

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6th JUNE 2018

180 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. J Andrews, Mr. S. Coates, Mr. P. Page, Mrs. J. Scott, Mr. A. Scrimgeour and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk). Two members of the public.

181 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. F. Nicholson and Cllr. K. Turner.

182 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Page declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Chairman of the Millennium Green Trust). No other interests were declared.

182 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd May 2018

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

183 MATTERS ARISING

183.1 Wimblesball litter and car park signs (minute 174.3)

Mr. Coates reported on discussions and correspondence with the Wimblesball staff team about the provision of a litter bin at Bessom Bridge. The Council noted that people living and working locally are again routinely clearing and removing litter from the site, either taking it to the collection bins at the main car park or site office or adding it to their own rubbish collection bins. Mr Coates was advised by the Wimblesball staff that it used volunteers for litter clearance at Bessom Bridge and that there was not staff capacity to empty a bin in the area.

Mr. Coates advised that people fishing in the Lake are concerned about the litter in the water and some are therefore fishing elsewhere.

Councillors **AGREED** that the serious litter situation which is often evident during good weather has been frequently reported and it is no longer appropriate for people living or working locally to clear it and that the SW Lakes Trust must be pressed to meet its responsibilities in the area.

Mr. Coates **AGREED** to continue to work with the Wimblesball team to seek a resolution to this matter. The meeting thanked him.

The Chairman reported that the Wimblesball team have again advised that car park signs will be erected on the road and gate to the car park at Bessom Bridge in due course. Councillors registered their concern at the length of time this has taken and noted that parking on the bridge has begun again as the weather has improved.

183.2 Brompton Regis forest track (minute 178.1)

The Clerk advised that concerns as to whether the approval for works has been contravened has been logged by the planning authority and will be investigated.

184. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS

184.1 Bessom Bridge Studio enforcement (minute 127.3)

The Chairman reported that if by 31 October 2018 the enforcement notice has not been met the planning authority will then consider next steps and has advised that the Enforcement Notice prevents the 4 year timescale for usage (just as 10 year unlawful use can lead to removal of agricultural ties).

In response to the Council's suggestion that working hours at the Studio could be defined the Chairman reported that the planning authority may do so but that this would depend on the extent and frequency of a breach of the permission for the studio to be a workplace only.

184.2 Bury Bridge (minute 159.6)

Exmoor National Park Authority has advised that the bridge owner has been given scheduled monument permission for repairs and to remove overgrowth it and that it is assumed the works will be underway shortly. Mr Scrimgeour agreed to monitor the situation.

184.3 Wimbleball events and road closures (minute 139.1)

The Chairman advised the meeting of inconsistencies between the information provided by the June Triathlon event organisers (and submitted to the Brendon Beacon), information printed in the local press and provided to the parish by the Somerset County Council Traffic Management team which is displayed on the Parish Noticeboard. Councillors noted with concern that it's efforts to communicate with the organisers had not been effective. The closure notices were discussed in full and the following points made:

- The Parish Council has sought a dialogue with the event organisers since end 2017. A meeting has not been granted and the Council's concerns have not been addressed.
- The article issued by the event organiser for our parish magazine does not include all the road closures now to be put in place and thus has the potential to misinform or mislead local residents and businesses.
- The event organiser has asserted that all residents and businesses using Blagdon Lane have been consulted. As far as Councillors were aware only two have been consulted and the views expressed by both have not been addressed by the event organiser.
- The views expressed by the two residents to the event organiser are shared by, and have been expressed to, the event organiser by the Parish Council, viz that the safety of sporting cyclists using Blagdon Lane does not appear to have been adequately addressed.
- The following points have been made to the event organisers and will be shared with the Highways Authority because of Parish Councillors significant concerns.
 - Blagdon Lane (the road) is a single track lane going steeply up (or down) hill on which properties sited at bends in the road make visibility difficult and increase the danger to cyclists
 - the road is used frequently by large and heavy agricultural vehicles as well as domestic traffic

- the width of the road means that there is simply 'nowhere to go' for a cyclist facing a large vehicle
 - the proposal for the event day is that residential and business users are 'encouraged' to travel only in one direction, meaning that two way traffic is possible and that cyclists may be in that two way mix
 - a complete closure of the Lane is inappropriate because of the agricultural traffic which requires to use the road
 - it is not always possible for agricultural vehicles to simply travel in one direction: agricultural tasks often require to and fro and the road network alternatives to Blagdon Lane mean that any agricultural vehicle that accepts the encouragement to travel in one direction will be required to make a considerable detour, with time and other costs incurred.
- The Parish Council has suggested an alternative system of stewards between Hill Lane and just to the North of the southerly T junction of Blagdon Lane could not be used but the event organisers have not responded.
 - The Parish Council will ask the event organiser and the SCC Traffic Management team why a closure has been requested and approved between Mill Cross and Woolcotts. A large part of this stretch is not implicated in the triathlon. This closure would effectively cut the village off and has the potential to have serious negative effects on the business at Pulhams Mill, which is well known locally for it's Sunday Lunches. Councillors wish to know if this closure be amended?
 - For many years the Parish Council has maintained that the road network around Wimbleball is not well suited to cycling events. These concerns have not been confined to the events themselves but to the increased use of local single lane roads by competitive cyclists (rather than recreational cyclists) who are training for the events in the month or 6 weeks before, when there are no road closures or warning information for cyclists, local residents or businesses. Again, local concerns focus on the safety of cyclists who may not be aware of local road conditions or use.
 - The Parish Council AGREED to continue to raise these concerns with the event organisers and that the Highways Authority be made aware of the risks to cyclists' safety which have been perceived by it and by local residents and businesses.

