

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4th APRIL 2018

154 PRESENT

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

155 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. S. Coates, Cllr. K. Turner, Mrs. J. Scott.

156 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Chairman introduced Mr. Alastair Scrimgeour to the meeting. Information about his interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and the Parish Council's proposal to co-opt him to the Council had been circulated to Councillors earlier in the year. Mr. Scrimgeour outlined his interest and expertise and the meeting welcomed his experience of Bury as of particular value to the Council's work. The Chairman invited Mr Scrimgeour to accept the co-option, which he did, and the meeting unanimously welcomed him to his first meeting as a Parish Councillor.

ACTION: Clerk to send to Mr. Scrimgeour the relevant paperwork and advise the West Somerset District Council's Electoral Services Manager of his co-option .

157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

158 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th MARCH 2018

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.

159 MATTERS ARISING

159.1 Speed limit and traffic issues (minute 147.1)

Mr Page asked for an update. The Clerk advised that no further information has been received and that an article outlining the Parish Council's work and planned actions by the HA was included in the April issue of The Brendon Beacon.

159.2 Blagdon Lane flooding (minute 147.2)

Mr Andrews reported on his meeting with the local HA officers to identify drains and drainage routes in the area of recent flooding. The HA team had identified that the drain to the north of the flood pond by the buildings at Higher Woolcotts appeared blocked and is looking into next steps.

ACTION: Chairman to raise this with the HA team at the meeting planned with them.

159.3 Grass cutting at the village hall (minute 148.1)

The Chairman advised that the Committee Chairman is to cut the grass around the Hall.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate grass cutting on the bank.

159.4 Red weather warnings (minute 152.1).

The Clerk advised that action is pending.

ACTION: Clerk is looking into this.

159.5 Reflectors Roborough Gate (minute 152.2)

The Clerk reported that an update had been requested and not yet received from the Highways Authority (HA).

159.6 Bury Bridge (minute 152.3)

Mr. Scrimgeour asked for an update. The Chairman outlined the advice given to the Council last year, advised that no further progress has been reported and that works on vegetation overgrowth were expected in or before May 2018.

159.7 Bryants Bridge (minute 152.4)

The Clerk reported that the HA has advised that the bridge has an assessed capacity of 40 tons, and is therefore able to carry unrestricted vehicles, and that the Bridge Inspector will look at the structure and report back after his inspection. It was noted that boggy / wet ground to the north east of the bridge may be contributing to the situation of the end of the bridge parapet appearing to have moved.

160. UPDATES FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Nicholson reported that as currently provided, the pre-school nursery provision in Dulverton does not appear sustainable. There are no local childminders and loss of the nursery provision would pose significant problems for local people.

161. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS

161.1 Announcement of approval of a single council for West Somerset and Taunton Deane

This having been circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

161.2. Warding proposals

In the context of the formation of a new council, proposals for a new pattern of wards had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman invited Cllr Nicholson to contribute her views and the meeting discussed at length the proposed groupings of parish councils and made the following points.

- Concern that the proposed grouping of Brompton Regis with Wiveliscombe does not take account of the influences and legislative context, most importantly our planning authority is Exmoor National Park Association or the direction of travel for local services
- The importance of the parish being grouped with parishes which are within or closely linked with the National Park.

The consultation questionnaire was discussed and concern expressed that some questions (such as patterns of use of GP surgeries) may not reflect geographical and other limits on residents' use of different services in different places.

ACTION: Clerk to resend the documents to councillors. Councillors to send their comments to the Clerk by Saturday 8th April for compilation into a response to the consultation.

161.3 Libraries consultation

This having been previously circulated the meeting noted that the consultation period has been extended to June 13th. The Chairman invited Cllr Nicholson to update the meeting on discussions regarding Dulverton library. The meeting considered at length the valuable community activity led by volunteers in Dulverton, the synergy of shared use of the building, the pattern of use by all age groups and the need for professional leadership in the provision of library services. The Chairman outlined the options set out in the consultation and invited Councillors to contribute their views in order to form a Parish Council response.

Councillors noted that many local people are active volunteers across a range of settings and roles and that it may be hard to find volunteers to provide a library service as opposed to community services based in the library. Cllr Nicholson suggested that costs of the current service might be reduced and income increased.

It was **AGREED** that the item be carried forward to the May meeting, allowing councillors more time to consider the options.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Dulverton and Brushford Parish Councils to ascertain their views.

162. PLANNING

162.1 Application number 6/3/18/102LB

No objection. Councillors asked if it might be possible for clearer drawings to be provided with applications where technical issues are involved.

ACTION: Clerk to submit response and approach ENPA.

162.2 Application number 6/3/18/103

No objection. The position of the rights of way vis a vis the proposed works was noted.

ACTION: Clerk to submit response.

163. HIGHWAYS

The Chairman reported that the meeting with the local HA team postponed due to bad weather is to be re-arranged and will include ongoing issues, recent flooding and potholes.

Councillors noted that the verge has encroached on the carriageway on c300m in both directions from Cophole and requested that this matter be raised with the HA.

ACTION: Clerk to report.

164. FINANCE

164.1 Website

The Clerk reported that the contract for the website approved by the Council (minute 141.5) had been delivered on time with a small amount of additional time required (total price £120 plus VAT) and that the final invoice of £852 including VAT had been paid. VAT will be reclaimed.

Further work to update and improve the new site will be undertaken by Keith Routledge and the Clerk. To do this some additional support is likely to be required from the contractor and the meeting AGREED that an amount up to £120 was acceptable, and that invoices would be brought to the Council in the usual way.

Councillors welcomed the new website and recorded their thanks to Keith Routledge for his significant contribution of expertise, time and understanding. It was noted that expenses had been incurred by Keith in this voluntary role. Mr. Abell proposed, Mr. Page seconded, and the meeting unanimously AGREED that £75 be paid to Keith Routledge.

ACTION: Clerk to pass on the Council's thanks to Keith and send a cheque.

164.2 Defibrillator invoices

Invoices for the annual management fee (£150) and emergency telephone service (£100) are awaited. The meeting **APPROVED** payment of those costs when invoices are received.

164.3 Village hall works (minute 151.2).

In the absence of further information on the costs of proposed works this matter was forwarded to a future meeting.

165. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

165.1 Small works

Mr. Page asked for clarification on the procedure to be adopted for small works following the Council's advertisement for contractors (minute 56.1).

It was AGREED that the advertisement process had demonstrated the Council's commitment to the efficient and economic provision of contracted services, to open and fair procedures and that when the Council requires small works it may contract with the contractor which came forward and demonstrated appropriate insurance cover and appropriate training. This means that three tenders are not required for individual pieces of work within the compass of the those advertised as 'small works.'

165.2 Beech hedge beside the steps to the shop

Mr. Page asked for clarification of the responsibility for cutting this when that is required. The Clerk referred to the Council's meeting in July 2016 which had minuted that the hedge is the responsibility of the owner, which is neither the Village Hall or Parish Council, and that subsequent cutting of the hedge had been undertaken by the owner's gardener. It was AGREED that this situation continued to be the case and that when the hedge needs cutting either the Village Hall Committee or the Parish Council should contact the owner or their representative.

166. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 7.45 pm Brompton Village Hall to be preceded at 7.30 pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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

Date:.....