

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL at 19.00hrs

80 PRESENT: Mr Headley (Chairman); Mr Andrews (arrived 1915); Miss Luxton; Mr Ringrose.

Also Present: Cllr F Nicholson (arrived 1930); Cllr S Pugsley (arrived 1930); Cllr N Thwaites; Ms Buchanan (Clerk); Mr D Cherry (member of the public).

81 APOLOGIES: Mr Chaffey (Vice Chairman); Mr Abel; Mr Arnold; Mr Coates.

82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

83 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 9th March 2022

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

84 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

84.1 Re minute 72.1 Bidgoods Gulley: Cllr Nicholson advised that the gulley is clear.

84.2 Re minute 72.2 Additional Car Parking Signage: The Chairman reported that a quote of £53.82 plus VAT and fixings had been received. Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded purchase of the sign.

ACTION: CLERK to purchase sign and consider position for fixing.

84.3 Re minute 72.3. Proposed replacement bench at the Pound. The Chairman reported that the approved bench is out of stock, a 'wait' order has been placed and £500 earmarked in the 2022-23 budget for this item.

84.4 Re minute 72.4 Jubilee Tree(s): The Chairman reported that a free pack containing a range of suitable trees will be ordered for use in the parish.

ACTION: CLERK

85 COUNCILLORS UPDATE

Cllr Thwaites presented his apologies for non attendance at meetings due to personal circumstances. He reported that elections will be held on 5th May for the county council as it transforms into a new unitary Authority and for Brompton Regis Parish Council. He noted that the charge to the parish Council for an election is in the region of £1500. Election costs are budgeted for in the BRPC budget which was approved by BRPC. He noted that Parish Councils which meet the criteria for eligibility for the General Power of Competence, defined by Government, and resolve to accept that Power must have at least two thirds of their members elected at the time of the resolution.

Cllrs Nicholson, Pugsley and Thwaites encouraged electors to vote.

Cllr Nicholson reported that the Highways Local Community Network is developing and will be supported by the Exmoor Panel of parish councils and a specific sub group and by two staff employed by the county council contractors for highways works.

Cllr Nicholson reported that the concerns of residents in Bury re very large vehicles travelling through the area and recent damage to properties has been reported to the County Highways Team with a view to signage being installed to warn HGVs that the road is unsuitable.

Cllr Nicholson reported that issues facing residents across Exmoor during the recent power cuts, including loss of digital phone lines and damage to copper phone lines was being considered by parish councils and noted the agenda item at this meeting.

The Chairman invited Cllr Pugsley to speak and he advised that he would like to do so under agenda items related to: emergency planning and planning.

86. DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

The Chairman advised that an awareness training session had been held as agreed. Some participants had volunteered for the Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS). Follow up actions were underway and the parish continued to be grateful to Mr Lloyd for his regular checks on the defibrillator at the village hall.

The request that purchase of a defibrillator for Bury be considered (minute 72.5) had been reviewed as agreed. Volunteers have come forward to support and host an installation. The meeting discussed the issue and agreed that if installed a defibrillator should be easily accessible from both sides of the ford and be visible to visitors and residents. The Chairman noted that SW Ambulance does not refer 999 callers to a defibrillator more than 200m from the location of need. Mr Ringrose advised that many First Responders are equipped with defibrillators and that there may be potential for that service to support residents in Bury and isolated properties in the parish.

The Chairman recommended that a future meeting consider positively the installation of a defibrillator in Bury.

ACTION: CLERK to discuss with Mr Arnold a location; agenda item for a future meeting.

87. EMERGENCY PLANNING

87.1 Generators: The Chairman reported that Mr Abel and the Clerk had advised that the offer of small generators to the parish was acceptable in principle. The shop has defined its need for generator back up. Mr Andrews and Mr Ringrose suggested that issues related to fuel use and storage be further considered. It was agreed that options and procedures would be defined before further steps are taken.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN, CLERK, MR ABEL, MR ANDREWS, MR RINGROSE; Agenda item at a future meeting.

87.2 Phones: The BRPC has received correspondence from residents reporting concerns over loss of digital phone, mobile phone and internet communications during the recent storms.

The Chairman noted that the BRPCC is considering generator or battery back up for the mobile phone mast on St Mary's church; the Brendon Beacon magazine printed information about BT battery back up systems.

Cllr Pugsley advised that while communications issues due to loss of digital phone lines during power cuts may be addressed by batteries and generators it is also part of the larger issues of Parliamentary approval for digitalisation of all phone lines by 2025 and that the switching on of the emergency mast outside the parish would be important in future.

