

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1st February 2023

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

219. PRESENT: Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Ms T Davies, Mr M Headley (Chairman), Mr L Ringrose.

Also present: Cllr. F Nicholson; Cllr. S Pugsley (from 7.45pm); Ms S Buchanan (Clerk).

220. DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS FOR COMMENT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

221. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS OFFERED

Mr M Arnold: personal. After the meeting apologies for personal reasons were received from Miss L Luxton.

222. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

223. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND MEETING MANAGEMENT

None.

224. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2022 AS CIRCULATED

Mr Ringrose proposed and Ms Davies seconded the motion that the minutes be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record. This was unanimously **AGREED** and the Chairman signed the minutes as such.

225. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

Cllr Nicholson advised that the Local Community Network (LCN) Exmoor Highways pilot is working well and that decisions on the pattern of LCNs across the county have approved the area of the Panel as the LCN for Exmoor. The terms of reference of the Panel are informing LCN governance in other areas, including the role of councillors in decision making in Panel meetings.

Cllr Nicholson noted that the Somerset budget consultation (minute 227.1) includes a proposal to cut salt and grit provision. The meeting expressed considerable concerns about this and agreed to submit those concerns to the Council.

ACTION: CLERK submit concerns.

The meeting requested an update on salt and grit provision in dumpy bags and bins across the parish following two prolonged periods of snow and ice. Cllr Pugsley advised that there appear to be different accounts of provision and re-provisioning between BRPC, the Highways Authority and the contractors. Members reported that no replacement bags had been provided for bags reported in December as empty or near empty and that missing bags and bin refills reported in November had not been provided. Cllr Pugsley advised that other parishes are in a similar position, some have no remaining grit provision and some have seen roads closed because of this and because the approved routes for gritting were judged to be too dangerous for the gritter. The meeting voiced considerable disquiet at the situation.

ACTION: CLLR NICHOLSON AND CLERK review provision and re provision across the parish and report to the Highways Authority.

In response to a question from Mr Ringrose, Cllr Pugsley advised that BT Openreach remains active in the area, despite apparent delays. Cllr Nicholson noted that Openreach had more often than in the past kept roads open during works and this was welcomed as an indication of the effectiveness of the Highways Pilot in the area.

It was suggested that the Connecting Devon and Somerset lead be invited to a future meeting.

Mr Cherry noted that the repairs to Bryants Bridge had not included new fencing on adjacent land through which a vehicle had fallen. It was noted that this was because the land in question is not part of the highway and thus the responsibility of the landowner.

226. ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

226.1 Bury ford signage: A visit by the relevant officer has been made and advance information signs are being considered.

226.2 Telephone box redecoration: this has been chased up and redecoration is expected in Summer 2023.

226.3 Hill Lane traffic: SW Lakes Trust is seeking information from the Highways Authority on actions required to create passing places.

227. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS

227.1 Somerset budget consultation: This online consultation having been circulated prior to the meeting. The proposal to cut salt and grit provision was noted (Minute 225) and it was **AGREED** that objections to this be submitted.

ACTION: CLERK.

227.2 Grit and salt for parish roads: This having been discussed at minute 225 was summarised as posing a major problem for the parish in terms of the absence of provision and re-provision for local self-action and evidence that the gritting lorry through the village does not always complete the route, despite there being no obstructions to its passage as demonstrated by the passage of larger vehicles through the route). It was **AGREED** that the matter continue to be pursued with alacrity because we are, as yet, half way through the winter.

ACTION CLERK.

227.3 Dog fouling: Residents have complained about dog fouling on the Green, pavements and paths. The Clerk has sought advice from the District Council. It was **AGREED** that the dog warden be invited to the parish to advise on possible actions.

ACTION: CLERK.

It was suggested that an article in the Brendon Beacon might be useful as well as signage.

227.4 Litter bins: Mr Cherry advised that residents had suggested additional bins be provided. The current provision of bins was considered and, after discussion, it was **AGREED** that, at this point, no further provision be made.

227.5 Footpath DU1/4 temporary closure for repairs: The clerk summarised the notice, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which is displayed at the path, and the background to the repairs and closure. The situation was noted and the work to repair the path was welcomed.

228 HIGHWAYS

228.1 Highways Warden: Cllr Pugsley advised that a new post holder is in place. The meeting noted that jobs submitted in December remain to be done.

228.2 Immediate issues for Clerk to report

Repeat reports were requested for works that had not been undertaken as follows:

- damaged drains at Renford Knap
- jetting on Blagdon Lane
- drainage into New Inn lands.

New reports were requested as follows:

- Pothole between Beech Tree Cross and Oatway
- Drains /culvert blocked Swansea Farm.

ACTION: CLERK

228.3 Road verge clearance: The meeting recorded thanks and appreciation of the work by a resident to cut back the overgrown verge opposite the village shop and Old Rose Cottage. This project had begun with work by the Highways Warden and

the landowners to cut back the overgrown hedges. The benefits were clear and much appreciated.

229. PLANNING

229.1 Application number 6.3.23.001: Land Adjacent to Red Cross Farm, Brompton Regis, Dulverton, TA22 9NH. Proposed conversion of 2no. agricultural barns into 1no. local needs affordable dwelling.

The Chairman outlined the application, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and the response of the Rural Housing Enabler published on the planning portal. The meeting discussed at length elements of the application and how it related to local policy and practice and recent applications for local needs dwellings in the parish. Members raised concerns that the proposal might lead to a dwelling which would not be affordable in relation to local needs and that, if approved, conditions to ensure local occupancy would be important in the long term.

The meeting concluded that the following comments be submitted:

- The re-use of existing buildings is welcomed;
- Additional housing in the area is welcomed;
- The proposal is for a dwelling larger than usually approved, and it would seem possible for either two smaller units to be developed or one smaller unit plus car parking in the smaller of the two existing buildings;
- If the application is approved the parish council wishes to see a S106 agreement placed on the dwelling;
- If the application is approved the Parish Council is concerned that the dwelling would not be sustained as an affordable local needs dwelling; and
- That the Parish Council neither supports nor objects to the application and has concerns about its long term use and availability as a local needs affordable dwelling.

ACTIONS: CLERK submit comments.

230: FINANCE

230.1 Precept submission: this, having been submitted in January in line with decisions in December (minute 217.4), was noted.

230.2 Defibrillator Bury, proposed ring fencing of funds: Mr Cherry and Mr Headley outlined previous discussions on this matter and the ongoing work to secure advice from the Highways Authority regarding positioning a device on the verge. He proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded the motion that £2,000 be ringfenced in the parish council budget to allow a full discussion of options to be made when all information is available.

230.3 Invoices to be paid:

230.1 Community Heartbeat Trust: emergency telephone system £120

230.2 Community Heartbeat Trust: Annual support cost £151.20

Mr Headley proposed, Ms Cherry seconded, and the meeting unanimously **AGREED** that these be paid.

ACTION CLERK

231. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm on 1st March 2023 at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

- Lock Up Clean Up
- Unsuitable for HGVs signage.

The meeting closed at 920 pm

Signed as a correct record:

Name:

Date: