

# **BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Bourton Parish Council Annual Assembly will be held on  
Tuesday 28 May 2019  
at 1930 hrs in the Village Hall

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of meeting held on 4 June 2018**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Accounts for year ending 31 March 2018**
- 6. Update on Traffic Calming in Bourton**
- 7. Report from District and County Councillors**
- 8. Update from Neighbourhood Watch**
- 9. Any Other Business**

**You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments after the meeting**

Signed:

Dated:

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**MINUTES OF THE BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD  
TUESDAY 28 MAY 2019 AT 1930 HRS IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Nial Ledingham (Chairman), Cllr John Bean, Cllr Derek Austin and Cllr David Swann. District Councillors Elaine Ware and Simon Howell were also in attendance along with 7 parishioners.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Moore.

**2 and 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the meeting on 4 June 2018 had been approved and signed on 18 June 2018 and displayed on the noticeboard from July -September 2018. The Minutes had been published on the website. There were no matters arising.

The Chairman agreed to take Item 7 first.

**7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

A report from District Cllrs Elaine Ware and Simon Howell is attached as Appendix A. There was a discussion about the various development sites in Shrivenham that were proceeding and the fact that an access for construction traffic from the A420 to the sites North of Shrivenham would be opening shortly. The VWHDC and OxCC remain vigilant for the various planning applications coming in for the development East of Swindon and its impact on the A420. The possibility has also been mooted that the new Oxford – Cambridge Expressway might link up to Swindon in the future. The Vale is now being run by the Liberal Democrats following the recent Election but Simon and Elaine expressed their willingness to continue to help wherever they can in the future. NL thanked them both for attending and for all the hard work that they had undertaken on behalf of our communities over the last year.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked David Swann for keeping the Parish Council website updated with all minutes, agendas and financial information in addition to village events.

A litter pick took place in March/April by members (and friends) of the Parish Council in addition to the clean up organised by Oxfordshire County Council. Thanks to all who took part. It was reported that the fly-tipping in Pot Lid last year resulted in the Vale taking action against an Essex lady.

NL had met with Thames Water to encourage them to repair the road edges along The Avenue and was pleased to report that this had now taken place.

On planning, the Vale granted General Permitted Development for conversion of two barns to 2 semi-detached dwellings and 1 single storey dwelling house at Home Farm. The Parish Council met with Savills in November to discuss Home Farm but declined to support them in their wish to increase the amount of housing to be included on the site beyond that likely to be achieved with further Permitted Development rights as this would be outside the Local Plan policies for Bourton that we support.

Permission had been granted for a single storey extension to the existing pre-prep department at Pinewood School.

Permission granted for single storey side extension and retention of rear extension at The Old Outhouse, Fern Farm.

Despite efforts all year to get Network Rail and/or Highways/Rights of Way Officer to repair Steppingstone Lane, it is disappointing that nothing had been resolved. The Parish Council has been advised by our County Councillor Yvonne Constance to apply for her Councillor's Priority Fund for a grant of up to £2,500 to repair the lane and are liaising with local residents and users of the lane to see if further funds might be added to this. It is the only unadopted lane in the village but Oxfordshire Highways have refused to adopt it, although they are willing to allow residents along the lane to adopt it if they wish. David Swann reported that he had been looking through the old minute books from 1895 and had read that parish councillors were trying to get the

County Council to adopt the lane and take on its maintenance so obviously this argument has been going on for a very long time!

The Parish Council is very grateful to our volunteers, Bob Stanton, Bob Brown and Russell Hayes for conducting two speedwatch sessions along the Bishopstone Road which highlighted to drivers that the speed they were driving at was being monitored.

Finally thanks to John and Muriel Bean for marking up the new graveyard to indicate where the plots will be and the size of them. A Burial Charges schedule will be published shortly on the website regarding the costs of burials and internments once it has been formally approved by the Parish Council but decisions that have been made include the following:

- a) The graveyard is not consecrated ground and therefore parishioners of any religion can be buried there. Individual grave sites can be consecrated during burial services.
- b) The graveyard is open to all residents of Bourton and any former long standing (10 years plus) resident of Bourton. It was agreed that the graveyard had been bought by the parish for the parish and therefore would not be open to residents of other parishes.
- c) The grave plots would be flat and grassed over to facilitate the easy upkeep of the graveyard.
- d) Headstones not exceeding three ft in height would be permitted along with a vase or memorial not exceeding 1 ft 6 in but kerbstone edging and memorial slabs would not be permitted.

#### **5. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018**

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year ending March 2018 and copies were circulated. The precept had increased only very slightly as a result of the grant from VWHDC being reduced from £85.00 to £37.00. End of year funds of £5,841.18 were considered a healthy balance. There were no questions from the floor concerning the accounts.

#### **6. UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING IN BOURTON**

The Parish Council were extremely grateful to Philip Hoyland, Headmaster of Pinewood School, for his generous offer of up to £15K to fund the build-out on the Bishopstone Road to slow traffic down and also for his support in encouraging parents driving from the south to access the village via The Avenue, making it more likely that they would then park on the school site. The new signposts had now been installed on the Bishopstone Road encouraging traffic for Pinewood School to turn right and also there was a new sign at that location indicating that the village is "Unsuitable for HGVs". The sign does not post "Swindon" via the village and the signpost on the B4000 does not post "Swindon" through the village. If parishioners do notice HGVs coming through the village and can get registration numbers or the name of the company, the Chairman is very happy to contact them.

#### **8. UPDATE FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.**

John Bean reported that there had been three incidents of fly-tipping, machinery had been stolen from a van outside Cleyfields and a cast iron seat had been taken from Cleycourt Manor. Derek Austin reported that a robbery from a lorry parked in Grange Farm had also taken place. The Chairman thanked John for his excellent stewardship of Neighbourhood Watch.

#### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman thanked parishioners for coming to the meeting and offered his thanks to fellow Parish Councillors for giving up their time to help run the village over the last 12 months and also to the Clerk. He also thanked Fred Jefferies for the work he did on behalf of the Parish Council keeping the village tidy.

Signed:

Date: