

BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Bourton Parish Council will be held on
Monday 13 June 2016
at 1900 hrs in the Village Hall

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 16 May 2016**
4. **Matters arising**
5. **Questions from Members of the Public**
6. **Finance**
 - a) **To approve payment to Fred Jefferies for work in May**
 - b) **To approve grant to The Flyer of £150.00**
7. **Planning Issues**
 - a) **To note response to revised plans for 2,380 dwellings at South Marston**
 - b) **To consider planning application for change of use and alteration to farm holiday accommodation of barn at Horseshoe Cottage**
 - c) **To note that work on Part 2 of Local Plan has started**
8. **Update on road repairs in Bourton**
9. **To Approve Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly on 19 May 2016**
10. **Correspondence**
11. **Any Other Business**
12. **Date of Next Meeting**

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND

Signed:

Dated:

MINUTES OF THE BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016 AT 1900 HRS IN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr N Ledingham (Chairman)
Cllr D Swann
Cllr J Bean
Cllr D Austin (from 1915 hrs)

Mrs Buckley was present for the whole meeting and spoke for 5 minutes to give her comments on Item 7b.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Moore.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16 May were unanimously approved by all present and were signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4a) The Clerk had responded to the consultation on the Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire that Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership was undertaking.

4b) DS reported that the Village Hall Committee was looking into the possibility of setting up a village website and would be happy for the Parish Council to have a section for minutes, agendas and the financial information which would enable the Parish Council to meet the requirements of the Transparency Code. As this was to be a community website rather than a Parish Council website, it would not be possible to apply for a grant as outlined by OALC. Councillors expressed their thanks to the Village Hall Committee for their offer.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Two residents from Steppingstone Lane had written to the Clerk to report that the lane was in a terrible state and the potholes represented a risk to walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. The Clerk was asked to email Network Rail to see if it might be possible for them to fill the potholes when they return to carry out the road repairs at Lower Bourton. She was also requested to write to Oxfordshire Highways (Rob Saunders) to report the fact that the lane could do with some serious pothole repairs on health and safety grounds and enquire whether the lane could be adopted for the entire length of the tarmac section. The residents would also be encouraged to write to Highways direct.

Action: Clerk

A resident from The Hill had reported that the hedge on the left hand side was overgrown and obscuring the road signs. The Clerk would report this to the Bursar.

Action: Clerk

6. FINANCE

6a) It was unanimously agreed to pay Fred Jefferies for work in May and a cheque for £32.00 was signed.

6b) It was unanimously agreed to give a grant of £150.00 to the Flyer.

7. PLANNING ISSUES

7a) The Clerk had re-sent the Council's original letter of objection to the revised application for 2,380 dwellings at South Marston. She had also taken the opportunity to ask about the procedure for applying for some funding from the development bearing in mind it was within a mile of Bourton Parish and was likely to cause serious rat-running through the village to avoid the queues on the A420.

7b) It was unanimously agreed to object to the planning application for change of use and alteration of barn at the rear of Horseshoe Cottage to farm holiday accommodation. Councillors were concerned about parking issues and did not feel the plans provided the parking that had been outlined by the planning officer for 2 spaces for Horseshoe Cottage and 1 for the holiday let to include space to enable cars to turn and leave the site in a forward gear. It was felt there would be a negative impact on neighbouring properties and concerns were raised about the possibility of the barn becoming a full-time rental business or even be the subject of an application for permanent residence in time which would be over-development of the area. It was understood that the Trustees of the Almshouses were concerned about problems with emergency access for their tenants and there was also the issue of access to Mr and Mrs Buckley's back garden that could be compromised. The Clerk would write to the Vale and copy the response to our District Councillor as requested. **Action: Clerk**

7c) The Clerk reported that the Inspector has published his interim findings on Part 1 of the VWHDC Local Plan. Unfortunately he has agreed that 20,560 houses should be built in the Vale during the Plan period which is virtually double the rate of anything achieved in the Vale in recent years. CPRE feel this figure is unsustainable and unrealistic and the Clerk agrees! On a positive note, the Inspector has recommended that the 1,400 houses proposed in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Harwell should be deleted from the Plan. There was no need to allocate an alternative site in Part 1 of the Local Plan but this allocation should be included in Part 2 in the South East Vale. He has also recommended that 15 sites that the Vale wished to remove from the Green Belt should stay. He did, however, agree that there were exceptional circumstances for the building of houses on four Green Belt sites which included 800 houses at North Abingdon, 200 houses in North West Abingdon, 270 houses in South Kennington and 240 houses in North West Radley. The Clerk commented that although this would be a disappointment to the people in Abingdon, it actually meant that their building programme would be only marginally higher than that of Shrivenham in the rural Western Vale which had nowhere near the facilities and services that the Vale's principal town enjoys. There was only a very oblique mention of infrastructure which was a disappointment bearing in mind the efforts put in by the Western Vale Villages and their Transport Expert Bob Hindhaugh at the EIP. The Inspector had agreed with the settlement hierarchy however, which might be good news for the smallest villages in the Vale like Bourton bearing in mind that work on Part 2 of the Local Plan has now begun with a call for sites across the villages in the Vale.

The Clerk also reported that the Vale now had its five year land housing supply which should mean that the speculative developments outside those recommended in the Local Plan should be refused. We will see!

There were two other Planning matters that had come up after the agenda had been finalised.

The Clerk had objected to the planning application to build 136 houses on the golf course between Shrivenham and Watchfield, thereby supporting Shrivenham Parish Council's objection.

The next meeting of the A420 Working Group was to be held in July and the WVV would be represented by Bob Hindhaugh.

8. UPDATE ON ROAD REPAIRS IN BOURTON

NL reported that Network Rail had suspended work on the road resurfacing at Lower Bourton because of a major water leak that was now the subject of a dispute between Thames Water and Oxfordshire County Council as to whose responsibility it was. The ground underneath the road is like a sponge and therefore the leak needs to be sorted out before Network Rail can begin work. There is likely to be a dispute about who should now be paying for the road repairs if this water leak has contributed to the road damage. It is likely that the road is going

to be closed for some time while this is all sorted out. The Clerk had emailed villagers to update them on this situation and urge them not to ignore the road closure signs.

9. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY ON 19 MAY 2016

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman. They will be displayed on the noticeboard along with the reports from our District and County Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

10. CORRESPONDENCE

An invitation had been received for the Chairman to attend the Town and Parish Forum on 7 July from 6-8 pm at the Oxford Abingdon Hotel, Marcham Road, Abingdon. NL would check his diary. **Action: NL**

The NAG group had written to local Parish Councils to ask if there was any interest in contributing to a speedwatch device which could be shared by the parishes. The cost was £2100 plus VAT and at present 3 parishes had expressed an interest. Training would be available for volunteers but this would be a commitment and they would need to be willing to give up their time to man the device from time to time. The Parish Council would be pleased to consider contributing to the cost, as long as enough parishes were willing to join in so that the amount would not be too onerous. The Clerk was asked to email villagers to find out if there were any willing volunteers. **Action: Clerk**

A parishioner had noticed some cracks in the railway bridge at Lower Bourton. Apparently these have been present for some time but they seem to be bigger now and there was some concern this was as a result of the HGVs using the village bridge when the B4000 bridge was closed. The Clerk was asked to report this to Network Rail to ask if they would consider imposing a weight limit on the bridge, which the Parish Council would be very happy to support. **Action: Clerk**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 13 July at 1900 hrs in the village hall.

Signed:

Date:

13 July 2016

Cheques Issued:

Fred Jefferies £32.00 no 000392 (dated 13 June 2016)
Simon French £150.00 no 000393 (dated 13 June 2016)