

## **MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

### **112 PRESENT**

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

One member of the public: Mrs. J. Stringer

### **113 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs J. Scott. Mr. J Andrews

### **114 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **115 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr. Page noted a typing error at 105.2 which was corrected and the minutes unanimously **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed as such.

### **116 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **116.1 Website**

The Clerk reported that Mr Routledge had been able to temporarily fix the website. With Mr. Routledge the Clerk is assessing the requirements for a new website and will seek three quotes for design, hosting and training in its use.

The Clerk confirmed that the website had been established for too long to be eligible for a Transparency Code Fund Grant. The meeting confirmed that the Parish Council wishes to support a community website rather than a website solely to meet the Parish Council's needs.

#### **116.2 Vandalism**

The Clerk reported that the Police Community Support Officer had met with Mr. Cowling on this matter, that Mr. Cowling had installed CCTV at the site in question and that at this stage no action would be taken by the police, including no action to attend local schools to raise awareness of the repercussions of vandalism.

### **117 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman outlined general mailings forwarded by the Clerk to councillors in the preceding month. The Clerk reported that the ENPA mailing re woody debris in streams had been forwarded to Mr Collins in light of his meeting in 2016 with FWAG on this matter regarding the River Pulham.

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

Cllr. Nicholson clarified the BRPC's concerns regarding differential permits for domestic vehicles which may be classed as commercial vehicles.

Cllr. Nicholson advised the meeting that media coverage of a serious case review in Somerset and of an imminent Ofsted inspection of the County Council is likely in the near future. She directed Councillors to the ongoing 'Early Help for Families' consultation on the County Council website and updated the meeting on the focus of and funds for the West Somerset Opportunity Area. The meeting supported her concerns about apparent lack of understanding of rurality in the DfE.

Cllr. Turner advised that meeting that ENPA now invites him to attend committee meetings that will consider planning applications in his district constituency. He updated the meeting on progress in the development of a merger between West Somerset District and Taunton Deane Borough Councils, including the need for the local MP's support which is apparently not forthcoming.

## **119. PLANNING**

### **119.1 Application 6/3/17/114 Bury, sewage system**

After full discussion of the amendment to this application it was **AGREED** that the Parish Council had no objection to the amendment.

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

### **119.2 Application 6/3/17/116 South Haddon Cottage**

The meeting noted that there appeared to be no local or Historic Buildings objections to this application and after discussion concluded that the application offered a suitable approach and **AGREED** that the Parish Council had no objection to the application.

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

### **119.3 Application 6/3/17/117 Bruneton House**

The Chairman invited the applicant to speak and Mrs. Stringer described the background to, and content of, the application, noting that if planning permission is granted the properties may be sold as one unit with planning permission or divided and sold in two units.

The meeting discussed the impact of the application in terms of garden layout and parking spaces and noted that if approved division into two properties could make each more affordable. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council had no objection to the application.

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

### **119.4 Application 6/15/17/106 Goosemoor Farm**

The meeting discussed the likely impact of the proposed amendment to the planning conditions on an approved application at this site and **AGREED** that the Parish Council had no objection to the application.

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

### **119.5 Update on Bessom Bridge studio appeal**

The Chairman advised the meeting that the appeal for use as a dwelling had not been granted and the comment by the Inspector that the applicant has 12 months to

find alternative accommodation and that there was no evidence to suggest that this could not be achieved within that timescale. The meeting considered the outcome of the Appeal and how ENPA will monitor its implementation and, in particular, use of the building as only a working studio without residential accommodation. It was **AGREED** that ENPA be asked to advise the BRPC how this will be effected and to keep the BRPC informed of progress in implementing the Appeal decision.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to ENPA.

### **119.6 ENPA Planning Committee meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The meeting considered if the BRPC would attend and speak at this meeting re applications 6/3/17/109 and 6/3/17/112 (Combeland), and **AGREED** that, given the written response that had been submitted, this was not necessary.

## **120. FINANCE**

### **120.1 Invoices and one off grant**

Mr. Page proposed and Mr Coates seconded payment of the following invoices and one-off grant:

- Community website hosting costs: £79.13
- SALC affiliation fee: £119.13
- BR Village Hall booking charges: £50
- BR Big breakfast donation to ingredients: £40

### **120.2 Budget 2017-18**

The Clerk reported the change to the entry of contingencies added to reserves and advised that as per minute number 116.1 the costs of a new website would be confirmed in the new year.

### **120.3 Financial support for local initiatives**

The meeting discussed the opportunity to fund a significant local initiative and the complementary nature of funds available from the BR Show and the potential for BRPC funding for local needs.

The following suggestions were made for BRPC funding:

- grass cutting, Brompton Regis churchyard
- speed limit reminder sign(s) (incl, flashing signs) within Brompton Regis village
- salting of roads to the East of the village
- refurbishment and insulation of the Dennis Boundy Rom at the village Hall
- repairs to the Village Hall rear wall
- benches in the Millennium Green area.

Councillors were invited to make other suggestions to the Clerk or Chairman and it was **AGREED** that at the next meeting funds to support local initiatives would be considered in depth.

**ACTION:** Clerk to cost the above suggestions; Councillors to consider the merits of other local initiatives and send suggestions to the Clerk or Chairman prior to the next meeting.

## **121. SMALL WORKS**

Mr Page outlined the process earlier in the year to advertise and appoint an employed contractor to undertake small works in the parish and the conclusion reached after limited interest was received that works would be commissioned on a contractual and one-off basis. It was noted that some works would fall within the activities of the Millennium Green, and for which grant aid from the BRPC might be sought, and that other works would be commissioned and paid for directly by the Parish Council.

## **122 HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

### **122.1 Blocked drains and gulleys**

The meeting considered the progress which the Highways Authority has made in addressing these issues within the parish and voiced continuing concern regarding:

- Flooding on the road to Bessom Bridge, and Mr Coates **AGREED** to look into this
- Blocked drain at the top of Woolcotts Steep, which Mr Abell and the Clerk have reported

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to the Highways Authority to request an update on the matters above

### **122.2 Salt delivery**

Following the winter services meeting (minute 110.1) Mr. Abell and Mrs. Jones noted that some salt deliveries were not in the agreed places and that salt had not been delivered to Cophole.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to the Highways Authority

Mr. Abell and Mrs. Abell, the BRPC Highways Warden, will check that salt bins have been topped up and advise the Clerk accordingly.

### **122.3 Hedge trimming**

Mrs. Jones asked that landowners be reminded to cut back into hedges that overhang or are encroaching on already narrow roads.

**ACTION:** Clerk to suggest an item for the Brendon Beacon

## **123. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **123.1 Memorial Bench by Lock-up**

Mr. Page advised the meeting that the Pollock Family have asked if they may replace the bench. The Parish Council welcomed this generous suggestion and Mr Page **AGREED** to contact the family and make appropriate arrangements.

### **123.2 EE mast**

Mr. Abell asked for information regarding this initiative at Withypool.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact Withypool PC.

### **123.3 Succession planning**

Mrs. Jones advised the meeting that when she moves from Bury a vacancy will arise on the Council. The meeting **AGREED** the importance of recruiting a Parish

Councillor from Bury and thanked Mrs Jones not only for her role to date but for offering to seek a replacement.

**123.4 Car parking on bends**

Councillors reported concerns from local residents and near misses on the bend between Mill Cross and the village due to car parking that straddles the edge of the verge and the road.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to the houses nearby to suggest parking entirely on the verges and / or use as possible of space near the sewage treatment plant.

**123.5 Other local matters**

Mrs Stringer asked the purpose and ownership of the portable toilet at Mill Cross.

**ACTION:** Clerk to approach the Highways Authority for clarification.

Mrs. Stringer asked if the hedge at the old cricket field (Renford Knapp) could be 'topped off' and if other hedges in the parish could be similarly reduced in height. Mr Coates **AGREED** to cut the hedge at Renford Knap and Mr. Page agreed to make arrangements to organise cutting the shrubs on the bank by the village hall car park.

**DATE AND TIME OF FORTHCOMING MEETING**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Starting at 7.30.pm at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

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

Date:.....