

BRAMSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Bramshaw Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 26th May 2009 at 7.30p.m.

Bramshaw PC attendees:

Richard Boler (RB)
Nigel Challis (NC)
Colin Paine (CP)
Ian Sandbrook (IS)
Denis Shaughnessy (DS) – Chair
Gemma Wilks (GW)

Others present:

Jill Couchman
Jane Mullen (JM)

Tim Creed (TC)– Warden, Forestry Commission

1. DISCUSSION SESSION – FORESTRY COMMISSION

TC explained the work of the Forestry Commission – to manage Crown Lands in partnership with English Nature; the National Park Authority and the Verderers. The Commission liaises with local people regarding boundaries and anti-social behaviour and provides a first point of contact regarding trees and ecology. Tim Creed as warden is available year round 24/7 on 07799 582275.

TC described the fallout from the bank holiday weekend – fires, dogs chasing sheep, throwaway barbeques, cutting into trees. He explained that the bylaws are very hard to enforce. He outlined the rules regarding travellers and reported that the Commission is seeking a blanket ban on travellers across the whole of the Forest area and across Dorset.

When asked about the feeding of animals, he pointed out that this is a matter for the Verderers. This was a good example where the responsibilities that fall to different agencies makes enforcement more difficult.

DS asked about the existence of a maintenance plan. TC explained that there is limited manpower and finance but that a programme is put to the Forest managers twice yearly and this is prioritised for action. There is no discretionary budget and only one 3-days per week JCB for the whole Forest, although local subcontractors are sometimes used.

TC responded positively to DS's suggestion of a pooled budget for collective action, made up of Forestry Commission and Parish funds.

It was agreed that David Morris, Forestry Commission manager, should be asked to the next Annual Assembly to outline the annual maintenance plan.

DS to put on agenda

CP asked about ditch maintenance and signage at the Lond Cross crossroads to the Ocknell Campsite indicating distances so that those using SatNav did not get lost.

IS suggested a Parish Operational Plan, bringing together the maintenance needs and plans of the Forestry Commission; the National Trust and Hampshire County Council (Highways and Footpaths). This idea was agreed.

CP lead + NC & DS

DS agreed to explore whether there are grants to repair such things as damaged bridge railings.

DS

TC explained that ditches are now generally being used instead of dragons teeth.

DS proposed a vote of thanks to TC for his work in Bramshaw and for his contribution to the meeting.

2. SOCIAL EVENT

Following on from the discussion at the parish council meeting on 28th April, IS agreed to take the lead on the holding of a social event, in line with the proposals made at that meeting: **IS**

“a combination event, involving a physical activity (such as a walk, or a softball game, or a treasure hunt), followed by food (such as hog-roast or barbeque) and perhaps music should take place in late September or early October, probably outdoors with an indoor alternative available in case of poor weather.”

The remainder fo the Council all undertook to support the event. It was suggested that the various clubs in the parish, such as the Women’s Institute, the Garden Club and the Film Club should be asked to help, and key individuals such as David Coates. **ALL + clubs**

IS is to draft an initial project plan and bring it to the next meeting of the Parish Council. **IS**

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Sue Bennison (Parish Councillor); Henry Forse (New Forest District Council Councillor) and PC Mike Bemand.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

IS apologised that he had not yet written up the minutes of the extra meeting held to hear the Penn Cottage planning applications on Wednesday 13th May 2009. These would be brought forward to the next meeting of the Parish Council. The minutes of the last full meeting of the Parish Council on 28th April 2009 had been approved at the 13th May meeting. **IS**

6. MATTERS ARISING

NC hopes to bring a draft welcome pack to the next meeting. **NC**

IS has not yet been successful in contacting Claire Gingell (National Park Authority) to discuss funding support for community projects but will report on this at the next meeting. **IS**

DS is to prepare a more detailed specification for the notice boards. CP reported that he and Sue Bennison had been looking at notice board sites. **DS**

DS has written to two possible candidates for the post of Parish Clerk to invite them to submit application letters. Interviews need to be arranged. **DS**

IS reported briefly on the consultation meeting held by the National Park Authority regarding their Plan.

DS reported that Sue Bennison had volunteered to be the Parish Council’s representative on the executive of the New Forest Association of Local Councils (NAFALC). This was unanimously supported. It was suggested that the Council needs to find ways of supporting SB so that she can represent the views of the Council effectively at the executive meetings. **SB**

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council supported the application for a summer house at Wiltshire Cottage.

8. FINANCE

The annual subscription to the Hampshire Association for Local Councils was approved.
The subscription to the GIS (Geographical Information System) Partnership was approved.

GW

GW

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

CP reported that the restricted byways notices had now been removed so that Footpath 9 now has byway status.

IS pointed out that the footpath leading from Penn Common to the bottom of Vice Lane needs to be more clearly defined where it skirts an open field.

CP reported that the ditches on Tyrell Road are due to be cleared during the next 2 weeks.

JM asked if the yellow sign in Brook advertising the Sir Walter Tyrell pub could be removed.

RB asked for comments about the website. It was agreed that he should continue to use his skills and discretion in putting new material onto the website.

RB

10. OTHER BUSINESS

JC drew attention to an article by the chair of the Bramshaw Trust in the most recent edition of Forest Views concerning the future of the Social Club.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd June 2009 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.