The Clerk advised that BRPC had opposed the removal of telephone kiosks in the parish on grounds that they can provide an emergency phone service for residents in the event of power cuts and for visitors without mobile signals and continued to be important because the kiosks in the parish are copper wired and copper wired lines are not affected by the loss of power (but might be damaged by wind). In response to a request from Mr Cherry to speak on this matter, the Chairman invited him to do so and Mr Cherry advised that the BT call box in Brompton Regis is working.

88 CORRESPONDENCE/ MEETINGS

88.1 Grant request toward a Jubilee event: this has been received and will be on the agenda of the next BRPC meeting.

ACTION: CLERK agenda item.

88.2 BRPC co-option process: The Chairman advised that a resident had requested information about this, that the Chairman and Clerk are addressing the request and that the BRPC would be informed of actions taken.

ACTION: CLERK

88.3 'Somerset Jubilee parish Portraits': the Chairman outlined an invitation received by parish councils in Somerset to contribute to this.

ACTION: CLERK to publish information on the community website and noticeboards and provide information for the Brendon Beacon.

88.4 Immortal Sports triathlon scheduled for June: this has been cancelled.

88.5 EYV summit: The Chairman invited parish councillors to attend.

ACTION: CLERK to circulate info.

88.6 Wimbleball Easter planning: The Clerk reported from the meeting about this. The meeting **AGREED** that a no barbecue policy was preferred to static barbecue sites; that issues of anti social behaviour by visitors are likely to continue and include litter, human faeces and traffic.

ACTION: CLERK to advise partners of issues.

89 HIGHWAYS

The Chairman welcomed the replacement of the sign at the water pumping station.

Damage to Byrants Bridge, apparently caused by a car collision, has been reported to the SCC.

Residents reported a 'near miss' between a large vehicle travelling at speed across Bessom Bridge while horses and riders were on the road. This has been reported to Highways with a request that warning signs re horse riders be installed.

90 PLANNING

Cllrs Nicholson and Pugsley outlined the discussion at the ENPA meeting regarding application 6/3/21/120. (Proposed dark skies discovery hub, Wimbleball lake, South West Lakes Trust).

The ENPA had approved the application and while both Councillors are aware of local concerns about visitor impact they had defined no grounds not to support it, and noted that the SCC Highways Team had not objected to the application.

Cllr Nicholson advised that she had requested that the ENPA consider developments at Wimbleball in the context that these may not have real connections with the local communities and may run counter to the expectations of communities for a reservoir rather than a multi activity site for visitors. The meeting discussed the negative impacts of large numbers of visitors (stated by SW Lakes Trust to be 200,000 p.a.) on land use, farming business needs and the daily lives of residents. Mr Andrews described the range of issues related to visitor that affect his business negatively. The meeting asked the County and District Councillors and members of ENPA present to communicate clearly the concerns and experience of the community that development at Wimbleball is now over capacity and that no further development be permitted.

The meeting voiced particular concern that in expressing no objections to this and other proposals for development at Wimbleball the County Highways Team appear to have a limited conception or appreciation of the nature of the roads in the area and are accepting that the roads can accommodate 200,000 people p.a.

Mr Ringrose proposed that traffic numbers on Hill Lane be monitored, and the meeting supported this proposal and asked Cllr Nicholson to enable this. She suggested that the Highways LCN might approach this. Cllr Pugsley commented that traffic numbers would provide evidence against which to assess both current infrastructure and future development.

ACTION: CLLR NICHOLSON

91 FINANCE

91.1 Appointment of internal Auditor. The Clerk reminded the meeting of the requirements for the BRPC accounts to be audited. Miss Luxton Proposed and Mr Andrews seconded the appointment of Mr Pollard as internal auditor and the meeting unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK

91.2 Dates for public inspection of the accounts: Mr Andrews proposed and Miss Luxton seconded and the meeting unanimously **AGREED** the dates as either 13 June to 22 July or 30 June to 8 August, the dates to be confirmed with the internal auditor.

ACTION: CLERK

91.3 Further defibrillator training: The Clerk requested approval by BRPC to fund a further course at a cost estimated at £210 incl VAT, this to be held in conjunction with neighbouring parishes and in the evening. Miss Luxton proposed and Mr Andrews seconded this and the meeting unanimously **AGREED.**

ACTION: CLERK

91.4 BRPC notepad charger replacement £21.99: Miss Luxton proposed and Mr Headley seconded this payment and the meeting unanimously **AGREED.**

ACTION CLERK

92 ANY OTHER MATTERS

The Chairman invited Mr Cherry and Cllr Pugsley to raise any items. None were raised.

93 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 4th MAY 2022, 7.30pm, Brompton Regis Village Hall

94 DATE AND TIME OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, 23rd MAY AT 730pm AND 8pm Brompton Regis Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.00hrs

Signed as a correct record:

Date: