

## **MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018**

### **167 PRESENT**

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

Member of the public: Mr. R. Cowling and Mrs. M. Nichols.

### **168 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Clerk took the Chair and invited nominations for the offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, noting that the present post holders had expressed a willingness to continue in office until the 2019 Council elections.

Mr Coats proposed that Miss Newton be appointed as Chairman and Mr. Page be appointed as Vice Chairman. Mr Andrews seconded the proposal and the officers were duly unanimously elected.

Mrs. Scott thanked Miss Newton and Mr. Page for their work for the Council and Parish.

Miss Newton took the Chair of the meeting and thanked Councillors for their support for her and Mr. Page's work.

### **169 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr. I. Abel, Mr. A. Scrimgeour and Cllr. K. Turner.

### **170 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **171 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 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.

### **172 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **172.1 Warding proposal (minute 161.2)**

Councillors welcomed the information in the West Somerset Free Press that suggested the Parish may be included in a grouping with Dulverton and Brushford.

#### **172.2 Libraries consultation (minute 161.3)**

The Chairman updated the meeting on this consultation and the options it presented for Dulverton Library. She outlined the review undertaken by Dulverton Town Council and it's conclusion that the only viable option for Dulverton Library is that there be no change to the existing library service. After discussion Councillors fully supported the position taken by Dulverton Town Council and **AGREED** that the Clerk submit a response to the consultation to that effect.

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

### **172.3 Website expenses (minute 164.1)**

The Chairman drew Councillors' attention to Mr. Routledge's response to the reimbursement of expenses, thanking the Council and advising that he intends to make a donation to the Air Ambulance.

### **172.4 Red weather warnings (minute 152.1).**

Mr. Coates asked for an update and the Clerk advised that given the better weather since the March meeting this action is pending.

**ACTION: Clerk** to look into this.

## **173. UPDATES FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr. Nicholson reported on the improvements made to transfers of care from the NHS to social care for people leaving hospital and invited people to inform her of their experiences. She outlined steps being taken to support the development of small local providers of care services which may be able to better meet needs in rural areas than large providers based elsewhere. Alongside this the County Council is developing options for people receiving care to receive funds to directly purchase that required rather than receive a package of care arranged by the County Council on their behalf.

Cllr. Nicholson outlined the County Council's recent decision to consider the formation of a Unitary Authority (UA) for Somerset, as a means of saving administration costs. She noted that the discussions are at an early stage and will include the importance of ensuring in any changes local responsiveness across the entire area by officers and members. The Chairman asked if such a step could occur before the merger of Taunton Deane and West Somerset, and Cllr. Nicholson advised that a timetable has not been defined. The Chairman asked for clarification of arrangements for the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) within a UA and Cllr. Nicholson advised that the ENPA would remain the Planning Authority for the area of the National Park and continue to fulfil its duties as a National Park Authority.

## **174. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS**

### **174.1 Williton meeting of Parish and Town Councils re the merger of Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils**

The Chairman referred to the minutes circulated.

### **174.2 Refuse collection changes**

The Chairman referred to the letter circulated and the update which followed that all residents affected were notified directly by the refuse team.

### **174.3 Bessom Bridge litter, on-road parking and life ring**

The Chairman outlined recent correspondence on this matter between the Clerk and staff at the Lake. Councillors noted that the Lake staff are keeping a log of incidents at Bessom Bridge and welcome comment from local residents and from Councillors. An item in the Brendon Beacon will provide contact details (Tel: 01398 371460 Email: [exmoorcw@swlakestrust.org.uk](mailto:exmoorcw@swlakestrust.org.uk) ).

Councillors asked that an update on car park signs be pursued and that the suggestion of a summer only bin, perhaps particularly for glass and plastic bottles, be repeated.

**ACTION: CLERK** contact SW Lakes Trust Wimbleball staff.

#### **174.4 CLOWNS**

The Chairman invited comments on the letter received and circulated to Councillors which requested a donation. Councillors noted the local value of this longstanding charity and Mr. Andrews proposed that a donation be made. Councillors will consider this with the draft BRPC budget for the year.

**ACTION: CLERK** agenda item June meeting.

#### **174.5 Highways team meeting**

The Chairman advised that the meeting had been cancelled and an alternative date is being sought. Meanwhile a schedule of works in the parish had been sent to the local team supervisor, copied to Councillors.

### **175 PLANNING**

#### **175.1 Application number 6/3/18/104**

The Clerk advised that the consultation period had been extended to 4<sup>th</sup> May to accommodate the Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman invited the applicant, Mr. R. Cowling, to comment. Mr. Cowling advised that the application process has been delayed by the need for a second bat survey which will take place in May. He will submit to ENPA a further drawing which shows that the existing building will be demolished. He advised that if approved no works will start on site until after the bird nesting season.

The Chairman noted the receipt and circulation to Councillors of the submission made by a neighbour.

Councillors discussed the application on the grounds of need, justification, wildlife conservation and visual amenity. The Chairman asked for clarification of the piping of roof run off and the applicant explained that this will be separated from any water from the yard and piped into the river.

