

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5th April 2023

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

244. PRESENT: Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Ms T Davies, Mr M Headley (Chairman), Miss L Luxton (from 8.10pm), Mr L Ringrose.

Also present: Ms S Buchanan (Clerk); Mrs C Cherry and Mr C Stewart-Smith (members of the public, and members of local community groups - The Brompton Regis Lunch Club and George Meadow Millennium Green respectively).

245. DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS FOR COMMENT BY THE PUBLIC

The Chairman invited members of the public present to contribute at agenda items of interest.

246. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS OFFERED

Cllr. F Nicholson and Cllr. S Pugsley: other commitments. Mr M Arnold and Mr S Coates: work.

247. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr Headley and Mr Cherry minutes 251.1 and 251.2.

248. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND MEETING MANAGEMENT

The Chairman advised that the regular item of Councillor Updates had not been included in this meeting because both Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Pugsley had tendered their apologies at the previous meeting.

249. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 1st MARCH 2023 AS CIRCULATED

Mr Ringrose proposed and Mr Cherry seconded the motion that the minutes be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record. This was unanimously **AGREED** and the Chairman signed the minutes as such.

250. ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

250.1 Dog fouling (Minute 239.2): The Chairman INVITED Mr C Stewart Smith, Chairman of the George Meadow Millennium Green Trust, to contribute to this item and he outlined the discussions with the Dog Warden and at the recent George Meadow Millennium Green committee meeting. Options for action were discussed and the following **AGREED**:

- the Parish Council should pay for appropriate signage at particularly problematic areas in the parish

- the ENPA be asked if it can assist in procurement and / or production of signs which reinforce good practice (please pick up) and health messages, and if so at what costs
- if the ENPA cannot assist quotes be secured for durable signs
- signs to be placed at each entrance to the George Meadow Millennium Green, the village entrance to the footpath beside New Inn, the village end of Trots Lane
- an update including costs and designs be brought to a future meeting for approval.

ACTION: CLERK

In discussion it was noted that some fouling may be when dogs are not with their owners and / or at night.

Mr Ringrose asked if gates at each entrance to the George Meadow Millennium Green might be appropriate and Mr Stewart Smith advised that a gate at the SW access would not be likely to be effective because the hedge can be crossed. Mr Andrews asked what frequency the grass is cut as the shorter the grass the more visible the issue and the more likely is pick up. Mr Stewart Smith advised that cuts are weekly during the growing season.

250.2 Lock up clean up (minute 239.3): The Clerk advised that Miss Luxton had offered to lead this initiative on May 8th, the 'Big Help Out' Day to mark King Charles' Coronation. Key activities will be: clean up and brush down the area; erect and fit the replacement bench; refurbish the sign as is. All Parish Councillors were invited to join in. Mr Ringrose's offer to provide a trailer to collect materials to be disposed of was warmly accepted.

ACTION: CLERK to publicise to seek volunteers.

251.FINANCE

251.1 Update on grant application for the George Meadow Millennium Green (minute 217.2). The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had approved a grant of up to £500 toward costs of works to improve access to and on The Green and outlined the quotes for the costs of the work. He invited Mr Stewart Smith to provide further information. Mr Stewart Smith thanked Mr Cherry as a member of the Green Committee for action to improve access immediately after the Jubilee lunch on the Green in 2022 and described the work proposed to provide a longer term improvement. Grants toward costs have been made by the Brompton Regis Lunch Club and Show and with that requested from the Parish Council there is a shortfall of around £1000 and an application for funds has been made to the ENPA.

The Chairman invited comments and discussion and the nature of the proposed surface was highlighted.

Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded the motion that the Parish Council make a grant of £500 toward the works and this was unanimously **AGREED**

251.2 Grant application from the George Meadow Millennium Green Trust, Brompton Regis Lunch Club and Brompton Regis Village Hall for £500 toward the costs of a free to attend lunch to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

The Chairman outlined the content of this application which had been circulated to parish councillors prior to the meeting and invited Mrs Cherry to contribute to discussion of it. She outlined the aim of the event which is to bring people together and celebrate the Coronation and advised the meeting of the costs of the Jubilee lunch, which about 150 people had attended, and the plans for the Coronation lunch. The Parish Council was asked for a grant of £500 toward food costs. It is intended that food items not used at the lunch will be donated to the Show to sell to raise funds there.

