



MINUTES OF BOURNMOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 28th April 2025

Present: Cllr Morrell, Cllr Batt, Cllr Willoughby, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Tait, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Bell (DCC), G Oliver

Guest: Revd Catherine Walton

1. **Apologies for absence :**
There were no apologies for absence
2. **Declarations of interest:**
No declarations of interest from councillors were received.
3. **Chair's announcements**
The Chair welcomed Revd Catherine Walton to the meeting. The Chair also on behalf of the Parish Council passed on huge thanks and gratitude to Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Tait and Cllr Armstrong, who are attending their last meeting today, after opting to leave and not stand for re-election.
4. **Guest : Reverend Catherine Walton - St Barnabas Church.**
The Revd advised it was a pleasure to be invited to the meeting, and was keen to work closely with the Parish Council. A grant of £5k had recently been awarded to the Community Centre Hall, to focus on energy efficiencies, so far this has been used to get LED lights inside and out and have a water boiler plumbed in.

The Church are keen to also work with Durham Area Youth and are looking at opportunities to use the group to assist with gardening and planting outside the community centre. They are planning a summer fayre on 12th July from 11-1 and are looking at ways to use the outside areas for this event. The council discussed helping with funds for the event, such as a bouncy castle and agreed to bring this back to the May meeting for further discussion and consideration.

The Revd also advised they were looking at their Wi-Fi and providers, with costs increasing with current provider and would inform the council in due course.

5. Public participation:

There was no public members present.

6. Approve & sign the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Mon 17th March 2025 were proposed as accurate from Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Batt and agreed by all present.

7. Any business remaining from previous meetings

A discussion took place around the planting of a live Xmas tree all year around, and a suitable location, recognising it would need access to power. Costs had been looked into and it would cost around £300 for a live tree, which seemed to the council a sensible way forward. By purchasing a live tree, it was also felt that the Parish Council would be supporting the environment.

G Oliver advised she had been in contact with Ken Clark around Griffin Wood, and the wood had been handed over to anyone, therefore land appears to be owned by DCC.

The council discussed the Rowing sessions planned for within the Community Centre. However the Revd advised that currently no-one from the Church was able to take bookings for the hall, as people had left and they have been unable to find a volunteer. Currently the Revd is keeping an eye on emails but are considering other options, such as a paid caretaker for a few hours if volunteers don't come forward.

Cllr Bell asked how the community centre would run. The Revd advised that its currently ran by church as the centre is on their premises but ideally want community to run it, but have been restricted due to the lack of volunteers.

8. County Councillors Report:

Cllr Bell advised there is little to report for the area, although work is ongoing in relation to catching those with off road bikes. Fencing had been displaced recently by the Floaters allowing them to get into the Burn.

Cllr Bell advised a drone had also been purchased for use by Chester le Street Police, and Dean Regan PSCO was one of the officers trained, and now has his drone license. The drones will be useful in catching people with off road bikes.

The other area of concern is dog fowling. Wardens are unable to put CCTV up, but they are out and about to try and catch the offenders.

Cllr Bell advised the speed visor is now up in Bournmoor, which is hoped will reduce speeding in the area.

Cllr Bell updated the council that another planning application is expected for more houses on the Lambton estate and the shopping area is going ahead and received approval. Planning may also go in for more houses behind Castlefield.

9. **'Secure & Safe'**
 - a. Police Report - no further updates were given, to those discussed earlier in meeting.
10. **'Involved & Connected'**
 - a. St Barnabas Community Centre - there were no further updates to report.
11. **Financial Matters:**
 - a. The following payments were approved:-

Clerk - £316.50
CDALC - £400. 05
Room Hire BPCC - £40
12. **Planning Applications:** None to discuss
13. **Correspondence:**

Cllr Morell updated the Parish on a message received around the noise from the Floaters Mill, particularly outside music. Cllr Morrell has responded to advise the Parish council have no authority in this type of case, and referred them to DCC.
14. **Items for future meetings / agenda items**

Nothing specific for future meetings, but the council discussed concerns over lurches hunting in village, which had chased young deers in Elba Park, and killed them.
15. **Private Session in line with local Government (no public allowed)** - Items to be discussed following the Exclusion of Public and Press under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act1960 Sec 1 - part 2.

G Oliver provided an update on the election timings and options for co-option post election during an agreed timeframe.
16. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed, which will also include the AGM in advance and will be held on Monday 19th May 2025 @ 7pm in the Church Hall

