

## **MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

### **276 PRESENT**

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I Abell, Mr. S. Coates, Mrs. J. Scott, Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

### **277 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr. J Andrews, Cllr. F. Nicholson, Mr. P. Page, Mr. A. Scrimgeour, Cllr K Turner.

### **278 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **279 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no amendments and the minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed as such.

### **280 MATTERS ARISING**

**280.1 re minute 256.5:** The Clerk will invite the Locality Engagement Lead(s) to the June BRPC meeting.

**280.2 re minute 271:** The Clerk advised the meeting that election packs are available from her or the WSDC. The formal notice of the election will be placed on the village and Bury notice boards on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The aim is to also place this on the community website in a prominent place and in the shop.

Councillors discussed the timing of the election (2<sup>nd</sup> May) vis a vis the scheduled BRPC meeting (1<sup>st</sup> May) and agreed that the scheduled meeting should follow the election, and also include the Annual Parish Meeting and the annual parish council meeting at which officers are elected. This date should be within 14 days of the election.

**ACTIONS: CLERK** identify a date when the Dennis Boundy room may be hired and make the booking; notify councillors asap; amend the schedule of meetings on the parish noticeboard and website.

### **281. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **281.1 Village hall.**

The Chairman advised the meeting that she and the Clerk had attended the BR Village Hall AGM. She reported the benefits of the maintenance works undertaken, and in particular the benefits of the acoustic panels, and that thanks to the BRPC for its grant had been recorded. The Hall Committee intend to create a website for the Hall which will have the capability for online bookings as well as phone and postal bookings. A Hall website will be linked to the Community Website. The Meeting asked the BRPC to take on grass cutting and hedge trimming at the rear and side of the hall until such time as the chairman may resume this role. The Chairman thanked Mr Coates for cutting back the rear hedge and noted that this hedge would now require limited trimming for some years.

**ACTION: CLERK** to contact Mr Cottram and make arrangements.

## **281.2 Triathlon**

The Chairman reported that Immortal Sports has provided advance information for the April edition of the Brendon Beacon.

## **282 COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

In the absence of Cllr Nicholson, her advice regarding the proposal to reverse the cuts to the precautionary gritting route and her pressure to reinstate grit and salt bin and bag supplies were reported.

Councillors expressed continuing concern that the route out of the village to Roborough Gate is not on the gritting route despite being a major route for commuters and school buses.

The meeting raised questions about the costs of the current discussions about a move to a Somerset wide unitary authority, particularly so soon after the creation of the Somerset West and Taunton Council.

Councillors expressed extreme dismay at the daily rates of pay agreed by the County Council for a Section 151 Officer – the council's lead financial officer - until March 2020. The cost of this to the public purse so soon after severe cuts to the budgets for basic services was criticised.

**ACTION: CLERK** to write to the leader of SCC expressing the councillors' dismay at the cost in the context of severe cuts to basic services which have particularly affected rural areas.

## **283 PLANNING**

An application for listed building consent was noted and no discussion entered into.

## **284 HIGHWAYS**

### **284.1 Surface damage**

- a) Potholes near Ruggs have been reported and marked up by SCC for action.
- b) Water erosion and potholes on Cuckolds Combe were noted and while this is in Upton it is an important route for Brompton Regis and will be reported.
- c) Withiel Florey bridge appears to have been damaged and will be reported.

**ACTION: CLERK** to report the items above.

### **284.2 Road closures**

#### **a) The Old Vicarage**

Councillors asked why the BRPC had not been advised of the road closure that has taken place to erect scaffolding on The Old Vicarage. The Clerk reported that no information or advance warning had been received and that this appears to be a permitted closure for works.

Councillors voiced considerable concern that information had not been given to local residents, businesses, the school or 678 Bus service about this matter as it has already caused disruption and delay which advance warning would have minimised.

**ACTION: CLERK** request information about why this was not notified to the BRPC.

**b) Bryants Bridge**

Councillors requested further information about this planned closure because it will disrupt not only residents and businesses but also school buses and the 678 Bus service.

**ACTION: CLERK** to enquire and advise parish councillors.

**285 FINANCES**

**a) Invoices**

The meeting considered items for payment as follows:

- Village hall rent: £27.50
- Website annual fee: £15.72

Mr Abell proposed and Mrs Scott seconded payments and these were unanimously AGREED.

**b) Budget 2018-19**

The Clerk advised that this is in order and the outturn is likely to be as estimated.

**c) Internal auditor**

Councillors recorded their thanks to Mr Pollard for agreeing to act as internal auditor for the current year’s accounts and AGREED the appointment.

**286 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**286.1** The increase in council tax was noted.

**286.2** The loss of further banks in local towns was noted and concern expressed at the impact of this on rural areas.

**287 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20.30 pm.

Signed:.....Chairman, Brompton Regis Parish Council.

Date:.....