

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

239 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I Abell, Mr. J Andrews, Mr. P. Page, Mr. A. Scrimgeour, Mrs. J. Scott, Cllr. K. Turner, Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk) and a member of the public, Mr. K. Steer.

240 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. S. Coates and Cllr. F. Nicholson.

241 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Andrews declared an interest in item 7, planning.

242 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd OCTOBER 2018

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There being no comments, the minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed as such.

243 MATTERS ARISING

243.1 Potholes, drains, gullies in Bury

The Clerk reported that the drains had been jetted and the problem appears to be related to the outflow into the river. Mr. Scrimgeour asked if the HA might redesign this and install a cover grill.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the HA.

243.2 The Brendon Beacon

The Chairman advised that two potential volunteers had come forward, from Upton and Skilgate.

243.3 Bessom Bridge enforcement

The Chairman advised that the ENPA enforcement officer has asked the owner for evidence of residence other than at the property. He has invited feedback from local residents on evidence of residence at the building and councillors were asked to advise the Clerk as appropriate.

243.4 Visibility B3190

The Chairman reported that the landowner has trimmed hedgerows at Roborough Gate. The Clerk advised that the HA has visited the road at Beulah and advised that no accidents have been reported and no action required. Councillors noted that the wall on the chapel boundary hinders visibility into and out of the B3224 and that visibility on the B390 may be particularly poor when driving toward Brompton Regis at, and nearing, sunset.

244 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

Cllr Turner updated the meeting on the move of West Somerset District Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council into the Somerset West and Taunton Council which will become effective from April 2019. The move has a range of consequences for

current staff and working arrangements and as numbers of staff fall work is being delayed.

In the new council arrangements Brompton Regis will sit in a new grouping of parishes rather than with Brendon Hills.

The budget for the year ahead is being set. It will address levelling up and down of Council Tax. He advised that an additional central government budget allocation to SCC for road maintenance will be available to support winter gritting and salting and that in 2018-19 West Somerset District Council is seeking to fund the pattern of salt and grit distribution which was in place in 2017-18.

Councillors thanked Cllr Turner for his update and recorded thanks to WSDC for seeking to fund the previous year's salting and gritting distribution across the district.

245. CORRESPONDENCE

245.1 Ward boundaries Somerset West and Taunton Council

This information was noted and that the parish is in the Dulverton and district grouping.

245.2 Libraries redesign

This information was noted and that the Dulverton library is to remain as is.

245.3 Baby and Toddlers group

The Chairman advised that the group is again active on Fridays from 10-12 in the BR Village Hall.

245.4 Rev Davis commemorative mirror

The Chairman reported the donation of this item to the church. It will be hung in the vestry.

245.5 West Somerset Advice Bureau

Correspondence which had been circulated prior to the meeting regarding the work of WSAB and its need for funding was referred to agenda item 9.

245.6 Exmoor consultative and parish forum

The Clerk circulated copies of the minutes of the forum meeting held on 13th September 2018 and highlighted information on broadband coverage.

The meeting voiced concern at the limited coverage of broadband and mobile signals across the parish and the steps taken by ENPA with 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' to increase access to broadband.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate information about Airband services.

246. PLANNING

246.1 Application 6/3/18/109 Buckland farm (retrospective)

Councillors voiced concern that the application was retrospective. After discussion Councillors AGREED a response of 'no comment'.

ACTION: Clerk to submit the response to ENPA.

246.2 Application 6/3/18/108 Lawful Development Certificate

The Chairman clarified that this application was not for works to be done but to ascertain if planning permission is required for the amalgamation of two dwellings to form one. Cllr Turner advised the meeting that if a property has been amalgamated for ten years or more planning permission is not required. Councillors AGREED that, as the ENPA is the authority to define such matters, a response of 'no comment' be submitted.

ACTION: Clerk to submit the response to ENPA.

