



MINUTES OF BOURNMOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 25th September 2023

1. **Village Walk 6.15pm - meet Parish Church Hall** - postponed
2. **Apologies for absence (formal meeting to start 7pm):**
Cllr Heaviside (DCC) - Guest - advised he was unable to attend.
3. **Declarations of interest:**
No declarations of interest were noted.
4. **Chair's announcements**
Cllr Armstrong welcomed everyone to the meeting, and welcomed guest Stephen Davison from Durham Area Youth. Cllr Armstrong also asked that it be noted on record thanks to Cllr Holland for all his work in Bournmoor Parish over the years.
5. **Guest : Durham Area Youth (DAY)** - Stephen provided the council with a very comprehensive update on the work of DAY and the Bournmoor Young People facility. There were now 47 young people from Bournmoor on the books and a weekly attendance of an average around 26. Although the scheme had been ran around term time, extra funding had been sought by DAY and had been used to provide holiday clubs for the area, which had also included food provided, trips, activities etc and had been well received. £1 subs are now asked by DAY for those who can provide and a tuck shop service provided, and the additional money goes towards funding for extra activities chosen by the young people. Summer funding was also found allowing a couple of people from Bournmoor to go on a residential and they are also now helping as volunteers. Summer activities had also included trips to Raby Castle and Northumberland Zoo and a BBQ bash. Now DAY are ready for a new school year and would like to work more closely with Bournmoor Primary as well as Park View School and are also looking at training to help support children with more specialist needs. There will be a club ran during October half term, after DAY sought funding from the Area Action Partnership scheme. Stephen explained that to run a centre for a year amounts to £22k, and around £7.5k for term time only in Bournmoor, although they do get and apply for funding from various avenues. Stephen requested support from BPC for £4.5k to continue the young people provision for another 12 months and was very grateful to the council for their support over the last year. Stephen then left the meeting. **Decision: After a proposal from Cllr**

Robinson, seconded by Cllr Morrell, it was agreed that BPC would donate £5k in total to DAY - £4.5k to run the scheme and £500 to go into the funding pot for activities. G Oliver to arrange for payment to be made to DAY.

6. **Public participation:**

No members of the public attended.

7. **Approve & sign the minutes of the last meeting** - the minutes of the meeting on Mon 24th July 2023 were agreed after 1 slight amendment and signed off by those present.

8. **Any business remaining from previous meetings**

Parking in and around the church hall has been an issue after previous improvements. **Action : G Oliver to send a reminder to Bournmoor Cricket Club re parking**

9. **County Councillors Report:**

Cllr Bell provided the following updates:-

- The School path had still not been actioned
- A couple of properties in Primrose Crescent were worse than originally thought, relevant authorities are considering whether these properties need to come down. Cllr Robinson asked that a statement be received from Karbon on the latest position that can then be posted on social media and the website as those properties remained a concern for nearby residents. **Action: Cllr Bell to ask Karbon for a suitable statement that can be shared.**
- Funding has been looked into for Bournmoor Primary School for refurbishment or rebuild, through 106 money, with additional housing being developed on Lambton Estate. However there are currently no plans for Bournmoor school redevelopment before 2027 at the earliest, and all 106 money, on approval has to be spent before 2028. DCC, education authorities and Lambton need to come together and discuss
- They would like to pass on their thanks to Cllr Batt and BPC for a highly successful community event through the Scarecrow Trail.
- Cllr Robinson asked Cllr Bell regarding the path along from the turning circle in New Lambton towards the care home and that this has been asked about many times and there has been no update for over a year. He pointed out again that the path is dangerous and in need of resurfacing, very slippery at this time of year and residents are forced onto the road. It was accepted many years ago now that the path on the other side of the road had been turned back to nature for some reason however, this should mean that the remaining path should have some level of maintenance at least. Cllr Bell said that this work was on the list and had previously been reported. Cllr Robinson asked that this

be chased yet again. **Action: Cllr Bell to chase up path maintenance and report back to BPC.**

10. **'Secure & Safe'**

- a. Police Report - Cllr Willoughby advised that he would make contact with Inspector Lee Morris, and become the new liaison point for BPC.
- b. Bridge - G Oliver read out an email from Kevin Telford of DCC following an inspection of the Bridge. BPC agreed that further information should be sought following the engineer report. Cllr Bell agreed to make contact with Kevin Telford to progress for a suitable way forward. Depending on the outcomes, Northumbria Water could also be contacted to see if they can review.

11. **'Involved & Connected'**

- a. Village Walk - postponed.
- b. Scarecrow Trail review - Cllr Batt provided an update on the Scarecrow Trail. BPC agreed to provide additional funding for the £50 voucher for the winner of the best dressed scarecrow. The event will continue as an annual event and return next September. Everyone congratulated Cllr Batt for organising such a successful event.
- c. Village signage - G Oliver provided an update on the position from DCC, that only Highways can review and provide appropriate signage for the village and are able to come out, review and provide a quote for work. The work also needs to be done by Highways/DCC to meet legal obligations. G Oliver will contact DCC and ask them to review and provide a quote for the work, under each of the Bournmoor Village sign entrances.
Cllr Robinson added that he felt the issue of speeding in the village hasn't been taken seriously enough to date by both the Parish Council and the County Council in terms of action. For example, the continued issue of cars travelling much faster than 30mph in both directions through the parked cars at Primrose Hill, past the Miner's Cottages and along Lambton Lane is very dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. Children play on the blind hill around the Primrose Hill area and it's a real concern. It was suggested that this is picked up again to explore any further options in addition to improved signage. **Action: Cllr Bell to feed in the location for a possible speeding check area.**
- d. Xmas Trees - G Oliver had contacted Leamside Nursery and they are able to provide 12 or 14 foot trees, cost is not yet known. Leamside suggested for a Xmas tree focal point, the 14 foot tree would be a better option. Cllr Batt also provided a quote of £1192.20 received for the necessary electrical work and post, although that was for a wooden post the electric socket would go into. A metal post could be £200-£300 more. It was agreed to proceed with the concept and work. Cllr Tait will clear with the Church and Cllr Batt will arrange for electrical work to be undertaken. Cllr

Tait will also see if the Earl of Durham is available for the switch on, which has provisionally been set for 1st Dec.

12. Financial Matters:

a. The following payments were approved for payment:-

- DAY £5000
- Clerk £301.20
- Room Hire £40
- Scarecrow Prize Fund £50
- Scarecrow Trail £132.54

13. Planning Applications: None to discuss

14. Correspondence:

None

15. Items for future meetings / agenda items

Cllr Willoughby raised the concept of renaming the Church Hall, as more of a Bournmoor Community Hub, and had mentioned this at the Church sub-committee meeting, as it could make it more inclusive for the community and BPC could consider additional funding for activities across community or renovations. BPC thought becoming a community hub, was a great idea and asked Cllr Willoughby to progress, have more discussions and get quotes for work needed and will be put on agenda for next meeting.

16. Private Session in line with local Government (no public allowed)

The council discussed setting of policies.

17. Next Meeting

Date, time & venue for the next meeting - Mon 23rd October 23 @ 7pm in the Church Hall