



Bothenhampton & Walditch
Parish Council since 1886

**MINUTES OF BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at WALDITCH VILLAGE HALL, 7pm on 13th FEBRUARY 2023**

Initials	Councillors	Initials	Councillors
JB	Cllr Jim Basker (Chair)	GS	Cllr Graham Styles
CA	Cllr Chris Addis	MW	Cllr Martin Warne
TC	Tan Cox (Clerk)		
Also Invited: Cllr Sarah Williams / Cllr Kelvin Clayton / Cllr Dave Bolwell			

Ref	Agenda Item	Owner
	Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Eligibility: No Declarations were received.	
	Apologies: Cllrs Bolwell, Williams	
1	<p>Reports from Dorset Council Councillors:</p> <p>Cllr KC attended the meeting and provided an update on the main area of debate within DC (budgets for 2023/24). Cllr KC also mentioned that Dorset Council are currently debating a policy relating to the doubling of council tax on second (unoccupied) homes. Councillors advised Cllr KC that unoccupied homes were harmful to the community.</p> <p>Cllr GS raised the two items of planning that were on the Agenda (Ref 5) being Mayfield, Wych Hill and 19 Valley Road. Due to the background and history of the two planning applications the parish had asked that they be placed before the Dorset Council Planning Committee. Cllr KC said that the next DC Planning Committee will be on the 23rd of February, and he will ask for these to be put onto the Agenda.</p>	

Cllr Jim Basker

Minutes agreed on 13th March 2023

Ref	Agenda Item	Owner
2	<p>Democratic Half Hour: Walditch resident, Robin Stapleton referred to the lime tree in the upper part of the Sycamore Avenue on John Norman's land that has been badly damaged and said that with some care it could be saved and may recover. The tree has a Preservation Order on it. Councillors expressed some doubt as to whether this would happen as the tree is located on Mr Norman's land.</p> <p>Councillors, Robin Stapleton and other members of the public urged Cllr KC to intervene on their behalf. The Clerk provided Cllr KC with the names of the DC officers that she had dealt with and brought Cllr KC up to date with the situation so far, (resident RS said that the current situation has existed for many years).</p> <p>Resident RS also mentioned the Monarch Way footpath – W5/16 that passes through Lower Walditch; from Lower Walditch Lane to Lee Lane. He said that there is a steep area where it falls steeply straight on to Lower Walditch Lane that could benefit from a handrail. The Clerk agreed to place on the TT&F Agenda.</p> <p>Resident RS referred to the BTC take over of the Parish Council and asked what will become of the assets of the parish council. Cllr JB said that this is being discussed.</p> <p>Resident RS referred to the depositing of parish council minutes at the Dorset Archives in Dorset Council. The Clerk advised RS to look onto the parish council website where previous parish council minutes can be found dating back to 1993. She said that when the tenure of the parish council ends in 2024 all minutes on the website will be transferred to the Dorset Archive.</p>	Clerk
3	<p>Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – Monday 9th January 2023:</p> <p>The Minutes of 9th January having been agreed by email were accepted, and a copy has been posted to the website.</p> <p>Carried forward Actions:</p> <p>Regarding Email from Chris Loder MP to visit the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter of reply on 16th January 2023.</p> <p>Regarding King's Coronation and the offer of a grant for celebration. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent letters to Walditch Village Hall, Bothenhampton Village Hall and the Lower Walditch Play Area Committee on 16th January 2023.</p>	
4	<p>Reports from External Organisations:</p> <p>WATAG – Councillors were unable to attend due to short notice.</p> <p>BLAP Liaison 31st January 2023 – Cllr GS attended and updated the Main Committee. Tony Burden, the Dorset Council Road Safety Officer spoke about Dorset Council's 20mph Policy. Cllr GS said that he had said at the meeting that DC's Policy was quite onerous and time consuming with no guarantee of success.</p>	

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4	<p>Reports from External Organisations:</p> <p>BLAP (Cont.) Cllr GS noted that the ‘speed watch’ alone must be for a minimum of 12 months. He had pointed out to TB that overall; the trend is towards the 20mph limit in all residential areas and many areas in the country are considering adopting this. TB sympathised and said that Dorset Council will amend their Policy to align with National Policy as the latter this evolves.</p> <p>Cllr GS had asked TB about the disappearance of the 20’s Plenty Signs that B&W councillors had placed along Crock Lane. TB said it was unlikely that the Dorset Council Highways would have removed the signs, at least not without notifying the Parish Council.</p> <p>BTC had said that they would prefer a blanket 20mph throughout the town.</p> <p>BANP / JCC – Next meeting date 15th June 2023. Cllr JB confirmed that he had attended a Foundry Lea development meeting and provided an update.</p>	
5	<p>Planning:</p> <p>Planning Consultations The planning consultations specified on the agenda were noted.</p> <p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P/HOU/2022/006112 1 MAYFIELD WYCH HILL DT6 4JJ • P/HOU/2022/07742 19 VALLEY ROAD DT6 4JR <p>These two items were dealt with under item 1 above.</p>	
6	<p>Finance and Budget:</p> <p>Payments made from 10th January 2023 to 13th February 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Hussey • Cllr GS - Expenses • Dorset Council • Derek Smith • Cllr JB Expenses • Village Hall Grant (Walditch) • Defib CPR & SED Training • OSPA Expenses • WIX subscription <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Cllr Jim Basker</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vice Chairman</p> <p>The Clerk said that the payments listed above had already been paid and had been authorised via email.</p>	

