

## **MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**The meeting opened at 7.30pm**

**297. PRESENT:** Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Mr M Headley (Chairman), Ms L Luxton, Mr L Ringrose.

**Also present:** Ms S Buchanan (Clerk), Three members of the public; Cllr Nicholson and Cllr S Pugsley (from 735pm).

### **298. DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS FOR COMMENT BY THE PUBLIC**

None. Members of the public were invited to address the meeting at agenda items of interest.

### **299. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS OFFERED**

Mr M Arnold, Mr J Andrews, Ms T Davies, work.

### **300. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Ms Luxton, minute number 307.3.

### **301. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND MEETING MANAGEMENT**

None.

### **302. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023 AS CIRCULATED**

MS Luxton proposed and Mr Cherry seconded the motion that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed as correct and accurate records. This was unanimously **AGREED** and the Chairman signed the minutes as such.

### **303. ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**303.1 Bury defibrillator update (minute 287.3).** The Clerk advised that after a site meeting an alternative location for a defibrillator had been proposed by National Grid and a verbal quote of around £1000 given. Mr Arnold had advised that he had no additional information. After discussion and with disappointment at the connection charge for a community asset the meeting **AGREED** that without further funds or a lower price the meeting could not approve expenditure greater than the £1500 agreed. The item was therefore placed on hold pending any further resources.

**303.2 Community website (minute 289).** The Chairman summarised the information circulated prior to the meeting regarding quotes and options and reported that SALC had advised that, since the enactment of accessibility guidelines, more

parish council only websites and fewer community websites that included parish councils were in operation. Ms Luxton suggested that a simple design and standard function was required for the parish council and that while other more interesting designs were on offer these were not required or cost effective for the parish. Mr Cherry noted that a separate parish council only website offered better value. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk take forward the quote from the current provider to set up a separate BRPC only website. Ms Luxton seconded this and the meeting **AGREED**. It was further **AGREED** that the Clerk advise users of the current site of the agreed action and share information on the timetable and implications as appropriate.

#### **ACTION: CLERK**

### **304. SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' UPDATES**

Cllr Nicholson advised that some successes had been achieved to secure overnight rather than day time road closures for utilities works. Cllr Pugsley advised that the contractor for Waste Services in Somerset had proposed industrial action and that information would be shared with parish councils as that became available. He reported that the ENPA parish council elections had concluded and that it was hoped elected representatives would attend some parish council meetings.

The priorities for the Local Community Network had been agreed as: housing (particularly for young people), public transport and broadband. It is hoped that the priorities will lead to investment by Somerset Council to address these matters.

### **305. PARKING AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT BESSOM BRIDGE**

The Chairman summarised information circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting regarding proposed information signage which aims to direct traffic and parking to the main car park. At no cost to the parish a brown tourism sign would be erected at on the verge approaching the Bridge from the east and the signs pointing to the Bessom Bridge car park would be removed and information placed on the new sign pointing to 'nature reserve'. New and improved signage is also proposed in Upton (to direct traffic to Roborough Gate) and at Roborough Gate. The meeting welcomed the proposals from the Highways Authority as a step in addressing the longstanding problems on and near Bessom Bridge and **AGREED** the proposal in principle.

After discussion it was also **AGREED** that to assess the impact of the new signage traffic counts should be undertaken on Hill Lane.

#### **ACTION: CLERK.**

### **306. ENPA CONSULTATIONS**

**306.1 Haddon Hill car park:** The Chairman summarised the email from ENPA which councillors had received about proposed works at the car park and the introduction of charging. Councillors unanimously expressed concerns about the introduction of charging on the following grounds: it would make the area inaccessible to some people, parking would be displaced onto the main road and

surrounding areas which would lead to highways issues and costs to fence off or otherwise exclude access to other areas, many of the proposed works are not necessary, the costs of the proposed annual permit are too high to appeal to local people. The example of Simonsbath car park charging and problematic parking on the roadside which was then followed by significant investment in bollards on the verge was considered. Councillors expressed concern that information had not been provided about the costs to set up a payment system in the car park and how payments could be both cash and card in an area of no or low internet and wifi coverage.

The Chairman proposed and the meeting unanimously **AGREED** that the parish council submit objections to the proposal as noted in the discussion with the added comment that, should charges be introduced, a lower permit price was essential to enable access and recreation in the area.

