

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2020

400 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I. Abel, Mr. J. Andrews (from 1755), Mr. S. Coates, Miss L. Luxton, Cllr. F. Nicholson (from 1735 to 1750) and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

Members of the public: Mr S Gammon and Mr B Dennis.

401 APOLOGIES

Mr. M. Headley, Mr. P. Page (Vice Chairman),

402 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

403 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER 2019

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

404 MATTERS ARISING

404.1 VE Day Celebrations (minute 393.1). The Chairman advised that due to the need for works on the tower of St Mary's to settle the bells could not be rung on the due date. However the tribute will be incorporated in the church service.

404.2 Community policing telephone numbers (minute 393.2). The Clerk advised that no response had been received to the request that parish councillors be given the mobile numbers for the local police team. The meeting **AGREED** that this be pursued.

405. CORRESPONDENCE

405.1 SCC and SWAT matters: Letters and hyperlinks to documents regarding the Transformation Report having been circulated the Chairman noted the BRPC's prior and ongoing concerns regarding the usefulness of the SWAT website and the move to complete online reporting. Cllr Nicholson noted that online systems can be effective if the back up systems are well used. She advised that the Exmoor Panel intend to invite the Leader and CEO of both SWAT and SCC to a meeting so that they may openly discuss with Parish Councils the Transformation Report and lessons learned.

406. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Nicholson for her clear letter, which had been sent to all parish councillors, following the Exmoor parishes' meeting with the HA which had been held on 24 01 2020 and which the Chairman had attended.

Cllr. Nicholson advised that the SCC online system for reporting issues on highways will be changed to a system similar to that used effectively in Devon, and it is hoped this will improve responsiveness in Somerset. Cllr Nicholson advised that she had

sought a response to BRPC's communications to the HA and hoped that responses would be forthcoming shortly. Cllr. Nicholson left the meeting at 2050.

Cllr. Thwaites referred to the Transformation Report and the development of plans leading up to the formation of SWAT in 2019. The Chairman asked how the costs (estimated at £6 million) incurred will be met, and Cllr Thwaites advised that reserves will be used. Cllr. Thwaites reported that the redundancy programme in place prior to the formation of SWAT had led to significant loss of staff, leading in turn to high costs and challenges in recruitment. The Chairman asked when the SWAT website will be fully operational. Cllr Thwaites noted that at the time of the formation of SWAT the system had been limited and that progress had been made in improving it.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Thwaites, referred the meeting to the report, and noted that it is to be hoped that lessons will be learned and inform discussions about the formation of a unitary authority.

407 PLANNING

407.1 Additional information re Application 6/3/19/126 St Mary's Church Brompton Regis

The Chairman reminded the meeting that this information had been received toward the end of December and that parish councillors had been advised. Given the nature of the additional information and the absence in it of a response to the submission by BRPC to the original application the Clerk had submitted a further response noting that its original submission stood and that a response to that had not been made by the applicant. The meeting noted this action and that response to its original concerns has not yet been received.

407.2 Application 6/3/20/101: Springhayes Exton

The Chairman invited the applicant to speak. On his behalf Mr Dennis outlined the planning history of the property, referred to extant permissions and a Certificate of Lawfulness and described the differences between those and the new application in relation to the scale and design of the proposed building.

The Chairman questioned the use of aluminium window frames given ENPA advise to use wood. Mr Gammon advised that this was to ensure a sustainable mechanical heat recovery system. Mr Dennis noted that ENPA have approved aluminium window frames on other sites.

Miss Luxton noted the information provided by Mr Gammon at the November BRPC meeting. The Chairman invited questions and comments. The meeting **AGREED** to support the application as a great improvement on the existing building and a welcome step to environmentally friendly and sustainable buildings.

ACTION: CLERK submit the responses as above.

Mr Gammon and Mr Dennis left the meeting at 2005.

407.3 Application 6/3/20/102 Chillybridge

The meeting discussed this application and **AGREED** that BRPC had no objections.

407.4 Application 6/3/20/103 and 6/3/20/104LB Bidgoods, Bury

The meeting discussed this application and **AGREED** that BRPC had no objections.

ACTION: CLERK submit the responses as above.

408 HIGHWAYS

The Chairman reported that she had attended the meeting on 24th January 2020 regarding highways issues on Exmoor, to which Cllr Nicholson had referred earlier in her update and about which Parish Councillors had been informed by email.

The Chairman thanked Mr Andrews for agreeing to undertake works in the summer which will attempt to resolve water incursion from adjacent fields at Woolcotts Steep.

The meeting noted that the following issues should be reported for action:

- Pot hole near Red Cross lane which has not been marked for action and is serious (HA to be advised)
- Illegible information / warning signage at Hartford (HA to be advised)
- Significant mud on the road, emanating from liquid mud from adjacent fields) creating a road hazard and blocking drains, near Cophole (landowner to be advised).

409 FINANCES

409.1 Invoices

Miss Luxton proposed and Mr Abell seconded and the meeting unanimously

APPROVED payment of the following invoices:

- Village hall rent £48.75
- Defibrillator invoices: £100 and £126
- Clerk's stationery and postage: £38.55.

The meeting noted the recent effective use of the defibrillator and the need to ensure that when used it is returned to its housing and that an item be submitted to the Brendon Beacon on this matter.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the team of volunteers who are trained to support the use and routine monitoring of the defibrillator and the 'spoken' instructions that inform its use.

409.2 Grant requests

The meeting considered requests for grants toward local services provided by volunteers. The value of these services to residents is clear. Miss Luxton proposed and Mr Coates seconded the following grants:

- West Somerset Advice Bureau: £300
- Exmoor prescription delivery service: £300

ACTION: CLERK to arrange payments as above.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that grant requests for further churchyard maintenance, maintenance of the Millennium Green, and for a new flagpole were expected at the BRPC's March meeting.

The Chairman asked that, in the context of the presentation of accounts at the BR Village Hall AGM, the BRPC consider a grant toward the costs of grass cutting around the hall. The meeting noted that BRPC does not and cannot give routine and

repeated grants. Mr. Abell proposed and Mr Coates seconded payment of a grant the BR Village Hall of £250 and this was **AGREED.**

ACTION: CLERK to arrange payment as above.

409.3 Bank signatories

The Chairman explained that, following the BRPC decision to add a third signatory to its accounts (minute 330.2, 3rd July 2029), the bank had advised that a further and specific minute confirming this decision was required. The meeting agreed the following minute.

It was resolved that:

- The Authorised Signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts held by BRPC, be changed in accordance with the bank's instructions on authorised signatories
- And the current mandate will continue as amended.

ACTION: Clerk secure the additional signature asap.

410. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

410.1 Bessom Bridge. The ongoing situation of enforcement at Bessom Bridge was discussed.

410.2 Burned road signs on verges (Upton). Mr Coates asked who is responsible for removal of this material. The Clerk will report this as fly tipping to Upton PC.

411. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2020, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

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

Date:.....