

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4th MAY at 19.30hrs

95 PRESENT: Mr Headley (Chairman); Mr Andrews; Mr Coates; Miss Luxton (arrived 1940); Mr Ringrose.

Also Present: Cllr N Thwaites; Ms Buchanan (Clerk); Mr D Cherry and Mrs B Page (members of the public).

96 APOLOGIES: Mr Abel; Mr Arnold; Mr Chaffey; Cllr Nicholson.

97 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: Mr Headley re Millennium Green (minute 106.1). No others.

98 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 4th April 2022

These having been circulated prior to the meeting, Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded their acceptance as an accurate record, and the Chairman signed them as such.

97 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

99.1 Re minute 86: defibrillator. Mr Headley advised that further discussion had taken place and proposed that given the amount of funding required further consideration be undertaken by the new Parish Council.

ACTION: CLERK agenda item, July 2022

99.2 Re minute 87.1 Emergency planning: Mr Coates reinforced the value of raised awareness of available generators in the parish and noted Western Power compensation. This matter will be addressed in a future meeting.

99.3 Re minute 90: Highways traffic count Hill Lane. The Chairman advised the meeting that Cllr Nicholson had raised the matter with the Highways Authority and will pursue it.

100. COUNCILLORS UPDATE

Cllr Thwaites reminded the meeting that elections for the new Somerset Council will take place on 5th May. He highlighted ongoing work on the Local Highways Steward pilot for Exmoor.

101. CODE OF CONDUCT

This having been circulated prior to the meeting the Chairman outlined the recommendation by the Local Government Association that parish and town councils adopt this revised code and summarised the content. Cllr Thwaites noted that the revised Code strengthened existing legislation and outlined the benefits of adopting it. Miss Luxton asked for clarification of the situation of the Parish Council did not adopt it and the Clerk advised that the strength of the recommendation for adoption indicated that not doing so would lead to no or limited support for issues arising from non adoption. Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Coates seconded adoption, and this was **AGREED**.

The Chairman advised the meeting that a condition of the Code is that all Councillors must participate in training about it. This is available from SALC at a price of £25 or councillor and with a 4th place free when 3 are booked.

ACTION: CLERK reserve 8 places at dates to be agreed at a cost of £150 for all members of the new council and the clerk to attend.

102. POWERBOAT TRAINING, WIMBLEBALL (minute 72.6)

The Clerk outlined correspondence with SWLT on this matter following BRPC discussion at a previous meeting. The meeting expressed concern at the provision of powerboat training on the lake and AGREED that BRPC express this firmly, in particular the proposal for training for the public, and note to SWLT that alternative training centres are available in the region. The reasons for BRPC concerns are the increase in the amount of traffic to and from the Lake which will be generated, petrol fumes and noise. Councillors expressed concern that while oil spillage kits are carried by boats environmental damage could occur.

ACTION: CLERK

103. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman referred the meeting to minute 88.2 BRPC and email correspondence questioning the BRPC co-option process. He reported that SALC had been consulted about the 20 questions raised and the BRPC process. He outlined the headings under which the questions and responses had been provided and that SALC had advised that the process followed in co-option had been good. A response to the resident has been sent.

Cllr Thwaites asked if there was a known reason for the questions and Miss Luxton noted the BRPC resources expended on addressing the matter.

No other correspondence had been received.

104. HIGHWAYS

Information about the priority setting system for Local Community Network Highways Pilot having been circulated prior to the meeting the Clerk reminded the meeting that two new staff had been funded by the Highways Authority, one to directly address local needs and the other to ensure dialogue between the contractors, the Authority and parish councils in the pilot area. It was AGREED that the priority setting list be a standing agenda item at future meetings.

The following issues are to be reported now:

- Blocked drains Blagdon Lane, this issue has been ongoing for many years.
- Cutting back verges to enable water to enter drains rather than run past them, on Sanctuary Lane, on the approach to Bessom Bridge from Woolcots and the Causeway to Ruggs Hill.
- Repairs to signs: the speed limit sign on Sanctuary Lane, the HGV sign at Beech Tree Cross.
- Removal of a hanging branch on the road to Dulverton past Louisa Gate.
- Unsuitable for HGV signs to be placed at each end of the access route to Bury between Frogwell and Gilclose.

ACTION: CLERK to report.

