

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7th JUNE 2017

51 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

52 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. J Andrews, Mr. S. Coates, Mrs T. Jones, Cllr F. Nicholson, Mr. P. Page, Mrs J. Scott, Cllr K. Turner, and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

Three members of the public (Daisy Headley, Matthew Headley, Kevin Steer).

53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. I. Abel.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

55 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd MAY 2017

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. No comments were made at the meeting and the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

56 MATTERS ARISING

56.1 Small works in the parish

Mr Page suggested that in light of the ephemeral and unpredictable nature of many small works in the parish and recent improvements in highways works by Somerset County Council an alternative to the Parish Council contracting with a specific provider for flexible provision be considered. The Chairman invited discussion and Councillors highlighted the specific needs of the Millennium Green. Mr Page suggested these could be met through the trustees of that body buying-in work as required. Councillors highlighted the need for remedial works to address the causes of drain blockages/overflow and that such work was the responsibility of the Highways Authority and / or landowners rather than the Parish Council. Mr. Page was thanked for his work on this matter and the following steps were **AGREED**.

- Mr Page to contact the contractors which had expressed interest in providing for small works and explain that the BRPC was not at this juncture proceeding with a contract
- The Millennium Green be asked to make arrangements for works required
- The Clerk to continue to work with the Highways Authority to seek remedial works and to report issues when they arise.

56.2 Historic signposts project

The Chairman reported from her attendance at the recent information and training session provided by the ENPA project for volunteers and **AGREED** to circulate to Councillors information provided for participants at the session.

Councillors expressed concern that the requirements stipulated by the Highways Authority may make volunteer involvement difficult and delay actions to improve signposts. Cllr Nicholson noted that while progress in delivering the project's aims may appear slow now, it is ongoing and will provide information and support to Parish Councils and others seeking to improve historic signposts in their area. The Chairman reported that the condition and location of six of the historic signposts in the Parish make them unsuitable for volunteer effort and that those six have been reported to the project for other interventions.

Cllr Nicholson reported that the funding for the project did not include the costs of Highways Authority involvement and that while this was a cost to the public purse it was not a charge to the project.

The Clerk reported that, in response to the Council's query as to how any name changes will be dealt with, the project officer has confirmed that local communities will be involved in discussing any proposed changes.

56.3 Bessom Bridge enforcement and refuse collection

Cllr Turner confirmed that the WSDC is charging Council Tax from when the occupant moved in and that this charge does not confer or denote a right to residency. The Chairman reported that while the appeal approved refusal of planning permission for a dwelling a decision on the owner's appeal against the enforcement order is awaited and until that is announced no further action can be taken by ENPA. Mrs Jones asked what would happen next and Cllr Turner suggested that if the appeal was refused fines would be levied.

56.4 Bury Bridge

Cllr Nicholson asked for clarification of ownership of the Bridge rather than the ford and the Chairman confirmed the SCC Highways Department statement that: 'the footbridge is a listed, ancient monument and is owned by Mr B Dru and Mr R Grant who are responsible for any maintenance works to it. The ford is owned and maintained by SCC as it is a public highway'. In response to the Chairman's proposal that ENPA be asked to take on guardianship and therefore responsibility for repairs to this bridge Cllr Nicholson suggested this was unlikely.

57 REVISED STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCE STANDING ORDERS

These having been previously circulated to Councillors by email the Chairman described their reference to NALC models and to local examples of good practice.

Mr Coates proposed and Mr Page seconded the approval of the Revised Standing Orders and this was unanimously **AGREED** and the revised orders were signed by the Chairman and adopted.

Mr Coates proposed and Mr Andrews seconded the approval of the Revised Finance Standing Orders and this was unanimously **AGREED** and the revised orders were signed by the Chairman and adopted.

58 POST OFFICE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Mr Page reported the recent and ongoing temporary closure of the service provided from the village hall. The Clerk reported submission of complaints to the provider and to the Post Office and the request to the latter that provision of a temporary mobile service be introduced. The Post Office response had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and displayed on the village notice board. Councillors expressed considerable concern at the situation.

It was **AGREED** that further representation be made to the Post Office.

ACTION: the Clerk to write to the Post Office.

59 UPDATES FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Nicholson reported on changes in the County Council membership following the recent County Council elections including the development of succession planning for cabinet roles. She reported that she has retained her role regarding children's services and the importance she places in that role on the contributions of foster carers, the improvement of locally accessible 16+ education and training and the need for national policies on education, curriculum, work experience and training to be sensitive to the circumstances of rural areas.

