

MINUTES OF THE BOURTONS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday Aug 3rd 2009 in the Church at 7.30 pm

100 Club draws for April and May 2008/09 membership will take place in the Bell on Friday since the Clerk had not brought the 100 club numbers to the meeting.

Those present: Cllrs Bull, Leszczynski, Prew, Stanley, Tomlin and District Cllr Atack

1. Public Time – There were 3 members of the public present. The position regarding the allotments was discussed. Draft Tenancy Agreements with a few amendments to the agreement, will be circulated to Allotment members for discussion. It is proposed to change the allotment year to begin in October rather than March. The set up of an allotment association was discussed and the clerk will get some sample documentation so that the current allotment management committee can consider this as an option. The need for hedges to be trimmed on the Hanwell turn was again raised. Clerk to contact the farmer concerned.
2. Apologies were received from Councillor Reynolds.
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1ST June 2009 were agreed and signed.
4. There were no declarations of interest.
5. Burial Ground – a request had been received for a double headstone, but it was agreed that this could not be granted as the standard practise is for double graves to have a single headstone and a precedence would be set if a double stone were allowed.
6. Correspondence
 - I. School Governor representative – the meeting was advised that there is no longer a 'Parish Council' representative required on the school governing body, but George Ennis is now the Community Governor.
 - II. Conservation Area – correspondence had been received to enquire as to whether the council thought it appropriate to make certain areas of the parish conservation areas. Mollington have made an application for conservation status. Discussion highlighted advantages and disadvantages for doing this. Past planning applications have been refused anyway because of their close proximity to the church or other historic buildings so it seems as if little would be gained by having a conservation area. It was agreed that if we carry out a parish plan, we will include this question as we would need a mandate for it.
 - III. Field behind The Plough, Little Bourton – Clerk was asked to check on the status of this as complaints have been received from residents nearby about the condition of the field including parked and abandoned vehicles.
 - IV. Oxon Rural Housing Partnership – a letter has been received regarding updating the status of housing needs in Great Bourton. It was decided to wait and see what happens in Little Bourton and then put this topic on the agenda.
 - V. Special Event Recycling bins –it was noted that these are available for loan when events are being held locally.
 - VI. Church Clock – information regarding the automation of the church clock had been received and appraised by Julian Aldred who currently winds the clock and would also be organising the supply of electricity to the tower if the project goes ahead. The information will be circulated to councillors and the PCC together with Julian's notes. Clerk will investigate whether any grants are available to see to automate the clock and proposals would then have to be re-evaluated once we know if funding is available. There is not enough money in the clock to cover this work.. A survey has also recently been carried out on the condition of the bell in the bell tower. It is anticipated that the PCC can get grants to have this refurbished.
7. Finance –
 - I. current financial situation – bank statements not available for the meeting but current account will now stands at £12,773.61 as £2,880 revenue from sale of Fairport Tickets has been received as well as the VAT refund from the Inland Revenue of £6,708.21. The reserve accounts holds £11,781.33 and the clock account £3,005.25.
 - II. agreement of end of year accounts – the end of year accounts were agreed and signed. This was delayed as the July meeting had to be cancelled.

III. It was noted that Cllr Bull had obtained extra Fairport tickets this year for sale so councillors asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the organiser, Gareth and Cllr Prew asked that we thank Cllr Bull for his work on this again.

8. Matters Arising from the previous minutes

I. Footpaths –

- i. Weeding – weed killing programme now completed, contractor will be visiting again to check on results.
- ii. footpath to Cropredy – detailed information awaited from Ian Clarke, Highways Department. They are waiting for Network Rail to give permission to take the footpath under the bridge. A ball park figure of £87,000 has been quoted.
- iii. Restricted vision School Lane exit – now being handled by Tim Shillock who has located the original paperwork regarding the permission for the shrubbery and will be issuing an order to the residents to have the shrubbery trimmed back.

II. Poor Land Trustees- this was deferred to another meeting due to the fact that the meeting was running late. And matters about new Trustees will not be straightforward.

III. Allotments – as above, significant discussions during public time. Final notice to be served on one tenant. Cllr Stanley agreed to meet with the allotment holders to discuss the proposed amendments to the Tenancy Agreement. Allotment holders noted that the high water bill last winter was due to the dripping tap and that the tap needs to be lagged before next winter. It is also proposed to change the allotment year to begin in October.

IV. Local Transport and Bus shelters – revised timetable expected in September which will be published. Highways will be requested to determine possible sites for bus shelters.

V. A423- 50mph – the accident data has been received from highways. We expect to hear in due course about any restrictions being implemented on the Oxfordshire end of the A423.

VI. Website update – a problem occurred recently with the automatic renewal of the hosting subscription which ultimately led to the site not being available for a time, this has now been resolved.

VII. Insurance. – the Parish Council have changed the insurance supplier to a company specialising in Parish Council insurance policies. The policy is much improved on the old policy and costs considerably less. We now have to add the LB playground equipment to the schedule and to keep the policy up to date.

VIII. Playgrounds – play area inspection booked for both areas. Digley and Associates have been asked to inspect Little Bourton. They are associates of the new insurance company and can also give current valuations on equipment at no extra charge. Extra screening for the Great Bourton play area was discussed and a quotation had been received for the provision of this. A site meeting will be held with local residents who have asked for this extra screening. Cllr Stanley proposed and Cllr Tomlin seconded the proposal to purchase the shrubs required if they are deemed suitable. Notices are also to be erected asking children not to block up the ditch which has been causing problems for neighbouring landowners.

9. Planning:

I. Application 09/00478/F OS Parcel 3873 – Mr Lapper – Cllr Atack reported that this application would most probably be discussed at the 10th September Meeting. Clerk will put together all previous information which can be circulated to the planning committee before the meeting. Several letters and photographs have been received complaining about the site. It was noted that previous letters sent to the planning department have not been put on the planning website. It was agreed that the submission to the planning committee should also be copies to the Chief Executive of the Council.

II. Application 09/00570/F Land adjoining N of M40 and East of Little Bourton – Environment Agency [Flood Alleviation Scheme- Cherwell Valley] – a letter has been sent to the Planning department regarding this and asking to see a scaled model of the scheme. This will impact significantly on Little Bourton for whom the changes in the surrounding landscape will be visible. Cllr Atack has organised a meeting with the Environment Agency to explain plans in the absence of a model.

10. Date of next meeting Monday 7th September 2009

NOTE: We now understand that the new bus service is unlikely to start in September and clarification from OCC is being sought.

Signed

Dated