The following road damage was also noted:

- Pot holes and road degradation on the side of the road near the telephone kiosk in Brompton Regis
- Pot holes on the approach to Bessom Bridge.

ACTION: CLERK to report.

105. PLANNING

105.1 Application 6/3/21/119. Wimbleball Lake Camp Site, Hill Lane, Brompton Regis, TA22 9NU. Proposal: Part retrospective application for the retention of two additional hardstanding pitches, the relocation of Glamping Pods, the change of use of land (Lime Park) as a tented campsite for use ancillary to activity centre and the change of use of land as an overflow campsite (1st March – 31st October), together with the proposed addition of 3 glamping pods and associated works. (Amended description).

The Chairman advised that while this application amends that which the BRPC had objected to but did not address its objections. It was AGREED that BRPC objected to the application on the same grounds as the original application and that its concerns about traffic and highways issues be reinforced.

ACTION: CLERK to submit objection and comments.

105.2 Application 6/35/22/101. Land adjoining B3224 at Treborough Common. Resubmission of application 6/35/21/103. (Part retrospective).

The Chairman advised that this application is the same as that which BRPC had supported (application number 6/35/21/103) and it was AGREED that BRPC resubmitted its comments on and support for the application.

ACTION: CLERK to submit objection and comments.

106. FINANCE

106.1 Grant request: Jubilee lunch.

The Chairman declared an interest as a member of the Millennium Green Trust.

The meeting discussed this request and noted previous grants for similar events. Mr Cherry as a committee member involved in arrangements for the lunch and event was invited to update the meeting on plans. After discussion of the possible scale of the event in the context of the population of the entire parish and village, that no drinks were being provided, other events and Mr Cherry's advice that food supplies not used at the lunch would be used at the Brompton Regis Show, Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Coates seconded a grant of £300 and this was AGREED.

ACTION: CLERK

106.2 Income: precept

The meeting noted that the precept amount of £5750 had been received.

106.3 Invoice: IONOS web fee

The Clerk advised that the annual fee had been paid. Miss Luxton proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded reimbursement of this fee to the Clerk.

ACTION: CLERK

106.4 Insurance renewal: £395.16

The proposal and schedule having been circulated prior to the meeting Miss Luxton proposed and Mr Andres seconded payment and this was AGREED.

ACTION: CLERK

107. AUDIT ACTION: CLERK to submit objection and comments.

107.1 External audit exemption criteria

The Clerk reminded the meeting of the elements of the audit process. She advised that, as a small authority with income and expenditure less than £25,000 in the year of the account ended 31 March 2022, BRPC may certify itself as exempt.

She reported that BRPC's total gross annual income for that year was £6,119 and its total gross expenditure was £6,959.

She stated the criteria for exemption and the circumstances in which an authority is unable to certify itself as exempt.

The meeting AGREED the criteria for exemption had been met.

107.2 External audit exemption certificate

Mr Andrews proposed and Miss Luxton seconded that BRPC certify itself as exempt on grounds that during the financial year 2021/22 the higher of its total gross income for the year and total gross expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000 and this was AGREED.

ACTION: CLERK to submit the exemption certificate.

108. ANY OTHER MATTERS

108.1 BRPC noticeboard

The Chairman reported that further damage had occurred with BB gun type pellets found beside the board. He advised that the cover purchased after the initial damage had not, due to ill health, been applied before the second instance of damage. The Police were advised of the second damage, are making enquiries and suggested use of a camera in the area. The meeting expressed its concern at the damage and the cost to the public purse of police time and replacement board covers.

Discussion about the possible use of cameras followed and it was AGREED this matter would be brought to a future meeting.

108.2 Hedge overhangs

Mr Coates noted that hedges overhanging the road opposite the village hall were obstructing safe passage of traffic and asked that householders be requested to cut the hedges back by 2-3 feet.

ACTION: CLERK

108.3 Repaint telephone kiosk

Mrs Page asked if the kiosk could be repainted before the Jubilee.

The Clerk reported that she had submitted a request to the specialist BT team for redecoration and that she would chase the matter up.

ACTION: CLERK

109. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 1st JUNE 2022, 7.30pm, Brompton Regis Village Hall

110. DATE AND TIME OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, 18th JUNE STARTING AT 730pm Brompton Regis Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20.55hrs

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

DRAFT