

Minutes of the Winterborne Zelston Village Meeting held on Tuesday 11th April 2017 at Winterborne Zelston Village Hall, commencing 6.30pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Attendance and apologies

Parish Cllrs Di Lewis and Ron Sorrell and the Parish Clerk, together with 11 members of the public were present. Apologies had been received from District Councillors Emma Parker and Jane Somper, also from residents; Irene Curly, Bonnie Randall and Mark Oby, John and Rosemary Bush.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2017

The minutes have been available on the notice board in the village and on the Parish Council web site. A summary of the meeting was read out.

3. Matters arising

Subway lights – the lights have been repositioned so they no longer shine into the windows of the nearby properties. Generally, this continues to be a success.

Fund raising committee- it had been agreed, in principle, to explore the possibility of joint fund raising between the Church and Village Hall. The next step is to ask the Church and Village Hall to put representatives forward and formalise a joint committee. One of the concerns raised about the two groups working together is to ensure that the church element of any monies raised should be for parochial purposes, i.e. the fabric of the church and surrounding land, not the diocese. There may also be issues regarding the terms of the constitution as one is a charity, the other is not, etc.

The verge in front of Brook Farm – someone from the EA has walked the river but no report has been forthcoming to date. The water level has been very low this year so the situation will continue to be monitored.

4. Parish Chairman's Report

Cllr Lewis read out her report. The full report will be available on the Parish Council's web site and, on request, from the Clerk.

5. County Councillor's Report

The County Councillor was not in attendance and no report was available.

6. District Councillors' Report

Although unable to attend, the District Councillors had sent a joint report. This was read out at the meeting and a full copy is available on the Parish Council's web site and, on request, from the Clerk.

7. Village Updates

Flood – Rita Burden reported that the village has been very fortunate in that there was no flooding over the winter period. A survey was carried out by a Basingstoke firm but, as yet, no report has been received. Rita extended her thanks to all those residents who assist with the community river clear in the Autumn.

Homewatch – Di Lewis continues to copy the Police alerts to those who have requested them. Anyone wishing to receive the reports should contact her. There is no longer an area meeting of the Home Watch Group for North Dorset.

Public Footpaths – No report was available from John Bush this year and he will be stepping down from this role. One resident reported that he has tried to use some of the paths but they are overgrown and impassable. The Clerk suggested reporting any issues on the Dorsetforyou web site.

Bridleways – Bonnie Randall has been keeping a watch on the bridleways for the past year. A brief report was presented: -

‘The bridleways and sign posts are all in good order around the village. The council has recently been and cleared the overhanging and fallen tree’s making the way much easier. The gates that are along the bridleway on Miss Hoppers’ farm side of Little Coll Wood are extremely difficult to use mounted on horseback. I believe the gates don’t have to be but would make the use of the bridleway more enjoyable. There have been a couple of issues at Bushes Farm where users have no respect for the fact that, although it is a public bridleway, this is a working farm with livestock and farm machinery. Signs have now been put up reminding users of their responsibilities when using the path through their home. Please may I also take the opportunity to remind users that dogs should be on the designated path when using bridleways and leads if livestock are present in the field. It is the owner’s responsibility to pick up their dogs’ mess.’ Bonnie Randall

Trees – John Bush had submitted the following report -

‘There have been six applications for treework submitted or resubmitted to NDDC by Winterborne Zelston residents or their agents during the past year. Five have met with no objection from the Council and one awaits a decision. Full details of these applicatons and their outcomes can be found on the website www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/north-dorset. This site also gives details of how to submit an application or register an objection. With regard to raising objections, it’s important to note that the Council allows only four weeks from the date of submission to do this, so anyone becoming aware of an application they’re not happy about needs to act swiftly. NB – all work on trees within our Conservation Area, that is nearly all trees within the village, should be agreed to by NDDC. There are cases – diseased, dead or dangerous trees – where permission to act can be given following a site visit by a Tree Officer – but usually it will be necessary to complete a (very straightforward) application form, wait for a period of six weeks to elapse and then, if no objections are forthcoming, proceed with the work.’ John Bush

Mapperton Solar Farm – the planning hearing at East Dorset District Council has been delayed again and Good Energy have been advised to redraft their environmental impact assessment - which they have yet to do. The hearing is now unlikely to take place until May/June.

Village Hall – there will be some changes following the AGM on 25th April. Quite a bit of money has been raised by fundraising and it is hoped some work will be carried out to the building – decorating the interior and tidying the exterior.

St Marys Church – all in good order thanks to the residents of the village who give their time and experience at virtually no cost – a huge thank you to everyone who has assisted. The Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2018. Continue to have the grass cut for free by John Smith. Financial – managing to pay their share to Salisbury. Events – duck race, French supper, church walk with teas afterwards, Matilda’s church clean, 100 club.

8. Village Appointments

Flood Warden – Rita Burden was happy to carry on in this role.

Home Watch – Di Lewis will continue in this role.

Trees – John Bush is happy to continue as tree warden and he is available to give advice to anyone who wishes to carry out tree work.

Bridleway – Bonnie Randall is happy to continue in this role.

Footpaths – Sally will consider taking this on and speak to Di Lewis.

9. Roads and Potholes

There has been an attempt to repair the pot holes but it is clear this is only a temporary job. It was suggested that we ask County how much it would cost to have the road resurfaced properly. Highways have made it clear that they do not have the budget to carry out the works they used to. Any work we want done, will have to be paid for from the Precept.

Is it the duty of the council to clear the rain water gullies? There will no longer be regular clears carried out. Highways have asked that residents ensure mud and leaves are removed from the gullies to prevent blocking but, should one become blocked, it should be reported via dorsetforyou.

Is there anything that can be done about preventing vehicles from exiting at the eastern end of the village? The Clerk will check with Highways to see if there is something that can be done. It will not be possible to have signage preventing people from exiting onto the A35 at the eastern end of the village as this would require a Road Traffic Order. It was also noted that vehicles entering the village from this point are often travelling too quickly going around the corner. This matter will be raised with Highways and it may be possible to have a 'slow' marker there.

10. Parish Land

The Laurels are beginning to interfere with the overhead lines. The area by the cross and seat has become quite dark as the laurels are overgrowing it and could be cut back. It was generally felt that the laurel should be cut back. There are some nice ash trees within the copse that are being taken over by the laurels. Rita Burden felt she would not like them thinned out too much.

On the corner of the church yard there is a large beech tree, outside of which there is a horse chestnut which is now trying to grow up inside the beech tree and out onto the road. John Bush has said that it is of a size that means an order would be needed to carry out any work. It may be that the owner of the adjacent land will need to address the problem but it may become an issue for larger traffic travelling along the road. Ownership will be determined before any action is taken.

11. Communal Noticeboard

This was discussed last year – to have a notice board that is large enough to cover all areas of the village. Mark Oby is prepared to design a new notice board and flower trough to go where the current one is, at a cost of £100. It was agreed that Mark produce the drawings and they are displayed on the notice board so people can comment.

12. Open Forum

Where would the follow up from this meeting to be found? Parish Council web site, Parish Council meetings, local notice board.

Di Lewis closed the meeting saying that Zelston is lucky in having a community that is prepared to roll up its sleeves and do any work that needs doing, especially the river clean.

Meeting closed 19.35pm

Rita Burden thanked Di and Ron for representing Zelston on the Parish Council.