

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2019

347 PRESENT

Mr. P. Page (Vice Chairman), Mr. J. Andrews, Mr. S. Coates, Mr. M. Headley, Miss L. Luxton, Cllr. F. Nicholson, and in attendance Mrs. M. Abell, parish highways warden, and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

In the absence of the BRPC Chairman, Mr. Page took the chair for the meeting.

348 APOLOGIES

Mr. I. Abel, Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Cllr. N. Thwaites.

349 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

350 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH AUGUST 2019

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The date of the forthcoming meeting was amended (4th) and the minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** and signed as a correct record.

351 MATTERS ARISING

351.1 Post Office temporary closure (minutes 325.4, 338.1).

The Clerk reported that there is no contract with the parish for the service and that feedback from the post office providing the service had noted pressure on local PO resources.

351.2. Safer Together (fire service consultation) (minute 338.2)

The Clerk reported that the local Parish Council member of ENPA, Mrs S. Takle, had offered to find out if ENPA had submitted a response and to advise BRPC accordingly. Mr. Page noted that the consultation document is complex, has been widely publicised. He suggested that parish councillors submit individual responses. The meeting agreed that pending advice re any ENPA submission it appeared difficult for the BRPC to respond to the consultation. The Clerk agreed to circulate by email Mrs. Takle's response when received and the meeting agreed that email discussion of that could inform a BRPC response.

ACTION: CLERK to circulate to Parish Councillors the response from the ENPA Parish Council member and in the light of that invite discussion on the potential for a BRPC response to the consultation.

351.3 Bryants Bridge path (minute 340.1)

Mr. Page noted the action agreed in the last meeting that landowners be advised to contact SCC with information. The Clerk reported that the question of costs of works had been raised with SCC which had advised that the upkeep of definitive rights of way is not optional.

351.4 Hedge cutting alongside Millennium Green (minute 345.2)

Mr. Page reported that this has been undertaken.

351.5 Mobile phone coverage (minute 345.3)

Mr. Page reported that a survey of options is planned and that it appeared that maximum benefits were achieved when continuity of signal was assured and that this may require complete or at best maximum uptake of the installations. Cllr. Nicholson advised that the merits of the installation in Dulverton church had significantly improved mobile phone reception in that parish.

352. CORRESPONDENCE

352.1 Woodland management Wimbleball

The meeting noted receipt of correspondence and supported the planned works.

352.2 PCC (police and crime commissioner) and police public forum meeting (24th September Minehead, The Beach Hotel)

Mr Page volunteered to attend the Meeting if there were any particular issues that councillors thought ought to be raised. Mr Coates suggested that the more timely reporting of rural crime would help in implementing preventative action. The current delay, which involved obtaining a crime number (required for insurance purposes) before the crime was publicised was unhelpful.

353. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. Nicholson and Mrs. Abell had attended the **Highway Wardens meeting** (minute 354) on Tuesday 3rd September. She noted the significant goodwill shown by Mr; Peake in attending the meeting, which is not supported by SCC as part of his job and the meeting welcomed his support for parishes.

Cllr. Nicholson advised the meeting that the ENPA Planning Committee Site Visit to Combelands had concluded that hedgerow removal for visibility was not required, that this was accepted by the Highways Team and this element of the application was therefore removed. The Planning committee had approved the application as amended with a range of conditions applied before works start (including foul water arrangements).

Mr. Page asked for clarification on applications which cover separate elements at some distance apart. Cllr. Nicholson advised that this sometimes happens.

Cllr. Nicholson invited the BRPC to consider and advise her about the potential demand for and value of meeting room spaces and other small business support for small business and 'remote workers' in the area because the West Somerset Opportunity Area initiative is considering such steps to support economic activity.

354. HIGHWAY WARDENS MEETING

Cllr. Nicholson outlined the focus of the meeting and the key points arising for the BRPC.

- SCC want PCs to replace any bag locations with bins where possible
- SCC will no longer provide small salt bags
- SCC will provide dumpy bags to the agreed locations
- Parish Councils purchasing salt bins are to advise SCC of the locations

- SCC will fill bins from November, only when they are empty/nearing empty and when asked to do so by PCs.
- There is reduced hedge cutting, which may result in less damage to bins; Cllr. Nicholson is working with SCC to support better reporting of damage.
- In situations where the temperature is below 0c for more than 24 hours SCC will ensure 'red routes' are clear and, where resources allow, will also treat 'green routes'.
- The measurement of temperatures is via sensors across the area which are embedded in road surfaces.
- The route from Jury Road to the School in Dulverton (previously funded by the Town Council) is now included in the SCC 'red routes'.

The meeting recorded thanks to Mrs Cindy Cowling for her work to transport and place the new salt bins around the parish and thanks to Ms Jackie Smith for her assistance in that and to the BRPC Chairman for making the arrangements for the new bins (minute 331.3).

The meeting asked if there were options for prioritising some green routes over others and Cllr. Nicholson advised that the decisions on which green routes would be gritted would reflect available resources, including locations of equipment.

Mrs. Abell reported that she had checked levels in bins, except that at Bessom Bridge which is filled with rubbish and water, and provided the Clerk with an up to date picture on their contents. The meeting thanked her for this and her continuing role in checking the salt bins and roads in the parish.

Mrs. Abell advised that the map of bin and dumpy bag locations for the parish included errors:

- the bin location at Ruggs should be a dumpy bag
- the bag locations at the top of Ruggs, and on the road east from Pulhams Mills need to be added.

The meeting discussed the location of the new salt bin on Woolcotts Steep and Mr. Andrews agreed to look at the potential to re-locate it at the bottom of the hill, but warned that this may be problematic given the height of the land and the need to access the salt easily.

ACTIONS:

Clerk advise the SCC Highways Team of the new bin locations and errors in their map (as above)

Mr. Andrews look at options for, and possibly move, the new salt bin to be located at /near the bottom of Woolcotts Steep.

Cllr. Nicholson and Mrs. Abell left the meeting at 8.15pm.

355 PLANNING

355.1 Application 6/3/19/113 Withiel Florey

The meeting discussed the application and agreed no comment be made.

356 FINANCES

356.1 Purchase of salt bins and associated materials

Mr. Andrews proposed and Mr. Coates seconded payments of £622.93 plus VAT of £124.59, and payment of £52.00 plus VAT of £10.40, and this was unanimously APPROVED.

357.2 Clerk’s quarterly salary

Mr. Andrews proposed and Mr. Coates seconded payment of £293.25 and this was unanimously APPROVED.

357.3 VAT reclaim

The meeting instructed the Clerk to reclaim VAT on the salt bins and associated purchases, as regulations allow.

ACTION: Clerk to reclaim VAT.

358. DEFIBRILLATOR

The meeting recorded the BRPC thanks to Mrs.Kim Williams for taking on responsibility for this facility and their thanks to Trish Kirby for her support.

359. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

359.1 Car parking and visitor activity at Bessom Bridge

Mr. Andrews raised concerns at the extensive car parking on and around Bessom Bridge. Mr. Headley asked if white (rather than yellow) lines on the bridge might discourage parking there. Miss. Luxton noted that the car park signs appear to have been useful in directing cars to the car park, which over the weekend was full. Mr. Coates noted that litter collection appears to have improved but noted that the salt bin is full of rubbish.

It was **AGREED** that a meeting be sought with the SW Lakes Trust.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting.

359.2 Trees overhanging roads

Mr. Page expressed concern at potential safety issues where trees significantly overhang and shadow roads in the parish, notably near Renford Knap and Bryants Bridge.

360. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2nd October 2019, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

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

Date:.....