

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2019

393 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. P. Page (Vice Chairman), Mr. I. Abel, Mr. S. Coates, Mr. M. Headley, Miss L. Luxton, Cllr. F. Nicholson (from 2015) and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

A member of the public: Mrs D Headley.

394 APOLOGIES

Mr. J. Andrews.

395 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

396 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2019

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were proposed and seconded by Mr Headley and Miss Luxton and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** the minutes as a correct record and they were signed accordingly.

392 MATTERS ARISING

392.1 Trees overhanging roads (minute 376.1). The meeting noted that some work had begun to address the overhanging trees.

392.1 Permitted footpaths in the parish (minute 376.2). Mr Coates reported that he had met the landowner of Kingsbrompton Forest and the meeting noted that ensuing correspondence had been shared at the last meeting (06 11 2019).

393. CORRESPONDENCE

393.1 VE Day celebrations. The Chairman outlined the content of correspondence shared with parish councillors prior to the meeting. After discussion the meeting agreed: that the BRPC approach the local bell ringers regarding bell ringing in the date; that the clerk would submit an information item to the Brendon Beacon inviting interested people to arrange a celebration; and that the BRPC would consider small grants to support local celebrations.

ACTION: Chairman to approach bellringers; Clerk to draft an item for the Brendon Beacon.

393.2 Community Policing report. The Chairman summarised the content of the recently received report. After discussion the meeting agreed that mobile tel numbers for local police officers be sought.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate the report to parish councillors, respond to the report with thanks and a request for the BRPC to hold mobile tel numbers for local police officers.

393.3 Local Electricity Bill. The Chairman summarised the proposal received from 'Power for People' which had been circulated to parish councillors prior to the meeting. After discussion the meeting welcomed the campaign for this Bill and noted

that it aims to make the financial costs of selling locally generated renewable electricity proportionate to the scale of the local supplier's operation, making it possible for local communities and councils to sell locally generated electricity directly to local users. The meeting further noted that this could generate revenue which could be used to support local actions on a range of issues. The meeting agreed to support the Local Electricity Bill and asked the Clerk to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing its support. **ACTION: CLERK** submit BRPC's response.

393.4 Exmoor Area Panel meeting notes. The Chairman drew attention in the notes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, to the discussion at the recent EAP meeting on highways and the need for action to address road closures and appropriate diversions in the area.

Councillor Nicholson joined the meeting at 815.

394. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. Nicholson advised the meeting that while serious concerns have been expressed on the late delivery of salt and grit to bins in many areas on Exmoor, including the parish, a clear timetable for action has not been issued. Councillors reiterated concerns expressed at previous meetings and it was noted that the HA had been informed in September of the locations for dumpy bags and grit bins but that the information provided appeared to have been ignored.

Cllr Nicholson advised that the Leader of the Somerset West and Taunton Council will attend a meeting about this issue on either 20 or 21 January at a venue TBA.

395 PLANNING

395.1 Application 6/3/19/125 Wimbleball

The meeting discussed the retrospective application and **AGREED** that BRPC had no objections to this application. Councillors expressed disappointment that the application was retrospective.

395.2 Applications 6/3/19/126 St Mary's Church Brompton Regis

The Chairman noted that the applicant received pre-application advice from the ENPA and noted that it is national policy to support proposals such which can enable working from home and business development in rural areas. The meeting considered the possible effects on the parish of the application being approved. Questions were raised as to any negative effects on the bells. Councillors understood that the lessons of other local churches on this matter would inform works, if approved, at St Mary's. The longevity of the finish was questioned and the importance of a sustainable approach noted. The Chairman noted that no actions can be taken, if the application is approved, prior to the route of the power supply being defined. The possible route was discussed. The meeting voiced concern that, because it is understood that the current load on existing supply equipment exceeds capacity during the day, the proposal if implemented might affect the stability of the power supply in the village and a larger transformer would be required. The meeting concluded that the BRPC welcome the application as positive in principle and has no objections. The application indicates that the electricity supply to the church might be upgraded to 3-phase. Concern was raised that, as the

existing village 3-phase supply is already running at maximum, there could be problems unless a larger transformer was provided by the applicant and it was agreed this be raised with ENPA.

396.3 Application GDO 19/15 Ruglands

The meeting discussed the application and agreed to make no comment.

ACTION: CLERK submit the responses as above.

397 HIGHWAYS

The Chairman reported that she had assessed necessary works in the parish and thanked Mr Scott, Mr Cowling and Mr Coates for their work on remedial actions.

The following issues have been reported to the Highways Authority for action: blocked drains near the Eastcott Farms, Swansea Farm.

The Chairman advised that one of the four walls at Bury Bridge has been re-pointed and that action is now needed on the cuts and this has been reported to ENPA.

Mr Coates asked that the surface of Weare Bridge be assessed by ENPA. It was noted that this is not a public right of way but the ENPA will be informed of local concerns.

398 FINANCES

398.1 Grant requests

Mr Headley and Miss Luxton proposed and seconded and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** payment of a grant of £90 to the PCC toward the costs of maintaining the visual amenity of the churchyard.

The meeting noted that an application for further work may be expected at a future meeting.

The Chairman reported that the flagpole in the churchyard appears to be in need of significant repair and or replacement. The meeting noted the value of this to the parish and it was suggested that the PCC be encouraged to make a replacement and that BRPC consider financial support.

ACTION: CLERK to write to the BRPCC.

Mr Page reminded the meeting that, in the new financial year, the Millennium Green would seek financial support for the maintenance of this village amenity. This was noted.

398.2 Data Protection Fee

Miss Luxton and Mr Headley proposed and seconded, and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** payment of the fee of £40.

398.3 Clerk's quarterly salary

Mr Headley and Miss Luxton proposed and seconded, and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** payment of £293.25.

398.4 2020-21 PRECEPT AND 2019-20 BUDGET

The Clerk referred to the 2019-20 budget report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and highlighted the lower level of grants made to date when compared to the pattern in previous years.

Councillors discussed this and noted that further grant applications are anticipated.

The Clerk referred to the 2018-19 final statement of accounts, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and noted that in that, and other previous years, the BRPC had largely spent up to the level of its precept and that this allowed rolling forward of reserves. Councillors discussed the purpose of BRPC reserves and agreed the importance of holding these for local expected and unexpected needs and that the level of reserves now held was proportionate.

The level of the precept was considered and the meeting AGREED that it be retained at the current level and authorised the Clerk to complete the return to the SWAT Council to request this.

399. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reminded councillors that the next Exmoor Area Panel meeting will be held on 16th January at 730 at Wheddon Cross.

400. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 8th January 2020, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the January meeting is scheduled for 8th January, 1st January being a bank holiday.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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