



## BLANDFORD ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at The Brewery Hall in Hall & Woodhouse Visitor Centre, Bournemouth Road, Blandford St Mary.

**Present:**

Cllr M Albery	Chairman
Cllr R Whitlock	Vice-Chairman
Cllr D Addison MBE	
Cllr J Dallison	
Cllr J Stayt	
Cllr P Hill	

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

*At this point, the Chairman introduced Mr Kevin Humphries from Dorset County Council.*  
Mr Humphries gave details of a proposed new walking and cycling link for Blandford St Mary. The link is a part of the proposed large development programme on Bournemouth Road and this will enable people to cross over the to the Village to access the shops and schools in a safe way. After debating this matter, the Parish Council support, in principal, the proposal to create a small gap in the hedge at the end of Rosefields to enable walkers, cyclists and wheelchair/mobility scooter users to access a short path to a proposed light controlled crossing on the A354 before accessing the North Dorset Trailway via a newly created pathway on the proposed new development.

### **Public Consultation.**

The following concerns were raised by the members of the public:

Dorchester Hill development is still causing issues with residents. The contractors are still parking along the road, rather than on site and are playing their radio's loudly and leaving litter behind. The narrowing of the road is causing problems with traffic passing.

It was reported that the rubbish bin outside Homebase still has not been replaced. The Clerk will chase this matter up with Dorset Waste Partnership.

The hedge along Hall & Woodhouse brewery is very over grown. The Clerk will ask them to cut this back.

The Badger Roundabout requires some work to be done on it, the Clerk will report this to County Council.

A thank you to the Parish Council for arranging for the hedge around the notice board to be cut back and the hedge along Bournemouth Road.

The hedge along Dorchester Hill has not been cut back and is very overgrown. The Clerk will contact Persimmon Homes and request that this is done as a matter of urgency.

### **2018/38 Apologies for Absence and Declaration of Interest.**

There were none.

### **2018/39 Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **2018/40 Planning.**

There were none.

### **2018/41 Items agreed to be discussed from last meeting**

**Up-date on Allotments – The Chairman proposed that Parish Council accept the land registry transfer for land title DT276365 and ordinance survey ref ST88055SW to supply allotments for the Village. This was seconded by Cllr Hill and all members in favour.** This has been a long time coming and a big thankyou to the Chairman for the hours of chasing up and meetings to make sure this land is the property of the Parish Council. All Councillors signed the transfer of land document, this will now go back to the Solicitors for ratification.

**RESOLVED:** for Blandford St Mary Parish Council to accept the land registry transfer for land title

DT276365 and ordinance survey ref ST88055SW to supply allotments for the Village (2018/41 – allotments)

**Up-date on play area –** The Ball Court has been re-surfaced, unfortunately, even though the area was taped off while the surface dried, someone decided to go and stand on it!!, this caused further cost to the Village, as the company

had to be called out to repair the damage caused. There has also been vandalism caused in the Play Area, where items have been pulled off equipment. The Parish Council have also twice placed protective foam around the old goal posts, which again have been damaged by children pulling them apart. One of the Apple trees have also been vandalised, twice in the past two months. The new No Parking Sign that was put up at the entrance to the Play Area, which needs to be kept clear for emergency vehicles, was taken down and thrown in the Play Area. The Parish Council take the safety of anyone using the play area/ recreation area most seriously and try to keep the safe and clean for everyone. It is very disappointing that a minority of people feel that they can ruin it or the majority by vandalizing the Play Area/recreation area. The Police have been informed and if you see anyone that you know vandalising the play area, please contact the Clerk or the police. The Councillors will be leading a working party to finish cleaning the play equipment on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> September to meet at the Play Area at 11am, volunteers are welcome. **PLEASE HELP TO KEEP THIS AREA SAFE AND CLEAN.**

**Blandford+:** The results from the drop-in session was that 244 people responded, which covered Blandford, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston and 80% of the vote for where the main development should take place was for the North of Blandford. NDDC are continuing to be more helpful towards the NDP.

**Up-date on Dorchester Hill** – Covered under public consultation.

#### **2018/42 Finance**

The clerk tabled the financial statement to the Councillors with the Payment Schedule for July and August 2018, the total sum of £7774.02. It was agreed by all members for the payment schedule to be accepted and duly signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk expressed concern over the proposed levelling of Council Tax around the County. It has been reported that even though proposals were forwarded to level the Council Tax over a four to five-year period, the Shadow Financial Executive has proposed that the levelling is completed in one year, which will mean that on a band D property, the Council Tax for just the District Council will raise by £40.00 a year. After debate, it was agreed for the Clerk to write to the Shadow Financial Executive and copy in all local Councils, DAPTC and Nalc expressing their disappointment and concerns over levelling the Council Tax in one year.

#### **2018/43 Chairman's report – the Chairman reported the following:**

The Chairman announced the unfortunate death of Mrs Enda Riggs. Edna was a very proactive member of the village and led the initial project to raise money for the Play Area for the village, which was subsequently transferred over to the Parish Council. Edna kept the Parish Council on their toes, as she attended nearly all the meetings until she left the Village a few years ago. Our condolences to her family and close friends, she will be greatly missed. The Parish Council has a vacancy, due to Rev Joe Edwards no longer a member of the Parish Council. This vacancy will be advertised very shortly. In the mean time if anyone is interested in joining the Council, please contact the Chairman or Clerk for more information.

#### **2018/44 Officers Report:**

##### **Cllr P Hill reported the following:**

We are informed that the Government has expressed the intention to make exploratory shale gas well pads a Permitted Development which means obviating the requirement for planning permission and to bring shale gas production into the National Strategic Infrastructure Project regime, so removing planning applications from local control at county level to a central government departmental inspectorate, leading to the compulsory acquisition of land. The Parish Council felt that this should not happen and agreed to forward their objections to central Government.

##### **Action – Clerk**

##### **Cllr J Dallison reported the following:**

Will be attending the A350 group meeting on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **2018/45 Clerk Report- Correspondence and matters of interest**

Cllr Addison reported that he has received the following from residents of the village:

The overgrown school trees along Lower School Lane near the flats. The Clerk will contact the school and ask them to cut them back.

During term time vehicles parked over the dropped kerb sections at the top of Birch Avenue making life difficult for those with prams, pushchairs or mobility scooters. A 'Polite Notice' will be produced to be placed on offending vehicles. Vehicles driving the 'wrong way' in the carpark by the skate park. Most drivers keep left behind the brewery and out near the river, but a few go the other way and there have been a few minor 'prangs'. This matter will be reported to County Council in the hope that appropriate road arrows could be painted.

A request for a drop kerb outside 29 Pigeon Close. After debate the Council would not support an application for a drop kerb, due to safety concerns and restriction of off road parking.

#### **2018/46 Date of next meeting and agreed items for the next meeting. **Wednesday 3rd October 2018****

##### **Allotments – Budget – Play Area**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.25**

Signed.....

Website address <http://www.blandfordstmary-pc.org.uk>

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please **ONLY** use this address.

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