

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH 2022 at 19.30hrs

67 PRESENT: Mr Headley (Chairman); Mr Chaffey (Vice Chairman); Mr Abel; Mr Andrews.

Also Present: PCSO Michelle Haines; Cllr Steven Pugsley; Ms Buchanan (Clerk); Mr D Cherry and Mr L Ringrose (members of the public).

PCSO Michelle Haines left the meeting at 19.45hrs.

Mr Andrews left the meeting at 20.45 hrs.

68 APOLOGIES: Miss Luxton; Mr Arnold; Cllr N Thwaites.

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr Headley declared an interest in agenda item **11.2**, minute **76.2**.

70 PCSO PRESENTATION

Mr Headley welcomed PCSO Haines to the meeting. She introduced herself and her role. In her work on Exmoor she and the team are seeking to increase community engagement with the Police force and raise awareness of the support available to residents and businesses alike. She will be holding an open session for the parish, outside the village hall on 28th May 2022, which will be publicised in the Brendon Beacon.

She updated the meeting on issues particularly affecting Brompton Regis.

- Anti-social behaviour at Wimbleball: The Police team and SW Lakes Trust are working together to plan steps to reduce the negative impact of parking and related behaviours. Mr Headley outlined previous steps to seek parking restrictions at Bessom Bridge, and Mr Chaffey asked if cones will again be placed on the Bridge. PCSO Haines **AGREED** to look into this and advised that while these may deter parking, they are not enforceable.
- Motorbikes on Port Lane, Bury (agenda item **10.1**): Residents are being kept informed of Police responses to the issue. A motorcyclist has been issued with a warning letter and advised of follow-on actions. The ENPA is checking signage on the path is accurate. The issue is more widespread than the local area and meetings are to be held with the neighbouring Police force to address the issue, and ensure joint records are maintained.

Councillors thanked PCSO Haines for her work in the area and invited her to attend its meetings at any time.

71 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 2nd FEBRUARY 2022

Mr Abel proposed, and Mr Andrews seconded the acceptance of these as an accurate record, and the Chairman signed them as such.

72 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

72.1 Re minute 58.2. Bidgoods Gulley: As Cllr Nicholson was absent, this matter was forwarded to the next meeting.

72.2 Re minute 58.3. Additional Car Parking Signage: The Clerk advised that the sign at the George Inn had been removed. The rights to use of the car park had been clarified with reference to the differences between the lapsed and implemented planning permissions. She confirmed that the car park is owned by the BRPC and is for use by people using the hall, shop or Green. It was **AGREED** that signs advising this are secured.

ACTION: CLERK to pursue quotes.

72.3 Re minute 58.4. Proposed Bench at the Pound. The Chairman and Mr Abel had secured quotes for three alternative benches. The Clerk advised that there were no benches available from the After Life project. The Chairman reminded the meeting that this is a replacement bench, the previous having been removed on grounds of health and safety. Mr Chaffey proposed and Mr Andrews seconded and the meeting **AGREED** that the BRPC purchase and fit a 5ft oak bench, priced at £420.

ACTION: CLERK to order the bench.

72.4 Re minute 64.4.1. Jubilee Tree(s): The Chairman advised that the George Meadow Millennium Green is likely to request a grant for three trees to be planted as part of the Jubilee celebrations. The Clerk described a free trees initiative which the BRPC could engage with and perhaps publicise at the proposed Jubilee event on the village green.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN AND CLERK to review the free trees initiative before inviting parish residents to suggest locations for Jubilee trees.

72.5 Re minute 64.4.2. Defibrillator in Bury: The Clerk advised that there are defibrillators in Skilgate, Morebath, Brushford and Dulverton: all of which are likely to be quicker to reach from Bury than the one at Brompton Regis Village Hall. The meeting asked the Clerk to define the number of residents in Bury, discuss with Mr Arnold a potential location should a defibrillator be purchased, and the need for local volunteer support and to report back to a subsequent meeting.

ACTION: CLERK to confirm number of residents

ACTION: MR ARNOLD AND CLERK to identify potential locations and local volunteer support.

72.6 Re minute 65.1. Motorboat Training at Wimbleball: ENPA is looking into this matter. The item to be carried forward to a future meeting.

73 COUNCILLORS UPDATE

Cllr Pugsley updated the meeting on the process to form a Unitary Authority for Somerset. Assuming the parliamentary approval is given there will be elections on 5th May 2022 followed by a year of transition to a single authority. There are now discussions as to the formation and boundaries of a

Taunton Town Council which would have an impact on existing Parish Councils.

The new recycling system is in place across West Somerset. Any missed collections can be reported and are collected later.

The problems associated with digital telephone lines during power cuts have been raised by district councillors as a parliamentary issue requiring BT to maintain copper wire systems until alternative, appropriate, and secure systems are in place in the event of power cuts. The Chairman highlighted the problem of mobile phone masts in the area which are dependent on power. The Clerk advised that telegraph pole and wire damage in the area meant that many properties in the parish were still without a landline.

As Chairman of the Exmoor Panel, Cllr Pugsley outlined the aims and process of forming three pilot 'Local Community Networks', including one focussed on highways on Exmoor. The BRPC Clerk is a member of the steering group for this LCN. This is expected to last 12-18 months and is seeking to provide a SCC funded 'Highways Steward' and an SCC funded 'Highways Broker' working across the Exmoor County Council ward. Issues to be addressed are likely to include speeding and signage; road closures and diversions; the strategic programme of highways works; contact with contractors regarding scheduling and priorities. Mr Chaffey sought clarification of the review process for road closures and works. Cllr Pugsley advised that quarterly meetings will consider the annual and rolling programme of works.

The meeting thanked Cllr Pugsley for his contribution and invited him to attend future meetings to update councillors on the LCN.

74 VACANCY AND ELECTIONS

The Clerk having circulated to all Parish Councillors information about the three people who had sought to be co-opted to the vacancy, the Chairman outlined the discussion among Parish Councillors which had taken place by email. He reported that all three people had strengths to offer the BRPC, and their contributions to the parish were considerable. He said that the consensus among Parish Councillors was that the person who had expressed interest in joining the Parish Council in 2020 should now be co-opted. Mr Abel proposed and Mr Andrews seconded and the meeting unanimously **AGREED** to co-opt Mr Ringrose to the vacancy. The Clerk reminded councillors that the election on 5th May 2022 requires those interested in standing to complete and submit to SW and T Council the nomination pack.

ACTION: CLERK to process the paperwork for the co-option and publicise the forthcoming election and the opportunity this offers for eligible people to stand for election.

75 EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Chairman suggested that the BRPC consider the following steps to prepare for situations such as those experienced during the recent storms.

- Contact lists circulated to residents

- Provision of generators in the Parish, possibly for use by the Village Shop and Hall to provide emergency support and maintain supplies in the shop.

Cllr Pugsley advised that Timberscombe Parish Council had similar discussions.

After discussion the following **ACTIONS** were **AGREED** with a report back to a subsequent meeting:

ACTION: CHAIRMAN to identify loading requirements for the Village Shop and Hall.

ACTION: MR ABEL AND CLERK to follow up on offers of donations of small generators to the parish.

ACTION: CLERK to contact Timberscombe PC.

76 PLANNING

76.1 ENPA Local Plan Survey

The Chairman summarised the response developed by Mr Chaffey and himself, which had been submitted. Mr Chaffey highlighted the potential for ENPA to take a strategic role in support for unimproved pasture and wildlife corridors across the national park and Cllr Pugsley agreed to raise this with ENPA.

76.2 Unauthorised Change of Use of Agricultural Land, Enforcement Notice ENF/0010/22

The Chairman reported that the landowner had advised him of the intention to submit a planning application.

77 FINANCE

77.1 Invoices for approval:

- Community Heartbeat Trust (defibrillator training): £210
- Zen website hosting fee and additional works: £114 and £11.22
- Noticeboard cover, reimbursement of Clerk's purchase: £48.48
- Stationery and postage in year: £45.78
- Clerk's salary balancing amount: £372

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

The meeting noted the £150 received from NatWest as compensation for problems experienced by councillors when adding signatories to the BRPC accounts.

78 ANY OTHER MATTERS

78.1 Defibrillator training: this will be provided on 18th March 2022 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the village hall. A further session is likely to be provided in an evening so that working residents may attend.

79 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 6th APRIL 2022, 7.00pm NOTE NEW START TIME, Brompton Regis Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.00hrs

Signed as a correct record:

Date: