

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH 2018

144 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I. Abel, Mr. S. Coates, Cllr. F. Nicholson, Mrs. J. Scott, Mr. P. Page, Cllr. K. Turner and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

145 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. J Andrews

146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

147 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2018

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.

MATTERS ARISING

147.1 Speed limit and traffic issues (minute 137.1)

The Clerk reported that the relevant section of the Highways Authority (HA) had included in its small works programme those items cited at the previous meeting and had consulted the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) about painting 30MPH roundels on the road surface and if this was accepted the works would be added to those planned for the village.

Councillors welcomed the updated and planned actions.

147.2 Highways issues, flooding and blocked drains

The Chairman reported that due to the red weather alert the meeting with the relevant section of the HA team to visit drainage problem areas and review the drains map was postponed to April.

Mr Coates asked for information on the outcomes of the HA meeting with Mr Andrews re flooding on Blagdon Lane. (minute 142.2).

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Andrews to provide an update and circulate this to councillors by email.

148. UPDATES FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Turner asked that minute 128 (6th December 2017) be amended to read: *The Chairman reported 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 six week consultation period would take place before a final decision was given.*

Councillors **AGREED** to this amendment.

He advised that West Somerset District and Taunton Deane Borough Councils are continuing to work together to transform officer teams and generate savings. If a merger is approved ward boundaries will be reviewed.

Cllr. Turner reminded the meeting about the local lottery which raises funds for charities in the area and that tickets are for sale online and by 'phone.

The next Brendon Hills area meeting will take place on June 28th 2018 at Raleghs Cross Inn.

West Somerset District Council has set its budget with an increase in Band D. He reminded the meeting that while the District Council issues Council Tax demands and collects payments the amount received for its use is 9% of the total.

Cllr. Nicholson reported that the County Council has budget has been set at the maximum permissible level and with an increase for adult social care. The proposal to form the Somerset Rivers Authority has received its first reading in Parliament.

She reported on and congratulated the Highways Teams on their work during the recent severe weather.

Mr Abell thanked Cllr Nicholson for her efforts and success in amending the timetable of the school bus from Taunton which will, after implementation, reduce the length of local pupils' day by at least 45 minutes

149. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS

148.1 Brompton Regis Village Hall AGM

The Clerk reported from the AGM: booking fees are to be increased, an alternative provider is required to cut the grass, Mrs Stringer is to retire this spring after many years volunteering with the Hall Committee. Upcoming hall events include: the spring clean (24th March), the Big breakfast (28th October) and Bingo (8th December).

The meeting discussed the involvement of local groups in plans to mark Mrs Stringer's retirement and noted the steps which the Parish Council had taken on behalf of the community to support her successful nomination for the Somerset County Council Chairman's award.

150. FINANCE

151.1 Invoices to be paid. Mr Page proposed and Mr Coates seconded payment of the invoice for £18 for signs for the village hall car park and continuing monthly payments' of the Clerk's salary.

151.2 Village hall acoustics and other works (minute 141.6). The Clerk reported that steps to improve the acoustics for general use of the hall had been welcomed at the Village Hall AGM and that further quotes for this and other work are being sought. Pending further information, a decision on a grant toward the cost of works to the Village Hall was forwarded to the next meeting (4th April 2018).

152. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

152.1 Red weather warnings. Mr Coates suggested that, in the context of a range of local information, the Brendon Beacon might carry an information piece on the implications of a red weather warning for working arrangements, liabilities and insurance.

ACTION: Clerk to look into this.

152.2 Reflectors Roborough gate. Mr Page asked for an update on the Highways Authority assessment of the defects.

ACTION: Clerk to make enquiries of the HA.

152.3 Bury Bridge (minute 132.4). The Chairman reported that the ENPA has advised that the landowner is expected to repair the bridge in May 2018.

152.4 Bryants Bridge. The Chairman reported concern that the parapet on the North side of the bridge appears to be leaning away from the road. Cllr Nicholson advised that the issue be raised with the SCC Bridges Team. The meeting discussed possible causes of movement, including heavy goods traffic (26 and 32 60 ton lorries) connected with works to improve forestry roads in Kings Brompton forest. Cllr Nicholson advised that any concerns about the works themselves be raised with the ENPA planning team.

153. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday Wednesday 4th April 2018 at 7.30pm Brompton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

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

Date:.....