

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2023

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

341. PRESENT: Mr M Headley (Chairman), Mr J Andrews, Ms T Davies, Miss L Luxton (from 745) and Mr L Ringrose.

Also present: A member of the public (Mr O Matthews), Ms S Buchanan (Clerk), Cllr Nicholson, and Cllr Pugsley (from 745pm).

342. DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS FOR COMMENT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

343. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS OFFERED

Mr D Cherry (personal) and Mr S Coates (work).

344. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr Ringrose regarding minute 348.1.

345. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND MEETING MANAGEMENT

None.

346. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4th OCTOBER 2023 AS CIRCULATED

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

347. ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

348. FINANCE

348.1 Grant request toward landscape amenity of Brompton Regis village.

Mr Ringrose declared an interest as the named contractor for works described in the grant request. Having been circulated prior to the meeting the request was considered and it was noted that the Lunch Club had made a grant toward the costs and that a grant had been requested from the Show. Mr Andrews proposed and Ms Davies seconded the motion that the funds required should be drawn from both the Show and the BRPC, and that the BRPC should not contribute more than £475. This was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK to advise the PCC accordingly.

348.2 Pensions re-enrolment

The Clerk reported that re-enrolment had been completed and that no staff were members of the parish council pension scheme.

349. PARISH COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Chairman noted that the new Parish Council website has the capacity to develop linked email addresses for parish councillors. Some parish councillors have designated parish council email addresses via gmail. Others use their own email address. The meeting considered the advantages of a move to email addresses linked to the website: consistency, transparency, separation of business /activity, and the ability to shut an email address when a person ceases to be a parish councillor. Disadvantages were also considered: multiple email addresses, particularly for those in employment which uses business email traffic.

Further consideration of the options is required together with the merits of an IT policy for the council.

ACTION:

- **ALL** consider the pros and cons of parish council email addresses;
- **CLERK** item for the next meeting agenda.

350. PLANNING

350.1 Application 6/3/23/009: proposed single story extension, Shepherds Cottage, Withiel Florey, TA24 7DE.

The Chairman outlined the proposal and invited Mr Matthews, a member of the public to speak to it. Mr Matthews explained the intention of the application was to create an open plan living space, replacing some existing buildings and extending the property. The meeting considered the proposal, the concerns raised in comments by the ENPA regarding light spillage and the agent's comments that a conservatory would create greater light spillage.

Mr Andrews proposed and Ms Luxton seconded the motion that BRPC support the application as it accords with planning policy on the following grounds: the proposal is in keeping with the existing building, it uses traditional materials and a sympathetic

design and is of a relatively modest scale and that concerns about light spillage could be managed with blinds and that greater spillage would occur if a conservatory was built on the site.

This was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK submit comments.

351. SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

Cllr Nicholson advised that salt bags have been distributed and some locations may not be correct.

ACTION: CLERK to review distribution vis a vis the agreed map and advise the LCN meeting and Cllr Nicholson accordingly.

Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Pugsley outlined the financial situation of the Somerset Council and the indication that from February 2024 there be insufficient funds for other than statutory services and staff employment.

Fires in recycling centres have caused significant problems and householders have been advised not to put batteries or gas canisters in refuse containers.

Cllr Pugsley thanked Mr Headley for participating in the LCN Economy sub committee and outlined the proposals made there: a rural business enabler, an audit/map of digital connectivity at a very local level and in fine detail. He advised that the LCN Housing sub committee will meet in early November.

352. HIGHWAYS

352.1 Highways Steward tasks

The following to be reported / chased up:

- Clear debris from drains in particular between Lower Woolcotts and Bessom Bridge
- Flooding between Redgate and the turn to Upton
- Flooding on Naked Boy Lane at the rear of Brendon Hill Farm
- Clear drains opposite Haddon View
- Clear drains on Sanctuary Lane.

The Clerk advised that the latter two issues have been repeatedly requested and that action on Sanctuary Lane had been promised for summer 2023 but nothing had yet been done.

ACTION: CLERK to report and chase.

352.2 IMMEDIATE ISSUES

Potholes / road degradation between Snap Box and the turning to Bury and on the road from Machine Cross to Louisa gate.

ACTION: CLERK

352.3 LCN DEVEOLVED BUDGET

Ms Davies asked if and how this may be used before the end of the current financial year. The Clerk outlined the areas of expenditure to date: grit bins in some parishes, traffic count at Wimbleball, and a jetting programme defined by Exmoor parishes (dates TBA). Further funding might be available if cost savings are shown by the expenditure to date.

353 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Speed information devices.

IT policy and parish councillor email addresses.

354. DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 845 pm

Signed as a correct record:

Name: Date: