

# **Bryanston Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 at 7pm, at The Old Powerhouse (TOPH) Bryanston**

**Councillors:** Cllr C Tompsett - Chairman, Cllr C Gale – Vice Chairman, Cllr Frank Stocks, Cllr C Moxham and Cllr M Bird

**In attendance:** Nicola Phillips – Clerk and 6 members of the public

At this point the Chairman announced that Mr R Nolan has resigned from the Parish Council. Mr Nolan was a very valued member of the Parish Council and was very proactive in projects within the Parish. A big thank you to Mr Nolan for his years of voluntary service on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **Public consultation:**

The Chairman asked if the members of the public would like a commemorative tree planted to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and if so, what type of tree and where to plant it. After debate, it was agreed to plant a commemorative tree, a Crab Apple, at The Old Powerhouse.

Mr J Baker reported that dog owners not picking up after their dogs remains a big issue in the village. The Clerk will obtain more signs to encourage people to pick up after their dogs and to remind them that they can be prosecuted if they do not comply. Public footpaths through farm fields are included by the Dog Act. It is unpleasant for farmers to have their cattle feed contaminated with dog faeces. The Clerk will also ask the Dog Warden to visit the village on random days and times, as they have the power to impose fines. The village is asked to work together to keep the village clear of dog fouling and avoid the fines to be issued.

A member of the public expressed concerns about no 7 Bryanston which remains unoccupied. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council have just recently chased this matter up with Suzanne Kinlough, Empty Homes Enforcement Officer at Dorset Council, who has once again re-opened investigations on the property.

The Clerk will contact Suzanne to see what progress has been achieved.

**Action – Clerk**

The lighting at the Portman Mews was again raised. The Clerk will contact Sovereign Housing to ask them for more for economical/environmentally-friendly lights.

**Action – Clerk**

### **21/43. Apologies for absence, declaration of interest and dispensations:**

Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Ms Issy Dixon-Clegg and Mr Richard Ball sent their apologies.

Cllr C Tompsett declared a personal interest under agenda item 6 – planning - tree application submitted.

### **21/44. To approve the minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes had been circulated previously. Cllr Gale proposed, Cllr Stocks seconded, and all members agreed the contents were a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 (21/44 no budgetary requirements)

### **21/45. Co-option for new members**

No one put themselves forward for co-option. The Parish Council now has two vacancies, so if you are interested in supporting ongoing and future projects, contact the Clerk for Chairman for more information.

### **21/46 Matters arising from the meeting dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 and new matters**

**To agree - Clerk holiday pay and salary increase as set up by NALC** – this information has been circulated to the Councillors for their consideration. Cllr Bird proposed that the Clerk be paid her untaken holiday pay and back date the wage increase to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2021 as set out with the National Association of Local Councils for the total sum of £310.00. This was seconded by Cllr Moxham, all in favour.

**RESOLVED:** To back date the Clerk's wages to April 2021, as set out by latest NALC pay scale and to pay in lieu of holiday (21/46 – wages)

**To consider: Planting of a tree to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – This was agreed under public consultation.

**To consider: Queens Jubilee celebrations at TOPH** – the working group has been working with Durweston arranging activities to be held in both Parishes over the Bank Holiday to commemorate the Queens Jubilee. There will be a bouncy castle, food, games, tug of war, beer festival and lots more. A commemorative mosaic is also being produced. Details can be seen on the Bryanston Village Community Facebook page. The Parish Council had already agreed to support the Jubilee celebrations. Cllr Gale proposed a donation of £350.00 for the celebrations and to donate funds for the working group to purchase commemorative coins for the children in the parish for the sum of £209.00. This was seconded by Cllr Stocks. All in favour.

**RESOLVED** – to donate £350.00 for the Jubilee Celebrations and £209.00 towards the cost of the coins (21/46a – donations)

**Grants awards for 2021-2022** - Cllr Moxham proposed the following grants are awarded from 2021-2022 allocations, this was seconded by Cllr Bird, all in favour.

- Blandford Town Council Toilets £50.00
- St Nicholas Church, Durweston £100.00
- Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £50.00
- Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau £50.00

**RESOLVED:** to award the grant applications above from the 2021-2022 allocations (21/46b Grants)

**To consider: Bryanston Parish Council's response to the Dorset Council Community Governance Review (CGR) - public consultation** – The Parish Council support Dorset Council's recommendation to reject Blandford Forum Town Council's proposal to change their boundary to incorporate Bryanston Parish, Blandford St Mary, some areas in Pimperne, Langton Long, Tarrant Launceston and Tarrant Monkton. Bryanston residents are being urged to reposing to the CGR Public Consultation at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/community-governance-review](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/community-governance-review) open unit the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Unfortunately, the public consultation questionnaire is not user friendly, so residents are being asked to support Dorset Council draft recommendation (which is to reject Blandford's proposal) if they wish Bryanston to remain an independent, rural parish with its own parish council. A leaflet with one question has been sent out around the village. This will gather the necessary evidence to show how Bryanston resident view the Blandford proposal and will by the Parish Council in its own response to the Public Consultation. Completed leaflets/question can be returned to BPC, the box is provided in the porch at The Old Powerhouse or by email (email address is on the leaflet) The Parish Councils CGR Working Group will be producing a response to this public consultation, to support the Draft Recommendation from Dorset Council.

**To consider: Setting up of a charity for community benefit and as a repository for any funds from TOPH, in event it becomes insolvent** – Mr J Baker has been very helpful in providing information and suggestions for which charity the Parish Council should apply for. The Parish Council agreed to register for a Charitable trust (trust deed), which, by the village raising funds will provide a community benefit fund for the Parish. This will also ensure that if TOPH becomes insolvent the assets will be put into the Charity for the Parish. The Clerk will apply for the Charity Trust on behalf of the Parish Council **Action - Clerk**

**21/47 Report from Representative of Dorset Council – there was no report given.**

**21/48. Officers' reports: Some reports had been circulated and will be available to see on the Parish Council's website or a hard copy can be obtained from the Clerk**

**Vice-Chairman's report** – Has responded to the increases in parking charges in Blandford on behalf of BPC demonstrating the negative effects that they will have on both the town and our residents. Has assisted with our response to the Community Governance Review. Although Lower Bryanston had only a few hours of power cuts residents responded with offers of help to the Parish as a whole.

**Bryanston School-** nothing reported.

**Highways** – nothing to report.

**Environment Team** – The Clerk will ask the grass cutting contractor to cut the grass just prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> June, so that the village looks at its best. **Action - Clerk**

**Planning** – Cllr Stocks had sent the following report:

**2/2017/1919/OUT** - Land Northeast of Lower Bryanston Farm, Fair Mile Road - Outline application for up to 80 Houses – the Section 106 agreement has now been uploaded on to the Council's website, but the Decision Notice has not yet been issued – this is expected in the next week or so.

**P/TRC/2022/00180** - Chynoweth, The Cliff. Works to a Bay Tree – Dorset Council – NO OBJECTION – 15.2.22

**DAPTC-** the Clerk will forward information from the DAPTC when received.

**Footpaths** – Dorset Council Rights of Way officer, Graham Stanley, is looking at the Stour Valley Way public footpath from the Dairy to the Horse Field on Bryanston School Land, to clarify the route.

**Bryanston Estate** – Acknowledged the S106 agreement being approved for the proposed Lower Bryanston Farm development.

**The Old Powerhouse (TOPH)** – As Covid restrictions have eased recently, they are seeing more people emerge. The TOPH is going from strength to strength. The Burns Night was successful, and a Mother's Day Lunch soon will hopefully be as well attended, as food seems to be what drives people to come out.

As part of the CIC, the developing relationship with a chef willing to host Theme Nights at The TOPH means more can be offered to our immediate community and make better use of the kitchen.

With regular garden tidy days, interior decorating sessions, and now Jubilee event assistance requests, we are more engaged than ever with the village and getting to know at least 1 person from each house!

The power cut helped bring us all together as it did during the first COVID lockdown. Summer is coming, and life gets a lot more cheerful.

**Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan** – The Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan needs to be modified to reflect changes to government planning policy (NPPF) and to keep B+ policies up to date and usable by Dorset Council to help decide planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan has two years from June 2021 before it needs to be updated to maintain its full weight (after June 2023). Updates have been initiated and our consultants re-engaged to facilitate the making of necessary modifications. It is likely the modified Plan will need to be re-examined, but probably not another Public Referendum.

