

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

134 PRESENT

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

135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. K. Turner.

136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

137 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2017

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

137.1 Speed limit and traffic issues (minute 127.5)

The Clerk reported from a meeting with a representative of the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) and communications with the Highways Authority (HA) regarding signage to increase awareness of the 30mph limit through the village. Prior to the meeting a copy of the HA's findings from a visit to the village and a week long speed check to assess the speed of traffic through the village. The HA had found that the average speed of vehicles as they entered the speed limited area over a 24 hour period was 21mph, with 85% of traffic travelling at 25mph. The average number of vehicle journeys per day was 305. During a week of measurements two vehicles travelled at between 40-50mph. The HA concluded from this information, and the absence of recorded injury collisions in the village over the past 5 years, that there is no evidence of a speed problem.

In light of local concerns and suggestions that speed limit signs be moved further out of the village from their current location the HA had assessed options and concluded that housing density did not justify such actions or meet Department of Transport advice and that any extension of the speed limit area would require additional signs and lighting which would not be supported by ENPA.

The HA has advised that to address local concerns it will include the following actions in its Minor Works programme for 2018-19: hedge clearance around the sign at the eastern end of the village, replace the faded sign at the western end of the village and undertake hedge clearance around it, refurbish white lining at junctions in the village, replace and re-position advisory signs ('unsuitable for motors', 'Pulhams Mill Crafts') at Sanctuary Lane and replace the faded chevron sign at the church steps.

Councillors welcomed the detailed report by the HA and the actions proposed, noting that traffic below the speed limit may feel faster due to the narrow roads.

It was AGREED that a short article setting out the actions taken to investigate speed concerns be provided for the Brendon Beacon.

ACTION: CLERK to provide an article for the magazine, checking content with the HA as appropriate.

137.2 Highways issues, flooding and blocked drains

Mr Page reported that he had cleared the tops of the drains at Bessom Bridge and this appeared to have addressed the flooding there. The meeting thanked Mr Page for this work. The Chairman reported that a householder near Venn had rodded blocked drains that had caused flooding and that this appeared to have resolved the problem.

While welcoming action by residents to tackle local issues, and especially their clearance of leaves and debris from the tops of drains, the meeting agreed that it remains important for the HA to consider longer term solutions to ongoing problems and with that in mind it was AGREED that the Clerk reiterate the offer made by the Chairman to accompany the HA supervisor on a tour of trouble spots in the parish and put him in touch with councillors who know the piping system under roads and hedges.

To support this Cllr Nicholson recommended that at its next meeting the Parish Council consider the HA drains map for the parish and annotate it to assist both reporting of and actions to resolve problems.

Mrs Scott asked that a blocked drain on the road below Ruggs be reported and the Chairman noted that works by the Water Authority had blocked water egress from the road at the fisherman's car park, leading to local flooding.

Mr Page highlighted the effects on drains of the incursion of verges onto roads, which leads to water filling the road surface having bypassed drains. This is particularly evident near Bessoms Bridge.

ACTION: CLERK to report blockages and incursion on the roads as above and contact the HA to request a drains map for the parish and request that the chairman accompany the local supervisor on a tour of trouble spots.

138. CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk reminded the meeting of actions taken to invite nominations for the casual vacancy which followed Mrs Jones' resignation on leaving the area. She reported that an election had not been called and that one nomination had been received. The meeting noted how valuable Toni Jones' role in Bury had been and AGREED the importance of a councillor from that part of the parish.

A summary of the candidate's experience and interests had been circulated to councillors and the candidate had been invited to attend this meeting and meet councillors in order to inform the Council's consideration of co-option. The candidate was not able to attend this or the following meeting and it was therefore AGREED that he be invited to the April meeting when it was hoped the Council could consider co-option.

ACTION: CLERK invite the candidate to the April meeting.

139. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS

139.1 Wimbleball Lakes Trust

The Chairman outlined a meeting with the new staff team at Wimbleball Lake and highlighted the following actions by the lake:

- Signage to and at the entrance of the Bessom Bridge Car Park
- The availability of a public 'phone at the Wimbleball café
- Liason with the triathlon (23-24 June 2018) which she has followed up with the organiser
- Increased staff presence at Bessom Bridge on summer evenings
- Footpath improvements around the lake
- Investigation of potential fishing options.