The Chairman invited comments and discussion and the following points were made:

- The Show has not been asked for a grant as it is understood that all its funds have been allocated
- The Brompton Regis Lunch Club has made a grant of £200
- The YFC is loaning tents
- The Parish Council had made a grant of £300 toward food costs of the Jubilee Lunch
- A resident had suggested that if a smaller grant was made a consequent increase in the grant toward works on the Green might be possible. Mr Stewart Smith advised that this was not essential as the Green would use its reserves to fund the shortfall on works
- The Clerk noted that no requests for grants toward events had been received from hamlets in the parish. Mr Cherry advised that hamlets have been asked to publicise the event and information has been published in the Brendon Beacon
- Donations could be requested on the day but Mrs Cherry felt this could exclude some residents.

Ms Davies proposed the motion that the Parish Council support the event with a grant of £300. This was seconded by Mr Andrews and unanimously **AGREED**.

Mrs Cherry and Mr Stewart Smith left the meeting at 820.

252. AUDIT

252.1 External audit arrangements: The Clerk advised that the arrangements for the audit of 2022-23 are the same as for 2021-22. It is intended that documents will be brought to the May and June meetings for review and approval.

252.2 Internal Audit: The Clerk asked that the internal auditor be appointed. Mr Cherry proposed and Mr Andrews seconded the motion that the previous years' internal auditor, Mr Pollard, be appointed if he is willing to take on that role, and this was unanimously **AGREED**. The Clerk advised that Mr Pollard is willing and the meeting recorded the Parish Council's thanks to him for his services.

253. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS

253.1 Exmoor Local Community Network representative: The Chairman outlined the purpose of this body and its roots in the Exmoor Panel of parish councils. He advised that new governance arrangements mean that only parish councillors may vote or make decisions at meetings and that Clerks may attend and contribute in other ways. It was **AGREED** that Mr Headley take on this role on behalf of the Parish Council and that the Clerk may also attend meetings as possible.

253.2 Hunt traffic: Ms Davies outlined the content of her correspondence with the Clerk regarding the dates in April when vehicles and followers of one of the Hunts in the area are expected to be in the village.

253.3 Hiccombe works: Miss Luxton reported residents' questions regarding permissions for works at Hiccombe following fire damage to the house in 2022. Ms Davies advised that works have been apparent there.

ACTION: CLERK to request and update on permissions from the ENPA.

253.4 Overgrown hedge near the Show Ground: Residents have voiced concern that the road side of the hedge along the un-registered land near the Show Ground is hazardous to drivers. Mr Ringrose confirmed this and noted that hedge cutting is limited to times outside the nesting season.

ACTION: Clerk to ask the Highways Authority what can be done by it, and when.

254. HIGHWAYS

254.1 Highways Steward: Mr Cherry requested and it was **AGREED** that the Steward be asked to make safe loose hanging branches on the road near Bryants Bridge.

Mr Ringrose asked for an update on works requested on Sanctuary Lane and the Chairman advised that the Steward and adjacent landowner believe works are best carried out in the summer and this has been suggested to the Highways Authority.

Mr Ringrose reported significant water borne debris on the road between Rugglands and Bessoms Bridge and it was **AGREED** that action to clear this be sought.

254.2 Immediate issues of concern: Mr Cherry reported significant water flowing on the north side of the road opposite the village hall into the village. This is a long standing issue which seems to have worsened. It was **AGREED** that jetting of the drains along this road could be useful.

Residents concerns were reported re potholes: near Swansea Farm and Cottages, between Redgate and Westcott Lane, between Renford Knap and White Post and on the eastern approach to Bessom Bridge.

254.3 Community Highways Scheme devolved budget: It was **AGREED** that jetting of the drains between Storridge View and Oval Cottage be requested as part of the plans for an Exmoor jetting programme. Ms Davies sought clarification on how this related to the cleaning of gulleys and it was confirmed that no overlap is essential.

ACTION: CLERK to report and seek action on the points above.

255. PLANNING

255.1 Application number 6/3/23/003 Lawful Development Certificate, erection of a shed at Dye House, Dye House Lane, Bury.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council rarely comments on applications for these certificates and invited comments, of which there were none.

256. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

If updates are available the following items were requested: dog fouling signs, audit.

257 DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 7.45pm on 10th May 2023 at Brompton Regis Village Hall, following the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will begin at 730pm.

The meeting closed at 840pm

Signed as a correct record:

Name:

Date: