

Bryanston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council AGM Meeting Wednesday 10th May 2017 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)
Two members of the public

1. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies of absence.

2. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman.

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

RESOLVED: Cllr C Tompsett to act as Chairman for Bryanston Parish Council for 2017-18 (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 2017-18 (2015 – AGM -no budgetary implications)

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

- Planning Cllr T Tompsett
- Bryanston RFE Cllr C Tompsett
- Environmental Working Party Cllr T Tompsett, Cllr C Gale, Cllr Conlon and Cllr Nolan
- Tree Officer Cllr C Smurthwaite
- Blandford + Cllr B Church & Cllr C Tompsett
- Bryanston School Liaison Cllr C Conlon
- Footpath Officer Cllr R Nolan
- IT/Website Cllr C Smurthwaite

- Finger Posts Cllr C Gale
- DAPTC Cllr B Church
- Highways Cllr C Conlon

4. To agree the Minutes of previous Annual Meeting held on the 11th May 2016.

The Minutes were proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Church and all voted in favour.

5. Finance.

The accounts for the end of year 2016-2017 were tabled and agreed by the Council. The asset register and risk assessment was agreed. The Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk informed the Council that she had not yet received the renewal for DAPTC annual subscription. The Clerk informed the Council the insurance for 2017-18, Came & Co – Aviva £143.93.

6. North Dorset and County Council Annual Report

Cllr Stayt – NDDC reported the following:

Confirmed that the Tri-partnership with district councils has been completed and Cllr Stayt has been attending meetings to learn more about how it will work. Cllr Stayt expressed his personal concern that the Tri partnership seems to be concentrating on process and policies, rather than looking at what is best for the people.

The Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan primary Public Hearing – the primary concerns included the size of the allocation of land at Crown Meadows proposed as a Local Green Space. The steering group has met and the map for this area re-drawn, reducing the size from 6.4 hectares to 3.6 hectares. The amended proposal has been sent to the Examiner.

Trying to obtain clarification regarding the money for mitigation on the proposed development at Dorchester Hill for the greater horseshoes bats at Bryanston SSSI. It is felt that putting bat boxes up in the area is not good enough. The Chairman has been in communication with Stephen Clark – NDDC Area Lead (Major Projects – Eastern and Natural England). It was reported that the responses received are not acceptable and with the support of Cllr Stayt and Cllr Gale, this matter will be taken to higher levels.

7. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman tabled the following report: I would like to start with a huge vote of thanks to the Bryanston Parish Council team. Thanks to you, we have met the targets we set out to achieve this past year, including the successful launch of the village website, refurbishment of the fingerposts, and, with a major input from Bryanston RFE Ltd, the introduction of superfast broadband into the village from Wessex Internet. We have also made good progress with establishing the future of the island on the Cliff. We have already taken over part of the maintenance of the lower vegetation which has improved the visual impact and allowed a very pleasing display of flowers this spring.

Effective links have been further strengthened between Bryanston Parish Council, Blandford Town Council and Blandford St Mary Parish Council this year in the delivery of the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan, which is nearing completion. Councils working together, as with the Neighbourhood Plan, will give added strength and ability to tackle local issues more effectively. This is now more important than ever as Dorset Councils are reorganised from 9 to 2 to balance the budget. It is difficult to gauge, at this stage, the impact on small councils such as our own, but inevitably we will have to face more cuts to services as budgets are cut and responsibility for delivery of local services increases. With the loss of district councils and their officers, it may prove more difficult to gain access to the current council services. Also, with a more distant higher council (probably based in Dorchester), the question is will little councils like ours be considered with equal importance and our local problems given equal weight. So, working together and communicating effectively with neighbours is the only way forward.

This year, the Council has once again been working hard to deliver services to the village within a tight budget. The cuts to District and County Council budgets and services, we have been forced to increase our precept for the first time in many years to meet the inevitable requirement to maintain services to the village. As last year, BPC awarded grants to Blandford Town Council towards the

upkeep of the toilets at the Marsh and Ham carpark, to our parish church of St Nicholas at Durweston to help maintain the churchyard and to the North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau. The Council also agreed to contribute to the cost of the installation of yellow lines at the bottom of New Road, with Blandford St Mary PC, to ease the congestion caused by parked cars.

The two Village Litter Picks, coordinated and organised by John Baker, collected a large amount of litter. Although the amount of litter decreased compared to last year, piles of bags of dog excrement around Tappers Cut and near the sewage works has increased. This is unpleasant, anti-social and poses a real threat to health.

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

- Continuing negotiations with Bryanston School to establish maintenance of the island on the Cliff
- Explore and establish a use for the phone box and surrounding area
- Review the maintenance schedule for the benches in New Road
- Continue to forge links and working relationships with our neighbours
- Monitor and communicate any planning application at Lower Bryanston Farm

I would like to especially thank the Parish Council Clerk, Nicky Phillips, for her continued hard work, support and advice. Thanks again to my fellow councillors. We are a great team. Finally, the Clerk and I were very proud to receive the One Star Award from DAPTC in April on behalf of the members of Bryanston Parish Council in recognition of their commitment to keeping up to date with their knowledge and skills. Here's to another successful year

8. Officers Annual Reports

Cllr T Tompsett -Planning Officer

This year there have been 13 Planning applications for BPC to consider.

The recommendations of BPC agreed with the decision of NDDC Planning on 80% of the applications.

Dorchester Hill development (0813) - not in our parish but borders – has been approved. Funding for bat mitigation has been approved but has yet to be implemented. We await any plans for safer access to the site.

A public consultation was held for the development at Lower Bryanston Farm development. We await further developments.

The installation of a solar farm at Down House Farm (1129) will go ahead following some amendments. Bryanston PC had no objection.

One planning application went to appeal to the Secretary of State who upheld our and NDDC position of refusal.

Essential repairs will be completed soon on Blandford bridge and approach road.

Environment Officer

Grass-cutting contract was extended and the contract is now in place, for this year.

Work has been completed to remove the overgrowth to reveal the two trees planted by John Tory. This will be added to the cutting contract.

Grit bins were prepared for a cold winter, but were not really needed.

Two successful litter picks, headed by John Baker, collected a decreased amount of rubbish but an increase in irresponsible handling of dog faeces.

The Parish Noticeboard was replaced at Bryanston Club with one kindly donated by Blandford St Mary Parish Council.

Cllr C Gale - finger post and benches

The Fingerposts have been restored but we are still waiting for the two Roundels which have had to be cast individually. A large, unsightly mirror has been attached to the post opposite Normandy Lodge and this is being investigated by the Highways Authority. This may have caused damaged to the restored post.

The triangle at the bottom of Dorchester Hill has been reopened for parking and hard core has stabilised the ground. This was thanks to the intervention of the Highways Authority.

The Highways Authority also treated the Japanese Knotweed last summer but it has reappeared and will need more treatment.

Cllr C Smurthwaite -IT

This year has seen the successful implementation of 2 major IT projects for the village: the installation of high speed Internet connectivity by Wessex Internet, and the publishing of a village website by the Parish Council.

High Speed Internet

At the end of 2016, Wessex Internet successfully completed the installation of fibre optic cabling into the village, and the installation of 3 wireless antennas, enabling a substantial number of the properties in the village to receive wireless Internet connectivity as speeds far exceeding those currently offered by BT. Properties may also have access to even faster "fibre to the property" connections, which may be of interest to businesses in the village. Take up of these services has been limited, and it is assumed this is due to existing ISP contracts and the upfront installation cost of these services. From my own experience of the service provided by Wessex Internet, the speed and reliability has been far superior to that provided by BT.

Village Website

During 2016, the Parish Council accepted my offer to build a village website. This site was launched at the end of 2016 and has been slowly growing since then with a variety of content including local information, news and photos. The site also includes an archive of the minutes of all recent Parish Council meetings.

It is hoped that the site will continue to grow with new content published by people from the village, and I hope to continue to improve the site to ensure it is easy to both find and publish information.

Cllr B Church -Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan

Following the consultation with Bryanston residents last May, Bryanston RFE's proposal to develop 10 new dwellings in the village was rejected. It was subsequently removed from the Neighbourhood Plan. The B+ Submission Plan was approved on the 6th June and forwarded to NDDC so that it could be taken to Examination.

During September 2016 the Submission Plan was available for public consultation.⁴
An Examiner was appointed in November.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, the examination process was delayed and a new Examiner had to be appointed. Deborah McCann is now the B+ Examiner.

In April the Examiner requested a Hearing so that points in Policy 1 and Open Green Spaces could be clarified.

Cllr C Tompsett -Tree Officer

The Jubilee hawthorns continue to thrive, including the three new additions planted last year. Some rotten/fallen trees on Bryanston Estate land have been removed from the field adjacent to the Estate Club/behind the Cliff. An alleged breach of planning control, following the lopping/topping of a tree in a Conservation Area without the consent of the Local Planning Authority, was reported. Two rotten chestnut trees adjacent to Little Mornington were cut down by Bryanston School. Bryanston Estate has continued to monitor the leaning tree by the grit bin, corner of the Cliff. Three applications for tree works were received no objection registered with NDDC.

Cllr R Nolan -Foot Paths

Since the last AGM I have walked the public pathways several times. On each occasion checking and replacing signs as required. The Rangers have been informed of dropped posts, these have now been replaced. "The Hanging" is still very overgrown and requires inspection. All other sections of the public pathways are easily found and walked. I have also been involved in discussions about the benches on New Road. Road signs on The Cliff on route to Bryanston Club had been knocked over, this was reported and replaced by Highways.

Cllr C Conlon -Bryanston School Liasion

In July last year a meeting was held with Highways and the School to discuss the maintenance of the triangle of land on the Cliff. The land is owned but not maintained by the School and Highways

will also not carry out any maintenance resulting in an overgrown and neglected part of the village. The School offered the idea of selling the land to the Parish so that we could rightfully maintain the land. However this offer was later amended to a long lease at a peppercorn rent rather than a sale. The PC now will decide whether or not to accept the offer of a lease. Throughout this year the School has responded positively when approached to carry out work to enhance the look of the village.

There being no other business, this meeting was closed at 19.45. The Parish Council meeting followed.

Chairman..... Date.....