

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2023 AT 7.15 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Councillors Steve Murcer (SM), Val Rubie (VR), Neil Robson (NR), Martin Richards (MR), Ken Huggins (KH) and Ivana Booker (IB); Dorset Council councillor Pauline Batstone (PB); Members of the public – 7; **Minutes:** Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk.

107/23 - Apologies: Received from Liz Stockley (LS)

108/23 - Declarations of interest: MR declared a pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Neighbourhood Plan.

109/23 – Adoption of the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9th May 2023: The minutes were approved as drafted.

110/23 – Matters arising from these minutes: Covered in the agenda

111/23 – Public open session: The internal cemetery hedge is overgrown apparently. MW will investigate; cutting might be tricky until nesting birds have left. A mains water pipe made of cement and asbestos on The Common beyond Woodrow is reported as likely to need replacing. This might cause some significant excavation of the road. Further details awaited.

112/23 – 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	£19.00		£19.00
DD	Water 2 Business	Pavilion water	£31.63		£31.63
DD	PWLB	Loan repayment	£924.22		£924.22
1469	Kings Stag hire N D	Plant hire for cycle track	£461.51	£92.30	£553.81
1470	Young	Aggregates	£1,579.36	£315.87	£1,895.23
1471	Stur Building Supplies	Piping and turram	£250.46	£50.09	300.55
1472	M Wilson	June pay	£376.34		£376.34
1473	HMRC	PAYE Apr- Jun	£282.00		£282.00
1474	Dorset Planning Ltd JB	Neighbourhood Plan work	£1,318.10	£263.62	£1,581.72
1475	Gardens JB	Grass cutting	£386.00	£77.20	£463.20
1476	Gardens	Allotment hedges	£150.00	£30.00	£180.00
1477	J Cluett JB	Pavilion cleaning Mar- May	£71.50		£71.50
1478	Gardens	Cemetery/play grass	£390.00	£78.00	£468.00
1479	C Rose	Cycle track	£3,100.00		£3,100.00
1480	L Holman	Grass cutting	£250.00		£250.00
1481	A Tenwick	Village flowers	£20.82	£4.16	£24.98

NB - Cheques 1469,1470 and 1471 were signed by the Chairman and Clerk between parish council meetings as a matter of urgency and are just to be ratified.

Quotes for aggregates were obtained. These relate to the construction of the cycle track as previously agreed by the parish council at its meeting in March 2023.

ii) to consider whether to delegate power to the clerk to negotiate hire rates for the pavilion for commercial bookings: This matter had been raised at the internal audit. It was agreed the clerk is authorised to negotiate rates higher than the standard for commercial hirers where it is considered appropriate. Any reduced rate offers will need to be approved by the parish council.

113/23 – Planning:

a) to consider any applications received:

i) P/LBC/2023/02403 - Old Forge Cottage Partway to Churchfoot Lane, Wonston, DT10 2EE - Erect rear porch and oak pergola – no objections

ii) P/HOU/2023/00607 - 3 Partway Lane, DT10 2DP - Install 2 no Dormer windows – no objections

iii) P/FUL/2021/01018 - North Dairy Farm Access to North Dairy Farm Pulham Dorset DT2 7EA - Install ground-mounted solar panel photovoltaic solar arrays, substation, inverter stations, transformer stations, security fencing, gates and CCTV; form vehicular access, internal access track, landscaping and other ancillary infrastructure - this application will be considered by Dorset Council's Strategic Planning Committee on 19 June 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ – how to comment or attend – the parish council has already made written comments and feels there is no need to present these again in person

iv) P/FUL/2023/03193 - Land At E 374637 N 108562 Coney Lane Hazelbury Bryan - Alteration of an agricultural building – no objections, but MW was asked to highlight the likely existence of asbestos sheeting which will need to be securely removed by specialists

b) Neighbourhood Plan:

i) to consider and agree the revised and amended Neighbourhood Plan: The final draft of the revised Neighbourhood Plan had been circulated in advance for councillors to read. It was agreed to accept the draft unaltered.

ii) to agree how to finance the progress of the Plan: Delays in the Government agreeing funding for Locality are causing problems. The work done by Jo Witherden (JW) to produce the revised Plan since 1st April are not eligible for grant funding retrospectively and the parish council has had to bear the cost of £1,318. A letter from the relevant Minister of State to Simon Hoare, MP, had made a bland “budgets for 2023/14 are still to be agreed” statement, which seems extraordinary as we are in the middle of June. JW has estimated the costs of completing the Plan as up to £6k. The parish council has two basic options; it could use its reserves to fund this; or, it could wait until Locality funding is available but delays will only make the existing Plan less significant in planning decisions. MW explained that some of the work, for instance the data collection of consultation responses, might be done ourselves to reduce JW's costs. He also explained that the next steps will take 3 or 4 months. It would be possible for the parish council to fund itself work done until Locality funding kicks in and complete the work with grant funding – but there is no clue as to where in the timeline of work and cost that the grant money might be available.