The Chairman asked for an update on West Somerset College and Cllr Nicholson reported the effects funding for the academy of its pupil roll and her concerns at changes in the curriculum.

Mr Coates asked for an update on work to re-provide classrooms at Kingsmead and noted concern at the potential loss of tennis courts as part of that process.

Cllr Turner reported from the Brendon Hills Group meeting held on 5th June and updated the meeting on the proposed merger of West Somerset and Taunton Deane Borough Councils. The meeting welcomed news that business re-rating had improved the financial circumstances of West Somerset District Council.

60 PLANNING

60.1 Application 6/15/17/102, adjacent parish of Exton, amended plans

Councillors noted that the amended plans appear to reflect consultation with ENPA. It was **AGREED** that no comment be made.

60.2 Application 6/3/17/107, Cophole

Councillors **AGREED** the following comments on this application.

- That the existing restriction on the use of the dwelling had been made for a reason and purpose. Councillors view its removal with concern as potentially leading to loss of a working agricultural unit. Councillors further noted that the application to remove the restriction appears to be premature in that it is prior to the end of the relevant ten year period.
- In light of this application Councillors **AGREED** to make the following requests to the ENPA.
 - o When restrictions on dwellings for agricultural workers' use are considered, the importance of supporting working agricultural units in the National Park is borne in mind and that a restriction specifically links the property in question to the relevant landholding.
 - o When restrictions are made, that the ENPA systematically and regularly monitors compliance in order and all necessary actions are taken to ensure compliance.

ACTION: Clerk to submit the above comments.

61 FINANCE

61.1 Internal audit

The Clerk reported satisfactory completion of the internal audit. The Council's thanks to Mr Pollard for his assistance were recorded.

61.2 Annual governance statement 2016-17

This having been circulated at the meeting held on 3rd May 2017 and no amendments received Mr Andrews proposed, Mr Page seconded and it was unanimously **AGREED** that the statement be **APPROVED**.

61.3 Accounting statements 2016-17

These having been circulated at the meeting held on 3rd May 2017 and no amendments received Mr Page proposed, Mrs Scott seconded and it was unanimously **AGREED** that these statements be **APPROVED**.

61.4 Insurance renewal

The Clerk reported that councillors had been advised by email that a renewal quote of £168 had been received from the current provider and that quotes from alternative providers were higher. There being no objections from Councillors to renewal with the current provider the Clerk had received assurance from the current provider of continuing insurance cover provided that renewal and payment was confirmed at this meeting.

Mr Andrews proposed, Mr Page seconded and it was unanimously **AGREED** that the renewal be confirmed.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm the insurance renewal.

61.5 Invoices

Payment of the following invoices was proposed by Mr Coates, seconded by Mrs Scott and unanimously **AGREED**.

- Website half yearly costs: £58.40
- Clerk's stationery half year costs:£45.31
- Defibrillator posters and a second key to the village notice board: £21.60
- Insurance: £168

62 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Mr Andrews welcomed actions by the road sweeper and gully cleaner in the parish.

The Clerk reported the following updates from the Highways Authority:

- Bryants Bridge area potholes (2): repaired 09/03/17 and 3/04/17
- Sanctuary Lane outfall blockage: the Highways Authority to contact the landowner with a request to clear
- Roborough Gate reflectors: night time audits to be carried out in the autumn
- Pothole Lyddons Hill: allocated for repair on 02/03/17
- A meeting had been held with Mr Coates re drainage into the Lake from the road to Bessom Bridge.

Cllr Nicholson clarified the timetable for actions on potholes.

In discussion it was agreed **AGREED** that remedial works necessary to prevent winter flooding should be identified asap and councillors were asked to send information to the Clerk by 15th June for subsequent reporting to the Highways Authority. Priorities included:

- Storridge Lane: drains toward the village end of the lane to be dug out
- Cuckolds Combe: drains to be dug out
- Action to clear drains into the Lake on the road to Bessom Bridge
- Sanctuary Lane.

63 ANY OTHER MATTERS

Hedge and tree clearance, Bryants Bridge approach: Mr Andrews asked for an update and Mr Coates advised that the landowner had been invited to meet at the site to agree actions.

64 DATE AND TIME OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday 5th July 2017

Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Starting at 7.30pm at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

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

Date:.....