

THE BOURTONS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13TH 2024 AT 19:30

In attendance : Cllr Mrs S Upton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs G Duckworth, Cllr A Johnson, Cllr Mrs J Beales, Cllr Mrs G Brooks, Cllr S Martin, D.Cllr P Chapman (part), Stephen Bowen-Clerk, Rachel Pheasey-RFO ; **Apologies** : C.Cllr G Reynolds

Declarations of Interest : none declared

Public Participation : no public attendance.

Minutes : The previous Council meeting (January) minutes were reviewed and were approved for signature.

Minute ref	Item	Delegated to
2402-01	Footpaths	
2402-01.189	The letter sent to the landowner of The Stables site regarding the condition of the public footpath remain unanswered and a second letter has been sent. OCC will follow this up later this month if no reply is received.	Information
2402-02	Highways & Road defects - Progress Report	
2402-01.190	The Community Speedwatch team now has 12 members, including 5 co-ordinators and a minimum of 1 monitoring session per week is scheduled, this will be increased as Spring approaches and the weather improves. We have 8 approved locations and are investigating a further one in GB and one in LB. The Council wishes to record its thanks to Mr Cooper, senior co-ordinator and all the team members for their excellent work.	Information
2402-09	Public Transport:	
2402-09.191	Disappointing news has been received that due to budget cuts planned by OCC the public transport support budget has been reduced by £260k resulting in the opportunity for a further bus service for The Bourtons has been lost. Council is very concerned about this and will fully investigate the feasibility of creating a bus layby on the Southam Road to facilitate the current 77 service that passes, being able to stop.	Information
2402-09.192	Council has received advice that Ability, the minibus service provider has received a significant grant to be used to develop further services for disabled passengers and we look forward to receiving further details of new services.	Information
2402-60	Planning applications:	
2402-60.193	New applications: No new applications notified	Information
	Decisions	Information
2402-60.194	No new decisions notified	
2402-60.195	Conservation area application : information from CDC suggests that they are significantly behind their target to review new area applications and that it may well be the second half of the year before our request is addressed, and that there are a number of other applicants ahead of us. We will continue exploratory work so we are prepared when the assessment starts.	Information
2402-90	County & District Councillors report:	
2402-90.196	No OCC update as apologies received from Cllr Reynolds. D.Cllr Phil Chapman advised that the final CDC precept will be set at the end of this month and that he believes that significant cuts in 25/25 budgets have been largely avoided. However he has serious concerns about the 25/26 challenge as there is no obvious space for further budget reductions, so a review of service provision may be required particularly as central Government have already flagged that they intend to take a larger share of local business rates. He is also sure that little would be different if there is a change of party in Government.	Information
2402-90.197	Work continues on the plan to relocate CDC offices from Bodicote House to the Castle Quay centre. An offer for the current Bodicote House site has been received from a developer for housing but no date has yet been confirmed for the relocation, but this could be towards the end of the year. The move is essential to avoid significant refurbishment costs and limit operating costs as the current premises are too large for the staff numbers working on site.	Information
2402-04	Defibrillators:	
2402-04.198	Both defibrillators working. Residents may be aware that the current LB location - The Dirt House pub - is now up for sale and <u>this could require a location review.</u>	Information
2402-05	Website:	
2402-05.199	New and updated pages have been uploaded to the site to ensure we continue to meet our obligations under the Transparency regulations for local Councils.	Information
2402-05.200	Council has been advised that the Government intend to modify the rules regarding accessibility for Council websites and this will be kept under review.	
2402-06	Projects update:	
2402-06.201	LB : the location for the new village sign is to be reviewed with the local Highways Inspector so that installation can be completed.	Information
2402-07	Playgrounds & Public Spaces:	
2402-07.202	GB Garners Field LAP : the legal searches on the site have been completed and all appear to be in order. However the physical boundary of the site remains unclear and CDC are enquiring of Hayfield Homes what was the boundary of the land they purchased for the development. This Council will not proceed until this matter has been resolved.	Information
2402-08	Allotments:	
2402:08.203	Our dispute with Castle Water continues unresolved and we have now been advised that the solicitors appointed by CW have been terminated, so we are back to dealing with CW directly.	
2402-08.204	A discussion was held regarding the proposed Tenants meeting, but there does not seem to be much on the agenda. We will write to tenants outlining any issues and only hold a meeting if they significantly support the need.	Information
2402-10	Halls:	

2402-10.205	VH : Damp issues - a review of external funding opportunities is underway. Roof repairs - these will commence shortly. Oil tank cladding repair : this needs to be completed by an oil registered technician and is planned for the 27th February.	Information
2402-10.206	VH : An offer by our Chairman to develop a marketing plan for the VH has been accepted by the trustees and this was presented at their recent meeting. The trustees will discuss the plan and respond accordingly. The plan has identified that the VH is well suited for family and smaller local events.	Information
2402-11	Healthcare:	
2402-11.207	It was noted that our letter sent to Victoria Prentis MP regarding our concerns about the long term future of the Surgery has not received any response. It was AGREED that we should request a response.	Clerk
2402-50	Finance & Administration:	
2402-50.208	The FIN REP prepared by the RFO was circulated and it was RESOLVED that the associated bank reconciliation be accepted and that 7 payments totalling £894.62 be approved. To comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code those in excess of £100 are listed below : CDC : brown bin licences : £294.00 JACS : post for LB sign : £138.00 Sign Wizzard : additional Community Speed watch signs : £246.51	Information
2402-50.209	Note that a cheque previously issued to DWG Windows for VH repairs has been lost in the post. It was AGREED that a new cheque be issued and this will be given to the company.	Information
2402-50.210	Council has previously RESOLVED to approach potential grant providers regarding the repairs to the Parish Clock and this will start now; we have been provided with a substantial list of potential donors by Smith of Derby.	Chairman
2402-50.211	The 2024/25 precept request has been accepted by CDC.	Information
2402-50.212	A number of minor changes have been made to a few of our Policies, which have been previously circulated and it was RESOLVED that these be accepted, and they have now been uploaded to the website as required.	Information
2402-50.213	The Risk Assessment has been reviewed and some small adjustments have been made, this was previously circulated to Cllrs and it was RESOLVED that this be accepted.	Information
2402-70	Correspondence:	
2402-70.214	An invitation to a Climate Change seminar was received from CDC and the Chairman attended. She reported that this Council is already doing most of the things recommended, but we will continue to consider all opportunities to further lower our carbon footprint. If any resident has any practical ideas these would be welcomed; please email the Chairman or Clerk.	Information
2402-80	New business:	
	There was no new business to consider.	Information
	Meeting closed at 2140	
	Minutes drafted by the Clerk on 15/02/24.	
	The next meeting will be held on March 12th 2024 in the Community Hall commencing at 19:30	