Councillors AGREED that the application is justifiable, in a location, and with a design, that is acceptable. It was further AGREED that, if approved, the works proposed will improve the visual amenity of the site and area and enable better use of the site by the farm business. With regard to access the Council was assured by the applicant that current arrangements will continue, that there is a right to use both routes and that Trotts Lane will be the primary access route to and from the site.

**ACTION: CLERK** to submit a response as set out above.

#### **175.2 Combeshead GDO18.05**

Councillors discussed this GDO application for feed silos surrounding concrete wall and made no comments.

### **175.3 WSDC Application 3/30/18/004 Skilgate**

The Chairman outlined this application in a neighbouring parish for masts for emergency mobile services. Cllr. Nicholson updated the meeting, following discussion of the application at ENPA, and highlighted that the design is capable of use by commercial services and that the mast is higher than that approved on ENPA land at Haddon Hill and may therefore offer a greater area of coverage and noted that ENPA does not want two locally adjacent masts.

The Chairman asked for further information about the reach of the emergency service into Brompton Regis parish and adjacent areas and if it could be useful at Wimbleball and Cllr. Nicholson AGREED to look into this and update councillors.

Mr. Coates asked for clarification of the source of the electricity supply.

Councillors **AGREED** that any steps to improve communication services in the parish and the adjoining parishes are to be welcomed. They noted the potential for the mast to be used for commercial services and AGREED that this be encouraged.

**ACTION: CLERK** submit a response on those grounds.

### **176 HIGHWAYS**

The Chairman referred to agenda item 5 (minute 174.5). The meeting thanked her for the comprehensive inventory of roads in the parish. The Chairman noted that the approach had been used by Mrs Stringer in 1998 and that many of the issues then noted are also listed in 2018.

Councillors welcomed the current actions to mark and repair potholes but questioned the practice of repairing potholes only when they reach a certain depth. The Chairman outlined the Code of Conduct for Highways Maintenance which seeks action to address not only the depth of potholes but the risks they present. She referred councillors to the relevance of the Flood and Water Act 2010 and the Highways Act 1980, Section 41, to actions to improve the parish' roads and will raise these matters with the Highways Team at a reconvened meeting.

Mr. Page asked for an update on Bryants' Bridge. The Chairman advised that the Highways Authority Bridges team had inspected the bridge in April 2018, found no change since 2016 and advised that it is assessed to withstand 40 tons. Mr. Andrews reported that his recent assessment of the Bridge confirmed the apparent strength of its structure.

Mr. Page asked for an update on reflectors at Roborough gate and the Clerk advised that this has been chased and is included in the inventory sent to the Highways Authority.

### **177. FINANCE**

#### **177.1 Receipt of Precept**

Noted.

## **177.2 Audit requirements 2017/18**

- **Certificate of exemption from external audit:** on the grounds that the Council's income and expenditure in 2017-18 were both less than £25,000 Councillors **APPROVED** the certificate of exemption and this was duly signed by the Chairman.
- **Internal audit report:** Councillors having received this prior to the meeting, discussed its content and recorded their satisfaction with the report and it's assurance that control objectives in 2017-18 were adequate to meet the Council's needs. Councillors recorded their thanks to Mr. Pollard for carrying out the audit and **APPROVED** the report as circulated.
- **Annual governance statement:** With respect to the accounting statements for 2017-18 and the scheduled discussion of finance matters at each meeting of the Council, Councillors **APPROVED** this statement, and it was signed by the Chairman and Clerk to indicate this.

## **177.3 Invoices and payments**

The Chairman outlined the finance training to be provided by the Somerset Association of Local Councils in July which she had approved for the Clerk at a cost of £30.

Mr. Andrews proposed and Mrs. Scott seconded payments as follows.

- Village hall rent: £37.50
- Website hosting costs: £13.18
- SALC training: £30.

## **178. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **178.1 Width and content of new road in Kings Brompton forest (GDP 12/15 2017)**

Mr. Coates asked if the width and content of the road conformed with the approved GDO (4m width approved). Mr. Andrews questioned the content of materials being used to form the road and the Chairman raised concerns about the use of materials which contain visible garden debris and may contain imported species. Councillors asked the Clerk to raise the matter with ENPA and report back to a future meeting. **ACTION: CLERK** to raise the matter with ENPA.

### **178.2 Trees on the road at Bryants bridge**

Mr. Page asked if actions had been taken to cut back trees to improve visibility at Bryants Bridge. Mr. Coates advised that none had and any would now await the end of the bird nesting season.

### **178.3 Quality of plans in planning applications**

Mr. Page asked if ENPA had responded to the council's concerns about poor quality plans. The Clerk reported that no response had been received. Cllr. Nicholson suggested that where a plan is deemed of inadequate quality that be raised as a concern with that application.

### **178.4 Deadlines to conclude approved works**

Mr. Page asked what deadline exists for works approved in planning applications to be completed. Cllr. Nicholson advised that unless specified in the permission granted

there is no deadline for completion but that the start date must be within three years of the approval.

**178.5 ENPA planning team**

The Chairman asked Cllr. Nicholson for an update on roles and post holders within the ENPA planning team. Cllr. Nicholson advised that Mr. Joe White is the main point of contact until a new Planning Officer has been appointed.

**179. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30pm Brompton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

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

Date:.....