

Parish Council of Bournmoor

Meeting of Bournmoor Parish Council, Bournmoor Church Hall, 6.30 pm

Wednesday 15th September 2021

1. **Present** – Cllr Robinson (Chair), Cllr Tait, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Nelsey, G Oliver (Clerk, minuting), Cllr Willoughby, Cllr Holland.

Guest – Cllr Heaviside (DCC), Cllr Bell (DCC)

2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Brady
3. **Chairmans Introduction** – Cllr Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and advised that the session with the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner had been postponed until the October meeting due to a large fire in Durham this afternoon. G Oliver had already liaised with the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to confirm arrangements for October.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – July minutes were approved and signed off by Cllr Robinson per pro the Council.
5. **Police Report** – Cllr Holland had met with Inspector Morris recently, with a concern remaining that there is a lack of officers now, meaning residents aren't confident action will be taken for anything reported or in a suitable timeframe. Janelle Taylor has now been confirmed as our PSCO, but may only be able to attend meetings if on shift. With 3 local parish councils, it would be good if the PCSO could attend at least one on a regular basis.

With the absence of the PCC at tonight's meeting, the council took the opportunity to plan items for the session in October. Items agreed to discuss at October meeting included:-

Police boundaries

Reporting system to police & feedback mechanisms

Police resources on the beat

Custody Suite

6. **Matters Arising** – The Griffin Wood sign is complete and in place and councillors agreed that it looks great. The graffiti, which was disappointing to see present soon after being put in place, has been removed.

West View – Cllr Heaviside has sent the enquiry to the estates team on future plans. Cllr Bell had previously made contact and had no response to see if the land could be used and has also issued a reminder.

Cllr Heaviside had spoken to Karbon about putting fencing up on green before Bonfire night and had asked about a further clean up in advance of November, but Karbon did not appear keen. A meeting has been requested with Karbon to discuss and request a walkaround in advance of Bonfire night.

Action: Cllr Robinson to draft an article for publication to social media/website in advance of Bonfire Night, to include respecting people that live in the estate.

The bin is now in place at the bus stop, but has been placed on the pavement rather than at side of bus stop, where it was previously situated, the council asked whether it could be moved back.

Cllr Armstrong advised he had spoken to Sarah-Anne from the traffic section about speed sign storage.

Action: Cllr Armstrong to set up a Teams Meeting with Sarah-Anne on one of her working days and include Cllr Robinson.

G Oliver had obtained the simplified maps of the Lambton Estate works and these have now been published and shared. Cllr Nelsey advised that she had reported through 'Do It Online' concerns over traffic and litter in the area, and had both instances closed with no updates and had also contacted Theakstons direct. Discussion took place around concerns over the traffic through Bournmoor and signage due to the ongoing works. Concern was also raised about the effectiveness of using the 'Do it Online' service with mixed experiences of gaining feedback or progress.

Action : G Oliver to contact Theakstons to see if they can send a representative to the October meeting @ 7.30pm for discussion, or if not, arrange a suitable daytime meeting.

The Lambton walk is coming to an end for Autumn/Winter – this is in line with legal agreements and will return next year.

Discussion on parking at Callington Close was postponed until Cllr Brady could attend.

The land, which the council discovered had been earmarked for a wildflower scheme, has now been cut, which councillors agreed was great news. Cllr Bell (DCC) pointed out that DCC advised that the area may not be something the county would support in future to cut, as they were also being subjected to financial constraints. Cllr Robinson questioned why this would be the case, as this area has been cut regularly for many years. Cllr Bell said that the land is currently owned by DCC but leased by Bournmoor Conservation Group.

Cllr Bell commented on a wildflower scheme he has put forward for the area, which was worth around £32k to the division, which would see wildflowers on the large clear grassed areas moving forward, but with clear walkways defined. There was some disagreement at this point as reference was made to a plan that Bournmoor Parish Councillors had not previously seen or agreed and a request was made for more details. Cllr Bell said that it was a wildflower scheme and later commented that Martin Briscoe and Simon Priestly would have more details .

Bournmoor Parish Council discussed the potential loss of this open space, which they had been looking at as an opportunity for facilities for young people and would be keen to keep an open space area. G Oliver had obtained various quotes for goalposts etc, but nothing can be pursued until land ownership and intent is discussed. Cllr Bell advised that this is something he has looked at before and wouldn't be supported by DCC.

Cllr Holland suggested it would be good to see the land used for both – open space and facilities and wildflowers and Cllr Nelsey agreed with a similar view.

Action : Further details to be requested of DCC on their plans / proposals

Cllr Tait booked the Church Hall and was asked to do so again for the October meeting

7. **Facilities for Young People/Bournmoor Village Plan** – Cllr Willoughby advised that he was still awaiting a response from Lambton Estate about use of the land behind Bournmoor garage area.

Cllr Robinson advised the Church Hall was becoming a good focal point for community groups with toddler groups now set up, which are going from strength to strength and that a request had been made for volunteers to help run a Youth Club on a Friday evening.

Action: Promote activities on social media and to seek any community volunteers.

Action: Cllr Willoughby and Cllr Robinson to set up a meeting with Bournmoor Cricket Club to discuss partnership opportunities and use of facilities

8. **Burnmoor Church/Funding Request** – Cllr Willoughby and Cllr Robinson met with representatives from Burnmoor Church to discuss a recent request for funding and promoting the use of the great facilities they have available through the church hall. The church has struggled recently with covid and has lost a considerable amount of income that would support running costs and are actively pursuing grants and are seeking ways of financial help. The council noted the various views, which included the prospect of a donation, or supporting the groups that used the facilities. Cllr Robinson proposed a vote for a donation of £1000, which was supported following 3 councillors supporting in favour of the donation._

9. **Standards matters** – The social media sites continue to grow with 325 followers now on facebook. Livestreaming was not currently being considered now meetings have returned to venues.

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

- Clerk - £441.33
- Church Hall hire £40

Bank balance is currently £48,364 and future income and expenditure reports will be produced against budget

11. **Correspondence** – none

12. **Village Matters**

Other areas discussed in meeting included:-

- Road splitting as you approach New Lambton
- Motorbike club speeding out Dun Cow
- Trees by cricket club still to be removed
- Schools application process for 2022

Next Meeting: The next meeting would be held on 20th October 2021.