

## **MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

### **124 PRESENT**

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I. Abel, Mrs T. Jones, Mrs. J. Scott, Mr. P. Page, and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

### **125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr. J Andrews. Mr. S. Coates, Cllr. F. Nicholson, Cllr. K. Turner.

### **126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **127 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no comments and the minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed as such.

### **127 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **127.1 EE Mast**

The Clerk reported contact with the providers of the Winsford pilot scheme and that in response to requests for information from the EE mast project, parish councillors had provided details of 'green boxes' in the village and in Bury. Further information will be reported to Councillors as and when received. The Chairman reported that the Electronic Communications Code which will affect all telecoms agreements may restrict willingness to allow masts on properties or land.

#### **127.2 Hedge cutting**

The Chairman thanked Mr. Coates for hedge cutting works at Renford Knapp and noted that BRPC records indicate that Somerset County Council Highways Team cut this hedge in the past.

#### **127.3 Bessom Bridge enforcement**

The Clerk reported that ENPA has advised that it will follow usual procedures to monitor enforcement. Councillors expressed concern that the building is clearly in residential use now.

#### **127.4 External audit revised report**

The Clerk reported that the external auditors had apologised for the error which they had made in the audit report and issued a revised report.

#### **127.5 Speed limit and traffic issues**

The Clerk reported that, after the discussion at the November meeting with regard to the speed of some traffic entering the village, the Highways Authority and ENPA have been contacted to discuss what options might (help to) reduce the speed and could be available and acceptable.

The Highways Authority intends to visit and assess the situation before advising. However, it has made very clear that flashing speed related signs, and other added

signs, will only be considered if there is clear evidence of speeding. This point was strongly re-iterated by ENPA at a site meeting. Bearing in mind that 30mph can seem very fast in a village situation the ENPA suggested that the sign at the Renford end of Brompton Regis is at an appropriate site and that moving the sign at the Mill Cross end out from its' current position to a site nearer Mill Cross might be justified and appropriate, but if that is possible repeater signs would not be permitted.

If, after their visit, the Highways Authority judge that extending the limit area is appropriate the cost of that work would be met within the SCC Traffic Management budget. If this is not judged necessary then I am advised that both the Highways Authority and the ENPA would wish to collect evidence from the village and to provide this would probably need a Community Speed Watch project to be set up.

It was **AGREED** that progress be reported to Councillors as available.

## **128. UPDATES FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

The Chairman reported that Cllr. Nicholson had advised by email that she had no updates on local broadband provision and that Cllr. Turner had advised by email that the Government was minded to approve the merger of West Somerset District and Taunton Deane Borough Councils and that a consultation period would follow.

Councillors recorded their thanks to the County and District Councillors for supporting the BRPC in its work and ensuring that it is kept up to date with County and District matters.

## **129. PLANNING**

### **129.1 Application 6/3/17/117 Brompton Regis, amendment**

After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Parish Council had no comment to make.

### **129.2 Application 6/3/17/118 Brompton Regis church**

The meeting considered the application for works and the situation which had led to it. The need for structural engineer assessment was noted. The meeting **AGREED** that there were no objections to the application and that the Clerk would submit that response.

**ACTION:** Clerk to submit the Council's response.

## **130. FINANCE**

### **130.1 Financial support for local initiatives**

The Clerk having previously circulated an outline of expenditure (made and planned) in year and income provided a paper copy of the document.

The meeting discussed what grants to local initiatives it may make in year, reprising previous discussions and Mr Page proposed and Mrs Scott seconded, and all present **AGREED** the following distribution to be made in December 2017.

- Brompton Regis PCC for grass cutting      £750
- West Somerset Advice Bureau              £250
- Brompton Regis Parish Lifts                £100
- Historic Signposts materials                £235 (leaving monies in the allocated budget for further works)

The need for further benches on the Millennium Green was discussed and it was **AGREED** that as there did not appear to be a need at this juncture no grant would be made. Mr Page advised that a volunteer living in the village has taken on the role of cleaning and oiling the existing benches, and the meeting welcomed this and recorded its appreciation. The meeting thanked Mr. Page for removing the broken memorial bench and implementing plans to replace it.

Mr. Page proposed, and Mr. Abel seconded, that BRPC fund two signs to the village hall car park at a cost of no more than £30 and this was **AGREED** by all those present.

After discussion of the Brompton Regis Village Hall (BRVH) Committee plans for works to improve and maintain the hall it was **AGREED** that a grant be made to support acoustic improvements in the hall, the amount to be considered when the BRVH Committee has received descriptions of and quotes for works.

