

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2017

1 PRESENT

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

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr S. Coates and Mrs. F. Nicholson.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7th December 2016

These were deferred to the next meeting (to be held on Wednesday 1st March 2017).

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Coombeshead appeal decision: the Parish Council's letter of concern.

The Chairman reported that responses to the letter had been received from the Planning Inspectorate, which had also responded on behalf of the Minister. Copies of the letter and responses have been circulated to councillors. Discussion highlighted the apparent lack of enforcement by the Planning Authority as a key factor in approval of the appeal. Councillors re-stated their concern at lack of enforcement action on this and a number of other planning matters and agreed that this again be raised with the Planning Authority.

5.2 Parish defibrillator (1064 and 1075.2)

The Chairman reported the installation of a defibrillator as agreed. A training session for volunteers and local residents had been provided and the equipment is ready to use. Councillors congratulated the Chairman on undertaking this initiative.

The Chairman announced that Kings Brompton YFC had donated £730 to the costs of the project. Further, the electrician who installed it and undertaken necessary electrical works (Leighton Ormerod) had waived all fees and costs which amounted to a substantial donation.

Mr. Page and Mrs. Jones suggested that the generous support of the YFC and the electrician be noted in some way, and the Chairman will look into a suitable method to do so.

Councillors recorded thanks on behalf of the parish to the YFC and Leighton Ormerod for their generosity and support for this important initiative.

6 UPDATES FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Turner updated the meeting on the process and next steps in the proposed merger of West Somerset District Council (WSDC) and Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC). He advised the meeting of consultation meetings and invited councillors to the consultation meeting which has been arranged for Parishes in the Brendon Hill group, which will be held on Monday 6th February 2017 at 730pm at Raleghs Cross Inn.

Cllr Turner advised that the exceptional circumstances facing WSDC had led to an increase in the council tax levied and distributed to the Council which amounted to £5 per band D property p.a. He reminded the meeting that 9% of the total Council Tax collected is distributed to WSDC.

His update on hospital beds (minute 1076) was welcomed but councillors repeated their concern at the closure of six stroke beds at Williton Hospital and ongoing shortages of clinical staff at Minehead Hospital (which had led to a transfer of in-patients to Williton).

Cllr Turner advised that he will alert WSDC Councillors who sit on the Planning Authority to the Parish Council's ongoing concerns about the need for enforcement of planning decisions and conditions.

Cllr Nicholson had sent an update by email, as follows.

Flood mitigation: Cllr Nicholson suggested the Parish Council contact the West Somerset Flood Group and the manager of the Somerset County Council Flood Risk Management Community Infrastructure Commissioning Group.

She advised that the West Somerset Opportunity Area is beginning to be organised for implementation in March and is hoped to make a long term difference for young people in the area.

SCC Councillors Nicholson and Lawrence and WSDC Councillor Turner are working with the Chief Executive of Somerset Partnership on different and more appropriate methods of staff recruitment for Minehead hospital and an open day is planned.

7 Modifications to the Exmoor Local Plan

The Chairman summarised the intention of the modifications, which had previously been circulated to councillors, as clarification and simplification to reduce the length and complexity of the plan. In discussion Councillors agreed that modifications appear to have achieved this but noted that the plan has no validity unless it is enforced through appropriate planning decisions and the subsequent enforcement of decisions and conditions.

It was **AGREED** that the Chairman write to the planning authority to express this view.

8 PLANNING

- 8.1 Springcleeve (**number 6/3/16/117**): this application had been addressed by email correspondence. No objections.
- 8.2 Venne (**number 6/36/16/102**): this application in a neighbouring parish had been addressed by email. No comment.
- 8.3 Works on Treborough Common (**number 6/35/17/101**): this application is in a neighbouring parish. No comment.
- 8.4 Planning Appeal Bessom Bridge (minute 1054.4 Planning application **number 6/3/16/110** Appeal notification): the Chairman reported that this has gone to a Hearing to which the Parish Council may write but cannot attend. It was **AGREED** that the Council's comments had been made and that a further letter was not required. Councillors reiterated their concern about this case. It was reported that refuse collection bins are being used and emptied by the waste collection service and Cllr Turner **AGREED** to ascertain if appropriate rates are being paid.
- 8.5 Lower Goosemoor (**6/3/17/102**): it was **AGREED** that no objections be raised.

9 FINANCE

- 9.1 **Invoices paid:** it was reported that £390 had been paid for grass cutting in 2016. £75 had been paid for a computer update and repairs.
- 9.2 **Invoice to be paid:** it was **AGREED** that costs of village hall bookings be paid (67.50).
- 9.3 **Clerk's salary update:** the Chairman reported that the PAYE system has been set up and is in use and that pay for hours worked prior to the system will be paid with the monthly salary and that hours worked per month from now on will be paid in arrears.

10 ANY OTHER MATTERS

- 10.1 **Broken signpost Roborough gate:** Mr Page reported this as a matter of particular concern for visitors to the area. The Clerk will report the need for a repair the Highways Authority.
- 10.2 **Salt bins at Woolcott steep:** the Clerk will report that this needs to be filled.
- 10.3 **Bury Bridge repairs:** Mrs Jones asked that remedial works be arranged. The Chairman will look into this.
- 10.4 **Mud and spoil encroaching on the road, water on the road Rugglands Hill:** Mr Andrews reported that this needs to be addressed. The Clerk will report this to the Highways Authority.

- 10.5 **Sewage, Storrige:** the Chairman reported that after lengthy negotiations Magna Housing has addressed this outflow. She asked Councillors to alert her to any further problems here.
- 10.6 **BT posts:** the Chairman reported that she alerted BT to the fallen post near Redgate and it has been repaired but that the post at Naked Boy remains missing.
- 10.7 **Rock Cottage flooding:** the Chairman reported that this appears to have been resolved.
- 10.8 **Small works in the parish:** Mr Page asked how works that had been undertaken by the Parish Lengthsman will be addressed in future. The Chairman **AGREED** to look into local options.
- 10.9 **Ironman:** the Chairman advised that she has requested the donation promised in 2016 and is in contact with the organisers on other matters.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7.30.pm at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

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

Date:.....