

BURTON BRADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2008 in the Reading Room.

Present: Cllrs: M.Southgate, A.Mackie, D.Batten, D.Venn, L.Comley, D.Dixon, P.Toms, F.Moore (Clerk), C.Hughes (RFO), DCC Cllr: R.Coatsworth, WDDC Cllr: M.Parsons, PCSO L.Thompson, PCSO P.Wheeler, and six members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr: S.Pett.

2. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous meeting, 9th January 2008.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 9th January 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising:

- **Cold Calling Control Zone:** The initial questionnaire is currently being circulated within the village.
- **General Shrubs and Bushes:** A meeting has taken place but final details still need to be resolved between P.Gale and the Parish Council.
- **Election for two new Councillors:** The Clerk reported that Heather Mary Seadon had been returned as a Councillor for the Parish of Burton Bradstock. There had been no other candidates. The other vacancy would be advertised within the next thirty days. The Clerk to contact Mrs Seadon and brief her for the next meeting in March.
- **Dog Bins:** The Clerk reported that WDDC had installed new dog bins at all of the locations requested by the council and would be emptying them on a regular basis.
- **DAPTC:** John Parker had now been installed as the new Chief Executive for the DAPTC.
- **Drainage Problems:** Wessex Water had looked at the sewage system opposite Roberts Close and with 'OffWat' had also done a further survey regarding the problems in Gages Lane, in order to provide a long term solution for the village.

5. Correspondence:

- **Grant Application from Life Education Dorset:** It was agreed that the Clerk contact the school to see if this project would benefit the school and therefore warrant support in grant aid terms from the Parish council.
- **Replacement of River Sign for the Bride:** The Parish Council agreed that their preferred site is on the seaward side of the High Street bridge where the environmental defence bank abuts the highway.
- **Bridport Local Area Partnership:** Details of the meeting to be held at Mountfield at 2.15pm on Thursday 14th February 2008.
- **Standards Committee:** Details of the meeting to be held at WDDC Offices, Dorchester at 10.00am on the 8th February 2008.

- **Letter from I.P.Kelly, East Stoke Parish Council:** This was a letter encouraging councils to have a referendum on the E.U Treaty of Lisbon. The Council noted the letter with its information, but there was no proposal for any action.
- **Magna Housing Association:** New contact details for the Association: The new Housing officer is Gary Buckingham, contact 01308 428403, and in his absence Stuart Martindale, 01305 216073.
- **DAPTC:** There will be a Planning Seminar in Bridport on Wednesday 12th March between 7 -9pm. Members of the Planning Committee to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend.
- **Reading Room Booking:** Mr I.Green of 15 Barrowfield would like to book the Reading Room for Thursdays (day and evening) on a regular basis commencing the 6th March 2008. The booking would be for meditation and relaxation courses. The booking was approved with the caveat that there may be some times when the Parish council would have priority of use.
- **External Auditors:** BDO Stoy Hayward LLP have been appointed as the Councils external auditors for the next five years.
- **WDDC Standards Committee:** A letter stating that the Standards Committee has the power to grant dispensation in appropriate cases to councillors on planning applications where councillors may have a prejudicial interest, but wished to comment.
- **West Dorset Spring Clean 1st – 30th April 2008.** This would be placed on the March agenda for a date to be set. The Clerk to process the paperwork to obtain waste sacks etc.

6.Finance:

The Chairman apologised for not getting the notice regarding the 2008/2009 Precept into the last month's edition of the BVN. It will be in the March edition.

The following cheques were approved:

West Country Cleaning £180.00 Emptying Septic tank, WDDC £79.80 Wheelie Bins, EDF £141.21 Electricity, ABS Wastewater £4027.90 New Pumps at Hive Beach, Mrs Stevens £27.00 Cleaning, M.Fearon £101.00 Wages including tax refund, F.Moore £448.52 Wages, C.Hughes £220.35 Wages.

Receipts:

Donation of £600 to meet the Elder & Froy bill of £705.00 for the valuation of the three properties.

Bank Balances:

Current Account:	£ 4822.83
High Interest:	£16053.42
Playground	£ 382.68
Pension	£ 1720.90

The Elder & Froy bill has been covered by a donation from a member of the public. The Finance Committee recommend that a Stakeholder Pension scheme should be operated through the HSBC Bank at a rate of 1%. All staff will be advised of this scheme, but it will be up to individuals to make use of it if they wish.

The Chairman reported that it had been an exceptional busy year for expenditure, due particularly to events at the Hive Beach. It was hoped that over £9,000 would be released from WDDC as a retrospective payment towards the new play equipment

from the development at Mill Street. D.Batten reported that P.Fry would be writing to WDDC as well as the Chairman stating that the £9,000 was budgeted as part of the play area development funding.

D.Dixon reminded colleagues that they still needed to look at developing the playing field more for older young people and teenagers.

7. Planning & Development Report:

The committee had devoted the last meeting to the subject of 'Affordable Housing', looking at local needs and possible sites. The way forward appeared to be with mixed development sites like the Mill Street development and other possible sites in the village. A.Lloyd the WDDC Housing Enabling Officer had now left and we were awaiting the appointment of his successor. D.Batten had placed information in the BVN encouraging people to register with WDDC with contact numbers if they had a need for affordable housing. It was hoped that a member of the Planning Committee would be able to attend a seminar at Verwood on the 7th March 2008.

A date would be set in late February to consider any planning applications.

8.Finance Committee Report:

A.Mackie reported that the committee had discussed the Current Account status and the large expenditure incurred this year. It was agreed to transfer £3,000 from the High Interest Account to the Current Account.

Discussions had taken place on the Elder & Froy Bill, Post office insurance, and possible Pension Schemes.

The Asset register is being compiled and the Filing System is currently being upgraded.

The Finance Committee will be recommending to the Community Operations Committee that a meeting between the Council, the Village Society and the Post office Tenants should be set up to look at the operations of the Post office for the following year and to review current rents and expenditure.

9. Community Operations Committee:

The Grass Cutting contractor would be operating with the same fees for the next year. The Allotment charges for 2008/2009 have still to be set, information had been gathered and discussion was taking place with the Allotment Association. D.Venn would be producing a banding system with appropriate charges for the next three years. This would be shown to the Allotment association for their comments before finalising and implementing.

Weekly forms showing work done and hours worked by the Handyman had been set up and were now in operation.

Preparations for the Car park season, 2008 were well in hand with new or revised Job Contracts, Role Profiles, Operating procedures and arrangements for resolving difficulties. It was hoped that recruitment could take place in early March.

Other areas the Committee are looking at are, risk assessment of Parish Council business, and a Council environmental and Sustainability Policy.

The Clerk would be convening a meeting after the 24th March with the Community Operations Committee, the Village Society and the Post office Tenants.

10. PACT Information, PCSO L.Thompson and P.Wheeler:

PCSO L. Thompson gave a brief presentation regarding the PACT (Partner and Communities Together) concept. This was a meeting place for any individuals or organisations within a community, lead by the Police to discuss virtually any subject matter. Concern was expressed that it could seem to duplicate already existing structures. It was agreed that if possible some terms of reference could be produced for the Parish Council, and that Police Sergeant Elliott could attend a future Parish Council Meeting,

The Clerk to send a copy of the Parish Plan to PCSO L.Thompson.

11. National Trust, Hive Beach Update.

The Chairman reported that the Council Working Group had recently met with H.Mann and J.Meadows (N.Trust) to look at a way forward. It was clear that the N.Trust would be moving forward under 'Option 3' only.

There could be two ways to resolve the situation, by a mutually agreeable arrangement or by a legal process using the Landlords and Tenants Act.

All were in favour of resolving the situation in an amicable manner, and the Council indicated that they were prepared to do this if certain things were agreed:

- a) That the Council would finish the lease with the minimum of expense.
- b) that S.Attrill could negotiate with the N.Trust as soon as possible
- c) That the community would benefit and be involved in the operations of the Hive beach, perhaps through a 'Steering Committee'.

The N.Trust reported that they had good examples of other similar 'Steering groups' that they could share with the Parish council.

The Parish Council indicated that they would be prepared to give up the lease relating to the car park, but not the cafe before its termination date if that would be helpful to the N.Trust.

All parties felt that this amicable agreement was a possibility and the Chairman stated he would write to the N.Trust after securing a mandate from the Parish Council for such action.

After discussion the Parish council agreed that the Working Group should negotiate a mutual amicable surrender of the Lease with the N.Trust.

12.Library Update:

The Parish Council have met with DCC along with the two other councils (Charmouth & Colehill) who wish to take over the DCC Library buildings. DCC are offering a 99 year lease with a peppercorn rent and also undertake to do a certain amount of work for compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act, and to provide mobile shelving.

The Parish Council would be responsible for the building . B.Hynds and his working group would be preparing a business plan looking at all aspects of running the building and the operations of the library and community use.

It was planned that a Friends of BB Library Group will be established later this year.

The Chairman reported that the situation was extremely positive for Burton Bradstock.

13. Road safety & Traffic Issues:

R.Coatsworth reported that funding had been approved for a footpath in Burton Bradstock. Mr A.Berry, Management Engineer DCC, would be attending the March Parish Council meeting.

14. A.O.B.

- **Connecting Dorset:** The Chairman reported that all the equipment had been received, and we were in the process of setting up all the internet facilities. The filing system would be reproduced on the computer for archives retention. It was agreed that the lap top would be the responsibility of the Parish Clerk. The filing cabinets would be locked but keys would be made available to Councillors.
- **Street Lighting:** Mrs Wilson had approached the Chairman and others regarding the provision of Street Lighting in the Village. After discussion it was agreed to place this matter into abeyance until the Council's Sustainability Policy had been put into place. It was felt that there had been adequate village discussion of this issue at the Parish Plan consultations. It was also agreed after this to look at small lights in areas of a particular dark or dangerous area.
- **A.Mackie:** The Annual Fayre will take place on the 26th May, could the Parish Council run the book stall? This was agreed. The Chairman agreed to a request from A. Mackie to write a formal letter of resignation to the Parish Clerk.

15. Date of Next meeting: 5th March 2008.

16. Democratic Half Hour:

- **R.Coatsworth:** The new telephone for Dorset Direct is 01305 221000. This covers most services except street lighting. If the Council wish to hold a referendum, they would bear the cost and it would be about £500. The Council performance had been dropped by the Audit Commission from 4 stars to 3. There would be more funds available for DCC from government to spend on areas of Social responsibility. If anyone had any experiences regarding Respite Care, he would be pleased to hear from them.
- **J.Grantham ,Drainage:** Nothing has been done since the 14th December. He had written a letter asking what is happening. In a response to lots of mud within the village due to local developments, D.Batten would raise the issue informally with P.Fry.
- **J.Harding:** Expressed concern about the damaged railings and bins near the toilets. The Clerk to follow up with Highways department.
- **C.James:** The cost of hiring the Reading Room for a day was £8.00.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.