Discussion highlighted the importance of lake events not clashing with other local events, and in particular annual events such as Treborough Horse Trials and the Cutcombe Horse Show.

ACTION: CLERK to alert the events' organiser at Wimbleball.

139.2 Claiming rights of way based on historical evidence

The Clerk having circulated this information reminded councillors that the deadline for applications to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for public rights of way is in 2026.

It was AGREED that the Clerk could assist with applications by councillors or residents and this information be placed in the parish magazine and on the parish notice board.

ACTION: CLERK to make information available.

139.3 Grants

Letters of thanks have been received from Parish Lifts, the PCC and WSAB.

139.4 Exmoor Young Voices

News of the recruitment of a co-ordinator was welcomed. Information has been displayed on the parish notice board.

140. UPDATES FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Nicholson invited councillors to provide her with information on the impacts of changes in school bus times on local pupils attending schools in Taunton.

She outlined the current Libraries service consultation and encouraged residents to consider volunteering to support Dulverton library as a means of maintaining and developing their local services. The Clerk noted that advertisements for the consultation and drop in events had been placed on the parish noticeboard.

141. FINANCE

141.1 Data Protection registration. The meeting noted that this has been completed and information placed on the website.

141.2 Pensions Regulator declaration. The meeting noted that this has been completed and that the Clerk has not requested a pension scheme.

141.3 Invoices to be paid. Mr Coates proposed and Mr Andrews seconded payment of the invoice for £37.50 the use of the village hall for BRPC meetings.

141.4 Budget 2017-18 update. This was tabled and confirmed as accurate by Councillors, including earmarked amounts for work not yet commissioned and grants not yet made.

141.5 Website quotes and next steps. A summary report by Keith Routledge, the volunteer who manages the website, and the Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk summarised the review undertaken with Keith which had included an assessment of five potential providers which had been selected with reference to their use by parish councils and public sector organisations in the area. The review had recommended that a contract for provision of a new website in a sustainable form, training to populate it and a limited amount of support for volunteers to maintain it be placed with Zen Computers at the quoted price of £590 plus VAT. The meeting noted that annual costs would remain.

Mr Page proposed and Mr Andrews seconded acceptance of the recommendation and the letting of a contract with Zen computers at the quoted price and asked the Clerk to reclaim VAT.

Councillors noted that the domain name for the new website will be owned by the BRPC and that, after the new site has been developed, Keith and the Clerk intend to make small changes to content in order to embrace the whole parish. The Clerk will seek to reclaim VAT.

Councillors recorded their thanks to Keith for his excellent work in developing and maintaining the current website and in considering a new and sustainable website.

ACTION: CLERK to let the contract and reclaim VAT.

141.6 Village hall acoustics and other works (minute 130.1 and minute 132.5). The Chairman advised the meeting that the Village Hall Committee had secured a quote for the provision of wool clouds and panels, which is a common method of reducing echo and improving acoustics. The meeting discussed the need for this intervention and the quoted costs.

Other works which the Committee have identified as necessary were discussed. The Clerk was asked to find out if other quotes for acoustic improvement and other planned improvements had been secured, what those were and the Hall Committee'

judgement on best value. Pending this information a decision on a grant to the village hall committee was deferred to the Council's March meeting (7th).

ACTION: CLERK to ask the village hall committee if further quotes for the range of intended work are available, and as possible share these with parish councillors prior to the March 7th meeting.

The Chairman advised that signage to the village hall car park was in progress.

142. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

132.1 Grit bin, Woolcotts.

Mr Abell asked the Clerk to seek a refill for this.

ACTION: CLERK to contact the HA.

142.2. Flooding Blagdon Lane

The Chairman reported correspondence with the HA on this matter. Discussion highlighted the importance of councillor knowledge of pipe works under hedges and field boundaries and that this should inform HA works. Mr Andrews and Mr Coates offered to meet or talk with the local supervisor to identify areas of likely blockages and resolution.

ACTION: CLERK to contact the HA.

143. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 7.30pm Brompton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

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

Date:.....