

## **MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

### **373 PRESENT**

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. P. Page (Vice Chairman), Mr. I. Abel Mr. J. Andrews, Mr. M. Headley, Miss L. Luxton, Cllr. F. Nicholson and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

Three members of the public: Mr S Gammon, Mr A Robertson and Mrs A Andrews.

### **374 APOLOGIES**

Mr. S. Coates and Cllr. N. Thwaites.

### **375 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr Andrews declared an interest in agenda item 7.4.

### **376 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** and signed as a correct record.

### **376 MATTERS ARISING**

**376.1 Trees overhanging roads** (minute 359.2 and 365.3). The Chairman advised the meeting that the agent had been contacted who had assured the BRPC that the resident would take action to address the issue.

**376.2 Permitted footpaths in the parish** (minute 371.2). Mr Page asked for an update on this matter. Mr Headley advised that following circulation to councillors of the SCC interactive rights of way map he had checked and found that there are no permitted rights of way in the area. Mr. Page questioned the removal of permissive paths and the Clerk advised that this is the prerogative of the landowner. The Chairman advised that it was her understanding that the closure of permissive paths and access for informal use of Kings Brompton Forest had ended after a number of incidents of bad behaviour by people in the area.

### **377. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman invited Mr Gammon to tell the meeting about the issue that had brought him to the meeting. Mr. Gammon outlined his intention to seek planning permission for a building at Springfield, Armour Lane and his wish to share with the BRPC the development of his plans. The Chairman advised him that because this was not at the stage of an application to the ENPA the BRPC could make no decisions on the intentions or plans.

Mr Gammon described previous planning applications and permissions on the site. Mr Robertson described the plans under development. The Chairman invited parish councillors to ask questions. Mr. Page asked what the size of the intended building was. The Chairman asked what steps would be taken to enhance the sustainability of the building, such as solar panels.

The Chairman welcomed the steps by Mr. Gammon to discuss his plans with the planning authority and advised that, when consulted by the ENPA, the BRPC would consider an application.

Mr Gammon and Mr Robertson left the meeting at 1945.

### **378 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **378.1 Exmoor consultative panel**

The papers for this meeting having been circulated to parish councillors the Chairman invited attendance at the forthcoming meeting.

### **379. COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

Cllr. Nicholson advised the meeting that the winter gritting programme for 2019-20 is as it was in 2018-19. She outlined the challenges facing the SCC in budget setting when the date of the financial settlement for the SCC is not known. Cllr Nicholson described the emphasis which SCC places on increasing the foster care network for children of all ages, for young mothers and babies, and for 'stepping stone' foster homes for young people leaving care and asked that all opportunities to promote awareness of this were taken. Cllr Nicholson described the success to date in managing moves out of hospital by older people which reflects the benefits of social workers based in hospitals.

The Chairman asked Cllr Nicholson to look into the change in levels of responsiveness to BRPC communications with the Highways Team. Cllr Nicholson suggested that staff changes may be relevant. It was AGREED that the BRPC seek a meeting with the staff team covering the area.

Cllr Nicholson described her work to address the recent problems caused to traffic by diversion signs which were not clearly related to works and which were not always appropriate for light vehicles.

A question was raised as to whether SCC insurance covers members of the public when using salt / grit provided by SCC. Cllr Nicholson AGREED to look into this and outlined the ongoing advice that if members of the public do not act recklessly and choose to use salt / grit then it would be unlikely that any liability would fall to them if an accident occurred after their actions. She emphasised that use of the salt /grit was up to individuals and that the salt/grit was provided on that basis.

The Chairman asked if the apparent decision not to hold meetings of the Somerset West and Taunton Council in west Somerset was being challenged. The meeting voiced concern that this step would remove councillors from the area and reduce their awareness of issues facing residents and communities in west Somerset.

### **380 PLANNING**

#### **388.1 Application 6/3/19/120 Springcleeve**

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

#### **388.2 Applications 6/3/19/121 and 6/3/19/122LB Stagshead Farm**

The meeting discussed the applications and AGREED that no comment be made.

### **388.3 Application 6/3/19/123 Lower Woolcotts**

The Chairman invited Mr Andrews to speak to this application. Mr Andrews outlined the intention to make use of barns which were redundant in modern day agriculture and to improve their visual appearance.

Mr. Andrews declared his interest and left the room at 810.

Mrs. Andrews, as a member of the public, offered to answer any questions.

The Chairman referred to the bat survey. Mrs Andrews advised that since the original survey one barn had deteriorated.

The meeting discussed the application and agreed that the application if approved would make use of the barns, was consistent with farm diversification and could bring business into the area. It was **AGREED** that BRPC had no objections to this application.

Mr Andrews returned to the meeting at 815.

### **388.4 Application 6/3/19/124 Lawful Development Certificate Red Deer House**

The Chairman outlined her understanding of the application for a Lawful Development Certificate in the context of previous such applications, contact with the ENPA and the prior planning permissions given for the site. The meeting discussed the application and noted ENPA correspondence with the applicant earlier this year and that next steps by ENPA would be to seek legal advice.

It was **AGREED** that no comment be made.

**ACTION: CLERK** submit the responses as above.

## **389 HIGHWAYS**

### **389.1 Gritting**

The meeting noted that the gritting map had been circulated.

The Chairman emphasised the advice of SCC that if parked cars impeded the passage of the gritting lorries they would not continue through the village.

It was **AGREED** that information about the gritting route and careful parking be widely publicised in the parish.

**ACTION: CLERK** to publish and display information.

The meeting noted that:

- SCC will no longer provide small bags of salt/grit
- SCC will refill salt/grit bins in place within the parish
- SCC will place dumpy bags on agreed sites (as in previous years)
- BRPC provided additional grit/salt bins in sites where small bags had been used and / or secondary dumpy bags had been sited
- BRPC did not purchase salt for its use.

Mr Page asked for information about the status of 'parishes with precept'. The Chairman advised that these are Parish Meetings, and in the local area include Skilgate and Treborough, which do not receive funds from the public purse.

### **389.2 Highways problems**

Overgrown verges continue to be a problem. Those reported to the Highways Team have not been cut back and there continues to be an overflow of water past drains. Highways Authority road markings near the Chapel indicate that jetting is expected here (this site having been reported as problematic).

Councillors asked that the following be reported:

- water on the road at Rugglands
- water on Blagdon Lane alongside a blocked drain and ditch filled with mud (HA road markings indicate this but no actions have been taken)
- water on the road on the west side of Bessom Bridge caused by a drain overflowing.

**ACTION: CLERK** to report as above and seek a meeting with the local HA team to seek to address recurrent issues.

## **390 FINANCES**

### **390.1 Village Hall Rent**

Mr Headley proposed, Mr Page seconded and the meeting **APPROVED** payment of this invoice for £48.75

### **390.2 Grant to the Millennium Green**

The Chairman reminded councillors of discussion at the previous BRPC meeting regarding a grant to the Millennium Green in respect of insurance costs. Mr Page, as Chairman of the Millennium Green Committee, outlined further expenditure on hedge cutting around the green and requested a grant toward the costs incurred in managing the Green.

Mr Andrews proposed, Mr Abell seconded and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** a grant of £500 to the Millennium Green.

### **390.3 Budget**

An error in the reporting of expenditure on contingencies was noted, there having been no expenditure to date under this heading.

The Chairman invited councillors to consider the budget in full prior to the next meeting.

**ACTION: CLERK** agenda item at the next meeting.

## **391. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman thanked Mr Coates in his absence for offering to cut the hedge at the back of the village hall at no cost to BRPC.

## **392. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.**

The Chairman advised that the January meeting is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> January being a bank holiday.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

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

Date:.....