246.3 Application 6/3/18/110 (retrospective)

Mr Andrews having declared an interest in this item asked to speak to it before leaving the meeting. He outlined the intention of the access to ease access between two properties which he now owns using what he described as 'an historic' access point in the hedge, noting that there had been a second access and that this had been blocked by him about 15 years previously.

Mr Page sought clarification of the location of the works.

Mr Andrews left the meeting at 815.

Councillors voiced concern that the application was retrospective and not entirely clear in its statements that no trees or hedgerows were affected when a section of hedgerow had clearly been removed, and during the nesting season. Councillors considered that a hedgerow removal license should have been sought and issued prior to works. The consultee response of the HA was considered in detail. Councillors endorsed all comments and recommendations within that and AGREED that if those comments and recommendations formed part of the retrospective permission and were enforced the Parish Council had no objection. It was AGREED that a response be submitted to ENPA which set out the conclusions of the discussion as follows.

Brompton Regis Parish Council considered this retrospective application at its meeting on 7th November 2018. Having discussed the Highways Authority Consultee response, parish councillors fully endorsed all the recommended conditions and noted that the access should not be used until the conditions were met in full. If these conditions were to be applied and enforced then the Parish Council would not object to the application. The Parish Council was concerned that the hedgerow section was removed during the nesting period and without a Hedgerow Removal Licence prior to the works.

ACTION: Clerk to submit the response to ENPA.

Mr Andrews returned to the meeting at 825.

247. HIGHWAYS

Winter maintenance

The Chairman reported from the meeting of Exmoor parishes to consider salt and gritting arrangements which she and the Clerk had attended on 29th October 2018. The meeting was advised that WSDC is seeking to fund the salt and grit arrangements in 2018-19 on a par with those in place in 2017-18 with the exception that there may be no salt bin or bag refills.

The meeting was advised that this was a 'one off' only and that parish councils should prepare to fund their own salt bins and bags in the future.

Some parish councils attending the meeting had considered alternative arrangements and the Chairman outlined those which appeared prudent and cost effective for Brompton Regis. After discussion of the pros and cons of now purchasing a supply of salt bags in 2018-19 for use if and when salt bins and bags are not refilled Councillors decided that no purchase be made as yet.

The Chairman advised the meeting that she had sought to clarify the snow plough routes and understood that the priority routes are Heath Poul to Beulah and to Upton and Heath Poul to Machine Cross and Bury. A secondary priority is the road through Brompton Regis village.

248 FINANCE

248.1 Invoices

Mr Page proposed and Mr Andrews seconded payment of the following invoices:

- Village hall rent £41.25
- Grass cutting at the village hall £50 (paid by the clerk direct)
- Recruitment flyers £29.64 (paid by the clerk direct)
- Clerk's salary, quarterly payment £280.23

ACTION: Clerk to arrange payments.

248.2 Village hall general works

The Chairman reminded the meeting of its discussion earlier in the year of the programme of improvement and maintenance works at the village hall and the BRPC budget allocation of £1500 toward costs.

After discussion of the Village Hall accounts, the last year's pattern of income and expenditure and the level of reserves it was AGREED that a grant of £750 be made.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange payment.

248.3 West Somerset Advice Bureau

The Chairman introduced documents, previously circulated by the Clerk, from the West Somerset Advice Bureau which set out the costs of services in the local area and the cut in Somerset County Council grant funding. The value of the WSAB services was noted and it was AGREED that a grant of £250 be made.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange payment.

249. ANY OTHER MATTERS

249.1 Bury Bridge

Mr Scrimgeour advised the meeting that no significant actions to repair the Bridge had yet been undertaken.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ENPA.

249.2 Litter Wimbleball

Mr Andrews asked if the litter in the lake and mud could be cleared now, while the water level is very low.

ACTION: Clerk to write to SW Lakes Trust.

249.3 Footpath closure East side of Wimbleball Lake

Mr Andrews asked for clarification of the purpose of this closure.

ACTION: Clerk to write to SW Lakes Trust.

250. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5th December 2018, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

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

Date:.....