

BOURTONS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on the 1st August 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Those present: Cllrs Sally Leszczynski (Chairman) Brian Bull , Caroline Timms and Sue Upton (Dist Cllr Atack at 8pm)

- 1) **No apologies** were received but it was noted that District Cllr Atack would be attending at approximately 8 pm following another meeting.
- 2) There were no declarations of interest.
- 3) **Public Participation Session:** There were 4 members of public present, none of whom had any matters to report or query.
- 4) **Proposed New Housing Development in Great Bourton:** CALA Ltd sent two representatives to the meeting to outline a potential development plan at Garners Field. Two draft schemes were presented each with an option of approximately 30 dwellings and an extra amenity for the village. One scheme included a new village hall and the other a 'mini' soccer pitch. Both schemes show a selection of properties ranging from £200,000 to £400,000 and the required number of affordable housing. It was suggested that a housing needs survey might be useful to determine the style of housing which might best suit the needs of the parish. It was also proposed that a public meeting be held at a later date to inform and give local residents an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.
- 5) **Minutes:** The amended minutes of the meeting held on 9th May were approved and signed as were the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June.
- 6) **Co-option of new councillor(s):** Cllrs Leszczynski, Bull, Timms and Upton had previously met with Steven Hughes and it was agreed at the meeting that he be co-opted as councillor. Proposed by Cllr Leszczynski and seconded by Cllr Timms. The appointment of Cllr Bull was ratified and his acceptance documentation completed.
- 7) A replacement parish clerk is still being sought – Cllr Upton is following up.
- 8) **Highways matters:**
 - a. **Road name signs at junction Crow Lane with Main Street:** (known to OCC Highways as 'Station Road'). As Tony Brummell no longer at CDC dealing with this, Julie Shea is now responsible, spoke to her on the phone and emailed details, together with copy of letter from T Brummell 30.3.11 stating that this and matters below were in hand.
 - b. **Swan Lane:** as above. Also, Peter Egawhary now given as relevant contact for OCC Highways. Ref PEM No. 424611 Bourtons Street works. Last email to him 15.7.11 giving information.
 - c. **Bourton to Cropredy footway:** Contract confirmed to Wayne Walsh (with working partner Terry Murphy). Letter sent to other contractors to say bids unsuccessful for this project. Cropredy PC agreed up to £5,000 contribution in closed session at June meeting, confirmed in public at July PC meeting. Albert Humphries (OCC Highways) announced need for further drainage channel to divert storm rainwater at top of approach to Great Bourton. Site meeting held with contractor W.Walsh, A.Humphries (Highways, retiring), M.Wilde (Highways, taking over responsibility), Ray Cherry (Cropredy) Cllrs S.L, and B.B. Route walked and agreed. Construction at drainage channels agreed. As new requirement for drainage had not previously been mentioned, and therefore was not part of quote or budget, Highways agreed to fund and carry out construction as required. In view of this chairman of Cropredy PC agreed to waive further request for funding from OCC and to make full £5,000 contribution. Highways supplied maps as requested for water, sewage, telephone and electricity cable positions. B.Cannon provided map showing approximate lines of supplies and spring-fed water supply to Peewit Farm. Contractor provided statement of working practice and public safety measures to be used during construction. Work started on path Wed. 20th July 12:15., materials having been delivered previous week.

Machines and removable materials are having to be stored off site for security. So far cones, electric saw (during working day) and stakes for safety tapes have been taken from site.

The line of the path is being constructed as close to the hedge as is practicable at any point, to allow for future cutting of hedges by machinery, and safer walking, but avoiding street furniture, inspection covers for utility services, large trees roots, and steep fall away of land to hedge base or ditch.

Estimated time for construction was 3½ weeks, T Murphy is expecting to have finished 9. 8.11, but has been told that doing the job properly is more important than completion before Fairport, as long as site is left safe and clear for that time. It can be finished the following week. Note: Highways Department have approved the pathway and have agreed to adopt it for future maintenance.

- d. **Bus shelters** When filling in grant application forms it was discovered that a site meeting by the shelter provider company, and possibly a representative from Highways, has to have been carried out before application for grant. I have spoken to Paul Wilson who will reconsider when date is fixed.
- e. **GA bus service** B Ellard applied for and was granted renewal of licence to operate route through Cropredy and Great Bourton, with a slightly revised timetable. Unfortunately the bus at around 9am is still too early for bus passes to be valid anywhere on the route to Banbury. New timetables are posted on notice boards.
- f. **Bus lay-by, Little Bourton** legal undertaking was given to OCC by developers that this would be constructed by the end of July, but no work has started. However, due to delay of work on A361 and continued closure, there will be heavy traffic using the A423 especially during Cropredy Fairport Festival week, so it maybe better to postpone pressure to carry out bus layby work that will impact on the A423.
- g. **Trees on Main Street, Great Bourton** These were planted in 1961 by children of the parish. Lorraine Douglas, trees officer for OCC Highways, has been asked for a survey of trees health and assessment of need for remedial work for setting parish council budget. Lorraine will arrange survey and will send information about which trees would be considered to be on Highways land. Enquiry Ref No. 434770
- h. **Weed control and path clearing** Weed control and path clearing – quotes would be sought from other companies for weed control this year. Action: Cllr Upton
Garage area in South View still to be cleared and it was reported that a metal frame has been left near the pathway through to Main Street. Cllr Upton to contact Estates department again

9) **Playgrounds:**

- a. ROSPA safety inspection were carried out in July but reports not yet received
- b. Great Bourton, hedges, equipment – it was agreed to hold a clearing up day at the GB playground. Cllr Upton will invite ex playground committee to attend one day in September for cleaning of swings etc.
Overgrown hedges at entrance: neighbour has arranged for severe pruning to be done.
- c. Little Bourton - there has been some damage to equipment which is being addressed. Quotes are being sought for the improvement of the parking area. The target wall will be improved and quotations have been sought for some outdoor gym equipment. Once chosen and agreed these will be submitted to CDC for approval and payment from Section 106 agreement funds (the Avoncroft contribution to the Little Bourton Playground.)

10) **Finance:** End of year accounts have been internally audited, approved and submitted to BDO for final approval. Monies from this year's sale of Fairport tickets will need to be discussed at next meeting regarding their allocation. OALC training expenses were approved.

11) **Planning:** There were no current planning applications for consideration.

12) **Correspondence:**

- a. An e-mail had been received regarding the situation with the delay of the reopening of the A361. Tony Baldry had been contacted to speak to Northamptonshire County Council regarding the delay.
- b. A letter had been received regarding the new signs which had been erected on the railway line which instructed trains to whistle on approach. An e-mail has been sent to Network rail to ask if train activated light signals could be fitted to warn if one or more trains are approaching this section of track and allow enough time for someone to get off the track in good time before the train approaches the crossing.
- c. Information has been received from OCC to say that grit bins will be filled only once and one 1 tonne bag of road salt supplied. One extra bag can be purchased by the parish Council at £100 for further use. Council need therefore to find a suitable location in both villages to store the extra grit for use during the winter period. NO additional salt/grit will be available from OCC. this winter

13) **District Councillors report:** Dist Cllr Atack continues to monitor the local transport situation, the Section 106 agreement for Little Bourton and the developments regarding the A361. He also reported on the Cherwell Countryside Forum, and the New Homes Bonus Scheme

14) Date of next meeting Monday 5th Sept 2011

Sally Leszczynski
Chairman