

**MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 at 19.30hrs**

**54 PRESENT:** Mr Headley (Chairman); Mr Chaffey (Vice Chairman); Mr Abell; Mr Andrews; Miss Luxton.

Also present: Cllr Nicholson; Ms Buchanan (Clerk); Mr D Cherry (member of the public).

Cllr Nicholson left the meeting at 19.55hrs.

**55 APOLOGIES:** Mr Coates; Mr Arnold; Cllr N Thwaites.

**56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Mr Headley declared an interest in agenda item 9.3, grant request from Brompton Regis Toddler Group, minute 64.3.1.

**57 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021: Miss Luxton proposed, Mr Abell seconded, and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** the minutes as circulated.
- 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021: Miss Luxton proposed, Mr Abell seconded, and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** the minutes as circulated.

The minutes were signed as such.

**58 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

**58.1 Re minute 38.1. Planning application update:** The clerk advised that applications had not been received for camping at Wimbleball or work at the Riverside Project.

**58.2 Re minute 38.4. Bidgoods gulley:** The Chairman advised that Mr Arnold had updated councillors by email that the gulley had been made good. Cllr Nicholson was asked to look further into issue regarding water runoff at Bidgoods from Port Lane.

**58.3 Re minute 40.4. Car parking sign:** The sign at the George Inn remains in situ. The Landlord advised that there is documentation to support the pub's use of the car park. It is hoped this can be brought to the next meeting. The Chairman noted that the Land Registry records show that the BRPC owns the car park and the hedge and bank to the south.

**ACTION: CLERK** to secure quotes for signs to make clear the purpose of and liability for the car park.

**58.4 Re minute 44.1. Bench at the Pound.** This replacement for a bench removed for health and safety reasons in c2018 has been requested by a number of residents. The meeting considered the range of replacements.

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN** to secure quotes for a timber and a 'recycled' (resin) bench and fixing.

**ACTION: CLERK** to look into the potential for a gifted bench under the 'After Life' benches initiative.

**58.5 Re minute 50. Bank signatories:** The Clerk advised that Mr Abell and Miss Luxton are now signatories, and that application has been made for Mr Chaffey and Mr Headley to be signatories. The Clerk is also a signatory.

## **59 COUNCILLORS UPDATE**

Cllr Nicholson reported:

- Elections to the new unitary authority for Somerset will take place in May 2022
- The Exmoor Local Plan consultation on a review is underway to which Parish Council responses will be important, in particular where information can be provided where it is felt that policies are not working.

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, AND CLERK** to draft a response

- The Glover Review of national parks has been considered nationally and there is a consultation on the DEFRA website which parish councils may wish to respond to.

**ACTION: CLERK** to circulate a link.

- Adult and children's services in Somerset are under considerable pressure.

## **60 VACANCY AND ELECTIONS**

Somerset West and Taunton Council did not receive requests for an election. Three residents have expressed an interest in being co-opted on to the Parish Council. The meeting noted that there will be elections to Parish Councils in May 2022.

**ACTION: CLERK** to circulate to councillors a statement from each person outlining their interest in becoming a parish councillor.

## **61 PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARD**

Damage to the perspex cover was reported to the police and the PCSO has requested any information about this to be reported, via an item in the Brendon Beacon. The meeting considered options to replace the cover. Concern was expressed that the age of the board means the fixings are no longer universal. In light of the damage and the cost of a new board it was **AGREED** that a short term repair be undertaken and reviewed after one year.

**ACTION: CLERK** to order 1mm Perspex sheet to glue over the damaged cover.

## **62 HIGHWAYS**

**62.1 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK:** Mr Headley outlined the proposals discussed at the Exmoor Panel (January 2022) for a new 'Highways Warden' and arrangements for local priorities for highways works on Exmoor. This is part of a move by the Local Authorities to form 'Local Community Networks' with delegated responsibilities. Cllr Nicholson outlined the wider concept of these networks. The meeting welcomed the Highways suggestions, noted that the existing Exmoor Lengthsman scheme should be complementary to those,

and requested an update after the sub group for this initiative meets in February 2022.

**ACTION: CLERK** to update the meeting.

## **62.2 REPAIRS/ OTHER ACTION REQUIRED:**

- Damage to the bollard on Sanctuary Lane
- Blocked drains and roadside repairs Cuckolds Combe
- Mud on the road at Cophole
- Potholes Dyehouse Lane

**ACTION: CLERK** to report.

**62.3 HEAVY VEHICLES:** Mr Arnold has drawn attention to heavy machinery using Bury and Dyehouse Lanes. The meeting discussed the issue at length and noted that while road signs advise 'unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles' this is not a legally binding exclusion. The recent considerable hedging works in the area were noted and it was suggested that the traffic may be related to that and will end soon.

