

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022  
AT 7.15 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** Councillors Steve Murcer (SM), Liz Stockley (LS); Martin Richards (MR), Phil Dimmock (PD), Val Rubie (VR) and Ken Huggins (KH); Dorset Council councillor Pauline Batstone (PB); Members of the public – 4; **Minutes:** Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk.

**216/22 - Apologies:** None

**217/22 – To note the resignation of Sarah Meeks and arrangements to fill the casual vacancy:** Sarah Meeks has resigned and been formally thanked for her involvement by the Chairman on behalf of the PC. MW explained the formalities of advertising the vacancy, the (remote) possibility of a formal by-election and the likely co-option of another councillor, potentially at the meeting in February 2023. SM asked councillors to consider any likely candidates. As well as attending meetings, there should be a willingness to get involved with routine aspects of the parish council's business eg rights of way, the Neighbourhood Plan, delivering Bryan Bytes etc. SM will also be asking those councillors currently unwilling to get involved in such tasks to re-consider their position.

**218/22 - Declarations of interest:** None

**219/22 – Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** The minutes were approved as drafted.

**220/22 – Matters arising from these minutes:** All covered in the agenda

**221/22 – Public open session:** Nigel Smith had noted the possibility of the Neighbourhood Plan being revisited. He asked that those involved took the time to read and understand the legislation and regulations pertaining to NPs. When the original NP was prepared, he said that those on the NP Committee had failed to do so. This disparaging view was hotly disputed by those personally involved in three years of hard work. MW made the point that the parish council's professionally qualified planning consultant, the Examiner of the Plan and North Dorset District Council's planning team were all perfectly happy with the Plan and the processes undertaken to complete it.

**222/22 – Finance: i) to approve accounts for payment:** The following payments were approved:

| Cheque | Payee              |                      | Net       | VAT     | Total     |
|--------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| SO     | IKServices         | Dog bin emptying     | £136.50   |         | £136.50   |
| DD     | Dorset Council     | Cemetery rates       | £25.00    |         | £25.00    |
| DD     | PWLB               | Loan repayment       | £924.22   |         | £924.22   |
| DD     | Water2Business     | Pavilion/allot water | £180.47   |         | £180.47   |
| 1427   | M Wilson           | Dec pay/back pay     | £629.73   |         | £629.73   |
| 1429   | J Cluett           | Pavilion cleaning    | £82.50    |         | £82.50    |
| 1430   | HB village hall    | Hire                 | £120.00   |         | £120.00   |
| 1431   | HB PCC             | Advert               | £72.15    |         | £72.15    |
| 1432   | L Holman           | Grass mowing         | £90.00    |         | £90.00    |
| 1433   | Play Inspection Co | Safety inspections   | £145.90   | £29.18  | £175.08   |
| 1434   | JBGardens          | Grass mowing         | £545.00   | £109.00 | £654.00   |
| 1435   | K Huggins          | Expenses             | £65.00    |         | £65.00    |
| 1436   | M Wilson           | Expenses             | £86.07    | 10.26   | £96.33    |
| 1437   | HMRC               | PAYE                 | £329.40   |         | £329.40   |
| 1438   | EUCAN              | Keepwork             | £1,000.00 |         | 1000.00   |
|        |                    |                      | Total     |         | £4,580.38 |

**ii) to consider the draft budget, including pavilion hire charges and precept, for 2023/24:** The budget had been re-circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the precept demand has to be submitted to Dorset Council. The question of whether grant monies might be received for the village hall project is unlikely to be resolved by that time. It was agreed to accept the budget as drafted and demand an increased precept of £22,778, a rise of 7%.

**223/22 – Planning: a) to consider any applications received: i) P/FUL/2022/06889 – conversion of storage buildings plus extension to form no. 1 detached dwelling with parking for 4 cars:** Whilst the Neighbourhood

Plan prefers smaller (2 – 3 bedroom houses) developments, this application just about falls into the category of exceptions under Policy HB 16; it also meets the in-fill expectations of Policy HB15. Accordingly, the parish council has no objections. **ii) P/HOU/2022/0763 – The Red House, Wonston, DT10 2AH – erect double garage:** No objections.

**224/22 - Climate and ecological emergency: i) update:** There had not been a meeting of the Committee in December, so nothing to report.

**225/22 – Neighbourhood Plan:** MW has been advised by Locality that they would regard a review as a “new” application and so grant funding of £10k is available, with a further £8k if site allocations are required. However, Locality only has funding until the end of March 2023; further support beyond that date is by no means certain. Jo Witherden will be attending the parish council meeting in January to talk through what might be done and by whom. Some volunteer support will be needed. MW can do minutes of meetings and input any survey, consultation data etc as necessary but one or two community or parish council volunteers will probably be needed.

**226/22 - Footpath and highways matters, including i) school parking:** PB is still to follow up with the relevant officer at Dorset Council **ii) Speed watch update report:** KH gave an update on results in October. In an hour on Partway Lane, 145 vehicles passed, and 15 (10.3%) were speeding over the limit, plus the margin, so over 35 mph. On the Causeway the figures were 153 and 9 (5.8%). The overall figure for Dorset is 3%. PB noted an initiative underway at DC to help groups of villages implement “20 is plenty” arrangements. She will forward details to MW. Whether a 20mph limit across the whole of the community is desirable or wanted is open to question. **iii) other matters:** SM has been advised by Jestyn Coke that the poor lands trustees will not give permission for the footpath surface to be improved.

**227/22 – The Keep – update: i) encroachment:** MW’s site meeting with a solicitor from Framfields had been postponed at the very last because of illness. He hopes it will take place next week, **ii) memorial tree planting:** the QE II tree has been planted with input on the site from Nigel Spring. He will also give input into the siting of the Coronation oak. **iii) to consider and agree financial support for EUCAN, the butterfly conservation group:** The parish council has provided financial support for Nigel Spring’s team for the last 5 years. He had submitted a schedule of work undertaken in 2022 and asked for a contribution from the parish council. This year the group has done more heavy-duty strimming at the behest of the parish council. It also found, due to the drought, that it couldn’t harvest a worthwhile hay crop for sale, to defray an element of their costs. The group’s costs for the year amounted to just over £1,900. Suggestions for a contribution ranged from £1,400 (KH) to nothing (MR). In response to the latter proposal, MW pointed out that a sum of £750 had been allocated in the 2022/23 budget and the parish council had just agreed the budget for 2023/24 which again included an amount of £750. After a discussion, the sum of £1,000 was agreed. KH was asked to liaise with Nigel Spring on a work plan for 2023 that took account of the budget allocation. It was agreed to consider a more long-term policy at the next parish council meeting – options might range from leasing the land to a farmer for an income generating hay meadow (MR) to a fully-fledged nature area; of something more nuanced, with obvious community, as well as nature, benefits.

**228/22 - Recreation Field i) to note any relevant Committee minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November had been circulated and were noted. LS, as Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee, agreed she will meet the pump track designer with MW in the New Year to see if a sensible way forward can be found. Volunteers are ensuring the pavilion heating is on to prevent freezing pipes. The Committee will be asked to consider the pavilion’s income and expenditure figures to try and maximise the former and minimise the latter.

**229/22 – Village hall - report including i) grant funding: project:** MW believes the SW Trains application will be determined early in 2023. SM is still keen to re-apply to the Lottery and will discuss an approach with MW **ii) warm hub ideas:** The current cold snap has highlighted this possible initiative – some other villages are certainly offering something to residents. We have no information on any local need or demand for a facility and no easy way of obtaining this – maybe a questionnaire as part of a Bytes edition, but return rates asking for responses on issues are normally dreadful. The village hall committee are best placed to lay on a warm hub. Extending the hours of existing events like coffee mornings, the lunch club etc might be a good way forward. VR thinks the hall has enough volunteer resources to cope but MR suggested the PC could offer some financial support for additional hours heating costs, if needed. A sum of £100 has already been earmarked for the Blandford foodbank, but this will be held back for the moment to see if there is a greater need in HB.

**230/22 – Village web site proposals:** James Porter had forwarded comments from the bowls club concerning the difficulty of publicising the club to new members using the “village web site” which is out of date and incomplete. MW made the point that the web site is a “parish council” website and not a “village” web site. It has statutory information and documents. It also has a directory of clubs and societies but this can only be

updated if information is sent to him. The “Next Door” site has become less useful village information and apparently is less used nowadays. The idea of a more dynamic medium – facebook, twitter etc – has been discussed before; maybe now is the time to make a switch, with a village volunteer “webmaster”? The issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

**231/22 – Meeting venues:** MW had set out the pros and cons of switching meetings to the pavilion as discussed at the last meeting. For the sake of £120 annually, it was agreed to keep with the status quo.

**232/22 – Report from Dorset Council Cllr Batstone:** Budget planning continues; work is underway to try and get children back into school post-Covid, rather than being schooled at home; a new part-time land agent has been appointed to County Farms.

**233/22 - Public open session:** No comments

**234/22 – Correspondence to note:** MW reported on a complaint at the cemetery about how existing graves were respected when a new grave had to be dug. He had acted as an intermediary between Mrs Temple and Jacksons, the undertakers, and the matter seems to have been resolved.

**235/22 – Date of next meeting:** This will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.15pm in the village hall

**236/22 – Close of meeting:** With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.