## 21/49. Finance

Payment Schedule and Financial statement for January 2022 for the sum of £468.52, which had been agreed via email for payment. The Clerk had circulated the Payment Schedule, Financial statement which now included the agreed cost for the Clerk holiday and back pay in salary increase, and bank reconciliation for February 2022 for the sum of £714.10. This was proposed by Cllr Moxham and seconded by Cllr Stocks, all agreed, and signed by the Chairman. Details are as below:

Payee	Payee	Expense Amount
N Phillips	Clerk wages	£ 370.50
N Phillips	Clerk expenses	£ 23.60
DAPTC	Councillor Training	£ 10.00
N Phillips	Holiday and salary increase	£ 310.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 714.10</b>

**RESOLVED:** to pay the payment on the schedule for the sum of £714.10 (21/49 current account).

## 21/50. Chairman's report – the Chairman's report can be viewed on the Parish Council's website and hard copies obtained by the Clerk.

Sadly, since the last meeting in January, Cllr Richard Nolan, a much-valued member of the council, has decided to resign for personal reasons. Over the years, Cllr Nolan has worked on a number of key village projects, including the refurbishment of the telephone box and he has looked after Bryanston' public footpaths, clearing vegetation and replacing signs, as the Council's Footpath Officer. Cllr Nolan's ability to engage easily with everyone meant that residents were able to raise their concerns and issues affecting the parish. We send him our grateful thanks and best wishes for the future.

The Community Governance Review has entered the next phase. This includes the proposal from Blandford Forum Town Council to include Bryanston within the town boundary. Dorset Council has recommended rejection of the proposal but has taken it to Public Consultation until May 23rd. Bryanston Parish Council will be responding to the Public Consultation, but residents are being urged to respond individually as well. Public opinion as to whether the parish residents want to join Blandford is being sought via the simple question leaflet in the Newsletter: 'Does Bryanston wish to remain as an independent, rural parish with its own parish council?' The responses will be recorded and used as evidence for the Parish Council's response. If the Blandford proposal is accepted, and this is still possible after public consultation, it will mean the end of the parish council. Instead, governance would pass to Blandford Forum Town Council, of which Bryanston would be a small part. How that would affect our services currently provided by the parish council, such as grass cutting, can only be guessed at, likewise the amount of council tax we would be expected to pay. Bryanston PC has been working closely with the other 4 parishes affected by the proposal and with our County Councillor, Cllr Sherry Jespersen, who has given us much advice and support.

The aftermath of Storm Eunice, and the power cuts, clearly demonstrated the close community that exists in all parts of Bryanston, with neighbours helping out with hot drinks, heaters, and warm blankets, especially for the more vulnerable members of our community. The Bryanston Community Facebook page was extensively used to share news of SSEN updates, sightings of repair vehicles and offers of help. The Kennels area suffered another day of cuts, compounded by a lack of water (it is pumped to this area). The closeness of Bryanston with Durweston was also highlighted as Durweston residents, together with Bryanston residents, knocked on doors, provided hot soup and support. Bryanston School also offered their help, and it was reassuring to know the school is there if the parish needs it. Thanks to all concerned. It was notable that no help was offered by Blandford.

Clearly Bryanston and Durweston look to each other as close neighbours, exemplified by the Jubilee celebrations that are being jointly planned for the Platinum Jubilee weekend in June. The main days are Thursday 2nd June, hosted by Bryanston and Sunday 5th being hosted by Durweston. The Old Powerhouse is also planning great events on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June.

The village is blooming with spring flowers, thanks to the community bulb planting events over the last two autumns. The island is particularly impressive with a carpet of snowdrops at one end and many daffodils beginning to flower. A similar event this autumn will only add to the display next spring. Finally, my thoughts are with the people of Ukraine.

**21/51 Clerk report** – all correspondence has been circulated and actioned as required.

**21/52. Items for the next agenda. AGM** - Co-option for new members – Tourist signs for the village – Refurbish phone box.

**Date of next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022, to be held at The Old Powerhouse at 7.00pm.**

**Should you wish to contact the Clerk please use the email address below:**

**[Clerk@bryanston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@bryanston-pc.gov.uk) Website - [www.bryanston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bryanston-pc.gov.uk)**

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.25pm.**