After a discussion, it was agreed to defer a decision for a month. In the interim, MW will ask JW for a more detailed estimate so we can understand what might be done ourselves and what we might need to pay JW to do for us. MW will also look at our financial reserves and see what re-allocations might sensibly be made to help with funding.

c) Section 106 money: MW has a meeting with the team leader from Dorset Council on 13th July.

114/23 – Website and social media – to consider proposals to better engage with the community:

SM introduced Vanessa Weddell (VW) who had responded to a request in Bryan Bytes for someone to help with website/social media matters. SM and MW had had two meeting with her and agreed a way forward. There is no desire to follow the social media route, with all the consequent difficulties of instant public engagement. Instead, the aim will be to improve the website, in terms of accessibility, content and interest. She will work closely with MW and the web host in the coming weeks and months and report back to the parish council on progress in two or three months-time. Councillors were enthused by her ideas.

115/23 - Climate and ecological emergency update: KH reported on a number of issues – the River of Flowers sites have struggled with poor germination of wild flower seeds; further opportunities

within Hazel Wood are being considered; an “all things insulation” public event is being planned; the next committee meeting is on 4th July.

116/23 - Footpath and highways matters, including i) Poor Lands field path: Ian Stevenson reported this is now with the Rangers but he is not optimistic of a positive outcome **ii) other matters:** SM continues to battle with Dorset Council over white lines on the road by the war memorial. He hopes Ray Bryan, the lead councillor for Highways will live up to his promise of “I’ll fix it”. The collapsing re-surfaced tarmac on Frizzels Hill was noted again by MR. PB suggested it be reported via the Dorset Council web site – MR, KH and MW will do so. MW had received a complaint via the web site about the nettles on paths though Hazel Wood – councillors suggested the complainant should take a whacking stick on his walks

117/23 – The Keep – update: i) update on meadow and future strategy for the land: KH reported on the cutting back of large patches of brambles and the creation of a meandering path through the site. The newly sown wild flowers had not germinated especially well but the yellow rattle has become well established and is defeating the coarse grasses as intended. The buttercups thrived this year and many species of butterflies have been seen. SM asked if the path could be made wider so that two people could walk through next to each other – more of a ride than a path. KH will take that idea on board. There was a discussion about information signage at the site. Noticeboards are expensive and really need to be changed with the season if they are to explain what is happening. NR suggested that a board with a QR code linking to the web site might work. Food for thought.

ii) request from Richard Bray: He had asked that the high vegetation growth at the rear of his property be cut down to assist with the sale of his property. This has been done by Nigel Spring and his volunteers.

118/23 - Recreation Field - to note the Committee minutes: Minutes of the meeting in April had been approved at the May parish council meeting. The meeting planned for June had been cancelled due to the lack of a quorum and no date has been fixed for a next meeting. The cycle track has been completed and has received great reviews from the village youth. The contractor, Chris Rose, has done an exceptional job. MW has installed some temporary signage for safety and rules and is in discussions with Mark West at \$D Signs over something more permanent. Prices for various options are expected soon and will be shared for a decision to be made. NR reported on one unexpected consequence. The height of the start platform for the track means sound from here travels widely and there has been quite a volume of colourful, excitable language from track users spreading far and wide. Hopefully this will wane once the novelty of the new site wears off. Attempts to shore up the decaying youth shelter have not been possible due to the rotten timber in the supporting base and it has been demolished. The Committee will be looking at a volunteer made replacement but costings etc will need to be presented to the parish council for consideration. The basketball hoop will be re-erected and Chris Rose has laid out a better base as an aside from the track construction.

119/23 – Village Hall – report: IB reported that the village trust fund monies are expected any day, which will allow the heat pump project to proceed. A strategy meeting is due before the end of June, the first of a series. SM emphasised the need for better liaison with the parish council over finance matters and asked that regular management accounts are shared. It was noted that VW has also joined the village hall committee

120/23 – Report from Dorset Council Cllr Batstone: She had circulated her report at the end of May. A revised library strategy is about to be agreed – no change at Sturminster Newton. She has two work experience students with her for a week in July. She continues her work with County Farms,

121/23 - Public open session: No comments.

122/23 – Correspondence to note: SM had met Ian Kerr emptying the dog bins. He said that they are all well used and no reason to change locations etc

123/23 – Date of next meeting: This will be on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.15pm in the village hall

124/23 – Close of meeting: With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm