

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2023
AT 7.15 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

Present: Councillors Steve Murcer (SM), Martin Richards (MR), Liz Stockley (LS), Ivana Booker (IB) and Neil Robson (NR); Members of the public – 11; **Minutes:** Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk.

166/23 - Apologies: Received from Val Rubie (VR), Ken Huggins (KH); Dorset Council councillor Pauline Batstone (PB)

167/23 - Declarations of interest: MR declared a pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Neighbourhood Plan.

168/23 – Adoption of the minutes of the meetings held on 8th August 2023: The minutes were approved as drafted.

169/23 – Matters arising from these minutes: Covered in the agenda

170/23 – Public open session: The “slide” on the footpath across the Hannam’s land is slippery and dangerous, but apparently it is on the list of works for the Rangers this winter. The enhanced web site was applauded, but would be even better if the postcode locations beyond Woodrow on the way to Kings Stag could be included in the mapping. Vanessa Weddell (VW) will see if this is achievable.

171/23 – Finance: 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
1488	M Wilson	September pay	£376.34		£376.34
1489	Dorset Planning Ltd	N Plan consultancy	£829.85	£165.97	£995.82
1490	A Tenwick	Village pots and flowers	£138.66	£27.72	£166.39
1491	Motley Digital Ltd	Web meeting Bytes/N Plan consultation	£31.00	£6.20	£37.20
1492	Parish Mag Printers Fireline Ltd JB	Pavilion safety checks	£419.00	£43.00	£462.00
1494	Gardens	Grass cutting	£520.00	£104.00	£624.00
1495	N Robson	Accident book	£4.19	£0.83	£4.99
1496	M Wilson	Expenses	£341.13	£39.73	£380.86
1497	L Holman Stryker	Grass cutting	£250.00		£250.00
1498	UK	Defib leads	£92.00	£18.40	£110.40
1499	BDO LLP	External audit	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
1500	4D Signs	Track sign	£156.00	£31.20	£187.20

172/23 – Planning:

a) to consider any applications received: P/FUL/2023/04373 – Land south west of Kingston Lane – form vehicular access to field: There are two items on concern. First, Kingston Lane is very narrow, not helped by uncut hedgerows, and entrance for any large agricultural vehicles will be almost impossible. DC Highways will need to ensure its requirements for visibility splays etc are fully met. Second, the new entrance will mean the removal of hedgerow and no formal replacement scheme is mentioned. This would be in breach of Neighbourhood Plan policy HB2 which requires that any hedgerow removal requires a certified Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan to be included in the conditions of approval. Subject to these concerns being addressed, the parish council had no objections.

b) Neighbourhood Plan – update: About 150 responses to the questionnaire have been received, mostly positive. Jo Witherden says this is an amazing response for a review consultation. The consultation closes on 30th September and a reminder will be issued on social media.

173/23 – Website and social media – update: VW reported on improvements to the site and also the analytics of traffic which can now be monitored to gauge reaction to the changes. She asked that organisers of events send details to her for inclusion on the site.

There have been some curious responses on Next Door etc regarding the N Plan consultation and the road closure. MW reminded councillors of the danger of councillors making responses – it is impossible for the public to understand whether councillors are responding as individuals or putting forward parish council policy. Parish council policy is not to engage on social media, but encourage people to go to the web site for information. SM will pen some appropriate words of guidance.

174/23 - Climate and ecological emergency update: The group are in contact with DC over potential funding for projects from a centrally funded grant programme for re-wilding initiatives. The tree wardens are also involved.

175/23 - Footpath and highways matters: i) the Causeway road-closure: Since the work started 3 weeks ago there has been much activity and discussion with Wessex Water, DC Highways and others to try and lessen the adverse impacts on the community. There are three key strands – the road closure when WW is not working; the impact on the shop and other businesses; and the seeming half-hearted working hours of WW employees.

i) WW and DC have resisted formally opening the road when there is no work as they cannot easily make the road safe for all types of vehicles. However, they turn a blind eye to vehicle passing through “illegally” at night and in the day time. Discussions with Tom Faulkner of DC and contact from Simon Hoare with the WW Chief Executive have not led to any change of heart by WW and DC.

ii) After strong representations, WW has agreed to bring forward its compensation scheme which should help the shop which was facing a dire situation given the significant loss in passing trade. WW has also agreed to advise the shop weekly of what exact works are to take place in the next seven days which will help stock ordering and cash flow. Hopefully, other businesses affected will also benefit from an earlier compensation process.

iii) There was some debate about the length of the WW working day – some reported consistent periods of no work, whilst others say they are hard at work all day. A mixed anecdotal bag, but nothing evidential that could be passed on to WW.

There is some doubt and confusion over the completion date. The current sign board says 7th December, but originally it was 24th November. This latter date is the one confirmed to Simon Hoare by the WW Chief Executive.

It may be that the current situation and arrangements are the best we can get. Ultimately the parish council has no power to force change and a continued “do it all differently” approach might be counter-productive and destroy any relationship with the WW operatives on the ground.

SM will summarise the position for the web site.

ii) footpaths: A suggestion that landowners should switch stiles to gates to help elderly people walk to the shops whilst the road is closed was not thought to be practical in the timeframe of the work.

176/23 – The Keep – update on meadow and future strategy for the land: The grass has now been cut.

177/23 - Recreation Field - to note the Committee minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 15th August had been circulated and were noted and approved. LS reported: there are plans to complete the pump track – weed clearance, top soil and grass seed for the sides and some additional gravel or the like to aid drainage in the middle. Some additional expenditure will be required and this work should be done in the next couple of weeks. The formal track sign will be installed this coming week; the new football club is making huge progress; the cricket club youth initiative has gone well with 17 players of all genders; the presentation event with Alec Adam’s family went well at the weekend and the photos and narrative text are all framed and on display; the old football club’s gym equipment is

on e-bay with any funds received going to the new football club; next committee meeting is on 19th September.

178/23 – Village Hall – report: MR circulated copies of the hall committee's meeting on the previous evening. The committee has agreed to fund half the cost of the defibrillator cabinet.

Work on removing the oil heating system will formally commence on 25th September, although MR has done some preliminary work outside the hall removing old metalwork. Some difficulties with a neighbour to the hall seem to have been smoothed over. The new heat pump installation starts on 2nd October.

There is disquiet in the committee about the parish council's need for financial information as recorded in the last parish council minutes. It was never the parish council's intention to undermine or diminish the competence of the hall committee, but it would be helpful if the hall committee was able to produce a future financial strategy. This would be for its own benefit and help the parish council understand how the hall committee will manage the parish council's asset going forward. It was agreed that SM and MW will try and meet informally with Clive Rance and James Porter to repair relations and agree a way forward.

179/23 – Report from Dorset Council Cllr Batstone: Nothing to report in her absence.

180/23 - Public open session: Ian Stevenson highlighted more on-road parking at the Causeway junction and asked if users of Alec's Field could be encouraged to park on the field wherever possible. The Rec Cttee will add this matter to its agenda for next week.

181/23 – Correspondence to note: None

182/23 – Date of next meeting: This will be on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.15pm in the village hall

183/23 – Close of meeting: With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm