

Parish Council of Bournmoor

Meeting of Bournmoor Parish Council, via Zoom,

Wednesday 17th February 2021 at 7.00pm

1. **Present** – Cllr Tait (Chair), Cllr Robinson, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Holland, G Oliver (Clerk, minuting), Cllr Nelsey, Cllr Hall, Cllr Willoughby
Guests – Cllr Bell (DCC), Stephen White (Acting Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner) , Sharon Caddell (Acting Chief Executive) , Vicki Booth (Community Engagement Officer)
2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Brady.
3. **Chairmans Introduction** – Cllr Tait welcomed everyone and thanked our guests from the Police, Crimes & Victims for agreeing to attend the Parish Council meeting. Cllr Tait also passed on his best wishes to Cllr Bell & his family who are recovering from Covid 19.
4. **Police Session** – Cllr Tait outlined some of the key themes, the council would like to focus on in discussions – Adequacy of Police Presence, Engagement with Police & ASB.

Cllr Armstong covered the reduction in police visibility, recognising the support from a previous PCSO Brian Donnelly, who was well known in area and Mark Ferry, local PC, and asked for confirmation on who Bournmoors PCSO was.

Stephen White explained that the area has a new neighbourhood officer in Lee Morris, Mark Ferry remained our local PC and Christine Taylor was our PCSO. Cllr Bell advised that he understood Christine Taylor was only covering and was Chester-Le-Streets PSCO – we used to have a dedicated one for this area. Stephen White agreed to take away and clarify.

Stephen advised that in last 10 years Durham had lost over 600 PC positions, which had increased the current police force had left to do and recognised experienced officers can quickly get moved onto other roles/duties. Stephen White advised it was important to him as a commissioner, that any gaps in service, get filled quickly. Chester-Le-Street have just recruited new police officers (224), that will go onto the front line response team duties.

Cllr Holland asked about training and the continued loss of experienced officers. Stephen White confirmed it takes around 3 years for an officer to become fully

trained – the demographics of the force is a worry, but they are working hard to maintain a level of experience against training plans.

Cllr Hall raised concerns over ASB, off-road motorbikes, drugs and the bonfire incident, where there was no police presence seen, with residents extremely concerned. Stephen White advised Bonfire is one of the busiest nights after Halloween. In the last 12 months there has been an increase of ASB in this area by 1% and it was recognised that any increase is not welcome. Stephen reassured the Parish that Inspector Morris was aware of the nuisance of offroad vehicles, and will feed in the comments raised around ASB. The Parish raised that some residents were fearful of reporting, in case of any consequences. Stephen advised we should continue to encourage residents to report as it can build up intelligence and his office would agree a set of words we could use, to post on social media. They will also look into whether reporting can be made simpler. Stephen would also speak to the Neighbourhood Team about the bonfire incidents, so they can consider and look to support in advance of this years Bonfire night.

Cllr Robinson asked about whether there would be any priorities for their next term of office, recognising elections were coming up and whether engaging with residents was part of their future plans. Stephen White advised whilst he is not standing in forthcoming elections, he would return to his Chief Executive Role and engagement was an area to invest in – it would be useful to have a system set up whereby police can engage with residents and Parish Councils and discuss or influence areas of concern.

Cllr Holland raised that liaison between forces could be better, especially between Durham and Northumbria forces as when instances occur there could be closer police offices to the incident but they are across boundaries. Stephen White acknowledged this and said they would take this point away. Cllr Holland also questioned around the 1 custody suite now present in Consett – Stephen said whilst it wasn't a perfect answer, having 1 custody suite was a more efficient way of working for the police now.

Cllr Tait, raised the lack of reporting or feedback on crime in the area. Vicki will send Gillian details of where the new details can be found via a website link.

Cllr Tait thanked Stephen, Vicky and Sharon for the attendance tonight, which had been a very useful conversation and we look forward to continuing these links moving forward. It was agreed that we should ask for attendance at a BPC meeting at least once a year.

5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – January minutes were approved and signed off by Cllr Tait per pro the Council.

6. **Matters Arising** – The benches have been unable to be put in place, due to the bad weather which puts cracking of the concrete pads at risk.

Dog bags have been ordered and have been received – it was agreed we would look to distribute some of these safely as Covid restrictions lift. Discussion also took place around whether dog dispensers would be useful around community – for Turning Circle, Lambton Estate and by Church. Cllr Bell will let G Oliver know of company and G Oliver will cost up 3 dog bag dispensers.

Cllr Tait advised no permission from SCC would be granted to paint artwork in the pedestrian tunnel – therefore we are unable to proceed.

7. **Standards matters** – Facebook continues to grow with regular postings being placed. Spanglefish has now been deleted.

8. **Financial matters** – The following accounts were agreed & paid:-

- Clerk - £551.66
- Mutts Butts Dog Bags - £199.50
- Bank Account - £39,374.87

The Precept has also been received and acknowledged by DCC.

9. **Correspondence** – G Oliver advised she would send election nomination forms out as soon as they are received.

10. **Village Matters**

Cllr Tait asked for the Community Centre sign to be removed as it was still present – Cllr Bell will ask DCC.

Defibs were discussed with the pads at Lambourne room out of date. BPC agreed to act as guardian and G Oliver will arrange for the replacement of defib pads.

Cllr Bell raised if BPC would like to take part into a monthly award for young people who have supported our community or continue to do so, especially since covid 19. BPC agreed to take part and sponsor a monthly prize. Cllr Bell will publish and any nomination forms for Bournmoor will be advised to be sent to G Oliver, for BPC to discuss monthly – a £20 prize was agreed.

Other areas discussed in meeting included:-

- Further meetings are scheduled with Karbon, DCC and BPC around improving the community – a spring clean will be arranged as a pilot scheme.
- The sign for public footpath into Meadow Grange needs removing – Cllr Bell will pick up
- Bin by bus stop by small roundabout needs fixing as that catch has gone

Meeting ended at 21:13

Next Meeting: The next meeting would be held on 17th March 2021 at 7pm.