

Bryanston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 12th July 2017 at Bryanston Club

Councillors: Cllr C Tompsett – Chairman, Cllr Gale – Vice Chairman, Cllr B Church, Cllr T Tompsett, Cllr R Nolan, Cllr C Conlon and Cllr C Smurthwaite

In attendance: Nicola Phillips – Clerk, 3 members of the public, NDDC Cllr Stayt

Democratic Period: There were no comments.

17/31. Apologies for absence, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations.

There were none.

17/32. To agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 10th May 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Gale that the minutes were a true and accurate record and to be duly signed by the Chairman. All agreed.

17/33. Matters arising from the meeting dated 10th May 2017 and new matters:

To consider an agreement with Bryanston School for maintenance of the island (The Cliff):

Cllr Conlon reported the following: Representatives of BPC met with the Estate Bursar from Bryanston School on 29th June at the 'island' on the Cliff. Following the discussions, the Parish Council will now seek an agreement with the School to cut the tougher, low-growing vegetation with a brush cutter in the autumn, and annually thereafter. After this, the Parish Council would agree to manage the low vegetation only with a minimum of four cuts a year, which, subject to agreement by the Council, could be added to the annual grass cutting contract. Surplus trees for removal on the island would be agreed between the Tree Officers from the Parish and North Dorset District Councils and the School. The School would remove these trees, when the necessary permissions have been granted. The School also offered to remove overgrown bushes and to raise the canopies of the remaining trees to improve the visibility across the island for safety reasons. The Council will confirm with the School that the island will only be used as an open green space. Cllr Conlon will draw up and confirm the agreement with the School.

Action – Cllr Smurthwaite & Chairman

Action - Cllr Conlon

To consider a use for the phone box: The Chairman reported the results from the public survey in the village, which asked the residents for their suggestions as to what the phone box should be used for. The majority would like to see the box used for a book exchange and information point. The Chairman confirmed that Bryanston Estate intend to offer the rental of the phone box to the Council for an annual peppercorn rent of £1.00. This was welcomed and agreed by all members. The Chairman will go back to the Bryanston Estate to obtain clarification about the electric supply to the phone box, confirm the intended uses and report back.

Action – Chairman

To consider Parish Council notice boards: The Chairman reported the results from the public survey in the village, which asked residents for their comments on notice boards in the village. The returns were very poor, so it was agreed that there will not be a notice board placed at the Kennels. The notice board next to the Phone Box will be replaced with a larger one. After debate, it was agreed that Cllr Conlon will contact the School to ask if they would be prepared to make a notice board for the village. The Parish Council would pay for any materials.

Action – Cllr Conlon

To update on the Forum View island:

The Clerk reported that Carla Santagostino from Sovereign Housing had instructed their Landscape Contractors to look at the area, and is still waiting for their report. The Clerk will chase them up.

Action - Clerk

17/34. Reports from representatives of NDDC & report from Police

There were no reports received from the Police.

Cllr Stayt reported that he has been appointed Vice-Chairman for North Dorset District Council. Cllr Stayt is continuing to attend meetings regarding the proposed Tri-Partnership, which decisions have been delayed due to the recent elections. Once any more information is released, Cllr Stayt will forward this on to the Council.

17/35. The Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan report:

The Examiner, Mrs Deborah McCann, has presented her draft report for the B+ Neighbourhood Plan, following the public hearing and many further enquiries. The B+ NP Steering Group were extremely disappointed to learn she has recommended that the proposals to develop land N/NE of Blandford (Policy 1) and to designate Crown Meadows as a Local Green Space (Policy 10) must be deleted from the Plan. These policies are key parts of the Neighbourhood Plan. Although B+ will have to accept the deletions in due course, a letter has been sent detailing some important factual errors and omissions in her report. The Steering Group are awaiting the outcomes of this letter. The Policy for Bryanston received no comments from the Examiner.

17/36. Officers reports:

Cllr C Smurthwaite – IT Officer and Tree officer had circulated the following reports:

The village website is running well. All Parish Council documentation has now been published on the website. In addition, the History Group online archive is growing well (thanks to Carol, who is the main contributor to the website!). It has been suggested that the most important and active parts of the website could be made easier to find by adding links on the home page. Cllr Smurthwaite intends to find a neat way to achieve this. Cllr Smurthwaite will also be working on ways to make the site easier to use for those wishing to publish content.

Tree officer's report: There has been one tree application to remove an overgrown pair of Leylandii within the School. These trees were blocking a lot of light from, and threatening to damage, a property. There were no objections to this and the trees have now been removed.

Cllr C Tompsett - Bryanston RFE Ltd – had circulated the following report:

Bryanston RFE Ltd have received notification from BT they now have everything to complete the purchase of the phone box. The council will be notified once the purchase has been completed.

The Estate's intention is to let the box to the parish council for a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum. Any running costs or repairs would be the responsibility of the parish council as well as suitable insurance for its use. The Estate will draft the terms, and will reserve the right to end the agreement at any time and for any reason with a reasonable notice period.

Before formalising the agreement, the Estate will need to approve the intended use. To this end, initial replies from the public consultation delivered via the Bryanston Newsletter recently, show that residents would prefer to use the box as an information point and book exchange. Other suggestions included a defibrillator, mini museum and small goods exchange. It would be prudent to wait a little longer to give everyone time to reply to the public consultation before finally deciding on the intended use.

Bryanston Estate are hoping to submit the Planning Application for Lower Bryanston Farm later in July. Representatives from the Estate would be willing to meet with the Council, once the application has been submitted, to clarify any points.

The public consultation about a noticeboard for the Kennels area is still open. Few replies have been received. Likewise, the question about a larger noticeboard beside the phone box has similarly received little feedback from the consultation so far.

A fallen branch on the area with the Tory trees at the end of Walnut Avenue was reported and the Estate has agreed to remove it soon.

A fallen branch in Portman Mews has already been cleared. Other trees in the area may also need trimming and the Estate have this in hand.

Work to clear overhanging branches from the telephone lines, opposite Little Monington, and around the reservoir, is likely to take place at the end of September when all nesting birds etc. have gone.

Cllr C Gale – Fingerposts

The Fingerpost Project has been completed and all three are looking good.

Cllr Gale reported that he has been writing to Natural England regarding mitigation for the greater horseshoe bats on the proposed development land at the bottom of Dorchester Hill. Cllr Gale has received a response, which he will be replying to on a personal basis. The Chairman confirmed the Council had also sent a letter to Natural England, which to date has not received any response, even after chasing them up. It was agreed the Clerk will send an email, expressing the Council's disappointment. **Action - Clerk**

Cllr Nolan – gave the following report on the paths, bridle way and benches:

Under Pathways and Bridleways: Badges have now been replaced that were previously missing. Also, the sign on the route to "The Hanging" has been reported and the rangers have now replaced the sign.

Cllr Conlon agreed to organize a working party to visit the Hanging to check the route of the footpath and cut back overgrown vegetation. **Action – Cllr Nolan**

Cllr T Tompsett- Environment Team had circulated the following reports:

Planning

0864 - 56 New Road - Revised application currently out for consideration

1171 - 56 New Road - Appeal to Secretary of State for new building. Rejected

0103 - 52 New Road - Decision for removal of covenant on separate building. Application withdrawn

0344- Blandford Bridge - Extensive repairs notification circulated. Work dates and road closures. Still awaiting

0516 - 30 Old Warren - Application to add solar panels to the proposed garage. No objection. Approved

0714 - Bryanston school - Installation of electric substation for new sports hall. The plan indicates a small GRP covered installation that could be disguised by planting. No objection. Approved.

Environment: Second cut of the year for the Parish Council completed. RFE and Highways completed theirs also. The village is looking tidy. Overgrowth in front of John Tory commemoration trees was cut down for second time and left in situ. Large bough has fallen to cover some of the area. RFE has been asked to cut and dispose as it can be a safety risk.

Dog mess remains a problem along Tappers cut and on the area in front of John Tory trees. Some dog owners have now done away with the bags and just leave the mess instead. The latest recommendation to move the dog mess off the main path (e.g. with a stick) into the hedging has not yet reached irresponsible dog owners.

The managed half of the Island has been strimmed as agreed and will need a further cut soon. All hawthorn trees have been pruned at the lower branches. Further pruning will take place later in the year.

New Road - the yellow grit bin is hidden in excessive growth and the benches also need some vegetation management. It was agreed to arrange for a working party to complete the works required.

Action – Cllr T Tompsett

The roadside has been swept twice by Highways this year but on dustbin day so most was missed. Do we have feedback on trying to improve the co-ordination to achieve cleaning of the entire road. It would also be useful if a year time plan was available so parked cars might be located away from the road. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no feedback and will contact County Council again and ask again for a work schedule for road sweeping and to remind them that scheduling street cleaning on Thursdays is totally pointless.

Action - Clerk

Cllr B Church – Meeting with Dorset County Councillor Cox and transport officer had circulated the following report:

Received an informative presentation by Dorset Waste Partnership. These are some of the facts that interested: £160 of our council tax go to DWP. There is an increase in abandoned vehicles, probably because there is no longer any scrap value. Fly-tipping is also increasing. There is a misconception about what fee is charged for tipping some waste, caused mainly by horror headlines in the media. It is very difficult to prosecute litter offenders, mainly because at present it is a criminal offence, so there has to be witness who is prepared to attend the court hearing and obviously this whole process is costly. There is a hope that this can be decriminalized and a fixed penalty set. At the moment there is only one Enforcement Officer, however, by the end of the year there will be another in post. Two Enforcement Assistants will also be employed.

Weymouth and Portland employ an independent company (3GS) to enforce fixed penalties. The success rate of this is being monitored. DWP have had considerable success in reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill. Generally the public are using the different bins well. However, there could still be improvement, particularly with the food waste. There is a potential gain of £1million if food waste was correctly disposed of.

'Stubby' bags are provided free of charge by Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Cllr Conlon- Bryanston School Liaison and Highways officer had circulated the following reports:

Bryanston School Liaison Report: Carol, Tony, John Baker and I had a meeting on 29 June with the School's Estates Bursar Jon Mortimer to discuss the maintenance of the vegetation of The Island on The Cliff. It was a productive meeting with the implications still being considered and councillors will be briefed on more detail at the 12 July meeting (see '*Matters arising*').

Highways Report: The Japanese Knotweed in lower Bryanston has been treated and will continue to be monitored and treated as necessary by Highways.

Potholes have been repaired on the sharp bend on the Cliff. Cllr Conlon was very impressed by the speed with which the work was done; the holes were reported via the NDCC website on 28th June and the repairs were done on 3rd July - 2 working days. The Council's thanks were passed on to our Highways Liaison Officer. Further work that now needs attention will now be reported for action. **Action - Cllr Conlon**

17/27. Finance.

The Clerk tabled the Payment Schedule and Financial statement for May and June 2017 for the sum of £2540.47. This was proposed, seconded and all agreed by all members.

17/28. Chairman's report – the following had been circulated:

On behalf of the Council, I would like to congratulate both our Winterborne Division County Councillor, Hilary Cox, on her appointment as Chairman of Dorset County Council and our District Councillor, John Stayte, on his appointment as Vice Chairman of NDCC.

The deletion of Policy 1 and designation of the Crown Meadows as a Local Green space from the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan has undoubtedly come as a huge disappointment after four and a half years of work. However, on a more positive note, if the remainder of the Plan continues to Referendum and is approved by the public (the final stage before becoming statutory), Bryanston will have the policy that must be used to decide future planning applications in the parish.

It was with great pleasure that I was invited to represent Bryanston Parish at the Licensing Service at Holy Trinity Church, Stourpaine, on 20th June for Revd Belinda Marflitt as the new Priest-in-Charge of Pimperne, Stourpaine and Bryanston. We offer our congratulations on her appointment and wish her and her family a very warm welcome.

It was with great sadness we learned of the death of Cllr Esme Butler in May. Cllr Butler was part of the Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. She worked tirelessly for her community, including being the Mayor of Blandford four times, and will be very sadly missed. On behalf of Bryanston Parish Council, I have recorded our respects in the Book of Condolence that was set up in her memory.

With reference to the approved development at Dorchester Hill, on behalf of the Council, I have again written to Natural England about the lack of planned mitigation measures for the Greater Horseshoe bats at our SSSI. The letter was sent to the senior officer who reportedly passed it back to the 'team' who have so far failed to come up with the planned measures. Nicky has chased this up again on our behalf with no response as yet. This is both disappointing, and in my view, totally unsatisfactory. The MP was copied into the correspondence. Where do we go next?

We wish everyone an enjoyable afternoon at the 'Tea on the Lawn' event on Sunday 16th July. This annual event has become a very firm favourite in the Bryanston calendar, but more importantly funds the *Bryanston News* which is posted through the majority of doors in the Parish, as well as being available to view on the village website – bryanstonvillage.com. As well as interesting items, this newsletter has become an important method to keep residents informed.

Thanks again to everyone for their continued hard work and I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

17/29. Clerk's Report – Correspondence - Matters of interest

All correspondence had been circulated and tabled.

The Clerk read out the report from the internal auditor, there were no concerns, just on compliance issue, which was that the signatories for the cheques need to initial the cheque counterfoil when signing the cheque. Thank you to Mr John Baker for completing the audit.

The Clerk was asked to look into the matter of rubbish bins/dog bins in the village again.

Action-Clerk

17/30. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting. TBA

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th September 2017** at **Bryanston Club**, commencing at **7pm**.

Should you wish to contact the Clerk please use the email address below:

bryanston@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.40pm.

Chairman..... Date

Minutes and Agendas for Bryanston Parish Council can now be viewed on the new village website:
bryanstonvillage.com