ACTIONS:

Clerk to contact the SCC Traffic Management team.

Chairman to continue to try to contact the event organisers.

184.4 Formation of a single council to replace Taunton Deane and West Somerset councils

The decision was noted.

184.5 ENPA Partnership Plan

Receipt of this plan was noted.

184.6 Barrowden Parish Council survey re the benefits of closer working relations between Building Control and Planning teams

This having been circulated prior to the meeting, Councillors noted that in the Exmoor national park area there appeared to be good working relations between the two teams and welcomed this.

Mr. Page AGREED to look in depth at the survey and advise the Clerk of an appropriate response.

185. PLANNING

Application 6/3/18/105 Pulhams Mill, proposed removal of conditions 2, 3, 4 and 5

This having been circulated prior to the meeting, Councillors discussed the application in full and highlighted:

- the Local Plan
- the site
- car parking
- the absence of a clear business case to support the application.

The Parish Council concluded that it could not support the application and AGREED that a response be submitted to the Planning Authority on the grounds that:

- the conditions placed on the tea room and extension by the ENPA were defined to ensure the scale of activity remained appropriate to the site and car parking facilities provided so that road safety interests were not prejudiced.
- The Parish Council noted that Condition No 4 already allows for the provision of evening meals and the applicant has not produced a sufficient business case to support the removal of this or the other conditions.

186. HIGHWAYS

The Clerk reported that the Highways team has addressed the inventory of tasks and Councillors noted recent activity in the Parish and recorded their thanks to the Highways Team.

Mr. Scrimgeour asked that the drains on the north/west side of Bury Bridge be cleared and jetted to prevent significant water incursion onto the roads from the track from Louisa Gate.

Mr. Scrimgeour advised a significant increase in traffic flow across the ford, in particular by delivery vans which is problematic to pedestrians and, when the river is high, to vehicles crossing the ford.

ACTION: Clerk to find out if more or alternative signage could be introduced to advise drivers of the risk of the ford.

187. Finance

187.1 VAT Refund

The meeting noted receipt of £161.10.

187.2 Annual Accounting Statements 2017-18

These having been circulated prior to the meeting were **APPROVED** and signed as such.

187.3 Grant requests

187.3.1 Clowns (minute 174.4): Following discussion at the May meeting further information about local use of this charity's services had been circulated to Councillors.

Mr. Page proposed and Mr. Andrews seconded and Councillors unanimously AGREED that the Council make a donation of £200.

187.3.2 George Meadow Millennium Green: Mr. Page left the meeting for discussion of this item.

A request for a grant in light of expenditure on equipment to maintain the Green had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the request in the context of the charity's reserves and income and noted that the Parish Council routinely provides grants to meet the costs of insurance and safety inspections.

Mr. Coates proposed and Mr. Abell seconded and Councillors unanimously AGREED that the Council make a donation of £250.

187.4 Notification of payments made following prior approvals

Defibrillator annual costs: £226 (minute 164.20).

Parish Council Insurance: £228 (by email in order to meet the renewal deadline).

Mr. Scrimgeour asked if a combined insurance scheme for parish councils existed and would reduce the costs to Brompton Regis Parish Council. The Chairman advised that this has been investigated and that the current broker specialises in parish council insurance and has provided a series of competitive quotes.

187.5 Payment for approval

The Somerset Association of Local Councils' affiliation fee of £122.10 was approved. The value of affiliation as a source of information and advice was noted.

188. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council's data protection policy (minute 132.1) had been updated in line with the GDPR. She noted that the Parish Council's access to, and use of, personal data is limited and that the basis of 'legitimate interests' is used to process that information (i.e. what the people concerned would reasonably expect and which has a minimal privacy impact).

As a public authority the Parish Council is required to have appointed a Data Protection Officer and it was AGREED that this role be filled by the Clerk.

189. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

189.1 Local impacts of Hinkley Point development

Mr. Scrimgeour asked if Exmoor National Park Authority was aware of the impact of these construction works on the local rented housing market, citing examples of rising rents.

The Clerk noted the availability of Hinkley Point impact funds.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ENPA,

190. INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

The Chairman invited members of the public to raise any questions or concerns, and none were raised.

191. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th July 2018 at 7.30pm at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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

Date:.....