KH), Phil Dimmock (PD), Sarah Meeks (SaM) and Liz Stockley (LS); Dorset Council councillor Pauline Batstone (PB) Members of the public – 9

**Minutes:** Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk.

**067/21 - Apologies:** None received

**068/21 - Declarations of interest:** None

**069/21 – Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021:** The minutes were approved as drafted.

**070/21 – Matters arising from these minutes:** The internal audit is set for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April; PC Sugrue had eventually responded and said the problems in Kingston had largely disappeared following a banning order being issued on a specific individual. If people have any current concerns please report with evidence; LS will return her new councillor paperwork to MW shortly

**071/22 – Public open session:** No comments.

**072/21 – Finance: i) to approve the following payments:** The following payments were approved:

| Cheque | Payee          |                               | Net    | VAT   | Total          |
|--------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|----------------|
| SO     | IK Services    | Dog bin emptying              | 126.50 |       | 126.50         |
| DD     | Dorset Council | Cemetery business rates       | 22.01  |       | 22.01          |
| 1321   | Glasdon M      | Grit bin                      | 188.17 | 37.63 | 225.80         |
| 1322   | Wilson         | April pay                     | 353.94 |       | 353.94         |
| 1323   | Motley S       | Domain renewal                | 24.00  | 4.80  | 28.80          |
| 1324   | Goacher M      | Payroll admin                 | 135.43 |       | 135.43         |
| 1325   | Wilson         | Expenses - grit/litterpickers | 134.78 | 26.96 | 161.74         |
| 1326   | Geosphere      | Map licence                   | 60.00  | 12.00 | 72.00          |
|        |                | <b>Total</b>                  |        |       | <b>1126.22</b> |

**073/21 – Planning: a) to consider any applications received:** None received **b) Section 106 monies:** MW has been advised by Dorset Council that the developer's contribution in respect of the Handley Cross development is £34,702. This will be payable when the first property is occupied. MW will seek further clarification as to what the money may be spent on, whether this includes the contribution to education and the mechanics of controlling the funds. **c) Tower View Farm:** At the recent Hazelbury CAN working group meeting, the owner had reported that his application to "re-wild" 2.7 acres of agricultural land had been outsourced for a decision to a business in Birmingham. PB thought this would not be possible. It does sound as though someone might have the wrong end of the stick – MW will check with DC planners

**074/21 – Cemetery – i) update on recent car crash and damage:** Repairs are complete with the new fence, gate and hedge in place together with a new, filled grit bin. The burnt grass remains and has been subject to complaints from two relatives of one grave adjacent to the damage. KH has cleared some more buried plastic, scarified the surface and spread some grass seed. He saw signs of new grass shoots. MW has spoken to JB Gardens who confirm it has been too cold to sow new seed. They feel the "wait and see" strategy is the most sensible. To spread extra top soil and seed would cost about £150. New turf would not be recommended as it needs watering daily while it gets established and there is no water supply at the cemetery. MW will contact the relatives and explain the council's decisions. **ii) to consider the review of the cemetery and agree actions for the future:** MW had prepared and circulated a detailed review of the cemetery in respect of three areas – capacity, fees and regulations.

**a) Capacity:** By using the space to the left side of the path there is room for about 50 new grave spaces, plus approximately 100 for cremated remains. In addition, 37 people have purchased plots which are

still to be used following their death at some stage in the future. It was agreed that it would be a sensible strategy for the longer term to investigate the possibility of purchasing further capacity adjacent to the cemetery. Some years back, the owners of the adjacent field indicated their unwillingness to sell part of the field. Views may have changed and it was agreed that PD would have an informal conversation with the owner to see if there was the possibility of a change of heart. It seems premature to explore potential additional uses for this field as mooted by the Hazelbury CAN group.

- b) **Fees, charges and costs:** The review highlighted the wide discrepancy in charges across local cemeteries – fees at 7 were compared. Costs of running the HB cemetery are fairly consistent year on year. These cover business rates, grass cutting and hedge trimming and occasional ad hoc maintenance tasks. The number of funerals and purchases of exclusive rights of burial is much more varied and totally beyond our control. Looking at average volumes over a period of years, it is possible to set a fee range that covers running costs when the income from these fees is averaged over the whole period. This was agreed as the right strategy going forward. Final fees will be agreed and put in place once the results of PD's conversation about an extension are known.
- c) **Regulations:** Again, regulations set in 7 cemeteries were compared and a set of Regulations suitable for the HB cemetery have been drafted by MW and circulated. There are two specific and potentially contentious areas where changes need to be made, but clearly with sensitivity. The first relates to the area reserved for cremated remains. These are smaller plots, two-deep from the path. Currently there are two plots with full headstones and they overshadow the others which are tablets and plaques. It was agreed that, going forward, only tablets and plaques will be allowed in this section of the cemetery. The second concerns the floral and other tributes laid by family and friends. The cemetery is, by virtue of its setting, a rural, tranquil quiet space and it was agreed that anything having a negative impact on the overall ambience including lights, candles, garish artificial decorations etc will not be allowed and may be removed by HBPC. This will be done only by a decision made by the parish council on a case-by-case basis as necessary. The new Regulations were approved and will be publicised locally together with new fee rates, and circulated to local undertakers.

