

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

12 PRESENT

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

Eleven members of the public (Russel Cowling, Su Elsdon, Ian Joyce, Pauli Joyce, Kevin Lawes, Jenny Pattenden, Charlie Philips, Jenny Philips, Kevin Steer, Jenny Stringer, Peter Stringer).

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr S. Coates, Cllr. F. Nicholson and Mrs J. Scott.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2016

These were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct and accurate record.

16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2017

These were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct and accurate record.

17 MATTERS ARISING

17.1 Parish defibrillator (minute 5.2)

The Chairman reported the defibrillator is available for anyone to use and that the volunteer scheme is progressing.

17.2 Signposts

Re: the signpost at Roborough Gate (minute 10.1) it was AGREED that actions could await progress on signposts across the parish and that a temporary sign be investigated.

An update on the Historic Signposts project will be sought.

ACTION: Clerk to seek an update for the meeting to be held on 5th April 2017.

The direction fingers of a number of signposts in the area appear to have been altered. Mr. Luxton has addressed this problem at White Post, and the meeting recorded thanks to him.

17.3 Bessom Bridge textile studio and work place (minute 8.4)

Cllr. Turner reported no council tax had been paid and that a valuation will be undertaken.

A copy of the report of the Appeal and its decision to dismiss the Appeal had been sent to Councillors.

18 UPDATES FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Turner reported an increase in the District Council element of Council Tax and that this will lead to an increase of £5 p.a. for Band D equivalent and that the District Council receives 9% of the total Council Tax levied and that the total amount will, in 2017-18, include, yet again, a one-off flood levy.

Increased permit prices for car parks in Dulverton have been approved and will be introduced over two years, beginning in June 2017.

Consultation on the proposed merger of West Somerset and Taunton Deane Borough Councils has ended.

From the floor, Mrs Jenny Stringer sought and was given permission to ask what Council Tax village halls must pay. Cllr. Turner advised that these buildings have 100% mandatory relief.

Mr Page asked for an update on improved mobile phone coverage in the area, which Cllr. Turner could not provide and it was AGREED that this be an item on the agenda of the next meeting.

ACTION Clerk to seek an update for the meeting to be held on 5th April.

19 PLANNING

19.1 Application 6/3/17/103

The Council recorded no comment.

19.2 Application 6/3/17/104

The Council recorded no comment.

19.3 Application 6/3/17/105

The Chairman opened this item by advising that the Parish Council will form its response to the application after considering the views presented at the meeting by members of public. She invited Mr Russel Cowling, the applicant, to speak. He explained that the development is intended to enable better use and security of the existing buildings on the site and support the viability of the farm business. He reported that two ENPA Landscape Officers had independently identified the position of the proposed building as the most appropriate on the site.

The Chairman invited questions and comments from members of the public.

A large number of concerns were raised about:

- the actual need for a dwelling;
- the siting and visual impact of the dwelling proposed;

- the potential problems with the access routes. It was raised that the ford end of Trotts Lane was not suitable. If there was to be increased traffic as result of the development the ford could be damaged; and
- the possibility of losing the permitted path through the site.

There was considerable disquiet from the members of the public present regarding the application.

Mr Cowling responded to the points made.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their views

The following members of the public left: Russel Cowling, Su Elsdon, Ian Joyce, Pauli Joyce, Jenny Pattenden, Charlie Philips, Jenny Philips, Kevin Steer, Jenny Stringer, Peter Stringer.

20 HIGHWAYS

20.1 Roborough Gate: Mr. Page reported that reflectors appear defective.

ACTION: Clerk to look into this and report to the Highways Authority.

20.2 Street lighting: Mr Page tabled a letter from residents expressing concern at the effects of changed street lamps and shades on visibility and safety.

The meeting thanked residents for raising their concerns. It was AGREED that an additional lamp at the Western end of the village be investigated.

ACTION: Clerk to draft a letter of response and approach the Highways Authority.

20.3 Small works: Mr Page asked how small works in the parish and in particular those related to Highway drains will be managed outside the Lengthsman Scheme. Mr Page will define the arrangements for work that can be undertaken. The Council will set a financial limit for works, make necessary checks on insurance and health and safety of the new provider and arrange a briefing for the new provider on relevant locations.

ACTION: Mr Page to contact the new provider.

ACTION: Clerk to provide a model contract setting out the provider's liabilities.

20.4 Blocked drains into Wimbleball: Mr Andrews noted that rising water levels will exacerbate the problems caused by blockages.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the Highways Authority for a progress report.

20.5 Road degradation and pot hole, Bryants Bridge

Mr Abell reported that problems on the north side of the road are leading to East bound traffic using the wrong side of the carriageway.

ACTION: Clerk to report the matter to the Highways Authority.

20.6 Pot hole, Bury

Mrs Jones reported that this has been resolved.

20.7 Hedge overhang, approach to Bryants Bridge

The hedge and tree overhang has affected visibility. The landowner be asked if remedial works may be undertaken.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the landowner.

20.8 Beech Tree Cross, hazard cones and pot hole

Temporary hazard cones on the East side of the main road are causing drivers to use the centre of the carriageway at this junction, with potential danger to other road users.

ACTION: Clerk to report this to the Highways Authority.

21 FINANCE

The Chairman reported attendance at the Village Hall AGM where increases to hall charges had been approved while charges for the meeting room were unchanged.

22 IRONMAN

The Clerk has been in contact with Ironman re the 2017 plans.

Mr Kevin Lawes asked for an update on receipt of the donation promised in 2016 and the Chairman advised that this is being chased.

23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23.1 Xman: The Chairman reported that this triathlon will be held on 29/30 July 2017.

23.2 Liability for clearing hedge trimmings and mud from roads: On behalf of a resident, concerned at potential damage to cars by hedge trimmings on the road, Mr Abell raised the question of liability. It was noted that farming businesses causing mess on the road are liable for its removal.

23.3 Footpath warden and clippers: Mrs Jones handed the Somerset County Council clippers to Mrs Buchanan who has taken on the role of parish footpath warden.

24 DATE AND TIME OF FORTHCOMING MEETING

Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 7.30.pm at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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

Date:.....