

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAZELBURY BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9th JULY 2024 AT 7.15 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Councillors Steve Murcer (SM), Val Rubie (VR), Neil Robson (NR), Martin Richards (MR), Liz Stockley (LS), Ken Huggins (KH), Ivana Booker (IB); Members of the public – 9; **Minutes:** Malcolm Wilson (MW) – parish clerk.

120/24 - Apologies: None

121/24 - Declarations of interest: None declared

122/24 – Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2024: The minutes were approved as drafted.

123/24 – Matters arising from these minutes: Covered in the agenda

124/24 – Public open session: It was reported that the hedge by the pedestrian entrance to the cemetery is overgrown. MW will organise a cut

125/24 – Finance: i) to approve accounts for payment: The following payments were approved:

Cheque	Payee		Net	VAT	Total
SO	IKServices	Dog bin emptying	£150.15		£150.15
DD	Dorset Council	Cemetery rates	£19.00		£19.00
DD	HMRC	PAYE	TBC		TBC
DD	SSE	Pavilion electricity	£105.46	£5.28	£110.74
1569	M Wilson	July pay	£305.74		£305.74
	R				
1570	Simpson	Field grass cutting	£292.50		£292.50
1571	Farnfields	Legal work	£454.10	£90.10	£544.20

ii) to approve the bank reconciliation and financial summary as at 30th June 2024: These had been circulated in advance and were approved and then signed by the Chairman.

126/24 – Planning: a) to consider any applications received: P/HOU/2024/01950 – Tower View Farm, Silly Hill, DT10 2AR – Roof extension and inset balcony to create second floor accommodation: Supported.

127/24 - Footpath and highways matters: i) 20 mph speed limit research: With election work complete, SM will now arrange a meeting with Roland Skeets of Highways. **ii) Kings Stag Mill bridge repair closure:** This is now completed **iii) hedges at Kingston:** Overgrown hedges at the junction of Kingston Lane/Frizzels Hill/Back Lane had been reported via the web site. MW has asked the complainant to report the matter to Highways. As this forms part of IB's road condition monitoring zone, she will also report to Highways. **iv) Partway Lane/Coney Lane path to the Red Barn:** Excellent work has been done by the Rangers and contractors to make the infamous "slide" safe for use in the winter. Ian Stevenson asked if the landowners could be approached to allow the 3 remaining stiles on the route to be replaced with self-closing gates at a cost of about £300 each. There is an earmarked reserve for this and the expenditure was agreed. MW will ask Graham Stanley of the Rangers to help with getting the necessary permissions. The "stile council" volunteers might fit the gates. **v) other matters:** MW will ask our contractor to lay scalping or the like by the footpath gate on the Keep on the path to Coney Lane. Dry now, this is dangerously slippery in the winter mud.

128/24 – Legal land matters: i) The Willows: Keith Marsh has agreed in principle to meet the parish council's legal costs for the sale of the tiny strip of land. However, MW has now received conflicting advice from Farnfields as to whether or not a sale is possible. The solicitor involved is on holiday and MW will seek clarification next week **ii) Land adjacent to the village hall:** MW has a meeting arranged for 25th July to discuss possible options. The parish council will limit expenditure as it is easy to engage with the solicitors and incur unexpectedly high costs

129/24 – The Keep – update: i) update on meadow: Nothing to report

130/24 - Recreation Field i) update on play area: MW has received quotes from two contractors, the third he had met earlier today. Different ideas have been produced, which is useful and interesting. When it comes to choosing which route to follow, it might be a case of choosing a preferred contractor based on a number of factors and then agreeing a final specification and price.

ii) other matters: The next committee meeting will be at the end July/early August.

131/24 – Climate group: An open day on climate and ecological matters is planned for October. IB noted that the wild flower seeds planted on the Green at Kingston had successfully germinated this year.

132/24 – Web site: Vanessa Weddell noted that all was going smoothly with updates etc

133/24 – Village hall: IB has resigned from the committee as she has too many other commitments. SM thanked her on behalf of the community for all her drive, enthusiasm and hard work, particularly on the decarbonisation of the village hall. The success of this project is very much down to her. MR noted there is no film night in August but there will be a local history talk by Chris Ayres and Godfrey Symes which should be very interesting and informative.

134/24 – Cemetery – update on potential expansion: Two fields in the village are for sale by formal tender. One, of 2.5 acres, is across the road from the cemetery with a guide price of £55k. Having talked to the agents, SM has been told the final price is likely to be significantly more. There had been a discussion by email amongst councillors about possibly purchasing the field to provide additional capacity. MW had also explained some of the technical ramifications of providing a new cemetery – planning approvals, inspections by water engineers and a burial ground surveyor, boreholes regarding drainage etc. It was clear from this that the parish council was not in a position to move quickly if a suitable area of land, especially the adjacent field, came on the market for sale. There was a discussion covering capacity, changing habits so more cremations rather than interments, re-using existing graves when the 99 years Burial Right had expired, other sites in the village, compulsory purchase etc. SM had by chance met Julie Dunk, the chief executive of the British Cemetery Association. She is a resident of Stourpaine and SM proposed that he and MW, plus any interested councillors, meet with her and see what advice and guidance she can give on this very technical matter. This approach was agreed and SM will arrange a meeting shortly.

135/24 – Report from Dorset Council Cllr Murcer: This had been circulated. He will be experimenting with a possible “surgery” in Sturminster Newton. There was a brief discussion about The Pantry, which is moving to larger premises alongside other support functions. Some rather unedifying comments were made by some of the public present unfortunately stereotyping the perceived lifestyle habits of some food bank users. These were challenged by councillors. SM will be sending a card to June King as she moves away, thanking her for her huge contribution to village life over the last 30 years or so.

136/24 – Correspondence to note: None.

137/24 – Bryan Bytes: MW suggested that a new edition would be in order. He will seek contributions from councillors

138/24 – Date of next meeting: This will be on Tuesday 13th August 2024 at 7.15pm in the village hall

139/24 – Close of meeting: With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm