

NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 23rd JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: Cllr Robert Bowditch; Cllr Richard King; Cllr Peter Bailey; Cllr Mark Rogers; Cllr Yvonne Dyke; Cllr Donna Bentley; Cllr Kevin Goodfellow; Cllr Clare Handford and Cllr Alford.

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Teasdale (Clerk)

1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Caroline Pearce, Cllr Huxter and Cllr Chris David. These were approved by the council.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three members of the public present. A Netherbury resident informed the parish council that a group of residents within the Netherbury village boundary have formed a Nature Group. The group are carrying out a survey looking at flora and fauna in the village. They are also monitoring the river, looking at insect life and pollution. The group are working with Netherbury PCC to make the graveyard a nature-friendly space. The resident asked if the parish council would be happy for the group to look after the Brandon Plot Garden. Councillors were all in favour and thanked the group.

A resident asked if the parish council use social media to promote its meetings. The council have a Facebook page and it can be used to notify meeting dates.

A resident asked if the parish council could financially support Netherbury Village Hall on an annual basis. Cllr Bowditch reported that the village hall committee would approach the parish council should they need support. To date, the hall is covering its costs this year and has made a profit.

Cllr Alford arrived at 19.45.

A resident requested that the council liaise with Dorset Council to resolve the problem with flooding at Whitecross.

Action: The Clerk to follow this up with Dorset Council.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, 28th NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes from the meeting were updated to provide clarity under item 6, with reference to Meadow Barn Care Farm. With this change the minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record by the council and were signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS UPDATE (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

Regarding item 5. A Ranger from Dorset Council (DC) has proposed a meeting date to meet with Cllr David to look at the stretch of footpath in Melplash where access issues have been reported.

Regarding item 6. Cllr Bailey reported that he had shared information with a parishioner on the Home Upgrade Grant. They had contacted DC and had been told that the funding was currently on hold. The parishioner had been signposted to LEAP, which is a company that supports people who are at risk of getting into fuel poverty with energy efficiency advice.

Regarding item 10a. The Clerk is waiting to hear back from DC regarding the patch work / resurfacing along St James Road to Ebenezer Corner.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Alford had shared a report with councillors. The report highlighted the involvement of highways with the flooding over the 4th and 5th of January. Cllr Alford reported that the council are running a Right Tree, Right Place support grant. A survey on Public Transport is due to be carried out by DC. The results will inform policy making.

Cllr Bowditch reported that he had delivered sandbags to properties, including in Netherbury and Loscombe. He noted the importance of getting sandbags to the right homes ahead of the threat of flooding.

7. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER REPORT

There had been a theft of two quad bikes in the Mangerton area. There had been a number of Road Traffic Collisions over the Christmas period. The report highlighted the need for drivers to drive with care and to adjust their speed depending on the conditions on the road.

8. UPDATE ON ELECTION PROCESS 2024

Local elections will take place on 2nd May. Nomination forms are now available through DC and the Electoral Commission. The notice of election will be published on 11th March and nominations can be received from 12th March. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 5th April at 4.00pm. A link to the DC election information has been included on the parish council website.

9. UPDATE ON SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE, MELPLASH

The Clerk had shared the speed survey results with the Community Speed Watch Team. The team have requested that a pole on the southbound site be installed. This would mean using one SID across three sites. The SID would be moved by the Community Speed Watch Team on a four-weekly rotation. DC are currently carrying out a Health and Safety assessment of the site and liaising with Wessex Water about siting the post adjacent to their entrance. A quote for the pole and its installation will then be shared with the parish council.

10. TO DISCUSS DAMAGE TO FINGERPOST SIGN AND BENCH, NETHERBURY

Councillors discussed the recent damage in the village, which includes damage to the railings and gate at the corner of Bridge Street.

Action: Cllr Rogers to get a quote for a new bench. Cllr Bailey to follow up locating the broken sign and costings for its repair.

Cllr Bowditch will then liaise with Wessex Water, who have indicated that they may be able to make a goodwill contribution to the repair of the sign. Wessex Water and their contractors have been at the site for a period of time, carrying out sewage repair works. It had been reported that a van and tractor had caused the damage to the sign and bench, but no one had come forward to report the damage.

Action: The Clerk to contact Dorset Council to inform them about the damage to the bridge.

11. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

To discuss 'befriending' services within the parish – Bridport Local Area Partnership

BLAP had contacted the parish council to ask what local 'befriending' services there are in the parish. These are services that support vulnerable, isolated or lonely individuals. Councillors reported that monthly coffee mornings are held in Salway Ash and that there is a coffee morning that takes place twice a month in Netherbury. Councillors were asked to help promote these events.

12. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the finance report for 2023/24

Councillors noted the current balance of £20,700. This includes an Election Reserve fund of £1,400 and Community Infrastructure Levy income of £2,485.59. There were no questions relating to the report.

b. To consider and approve the draft budget for 2024/25

The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer had produced a draft budget for consideration. Councillors discussed the draft budget against this year's budget and projected spends. A budget of £10,559 was proposed by Cllr Bowditch, seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by a show of hands.

c. To consider and approve the precept for 2024/25

The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer had prepared a precept of £10,715 for 2024/25, with no proposed increase from the last four years. Cllr Bowditch proposed the approval of the precept, seconded by Cllr King. Agreed by a show of hands.

d. To consider payment to Community Heartbeat of £175 for Defibrillator Training

A parishioner had requested that the parish council arrange for training on using a defibrillator, one of which is situated at Netherbury Village Hall. The Clerk had liaised with a member of Netherbury Village Hall Committee as the committee were also sourcing quotes for training. Cllr Bowditch proposed approval of the quote from Community Heartbeat, seconded by Cllr King. Agreed by a show of hands.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with the committee in setting up a training session. Councillors asked that the session be promoted to parishioners across the parish.

e. To consider donation to CB3 Community Bus

The Clerk reported that the council had not donated to the volunteer run service since 2022. Several residents continue to use the bus that serves both Netherbury and Melplash on a Saturday. Cllr King proposed a donation of £200, seconded by Cllr Handford. Agreed by a show of hands.

f. To note payment to Netherbury Village Hall of £15 (Reading Room Hire)

g. To note payment to Dorset Council of £570 (Speed Surveys Melplash)

Councillors noted the payments under items 12 f and g.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The following planning applications had been received and reviewed by Councillors:

- a. P/FUL/2023/06721, Strong Orchard Pineapple Lane Waytown DT6 5HZ, Erection of shower and toilet block (Comments ended 18/12/23)
- b. P/FUL/2023/06528, Parnham Estate Parnham Beaminster DT8 3LZ, Erection of a Boat House for use as a holiday let within the grounds of Parnham House (Comments ended 24/12/23)
- c. P/LBC/2023/06623, Mill House Crook Hill Netherbury DT6 5LX, Internal alterations to add a new partition to create a Utility and Games Room and alternative floor finish in Kitchen (Comments ended 26/12/23)
- d. P/FUL/2023/06621, Land North East of Strongate Lane Salwayash Bridport Dorset, Continue change use of land to site one shepherd's hut for holiday accommodation with associated services and creation of parking area. Retain ground mounted solar panels, water tank and fuse box shed (Comments ended 04/01/24)
- e. P/LBC/2023/07236, West Cottage Filford Lane Bowood DT6 5JN, partially reopen blocked up out shut door, replace back door and west window, remove 2 no internal partitions, replace ground floor finishes, refit kitchen, refit bathroom and install central heating (Comments ended 10/01/24)
- f. P/HOU/2023/07293, The Old Cottage St James Road Netherbury Dorset DT6 5LW, Re-roof rear lean-to, insert dormer windows and alterations. (Comments ended 10/01/24)
- g. P/FUL/2023/07162, Land Adjacent Round Hill Coppice Mythe Hill Quarry Entrance Mapperton to Junction Twinways Lane Melplash, Retain conversion of barn to residential use (Comments end 30/01/24)

The council had submitted their support to applications 13a to 13f. Councillors had visited the site for application 12g and comments were due to DC by the 30th January. The applicant was present at the meeting to answer any further questions that councillors may have had. Councillors recognised

that, as a rural enterprise, the business should be supported. The site has experienced a number of thefts and councillors recognise that living on site acts as a deterrent. The business funds a project to plant and maintain woodland on the site. Councillors fully support the application.

AOB

MP Chris Loder had written to the council to request the council's perspective on road safety issues along a stretch of road in Salway Ash. Councillors noted that the stretch of road has good visibility, and that the footpath is set away from the road. Councillors suggested that a local Community Speed Watch Team be set up. The Clerk will feed back comments to Mr Loder.

A councillor asked how the sale of Melplash Village Hall is progressing. Cllr Rogers reported that the deeds had been lost and that Trustees had had to re-apply through Land Registry. The involvement of various parties, including the Charity Commission, means that it is a slow process.

The next meeting will be held on 26th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.