**ACTION CLERK:** forward Mr Arnold's email to Cllr Nicholson and enquire with neighbouring Parish Councils if this issue is affecting them.

## **63 PLANNING**

### **63.1 Application number 6/3/21/120. Proposed dark skies discovery hub, Wimbleball.**

Following email correspondence on this matter the meeting repeated concerns about the potential impact of the application if approved and the BRPC objection on the following grounds.

- The proposal may be expected to generate further traffic to the site. SWLT estimates in other applications some 200,000 visitors p.a. and a night time facility can only be expected to increase numbers. Access to the site is only via narrow lanes which is already inadequate for current usage. This issue has repeatedly been raised by BRPC and residents in response to other proposals to increase facilities at Wimbleball.
- South West Lakes Trust seems to be trying to incrementally develop a theme park at Wimbleball without regard to issues of access.
- BRPC that this, and other incremental developments at the site, are detrimental to the natural qualities of the area and with regard to this proposal night time visitors can only be expected to negatively affect wildlife.
- BRPC do not accept the need for the proposed hub at this site. Exmoor is a dark skies reserve and there are many places with good vehicular access for a dark skies facility. BRPC suggest that Haddon Hill car park would be a far better site due to the good access which does not require visitors to navigate our narrow lanes at night.

**63.2 Application number 6/35/21/103. Land adjoining B3224 Treborough Common. Proposed storage of timber and wood chipping operation in conjunction with existing business. Part retrospective.**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that BRPC had submitted the following response to this application: "BRPC considered that these developments can only make this established business more sustainable". He advised that the applicant's agent had asked if in light of that response BRPC wished to state it supported the application. In the ENPA online response system options given are: 'Support', 'Object', or 'Other'. In this instance 'Other' had been ticked.

The meeting discussed the matter and **AGREED** that the response submitted indicated the BRPC support for the application.

**ACTION: CLERK** to advise ENPA accordingly.

The Clerk advised the meeting that ENPA has recently advised all Clerks to use a template indicating one of: 'Support', 'Object', or 'No Objection'. The meeting welcomed this.

**64 FINANCE**

**64.1 Precept confirmation:** The Clerk advised that following BRPC agreement on the precept (minute 44.2) SW&T had confirmed that the precept is £5,750.00 in total, made up of £25.13 per Band D property in the parish.

**64.2 Invoices for approval:**

- Community Heartbeat Trust (defibrillator): £271.20
- Zen website works £38.28
- Brompton Regis Village Hall rent £52
- Clerk's quarterly salary £301.20

Mr Abel proposed, Miss Luxton seconded and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** all invoices for payment.

**64.3 Grant application:**

**64.3.1 Brompton Regis Toddler Group:** The meeting welcomed the news that this group is to restart, offering support to parents, carers and children in an area where there are few facilities. There has been widespread interest in and support for the group. Mr Chaffey proposed, Mr Abel seconded and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** a grant of £600 toward the costs of this initiative. The meeting wished the group well and congratulated the organisers on bringing it together.

**64.4 Proposals for expenditure:**

**64.4.1 Jubilee Tree:** The meeting **AGREED** to invite suggestions from residents for locations for trees to be planted during the jubilee year.

**ACTION: CLERK** to publicise

**64.4.2 Defibrillator in Bury:** Mr Arnold suggested that given the distance between Bury and existing defibrillators positions, that one might be purchased for use in Bury. He has identified volunteers to support this if installed. The meeting considered cost and maintenance issues vis a vis the small community of Bury. It was **AGREED** that contact be made with adjacent parishes to consider the potential for joint arrangements which would be closer to Bury than the defibrillator based in Brompton Regis.

**ACTION: CLERK** to investigate and report back.

**64.5 Statement of expenditure to 31 01 22:** This having been circulated prior to the meeting, questions were invited and the position of the accounts noted.

**65 ANY OTHER MATTERS**

**65.1 Motorboat training at Wimbleball:** The meeting expressed considerable concern at the SWLT advert for this. Issues of noise and pollution were of major concern. Councillors recalled bans on powerboats in the past and suggested that planning permission for change of use would be required.

**ACTION: CLERK** to find out what permissions are required and report back.

**65.2 Oil leak from a parked vehicle:** The Chairman reported that oil leakage in the car park has been addressed by the Brompton Regis Village Hall Committee, and thanked Mr Cherry for his actions. The vehicle in question is no longer parked there.

**65.3 Grit bin Walcotts Steep:** Mr Abel suggested and the meeting **AGREED** that one bin be moved to the corner in due course.

**65.4 PCSO 'surgeries':** the meeting welcomed the offer by the PCSO to run occasional 'surgeries' outside the village hall.

**ACTION: CLERK** to secure and publicise dates.

**66 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING, which the new PCSO will attend:**

**WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 7.30pm, Brompton Regis Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 20.40hrs

Signed as a correct record: .....

Date: .....