

**BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**CLERKS UPDATE - ACTIONS COMPLETED AND OUTSTANDING**

**Correspondence**

- FBNS thanked the Parish Council for the use of the Parish Field and Pavilion for their summer event, it was a very successful evening.
- Holy Rood thanked the Parish Council for the free loan of the Parish Pavilion for the Fun and Games afternoon. Seventeen children and thirteen adults attended and it seemed to have been enjoyed by all.

**Highways, Rights of Way and Transport**

- SID team have advised of battery thefts and suggested that they are marked with the PC name. Information forwarded to Cllr Ames for action.
- Duntish road improvements – Letter sent to residents from Dorset Council updating them on progress (26 July 2024)
- Repair to verge on B3143 adjacent to Parish Field - Senior Ranger advised that he will visit site and see how much top soil will be required (25.7.24)
- Potholes – Highways Liaison officer has advised, that roads were inspected 18<sup>th</sup> June and any defects found at the time would have been logged for repair. Please continue to log on the portal. She has asked for the section from church to crossroads to have some large patches, also section outside gaggle geese either large patching or resurfacing and Locketts Lane to be looked at for a surfacing scheme.
- Flooding – preventative measures – Clerk chased FWAG and Highways for update – FWAG advised that a meeting has been arranged with Dorset Council NET regarding the Council Farms next Wednesday. One of the aims is to investigate options to allow water to spread in the floodplain on the farms. This will not help flows and road sources upstream of the village but could help with flow of the river downstream, giving water more space. This should help improve drainage in the village itself.
- FWAG also advised, *“we have funding to continue the investigation of priority sites and the plan is for the Local Authority Flood Risk team to make an application to the Local Levy to fund more capital works in the various catchments. With a small amount of funding to encourage interventions on land we can start to make a difference, but experience tells us that it can take time to get people engaged. This is a busy time of year for farmers as I am sure you are aware, so we will resume our conversations in the autumn.”*
- Highways have consulted with Road Safety and have advised that installing a Virtual Footway in Duntish is not something they would be able to consider as it does not meet criteria.
- Tony Burden, Road Safety Team advised that a speed survey would cost £295 +VAT for the first site and then £200 +VAT for each additional site monitored at the same time in the same area.
- Electric Charging Point – The village hall committee has had a meeting and will be going ahead with having a charging point installed in the car park. This will be available to anyone to use. As yet unsure of timescale.

**Parish Assets**

- Parish Paddock –FWAG will advise when they have a date from the contractor to complete works to wet area on paddock.
- Parish Paddock – Clerk has been in contact with contractor to see whether he would be able/interested in doing cut and collect mowing on the Paddock when he is in the village carrying out the service elsewhere – awaiting prices.
- Parish Paddock – Clerk has contact Wessex Water over a possible sewage leak. Map and information provided to Wessex. Job number 062657137001.
- Coppice parish field - FWAG are not aware of any grants available for improving area, Woodland Trust could be a possibility.
- Parish Field – Leaving uncut section – Cllr Ames put out posts and a section has been left uncut. Clerk spoke to Senior Landscape and Grounds Officer to see what costs would be involved for different management. The costs to carry out a cut and collect once a year to the uncut area of grass will be £675.00 annually. This allows for the grass cuttings to be removed from site and disposed of at our approved waste recycling centre. If you can identify a suitable tipping area on site where we can leave the grass cuttings to compost the cost will be reduced to £370.00. Alternatively we could cut the area and leave the cuttings uncollected

for a cost of £280.00. If the uncut area was left and not cut at all, there would of course be no extra costs. The ground would have to be monitored though as bramble and scrub would take over in time. Unfortunately we will not be able to reduce the annual cost for grass cutting to the main area of the playing field. A large part of this cost are machinery and travel costs and leaving the uncut area makes negligible difference to the cost per visit.

- Gate between Paddock and Field – Cllr Foot met with Perrett Fencing. Agreed that two gates would be put in, a self-closing footpath gate and a bigger one for access. Footpath gate has been ordered from Dorset Council (£ 240.00)

### **Financial**

- External Audit has been completed with no issues raised.
- Banking – Clerk spoke to Business Manager at NatWest Bank who confirmed that the two step process for payments is not currently available to existing businesses. DAPTC confirmed they use Unity bank, but there were pros and cons. It appears as though Lloyds is the best option at the moment.
- Banking – Clerk has contacted Lloyds bank who have confirmed that the Parish Council can open an account with them.

### **Police Report**

- July - 24/07/2024 Duntish – theft from outbuilding – ifor William Tri-axel 20' x 7'6" stolen.
- August - It has been a very busy months on the roads, which I omit from the report, this is mainly due to the increased traffic over the summer period.

### **Other**

- Wessex Internet Update - Based on our current planning progress for Buckland Newton, Wessex are now expecting to offer a connection in Late Summer of this year. If that changes due to specific challenges with your property or the whole project, we will let you know. Clerk has been in contact with Christine O'Grady (Community Engagement Officer) regarding connection of Pavilion and how to apply for voucher. Clerk chased response 19.8.24.
- Youth Club Pop-up museum – Parish Council supplied a few items, including old maps of the parish, which generated a lot of interest.
- Really Useful Directory – previous co-coordinator is unable to continue with updates.

### **Cllr Haynes**

- July report circulated on 1 August 2024 and put on website

### **Outstanding Actions (I think – you may have them in hand)**

- Archiving of minutes – (Clerk)
- Drainage of play area – obtain quotes (AF)
- Portrait of King – hang in pavilion (NB)
- Goal posts (BP)