

# Bryanston Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council AGM Meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 At Bryanston Club

**Councillors:** Cllr C Tompsett  
Cllr B Church  
Cllr T Tompsett  
Cllr C Gale  
Cllr R Nolan  
Cllr C Conlon  
Cllr Smurthwaite

**In attendance:** Nicola Phillips – Clerk  
Cllr John Stayt (North Dorset District Councillor)  
Four members of the public

### **1. Apologies for absence, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations.**

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There were no apologies of absence or declarations of interest or Dispensations.

### **2. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman.**

The Clerk introduced agenda item 2, asking for nominations for Chairman. Cllr Gale proposed Cllr C Tompsett and seconded by Cllr Church . All members were in favour. Cllr C Tompsett accepted the role.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr C Tompsett to act as Chairman for Bryanston Parish Council for 2016-17 (2016-AGM - no budgetary implications)

The Clerk then asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Cllr Conlon proposed Cllr C Gale, this was seconded by Cllr Church and all voted in favour.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr C Gale to act as Vice-Chairman for Bryanston Parish Council for 2016-17 (2015 – AGM -no budgetary implications)

### **3. Councillors agreed to accept the following officer's roles.**

- Planning Cllr T Tompsett
- Environmental Working Party Cllr T Tompsett, Cllr C Gale and Cllr Nolan
- Tree Officer Cllr C Tompsett
- Blandford + Cllr B Church & Cllr C Tompsett
- DT11 Partnership Cllr B Church



local communities more say in development is very welcome, but in practice the delivery of a Neighbourhood Plan is a very complex and difficult process. The Parish Council is working with Blandford St Mary Parish Council and Blandford Town Council as Blandford+ to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which conforms to government planning regulations, provides additional housing and infrastructure for the area, is defensible to challenges by developers and works with the overriding NDDC Local Plan which became statutory in January this year. This sort of work would in the past have been done at District level by professional planning officers, not by willing volunteers without a background in planning. To this end Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, including two representatives from each of the three Councils, has appointed consultants (rCOH), largely funded by government grants, to help with the process. Blandford+ has canvassed and taken account the views of Bryanston residents to put forward policies for Bryanston in the Neighbourhood Plan and many thanks to everyone who came to the Public Consultations and completed the questionnaires. At the same time, NDDC's Local Plan has allocated three strategic sites for development which neither the Parish Council nor Neighbourhood Plan can change. Two of these sites are at Lower Bryanston Farm and Dorchester Hill. Due to the requirement for bat mitigation, Persimmon Homes have yet to gain planning permission to build over 60 new homes at Dorchester Hill. There is no news about any development at Lower Bryanston Farm as yet, land that is now owned by the Bryanston Estate.

We will receive reports from the Council's officers on their individual areas of responsibility, so I will not pre-empt these reviews, but give a general overview of the Council's work. For yet another year, the Council did not increase their precept (although the removal of a supporting government grant meant that a small increase was levied on each household to maintain the Council's income). So, the Council has once again been working hard to deliver services to the village within a tight budget. Many residents comment on the tidiness of the village, so BPC funds the regular cutting of vegetation in parts of the village, not routinely maintained by DCC Highways or Bryanston Estates. Three more hawthorns have been planted along the Cliff with the aid of a further grant from NDDC and further adding to the rural feel to the village. Grit bins are regularly maintained around the village, although they have not been needed much over this winter. The Annual Village Litter Pick coordinated and organised by John Baker collected a record amount of litter this year, including 3 road cones, table, chairs and a toilet! Sadly the amount of fly-tipping is noticeably increasing in the Parish, not only along roadsides, but in the village too. This is costly and time-consuming to remove apart from posing a real danger to everyone, including children and wildlife.

The parking of vehicles at the bottom of New Road has been a contentious issue for many months. This was made worse by the introduction of charges in the car park behind the Brewery so that additional cars were parked at the bottom of New Road and around to the School mini roundabout to avoid these charges. Although the car park charges have now been rescinded, extra cars still park in the New Road area. To add to the problem, a triangle of land at the bottom of Dorchester Hill that had been used for parking by residents for many years was closed off. The consequential narrowing of the road has led to some near misses, poor tempers and a real headache for farmers trying to move extra-large farm machinery. Residents at that end of the village need somewhere to park their cars. As a result of many meetings with DCC Highways and Blandford St Mary Parish Council, the triangle of land has been reopened and there is a promise of double yellow lines at the narrowest part of the road, although this may not happen in the short term.

The Council again gave grants to Blandford Town Council towards the upkeep of the toilets at the Ham carpark which our residents are able to use, to our parish church of St Nicholas at Durweston to help maintain the churchyard and to the North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau which is used by many villagers for advice and help on a wide range of issues.

Over the next year, the Council will focus its' efforts on a number of key targets including:

- Introduction of the village website
- Maintaining the Island to be aesthetically pleasing, useful to the community and sustainable.
- The refurbishment or replacement of the benches in New Road
- Investigating options for provision of superfast broadband to the village
- The refurbishment of the village fingerposts

I would like to thank the Parish Council Clerk, Nicky Phillips, for all the hard work she has put in for the Council and residents alike, and in particular for all her support and advice she has given me since my appointment as Chairman a few months ago. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow

Councillors for all their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment. Everyone has made a significant contribution to the work of the Council and I would now like to ask the Officers of the Council to give their reports, and then members of the public are welcome to raise any issues or make any comments they would like to.

### **8. Officers Annual Report**

#### **Cllr T Tompsett (Planning Officer):**

This year there have been 14 cases to consider.

6 cases were approved.

4 cases were refused

2 cases were investigations following concerns about changes

2 cases are still open.

Dorchester Hill development ( 0813 ) Not in our parish but borders - has no decision yet. Pending resolution to bat mitigation and safe access. The outcome will have a bearing on Lower Bryanston Farm development in our parish already part of the Local Plan.

The installation of solar farm at Down House Farm (1129) is still to be resolved but the parish had no objection. Two investigations concerning walls and fences

#### **Cllr T Tompsett – (Environment Team):**

- Grasscutting contract was put out to tender and the contract is now in place, for this year, to maintain areas not routinely cut by DCC or Bryanston Estates.
- Tappers Cut was added to the grass-cutting schedule.
- Grit bins were prepared for a cold winter, but were not really needed.
- Potholes have been routinely reported to Highways for repair.
- Drain gullies along New Road and the Cliff were cleared by Highways in March.
- Potholes in the link road between the School Drive and the Old Dairy
- Hawthorns were pruned to maintain shape.
- 4 ~~• Security fences around buildings near the old reservoir have been checked and secured by Bryanston Estate.~~
- Successful litter pick in March, headed by John Baker, sadly collected a record amount of rubbish.
- A survey of fly-tipping revealed an increase in this unacceptable behaviour. Highways promptly removed waste from areas where they are responsible, at a cost to the tax payer. Highways routinely investigate the waste to look for evidence to secure a prosecution.
- The Parish Noticeboard was relocated to the telephone box area.

#### **Cllr C Gale (finger post - Benches)**

- At long last the finger posts are going to be taken down for repair.
- The benches has been looked at, they are safe to use at the moment, but will need further checks, as they are getting old and tired.
- The triangle of land at the bottom of Dorchester Hill has been reopened by Blandford St Mary Parish Council. There is a lot of shrub overgrowth on the land, volunteers have come forward offering their services to remove the overgrowth.
- Eight bags of rubbish have been collected along New Road. Please take your rubbish home if there a no rubbish bins near by to use.
- Fly tipping opposite Fairmile has been reported.
- There has been fly tipping over the wall by the woods (tappers Cut). Cllr Conlon will report this to the School.

#### **Cllr C Smurthwaite (IT/Website)**

- Since being appointed IT officer at the start of the year, 2 key areas requiring improvement have been identified, Internet connectivity to the village, and a website for the parish council, and others in the village to effectively share information.
- Internet Connectivity The Internet service provided by BT Openreach to the village utilizes “Fibre to the cabinet” technology. This is the best technology currently made available by BT, and relies on fibre optic cable delivering the Internet to the nearest roadside cabinet, and then using existing copper cable to reach customers' homes.
- Unfortunately, this technology is ineffective at delivering high speeds when the distance between the properties and the BT roadside cabinet is more than about 1 mile. Because Bryanston's roadside cabinet is located at the bottom of New Road (near the school gates), those in the main part of the village are much too far away to receive a high speed service. BT Openreach have stated that they currently have no plans to improve this situation.
- Another company, Wessex Internet, specialise in installing connectivity to Dorset villages, and have expressed an interest in installing fibre optic cable to the village and providing fibre optic and wireless services. There are ongoing discussions between Wessex Internet and stakeholders in the village to determine the most effective way to proceed with this promising project.
- Village Website A need was identified for a website to allow several groups within the village to share news and other information with residents. Due to the relatively high cost of web design and maintenance, and my experience in this area, I have decided to build a website myself.
- During this process, the community will be consulted to find out what information residents would like to see on the site, and to find parties interested in publishing their own content to the site.
- This project is currently in progress. Some initial designs are included here, and major parts of the site have now been built.

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### **Cllr B Church (DT11)**

- DVAMP project to access funds to enhance the Trailway Economic Growth Project (to provide artwork for the Trailway, Visitor Centres in Sturminster Newton and Blandford, a bridge over the River Stour in Sturminster), is reported to be still ‘alive’ as of 1st May 2016, but there is no firm news.
- The proposed themed signage for Blandford has support and funding is being sort for a DCC Highways road survey.
- DT11 continues to lobby NDDC for a Community Hub in Blandford, which is essential with the Norden premises up for sale and NDDC services being moved to Dorchester.

### **Cllr B Church (Transport)**

- Much of the work carried out by the group e.g. the young people’s bus pass, better links between buses to enable passengers to disembark one bus and transfer to another, with hindsight, seems to have had a short term effect. The DCC £500,000 bus cuts have put an end to much of this, because there has been such a reduction to rural bus services.
- On the 12th April, the Group gathered together many of the Community Transport providers together to enable them to inform the public of the various options available.
- Unfortunately the successful Transport Leaflet is likely to be discontinued, because there will be too little information.

### **Cllr B Church (Blandford +)**

- In March 2015 the B+ community was asked to vote whether they would like to see Town or Village development. Town development had overwhelming support,

because it seeks to provide the necessary infrastructure which would otherwise be missing. The B+ NP continues to promote this. NDDC are firmly against this approach as it contravenes the Local Plan, but other than this they have no clear objection.

- In October 2015 there was a Draft Plan public consultation. Following this, concerned Stakeholders had meetings with the Steering Group to discuss differences.
- In March 2016 there was the Pre-submission Plan public consultation. Disappointingly, despite there being a good public presence at the Bryanston meeting, only 18 people responded to Policy 7, the Bryanston (RFE) Ltd proposal to develop 10 new dwellings in the village. The Parish Council did not believe this was enough evidence to make a democratic decision. The residents of Bryanston were therefore given another opportunity to express their preference by completing a questionnaire during the first week of May.
- Another government fund was accessed by DT11, hopefully funding the NP to completion.
- The Submission Plan should be ready for Blandford Town and Blandford St Mary and Bryanston councillors to view on the 6th June. It will then be submitted to NDDC Planning Department a month later.

**Cllr C Tompsett (Tree Officer):**

- The Jubilee hawthorns are continuing to thrive along the Cliff, and three more have been planted to complete the planting, funded by a further grant from NDDC. A plaque dedicated to the memory of Mr Byron Harris (Senior Tree Officer at NDDC) has been placed in front of the hawthorn tree helped to plant in 2012.
- The 'Leaning Tree' adjacent to the grit bin on the bend of The Cliff has been checked by contractors working for the Bryanston Estate and deemed to be safe. It will continue to be monitored.
- 6 ~~• The Bryanston Estate continued their tree works programme in the woodlands adjacent to the Cliff. This has temporarily ceased as birds are nesting.~~
- Please can we ask all villagers to remember that any tree works in a Conservation Area such as ours must have planning permission from NDDC before work can start?

**Cllr R Nolan (Foot Path)**

- Since taking over this position I am in possession of a full set of maps for Bryanston Parish Paths and Bridleway
- I have walked the Bryanston public pathways.
- During this first walk I have checked all direction markers and replaced any needed.
- "The Hanging" is very overgrown and needs cutting back.
- All other sections of the public pathways are easily found and walked.

A member of the public thanked the Council for their hard work and nice to see them working well together for the residents of the village.

There being no other business, this meeting was closed at 8.45. The Parish Council meeting followed.

**Chairman..... Date.....**