Councillors congratulated the Chairman on improvements to the historic signposts in the parish and noted that the related ENPA project is expected to report to parish councils in 2018.

**ACTIONS:** Clerk to distribute grants; Chairman to liaise with BRVH re acoustic improvements and car park signs.

### **130.2 Precept 2018-19**

The meeting discussed the level of the precept vis a vis annual expenditure. The meeting considered possible implications of areas of uncertainty in the year ahead and the implications for expenditure requirements. Mr. Page proposed and Mrs. Scott seconded that the precept remain at the same level as in 2017-18 which would be at £221.34 for Band D equivalent properties in the parish and this was **AGREED** by all those present.

**ACTION:** Clerk to advise West Somerset District Council

### **130.3 Invoices**

The Clerk reported invoices as follows.

- Data Protection annual registration fee    £35
- Laminator and stationery supplies            £85.95
- Exmoor grass cutting services                £390
- Clerk's salary payments, to end 2017       £167.40

Mr Abell proposed and Mrs Jones seconded payment of these invoices and this was **AGREED** by all those present.

**ACTION:** Clerk to pay invoices.

## **131 HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

### **Blocked drains and gulleys**

The Clerk has twice reported blocked and overflowing drains above Woolcotts Steep, and highlighted to the Highways Authority concerns expressed by residents at the dangers caused by the runoff freezing on the steep.

Mr. Page advised that in a period of average rainfall roads had flooded near Bessom Bridge and Rugglands. The meeting discussed the actions taken by the Highways Authority over the past year and that while these had been welcome they had not resolved ongoing problems, in particular near Bessom Bridge where winter flooding is likely to cause a traffic hazard. Other areas where flooding has not been resolved, despite action by the Authority, include: Cuckolds Coombe near the bridge and adjacent to Bryants' Bridge.

Discussion highlighted that many clear drains are not able to take the capacity and speed of runoff in periods of normal rainfall for the parish, meaning that water flows over and collects on the roads. Concern was expressed that significant flooding near Bessom Bridge and Rugglands and ice forming on runoff at Woolcotts Steep pose serious road safety hazards.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk write to the Highways Authority, cc Cllr Nicholson, to present the Council's concerns and seek action to resolve flooding and runoff issues in areas where this is likely to pose significant hazards.

## **132. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **132.1 BRPC Standing Orders and information**

The Chairman outlined updates to the BRPC standing orders which are required to ensure conformity with data protection, freedom of information and transparency regulations and advised that necessary information will be placed on the website to demonstrate that BRPC is registered as a data controller, that the Clerk is the person responsible for data protection and that the BRPC data protection policy will ensure that all personal data held by the BRPC will be processed in a fair and lawful manner and in ways that conform with data protection legislation including the General Data Protection Order due to be in place in May 2018.

The meeting endorsed the updates and **AGREED** that the Standing Orders and website be updated accordingly.

**ACTION:** Clerk to amend the standing orders and website.

### **132.2 Casual Vacancy**

Mrs. Jones advised the meeting that she intends to resign early in 2018.

The meeting thanked Mrs. Jones for her significant contributions to the parish and **AGREED** that the usual processes to fill the Casual Vacancy arising be put in place by the Clerk. Mrs. Jones reported that she has identified potential candidates for the role and the meeting **AGREED** the importance to the work of the parish Council of a councillor being able to present the views of residents in Bury.

### **132.3 CPR Training**

Mr Abel advised the meeting that CPR training is available at Huish Champflower Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**132.4 Bury Bridge**

Mrs Jones asked that an update on the management of this important local landmark be made at a future meeting and the Chairman **AGREED** to contact ENPA to request this.

**ACTION:** Chairman to bring a report to a future meeting

**132.5 External lighting at the BRVH**

The Chairman advised the meeting that ENPA has been consulted and is supporting the BRVH Committee to address issues of lighting on the steps. The meeting asked that lighting at the entrance to the Hall adjacent to the Dennis Boundy room and in the entrance hall itself be provided while other works were underway in the Hall.

**ACTION:** Clerk to advise the BRVH Committee

**133. DATE AND TIME OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

It was **AGREED** that the Chairman and Clerk were delegated to decide in the light of matters to address whether or not the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 should go ahead, advise Councillors accordingly and display the appropriate notices on the website and notice boards.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, starting at 7.30.pm at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their hard work during the year and the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed:.....Chairman, Brompton Regis Parish Council

Date:.....