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
6	<p>Finance and Budget:</p> <p>The Clerk's salary for February 2023 was approved as were any expenses.</p> <p>The Bank Statement to 31st January 2023 was provided to Councillors for their perusal, the Bank Statement was signed by the Chairman and handed to the Clerk.</p> <p>The Cash Flow Forecast up to 31st January 2023 was sent to Councillors for their review and approval.</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WERE APPROVED AND/OR AGREED, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Statement and Invoice Cover Sheet (Approved and signed by the Chairman) • Cash Flow Forecast – approved by Councillors 	
7	<p>Parish Council Sub-Committees:</p> <p>Open Spaces and Play Areas Sub-Committee met on 25th January 2023. Cllr GS (sub-committee Chair) drew attention to the main points:</p> <p>Jellyfields - Regarding the large sycamore – request Dorset Council Tree Officer examine this tree to establish whether it needs to be cut back.</p> <p>Bothenhampton - DIGS report and the Geology Information Panel. Write to DIGS and ask for an estimate of how much an information panel would cost in order for the parish council to consider making a financial contribution.</p> <p>John Holt Play Area - Regarding Gate Issue and possible new equipment. Quotation for £205.</p> <p>Regarding new equipment for the play area and the quote for £3,950 + £1,375 (£5,325) for the Kinglade unit.</p> <p>Walditch Village Green Horse Chestnut - Request Dorset Council Tree Officer examine this tree to establish what can be done.</p> <p>Sycamore Avenue - Regarding lack of response and action relating to the trees along the Avenue and especially to the letter of 1st November 2022 asking for tree replacements within the conservation area. Also refer to item 1 above.</p> <p>Valley View Community Area / Howard Close - Regarding sycamore that had dropped branches recently.</p>	Clerk

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
7	<p>Parish Council Sub-Committees:</p> <p>In normal circumstances approval for spend of this nature would be debated at the Finance and Funding sub-committee, however the meeting has been delayed until 2nd March. To gain authority for purchase of the items below these were debated and agreed at the Main Committee meeting.</p> <p>APPROVAL FOR:</p> <p>John Holt Play Area – Gate Issue and New Equipment £200 to mend the gate and the latch. The Clerk will ask KH to go ahead with the repair.</p> <p>£3,950 + £1,375 (£5,325) for the Kinglade Unit. The full item cost was approved. Cllr GS to progress.</p> <p>Walditch Village Green Horse Chestnut The cost of Dorset Council Tree Officer to look at the tree, plus two others (Jellyfields and Howard Road Amenity Area, as above)</p> <p>Minutes of these meetings can be found at: www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr GS</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8	<p>Other Parish Matters:</p> <p>Walditch ‘Green Village’ event Cllr JB reported that the presentation on saving energy by Sam Wilberforce was well attended and included the suggestion that groups of householders could buy solar panels collectively at an attractive price</p> <p>CGR – Update. Cllr JB presented a working paper on the transition period until May 2024, and on those issues that concern BWPC. Councillors agreed that all decision making should remain with BWPC until 1 April 2024. Councillors agreed that they would accept, along with the Parish Clerk, the invitation from David Dixon to a meeting with other local councillors at 10 am on 2nd March 2023 at Mountfield.</p> <p>John Gundry Play Area Cllr CA said that work will start on the play area on the 14th February. He also mentioned that mats will need to be purchased to be placed under swings in the play area and he asked for approval for this expenditure. This expenditure was approved.</p>	

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
9	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>The following correspondence was sent during the period and can be found on the council's website www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to C Loder MP regarding visit to Parish Council's Annual Meeting • Letter to Village Halls and Lower Walditch Play Area regarding coronation of King Charles III • Letter and sketch to Ashley Cooper regarding John Gundry Play Area • Letter to C Donald regarding footpath W5/21 	
10	<p>AOB:</p> <p>The Clerk informed councillors of a telephone call received earlier that day from a resident (Mr Guppy) regarding trees along Pasture Way (ash with ash dieback). Mr Guppy believes these are a danger to pedestrians and homeowners living adjacent to the trees. Clerk to ask Dorset Council Tree Officer to look at the trees to determine their health and height.</p>	Clerk
	The meeting ended at 8.45pm	

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 13th March 2023 at Bothenhampton Village Hall, 7pm
 Previous council minutes can be found on www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 13th February 2023

Action	Owner	Page
Regarding Monarch Way footpath – place onto the TT&F Agenda	Clerk	2
Regarding DIGS (Information Panel) – write to DIGS to ask for estimate	Clerk	4
Regarding John Holt Play Area (Gate Issue) – write to KH to ask that he goes ahead with the repair to the latch	Clerk	5
Regarding John Holt Play Area (Kingleade Unit) – progress	Cllr GS	5
Regarding Trees – ask Dorset Tre Officer to look at the various trees within the main report, these being Walditch Village Green Horse Chestnut, Sycamore trees located in Jellyfields and Howard Road Amenity Area and Ash Trees located at Pasture Way.	Clerk	6
Note the cost of the trees within Jellyfields should be referred to Dorset Council.		

ROLLED OVER ITEMS – 13th February 2023

Action	Owner	Page
None		

ITEMS REFERRED TO OSPA SUB-COMMITTEE – 24th April 2023

Item	Page
None	

ITEMS REFERRED TO F&F SUB-COMMITTEE – 2nd March 2023

Item	Page
None	

ITEMS REFERRED TO TT&F SUB-COMMITTEE – 2nd March 2023

Item	Page
None	

External Organisations - Acronyms:

WATAG – West Dorset – Western Area Transport Action Group

BLAP – Bridport Local Area Partnership

BANP JCC – Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, Joint Councils Committee

DAPTC – Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils

NALC – National Association of Local Councils

External Organisations - Councillor representatives:

WATAG – Cllr Chris Addis (Deputy - Cllr Martin Warne)

BLAP – Cllr Graham Styles

BANP – Cllr Jim Basker

Misc

VFO - Volunteer Footpath Officer