

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2019

262 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I Abell, Mr. J Andrews, Mr. S. Coates, Cllr. F. Nicholson (1940 TO 2030), Mr. P. Page, Mrs. J. Scott, Cllr N Thwaites, Cllr K Turner, Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

263 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. A. Scrimgeour.

264 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

265 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2018

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were amended to show that Cllr Turner was not present and that Mr S and Mr N Hutchings attended. With those amendments the minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed as such.

266 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY – JANE BIRCH

The Chairman welcomed Jane Birch, Somerset Rural Community Council, to the meeting and invited her to describe the planned work to survey housing needs in the area in March 2019.

Ms Birch described her role and the connections of the survey with the work of the Exmoor Housing Network. She described the purpose of the survey as:

- to identify housing need which is not captured by Homefinder
- raise awareness of new resources that may support local housing provision
- provide evidence local need which is essential to support planning applications for housing within the National Park
- offer support to people identified as having local housing need and who are not registered on Homefinder
- inform improvements to the Homefinder system.

She outlined the resources available to the survey and to follow up actions from the Community Housing Fund and the Exmoor Housing Network and its partners.

Cllr Turner noted that the high proportion of second homes in the district had attracted national government funds to support identification of, and responses to, local housing need across the district including self build and support with planning application costs.

She shared with the meeting the survey which had been run in the Cutcombe area in 2018 and invited comments and amendments for a survey in the Brompton Regis area. Councillors discussed the form and its distribution by the Community Council by post to each household in the parish and requested that information accompanying the survey will highlight the resources available to respond to identified housing needs.

The meeting discussed at length the housing issues facing the parish. Cllr Nicholson clarified the place of 'exception sites' in meeting housing needs within the National Park.

ACTIONS:

Jane Birch:

- add information to the survey about the resources available to support responses to local housing need
- advise the Clerk of the date of the Homefinder event in Dulverton
- provide the Clerk with spare copies of the survey

Clerk:

- provide the Brendon Beacon with information and put posters on the noticeboards in the parish to publicise the Homefinder event and the housing needs survey
- place spare copies of the survey in the Community Shop and the George Inn.

The Chairman thanked Ms Birch for an informative and useful presentation. Ms Birch left the meeting at 20.00.

267 MATTERS ARISING

267.1 re minute 256.5: The Clerk was asked to again invite the Locality Engagement Lead(s) to a BRPC meeting.

267.2 re minute 258: Cllr Nicholson advised that she will look again at the issue of reflectors at Machine Cross. She also reminded the meeting of pressures on the HA budget and that issues raised with the HA by parish councils will take priority over issues raised by individuals.

267.3 re minute 260.6: The Chairman reported that the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) has been informed by the person who has been living at the Studio at Bessom Bridge that she has provided a new residential address. The councillors will continue to monitor the situation, which remains uncertain as there has been evidence of residence at the Studio.

268. CORRESPONDENCE

2681. Footpath consultation by Somerset County Council

The Parish Footpath Warden has responded to this consultation exercise about the status and vegetation cuts on paths in the parish. In doing so she has requested clarification in a number of points and the agreed use of the permitted path on the east side of Wimbleball.

268.2 Somerset Wood

Councillors having received the information circulated by the West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine parish councils inviting contributions to the maintenance of this memorial wood discussed the matter at length and raised questions about: the involvement of parish councils and district councils across Somerset in the initiative; maintenance costs; and a management plan.

Councillors AGREED not to contribute to the initiative

268.3 Historic Signpost project

The Chairman advised that she had contacted the project regarding replacement of the broken triangle collar at beech Tree Cross and that a replacement is in train.

269 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

Cllr Turner updated the meeting on preparations for the new council and introduced Cllr Nick Thwaites as the prospective district councillor for the Dulverton area in which Brompton Regis will sit under the new arrangements.

Cllr Turner invited BRPC to the Brendon Hills meeting to be held on 21st March 2019.

The Chairman sought clarification on recent press coverage of the financial implications of the unparished areas of Taunton. Cllr Thwaite advised that there is as yet no timetable for new parish councils to be formed.

Cllr Thwaites described his previous and current roles as a Town and District Councillor and outlined his priority if elected in May 2019 to raise the profile in the new Council of the rural areas and National Park.

270 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Nicholson updated the meeting on salt and grit provision arrangements and the actions which take place in the event of snow and ice affecting highways.

The meeting noted and recorded their thanks to local farmers and parish councillors for their work to clear and salt roads in recent weather.

Cllr Nicholson left the meeting at 21.00.

271 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

The Clerk outlined and circulated the timetable for prospective councillors to register their interest in standing. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the process used in previous elections and the forms to be completed by anyone wishing to stand as a parish councillors.

ACTIONS:

- **Councillors** direct interested residents to the Clerk for further information on the election process and advise the Clerk if they wish to receive an application pack
- **Clerk** place the election timetable on the parish council noticeboard and request its inclusion in the March issue of the Brendon Beacon.

272 PLANNING

272.1 Application 6/3/19/10: Harewood Hill Farm

Councillors considered this retrospective application and expressed strong disquiet that a development of this scale should be acceptable as a retrospective application.

In considering the documentation for the application Councillors noted that the diagrams were inadequate for the purpose, as were other areas in the application, for example relating to the arrangements for foul sewage.

Given the Dark Skies status of the National Park and the site's proximity to Dark Skies events held at Wimbleball by ENPA councillors questioned the acceptability of the number and, relative to the entire roof area, the proportion of perspex panels.

ACTION: CLERK to submit a response to ENPA.

272.2 Application 6/3/19/102: Weatheram Farm

Councillors considered this application and supported it on the grounds that it made good use of a redundant and historic farm building, provided housing for young people to live and work in the national park and was in keeping with the local context.

ACTION: CLERK to submit a response to ENPA.

273 FINANCE

The meeting considered items for payment as follows:

- Clerk's quarterly payment:£280.23
- Defibrillator annual costs and fees:£100 plus £126
- Village hall rent: £41.25

Mr Coates proposed and Mr page seconded payments and this was unanimously AGREED.

Cllrs Turner and Thwaite left the meeting at 21.20.

The meeting discussed the budget update for the current year and the forecast budget for 2019-20. In considering the election it was noted that a minimum charge of £100 would fall to the parish and that this could rise to £1500 if there are more candidates than places.

274 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

274.1 Mr Page requested that information on the 678 bus service be published in the Brendon Beacon.

ACTION: CLERK to send information to the editors.

275 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 6th March 2019, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 21.25 pm.

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

Date:.....