#### **ACTION: CLERK**

**306.2 Partnership plan review:** Information having been circulated prior to the meeting it was **AGREED** that no action be taken.

**306.3 ENPA committee changes:** Information having been circulated prior to the meeting the proposed changes were discussed. Councillors expressed concern that the proposals for change in planning committee functions could lead to a less responsive service and delay decision making which, it was noted, was in some cases already significantly delayed. The Chairman proposed and the meeting unanimously **AGREED** that objections on those grounds be submitted.

#### **ACTION: CLERK.**

### **307. PLANNING**

**307.1 Application 6/3/23/005:** proposed change of use of land to residential and erection of building for use as private garage, workshop and domestic storage, and associated works. Lower Goosemoor, Wheddon Cross, Minehead TA24 7BY. The Chairman summarised the application and invited members of the public to address the meeting. Two members of the public referred to neighbour responses submitted to ENPA and summarised their concerns that the scale of the proposed building is not in keeping with the area or the adjacent property and that it seems inappropriate for the proposed uses. Further concerns were expressed regarding loss of amenity and habitat, including the habitat of migrating geese after which the area is named 'Goosemoor'. They felt that the proposed scheme is not in keeping with planning policy or the area and had submitted objections to it. The meeting was advised that work appeared to have begun on site.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the role of the parish council in commenting on planning applications and invited comments. Councillors expressed concern that the proposed building is over large, out of scale with the immediate setting and would seem too big for the intended purposes. Councillors voiced concern that the proposed change of land use from agricultural to residential by increasing the

footprint of the residential property could mask issues of scale of the proposed works.

After full discussion the Chairman proposed, Ms Luxton seconded and the meeting unanimously **AGREED** that the parish council object to the application on the grounds that the proposed works are in excess of what is required for the proposed uses and would be out of scale with the adjacent building. The parish council's concern re the change of land use proposed will be reported and that the parish council has been advised that it might appear that some work has begun on site.

**307.2 Application 6/3/23/006:** proposed erection of shed, Dye House, Bury TA22 9ND.

The Chairman summarised the application. After discussion he proposed and the meeting unanimously **AGREED** that the application appeared to be a like for like replacement and that it be supported.

**307.3 Application 6/3/23/007:** proposed erection of agricultural building, land at Bryants Hill, Brompton Regis, Dulverton.

Ms Luxton had recorded her interest in this item and stood down from discussion

The Chairman summarised the application and invited members of the public to address the meeting. The location and purpose of the proposed building was then described in full together with information about the purposes of rainwater collection as well as the intended reduction of traffic through the village.

The meeting discussed the application and in particular the proposed screening and rainwater collection. The Chairman proposed that the application be supported as it is in keeping with ENPA planning policy and would have environmental benefits and this was unanimously **AGREED**.

## **ACTION: CLERK SUBMIT COMMENTS**

### **308. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS**

**308.1. Tree planting grants:** The Chairman outlined correspondence from ENPA. It was **AGREED** that this be passed to the Millennium Green for consideration.

**308.2 Community funded 20mph speed limit areas:** The Chairman outlined correspondence from Somerset Council re steps whereby local councils may engage in work to introduce speed limits in the area, with costs estimated at £15,000. The previous advice received in Brompton Regis that a 20mph speed limit would not be possible due to street illumination was reprised and, alongside the costs quoted, it was **AGREED** no action be taken. Councillors noted the effectiveness of 'speed information devices' in other parishes.

**308.3 EV funding scheme:** The Chairman summarised information received about a revenue generating scheme that provides charging stations in car parking locations. After discussion it was **AGREED** that no action be taken on grounds that

there was insufficient information on costs and there are no suitable sites in the parish.

### **309. HIGHWAYS**

**309.1 Highways Steward.** Visibility splays to be cut back incl verges at Roborough Gate, Combeshead (Sanctuary Lane). Action to clear and address a recurrent flooding area north of poultry sheds on Blagdon Lane.

**309.2 Community Highways Scheme devolved budget.** The Clerk outlined proposed collaboration across Exmoor to procure jetting. The work of the Dulverton Town Council Chairman on this matter was welcomed and the parish's appreciation recorded. The meeting discussed the need for verge ploughing and **AGREED** this be submitted to the LCN for consideration for funding.

**ACTION: CLERK.**

### **310. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

'SIDs' – speed information devices.

**311. DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Brompton Regis Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 915 pm

Signed as a correct record: .....

Name:

Date: .....