**075/21 – Covid 19 – to review the current situation and any action required locally:** The foodbank support of a monthly bag of potatoes expires shortly. Feedback suggest that local food shortage needs are being addressed more by The Pantry in Sturminster. It was agreed SM will speak with Carol Jones of The Pantry to see where any future help might best be targeted to meet local needs.

**076/21 - Climate and ecological emergency: to note the minutes of the Hazelbury CAN (formerly the CEE) working group on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and any actions arising:** Minutes have been circulated and were noted. VR has made good progress with the first edition of a newsletter. This will go out with Bryan Bytes. SM offered to write a substantial piece for Bytes.

**077/21 – Neighbourhood Plan:** Nothing to report. A member of public asked a technical query about the Holwell NP and potential implications for HB's NP. MW will investigate and respond.

**078/21 - Footpath and highways matters: i) meeting with Highways at Park Gate:** SM met with Highways and they will re-paint the white side-lines and "Slow" signs. Having subsequently driven through Park Gate, SM wonders if the painted lines give greater certainty to drivers and they may actually go faster. It was agreed that councillors would drive through and bring their personal experience to the next meeting. It might be possible for Highways to do a traffic survey, but no-one will be "speeding" because the limit is 60 mph. The question of property damage was not raised by local residents and the flooding matter is already being investigated by Highways. VR noted that the Dorset CAN are lobbying for a 20 mph limit on the entrances to villages; this is separate from the "20 is plenty" campaign being led by Dilys Gartside from Okeford Fitzpaine.

**ii) fingerpost opposite the Antelope:** The quote from Roger Bond had been circulated and approved. It was noted that the quote was based on refurbishing the existing post. This may be so corroded as to be unrepairable. MR repeated his offer of sourcing a replacement post and MW will mention this offer to Mr Bond if a new post is needed.

**079/21 – The Keep – update:** i) **the meadow:** KH reported that 2 ponies have completed their grazing stint, and more wild flowers have been planted, ii) **allotment parking:** MW has met on site with Angela Chatters and John Clothier and a quote is now awaited.

**080/21 -Recreation Field i) to note any relevant Committee minutes:** No meeting held ii) **update on other relevant matters:** A question was asked about the poor overall condition of the play area. MW confirmed that the annual safety check has not revealed any risk issues demanding urgent attention. A major refurbishment would be desirable but the parish council has been waiting for the section 106 contributions due from housing developments which can be used for a project such as this. KH mentioned a defective gate and post – MW will refer to the Recreation Ground Committee.

**081/21 – Village hall – report:** The hall remains closed but will open under “special circumstances” as allowed under the Covid rules for use as a polling station on 6<sup>th</sup> May for the Police and Crime Commissioner election. Broadband is not currently available and no users or hirers have asked for it. Would the PC be prepared to split the cost of about £30 a month with the Hall if broadband was installed? Given the PC has no need of broadband (and could use a mobile phone hotspot if it did), then there was no appetite to support this idea.

**082/21 – Report from Dorset Council Cllr Batstone:** PB had nothing significant to report

**083/21 - Public open session:** Highways have yet to clear the gullies and grips by The Common despite the work being scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> March. PB will follow up,

**084/21 – Correspondence to note:** The Hazelbury Bryan Race Day is back on this year on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. MW will add details to the web site and Bytes, if there is room. SM has received information from Hazel Hedley about proposals for planning approvals to agree on hedgehog friendly garden features etc. MW was asked to review and respond.

**085/21 – Date of next meeting:** The Government has decided not to extend the emergency legislation allowing “Zoom” meetings after 7<sup>th</sup> May. This creates logistical problems if venues are closed and potentially limits public attendance to comply with Covid rules. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will therefore be held by Zoom on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.15 pm. The Annual Parish Meeting can be deferred. PB reported that the Local Government Association is planning to challenge the Government’s decision in the High Court on 21<sup>st</sup> April. There is also a pre-hearing meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April and the feeling is the Government will back down.

**086/21 – Close of meeting:** With no further business to discuss SM closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.