



**The Annual Assembly of the Parish of Wool, was held
in the main hall of The D'Urberville, Colliers Lane, Wool, BH20 6DL
on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7pm**

Minutes

Agenda Item	Person Responsible/Note
<p>1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chair of Wool Parish Council. Cllr Major greeted the 12 people present.</p>	Cllr Major
<p>2. Guest speakers.</p> <p>a) Jo Speer (attending with her guide dog Unice) to talk about guide dogs. Jo gave an informative and entertaining talk about her experience living with sight loss and the life-changing experience of owning a guide dog. The four takeaway points for meeting her guide dog are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Always ask if you can give her guide dog attention (b) Keep your own pets at a distance (c) Be aware that her guide dog's body language may be misinterpreted by your dog (d) Don't feed her dog <p>b) Tim Alford to talk about defibrillators. Tim gave an extremely useful and well-received talk about the importance of defibrillators and how to use them. The three takeaway points from his presentation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) When using a defibrillator, assess the situation and don't put yourself at risk. (b) Call 999 (c) Do as you are told either by the emergency services or by the defibrillator. <p>c) Andrew Wilson to give an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wilson gave an informative update on the Neighbourhood Plan, a transcript of which is below: "I'm here this evening in my capacity of Chairman of the Wool Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to provide you with an update, but could I start by making one or two observations that might be useful in contextualising what I'm going to say. Whilst your Parish Council will continue to oppose any excessive or unnecessary housing development it is nevertheless important to stress that The Neighbourhood Plan is not a way to stop development - but it can hopefully shape it. So it could be said that the Neighbourhood Plan is intended to help formulate the policies and influence planners and developers alike so that Wool is developed in a way that will enhance the area and benefit the community. You will be aware that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been working away for some considerable time now, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the group, especially the immediate past-Chairman Martin Hiles, for all the hard work that they have done to get to the stage where we are now.</p>	Guest speakers

And that stage means that we are ready to start devising and refining the policies that will determine how development in Wool, Bovington and East Burton happens in a way that will benefit the community, not least in ensuring that developers are required to commit to an agreed contribution to required infrastructure development through Section 106 payments, and also to provide necessary mitigation – especially in terms of the natural environment and biodiversity.

As a result of questionnaires and surveys, areas of concern of our community have been identified and narrowed down, and these will form the basis of our policy developments. Members of the Steering Group are now involved in adding evidence and substance to these policy areas – areas which have been arrived at and agreed through a process of surveys and consultations.

The policy areas down to which we have narrowed our focus are as follows:

- Design of housing and residential developments to be sustainable and appropriate;
- Green spaces and the bio-diverse environment to be maintained and protected;
- A transport and communication strategy to be planned, funded and developed to allow sustainable transport throughout the area;
- A “village centres” policy that will protect and enhance existing shops and other commercial facilities;
- And lastly, a Community Infrastructure Policy that will identify, secure and enhance – by required funding from developers – all areas of infrastructure on which we all rely, like schools, medical facilities, highways, leisure and other community facilities, the library and so on.

We are now gathering together all the evidence and information that we will need to underpin these policy areas because we need to be able to prove that our policies are sound before moving on to the next stage of the process. Once we have done this, we will be able to embark on the Statutory and Legal requirements to comply with the various regulations, which is quite an involved and technically challenging process. We will then – hopefully sooner rather than later – be in a position to start what is called a Strategic Environmental Assessment, and then we will be able to produce the first draft of our proposed Neighbourhood Plan which will go to local consultation, before being submitted to the Local Planning Authority for a Regulation 16 Consultation. Assuming that this goes smoothly our draft plan will then be submitted to an Inspector for Independent Examination, with any necessary modifications being made by the local planning authority.

And when all that is successfully achieved, we’ll be able to hold a local referendum to adopt or ‘make’ our Neighbourhood Plan.

So in terms of the process, we are in a good position to move forward, and we would hope to have an adopted and made Neighbourhood Plan by Christmas 2023. We’re certainly on target to achieve this, and although a great deal of hard work still lies ahead, Wool’s Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is determined to deliver and provide a clear Vision for the future of Wool and a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is able to provide policies and evidence to ensure that future developments in Wool reflect community needs and priorities.”

3. Annual report of the Parish Council.

The clerk gave the following report:

Clerk

“Last year’s Annual Parish Meeting was held over Zoom as we were still wary of having public meetings. No members of the public were in attendance so it’s nice to see a few here. Gradually last year things started to get back to the ‘new normal’

Parish Council have been meeting in person since June. The library is now back to normal service, opening 3 times a week for a total of 6 hours and welcomes an average of 160 customers a month. The Youth Club is back and in the last year introduced an extra night to cope with demand. The D’Urberville is now busier than it was pre-COVID.

As people come out of hiding they start using things and things start breaking. In the last 12 months we’ve spent almost £10,000 repairing and replacing equipment in the Meadow Lane play park - most of that was the replacement horse. The park was installed in 2015 so it is not surprising it is starting to show signs of wear and tear.

The new skatepark continues to be well used and a Skate Jam was held in September. Another is planned this year. Gallons of a product called Graffiti Go have been used in the constant battle to keep the skatepark free of badly drawn phalluses.

In the next few months, the last of the skatepark funding will be used to dig a trench across the field to supply electricity to the skatepark. A proposal will be put before Parish Council to install a CCTV camera actually on the skatepark and link this through to the police station.

The battle against dog mess continues to rage. Dorset Council haven't caught anyone in at least 5 years and they have considerably more resources than Wool Parish Council. WPC put in place an enforcer at the end of December. He is a volunteer so it is not costing the council tax payer anything (other than the £180 for the body camera). Please bear with us, at least we are trying. If the problem had an easy solution it would have been fixed by now. Three defibrillators were installed last year, one at Cologne Road Community Rooms, one on the side of Greggs in Bovington and one recently at Purbeck Gate. Two more are planned in the coming months.

The redecoration of The D’Urberville which started during lock down continues. The most notable change this year has been the purchase of new light weight tables and chairs. Not quite as comfortable but they are much easier to lift.

The ‘3 Ladies bench’ bench was installed at Tout Hill as a rest stop for those who have to walk between Bovington and Wool due to lack of public transport. That got the attention of The Dorset Echo and ITV News. To address the lack of buses, WPC recently sent out a survey which received over 200 responses. The next steps are to analyse responses, feedback to the parish and begin discussions with Dorset Council.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Guerrilla Gardeners for the work they have done with the triangle at Braytown and other areas within the Parish.

Purbeck Gate was finally adopted by Dorset Council which is a big relief for residents after 12 years of waiting.

Looking to the year ahead improvements are planned for The D’Urberville including enclosing the veranda and provision of public toilets.

New website is the next few months.

Work continues to try to provide play area facilities for the residents of Cologne Road.

<p>A Beryl's Bikes push bike rental scheme will be introduced with bike bays at Wool station, Cologne Road, Bovington and The Innovation Park.</p> <p>There are big plans to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and 2022 will see the return of Wool Carnival</p> <p>There are currently 4 vacancies on Parish Council, if you are interested then please contact the Parish Clerk.</p>	
<p>4. To accept the minutes of the 2021 meeting (Appendix A). The minutes were accepted.</p>	All
<p>5. Participation from members of the Electorate of Wool Parish. A short question and answer session was held. The meeting was closed at 20:40.</p>	Public

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