

## **MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

### **1071 PRESENT**

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I. Abel, Mr. J. Andrews, Mrs. T. Jones, Mr. P. Page, Mrs. F. Nicholson and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

### **1072 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr S. Coates, Mrs. J. Scott and Mr K Turner..

### **1073 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **1074 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**

Having been previously circulated, these were agreed and signed as a correct record with the amendment of the date of next meeting from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### **1075 MATTERS ARISING**

**1075.1 Telephone kiosks and payphones (1062.5):** The Chairman reported that the Exmoor National Park Authority has supported retention of the payphone at The Pound in Brompton Regis and Councillors welcomed this and emphasised the lack of wifi and mobile phone reception in the area.

**1075.2 Parish defibrillator (1064):** Mr Page asked for further information and the Chairman outlined the scheme offered by the Community Heartbeat Trust. The one-off cost would be £1,650 as a donation to the Trust for the loan of the defibrillator (therefore no VAT). This includes the defibrillator and an all-weather heated cabinet and also a free training session for the community. The Management Plan fee would be £126 annually which covers connection to the Ambulance service, full insurance, and all replacement of parts when necessary e.g. battery, electrodes and pads. The electrical installation costs would be extra and the annual running costs approx £10 p.a. There is a free first year service whereby 10 local people could be alerted if an ambulance is called so that any of the 10 available may offer assistance.

Councillors asked if grants are available and were advised that none are but that the YFC are fundraising to support the purchase. In discussion Councillors considered the potential value of the system relative to other possible interventions to reduce risk and increase safety, and the meeting agreed that the system offers a valuable investment for the community. Councillors suggested that as many people in the parish as possible should be trained to be confident in the use of the system.

The meeting **AGREED** that the Parish Council should purchase a system and arrange for its installation, outside the village hall, early in 2017.

**1075.3 Highways matters (1062.1):** Councillors welcomed recent action by the Highways Authority which appeared to have reduced recent flooding at Sanctuary Lane and Cuckolds Coombe. However concern was expressed that flooding at Bessoms Bridge, Swansea, Redgate, Blagdon Lane, Ruglands, The Causeway and Ruggs Hill had resulted from insufficient actions. The Chairman thanked Mr Coates and Mr Payne for their efforts to clear drains and gulleys during the recent floods and reported that she is seeking a meeting with the Highways Authority to highlight the need for remedial actions.

Mrs Jones reported that there has been no further incursion of mud at Bury Cross.

Cllr. Nicholson asked Parish Councillors to advise her of any concerns re Highways Authority workmanship in the parish.

**1075.4 Coombeshead planning appeal decision (1067):** Councillors having received information that the appeal had not been allowed voiced considerable disappointment and concern at the implications of the Planning Inspector's decision. Discussion highlighted that locally agreed policies and priorities and decisions made by the ENPA had been overturned by the Inspectorate, bringing into doubt the validity of the planning system.

It was **AGREED** that a letter setting out Councillors' concerns be sent to the relevant Minister of State, cc the local MP and the ENPA.

#### **1075 UPDATES FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Nicholson confirmed that the Historic Signposts project has been granted Lottery funds alongside contributions from the County Council and ENPA. An email outlining the next steps in this project will be forwarded to Councillors. Councillors welcomed further involvement of Brompton Regis YFC in this project in the spring.

Cllr. Nicholson was asked for an update on broadband provision in the parish and advised that AirBand is progressing plans. Councillors noted that BT is offering fibre optic services in the village of Brompton Regis.

Cllr. Nicholson outlined pressures on the County Council budget in the current year and the year ahead.

#### **1076 SOMERSET SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATION PLAN: NHS AND LA HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

Following a meeting in Williton regarding changes in NHS provision of hospital beds The Chairman asked Cllr. Nicholson how the County Council will ensure that the social care needs of people discharged from hospital are met. Cllr. Nicholson described steps to encourage small and sole trader businesses to provide care services in rural areas and described the challenge of integrating NHS and social care provision and budgets.

#### **1077 PLANNING**

There were no items.

#### **1078 FINANCE**

**1078.1** The Chairman and Clerk are finalising the Clerk's terms of employment and PAYE arrangements and this was welcomed by the meeting.

**1078.2 Budget projection 2017-18**

The Clerk handed out copies of the updated projection and this was discussed.

The meeting welcomed Cllr. Nicholson's offer to look further, AGAIN, into the potential of gritting in 2017-18 the road out of the village to Roborough Gate. She also reminded Councillors that drivers should not assume that roads had been gritted but should drive as if they had not been.

The budget projection was **AGREED** as appropriate for 2017-18.

**1078.3 Precept**

In light of the discussion on the projection Mrs Jones proposed and Mr Andrews seconded that the Precept level continue in 2017 – 18 as in 2016-17 and this was unanimously **AGREED**.

**1079 ANY OTHER MATTERS**

**1079.1 Moving grit bags:** The Chairman thanked Mr Abel for moving grit bags to the locations agreed with the Highways Authority earlier in the year. Mrs Jones asked if the grit bag at Bury could be moved off the tarmac.

Cllr. Nicholson recommended that in 2017 a representative of the Council attend the meeting of Highway Wardens at which locations of grit bags is discussed. This meeting is usually held on the first Tuesday of September. This was **AGREED**.

1079.2 The Chairman thanked Councillors for their hard work during the year, wished them a Merry Christmas.

**1080 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30.pm at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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

Date:.....