

Bryanston Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

8th May 2019 at Bryanston Club, Bryanston. Blandford, Dorset

Councillors: Cllr C Tompsett -Chairman, Cllr C Gale – Vice Chairman, Cllr B Church, Cllr R Nolan, Cllr C Conlon

In attendance: Nicola Phillips – Clerk and 2 members of the public

1/APM. To take any apologies for absence

There were none.

2/APM. Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council 2018/19

Bryanston Parish Council has again worked hard over the last year and met its targets:

- **To monitor and communicate any planning application at Lower Bryanston Farm** – the Parish Council submitted a number of objections reflecting the views of the village, following discussions with representatives from Dorset AONB, the Conservation Area, DCC Highways, District & County Councils and an archaeology group, to name but a few. Sadly, the outline permission was approved on 26th February 2019. The Council will continue to monitor and communicate residents' concerns, to the relevant bodies, as the application progresses through the next stages.
- **To explore and establish a use for the phone box and surrounding area** – thanks to the work of various councillors, the box has successfully been repaired, repainted and turned into a book exchange and information point. The shelves are now almost full, and villagers are invited to come along, exchange, borrow and enjoy! The subject of planting bulbs around the box is ongoing.
- **To review the maintenance schedule for the benches in New Road** – due to the serious damage to one bench in New Road at the end of 2018, the *Blandford Men's Shed* and *Normtec* were commissioned to repair and restore the bench to its former glory, which has been completed to a high standard. The second bench now needs some attention so will be a target for this year.
- **To continue negotiations with Bryanston School to establish maintenance of the island on the Cliff** – with thanks to the Council's contractor, *Langers & Son Ltd*, the area has been well maintained over the last year and wild flowers are proliferating as a result. The subject of planting at one end of the island which has little tree cover, is still an ongoing matter with Bryanston School.
- **To erect the new noticeboard by the phone box** – the new Parish and Community noticeboard has successfully been installed next to the phone box, thanks to the staff and pupils from Bryanston School who were involved. A great job.
- **To remove the trip hazard caused by the grass verge at Forum View bungalows parking area** – Sovereign Housing have removed the grassed verge and replaced it with tarmac.
- **To monitor the effects of the evolving unitary authority on the Parish Council's responsibilities, powers, voice, support, training and work load, especially the expectation of provision of services at a local level and the concomitant costs which will inevitably affect the precept** – Dorset Council came into effect on 1st April. Bryanston now finds itself in a new ward, Hillforts and Upper Tarrant, along with a number of villages, including Durweston, Stourpaine, Shillingstone and Pimperne. We will no longer share a ward with Blandford St Mary. After 2nd May elections, our ward will have one Dorset Councillor. As yet, it is too early to assess the impact of the new unitary authority on any of our services going forward. By continuing to work closely with our neighbours and the DAPTC, will ensure we have a voice, the necessary powers and resources to deliver the services needed by our residents.
- **To continue to forge links and working relationships with our neighbours** – BPC has continued to work with neighbouring councils, both through joint interests, including planning applications and the successful installation of yellow lines at the New Road/Dorchester Hill junction, and the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan version 2.
- **To continue with work on the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan** – the Steering Group has worked on several issues that originally saw the withdrawal of the first version of the Plan. After further public consultations and amendments, the second version is now nearing the examination stage.

Concerned that small councils like ours might lose even more involvement with planning matters with the new unitary authority, BPC presented a motion to the DAPTC AGM asking for their support. The motion was adopted and presented by the Chief Executive of DAPTC to the shadow Dorset Council.

Also, BPC successfully liaised with the Dorset AONB to have a Design Policy for proposed alterations and extensions to existing buildings, in the part of the Parish outside the Conservation Area, included in their revised Landscape Character Assessment.

This year the Council increased the precept in response to rising costs. As in previous years, the main focus has been to maintain the village vegetation to an aesthetically pleasing level. The Council is grateful to both the Bryanston Estate and Bryanston School who have regularly maintained their areas, and to the contractors for the Parish Council areas (Langers & Son Ltd) who consistently do a great job.

BPC has yet to award grants for this year, following a decision to ask residents for their views via the newsletter and the new ***Bryanston Village Community Facebook*** page.

The annual Litter Pick on 16th March was again coordinated and organised by John Baker, was very successful with many more villagers taking part. Less litter was found this year, which is a great improvement. Thanks to all who took part.

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

- ***To monitor the effects of the evolving unitary authority on the Parish Council's responsibilities, powers, voice, support, training and work load, especially the expectation of provision of services at a local level and the concomitant costs.***
- ***To continue to forge links and working relationships with our neighbours, especially those in our new ward***
- ***To consider planting on the island, the Cliff, and bulbs around the phone box***
- ***To review the refurbishment of the second bench in New Road***
- ***To continue to monitor, communicate, and represent resident's views to the relevant parties, with regard to the planning application at Lower Bryanston Farm***
- ***To work with Blandford Town and Blandford St Mary Parish Councils to conclude the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan***

Bryanston Parish Council is grateful to County Councillor Hilary Cox who has given support to BPC on a number of issues this year and wish her well for the future. We would also like to thank Cllr John Stayt who has been our District Councillor for a number of years and also wish him well for the future. We would also like to thank both retiring Councillors Tony Tompsett and C Smurthwaite, for all of the time and hard work they have given to the Parish Council over the past years.

The Parish Council is very grateful for all of the help, communication and support received from both major landowners, Bryanston School and the Bryanston Estate, this year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Council Clerk, Nicky Phillips, for her hard work, support and advice, and fellow councillors for all their time, enthusiasm and effort given freely for the benefit of the Bryanston community.

3/APM. Officers annual reports: the following reports were circulated:

Blandford + - Cllr Church and Cllr Tompsett reported the following: This year, the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been working to address the issues raised by the public examiner that resulted in the first version of the Neighbourhood Plan being withdrawn. The public were consulted again and, working closely with NDDC, policies have been revised and updated.

Version 2 has been submitted to NDDC, who conducted the final public consultation at the end of 2018, in readiness for examination.

An examiner has been appointed and will be starting his examination shortly.

Highways – Cllr Conlon reported the following: Throughout the year I have been reporting the potholes on the Cliff and I have been impressed by the speed of response by Highways. The latest repairs were more comprehensive and hopefully will last through the summer although there is a concern that the village will have more through traffic when the Durweston bridges are repaired in June and July.

New Road parking area & benches – Cllr Gale gave the following report: The damaged bench in New Road has been fully restored and should be good for many years to come. Decisions about the 2nd bench will need to be made in the near future. I attended the very unsatisfactory planning meeting about the Lower Bryanston Farm development. I continue with various consultations to try to ensure that satisfactory habitat is maintained for the SSSI Greater Horseshoe Bats.

Footpaths – Cllr Nolan gave the following report: Since the last AGM I have walked the public pathways a couple of times. The phone box is now fully refurbished and running as a book exchange. Forum View Island has now been completed. The following issues have been reported, dealt with and rectified: Access across field at the bottom of New Road – farmer can put up an electric fence as long as it is not permanent This is no longer there: Access to Walnut Ave – this is private land so no access: Issues to styles and crossing on Bryanston school land – these have now been corrected by the Dorset Rangers.

Bryanston School – Cllr Conlon gave the following report: In late 2017 the Council approached the School to see if there was any interest in helping with the production of a new notice board for the village. The head of

CDT Nigel Davies very kindly agreed to take it on as a project for the students and the board was completed and installed in the summer of 2018. Unfortunately, due to swelling of the wood when wet the doors are difficult to open and close and we should seek a solution for this in the coming months.

3/APM – To receive reports from local organisations

There were none given

4/APM – Open discussion on issues of concern

There were none

Chairman closed the meeting at 20.55