

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 3rd JULY 2019

321 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I. Abel, Miss L. Luxton, Cllr. F. Nicholson, Cllr. N. Thwaites, and in attendance Mrs. Beccy Brown, Localities Engagement lead (Somerset West and Taunton Council, SWAT) until 2030 and Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk).

322 APOLOGIES

Mr. S. Coates, Mr. M. Headley, Mr. P. Page (Vice Chairman).

323 Presentation: the role of the SWAT localities engagement team

Beccy Brown provided an overview of the roles and purpose of this team across the SWAT area. She emphasised the links between the team and local voluntary organisations and the work to support district councillors in their actions to address local issues and work across all of the SWAT functions to do so. Mrs Brown is also linked with the West Somerset Opportunity Area. She outlined issues which have been addressed with local councillors and parish councils outside Brompton Regis parish and invited the BRPC to contact her to raise local concerns and consider responses to address them.

The meeting discussed how this new team could work most effectively with the BRPC and highlighted some ongoing, longstanding and more recent concerns in the parish: lack of cover by the outreach PO service when unforeseen or other circumstances prevent its provision, the lack of public transport, the closure of the SCC Highways Depot in Minehead which makes access to this service difficult for Exmoor parishes.

Parish Councillors raised particular concerns that the team were not visible on, or directly accessible via, the SWAT website and again voiced concern at the limitations of the SWAT website in terms of ease of access to information about SWAT or its contracted services. Mrs Brown noted the concerns and described the settling in period of the new council and its new website and agreed to raise BRPC concerns and to provide the BRPC with her contact details.

The meeting discussed the 'Safer Together' documents which Mrs Brown had circulated in the context of the recent Exmoor Area Panel meeting and voiced considerable concerns at the lack of clarity in the Safer Together documentation and invited Mrs Brown to outline the actions which the Localities Engagement Team will be making to respond to Safer Together. Mrs Brown outlined steps by SWAT to respond and encouraged the BRPC to do so, offering to provide further information from a recent meeting on the topic.

Cllr Nicholson outlined the documentation which the SCC had received and clarified the cumulative nature of the options within those. She noted that the documents indicated that the fire service would move away from a role in wild fires. The meeting expressed concern at this.

Cllr Thwaites advised that SWAT will be circulating information and comment.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Brown for her contributions to the meeting. Mrs Brown left the meeting at 8.30pm.

ACTIONS: CLERK

- Safer Together to be an agenda item at the August meeting.
- Secure mobile tel numbers for local highways team officers.

324 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th JUNE 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** and signed as a correct record.

325 MATTERS ARISING

325.1 ENPA PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Chairman referred to information circulated to Parish Councillors on the results of the election and reminded Councillors that the ENPA Parish Council Members could be contacted by any parish council or councillor and any member of the public.

325.2 VE celebrations 8th May 2020

Discussion is ongoing.

325.3 Rural worker and succession farm dwelling guidance consultation

The Chairman summarised issues within the guidance which appeared at odds with the BRPC views and comments on planning and the Local Plan and housing issues. The meeting **AGREED** general issues in the consultation response including:

- Lack of support for non-agricultural businesses vis a vis 85% of rural businesses being non-agricultural
- Lack of clarity in the meaning of 'health and wellbeing' and concern that this may exclude local businesses which are vital to the economy
- That offering housing opportunities is irrelevant without a breadth of work opportunities
- Inconsistencies regarding house sized and design
- Lack of encouragement for environmental sustainability such as eco-housing and solar panels
- Disregard of farm diversification income in the definition of economic sustainability
- Issues in the definition of succession.

ACTION: CLERK submit the BRPC response by 31st July 2019.

325.4 PO Closure

The Meeting expressed considerable disappointment that the customer care response from the Post Office did not seem to recognise the significance of the two week closure to parish residents and had merely offered the alternative of going to another PO.

326. CORRESPONDENCE: Short cut path railings

The Chairman reported that letters setting out the responsibility for the path, which drew on the ENPA's report, had been sent to The George, The Millennium Green and the PCC. The letters had been acknowledged. It is clear that BRPC is not responsible for the path or its boundaries.

327. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Nicholson advised the meeting that, following the last meeting, she had been assured by the ENPA that solar panels on houses did not require planning permission and that if they had been installed prior to their definition as permitted development a retrospective application or lawful development certificate were not now required because their installation would be assessed against the rules now in place.

The Chairman asked Cllr Nicholson to explain elements of the General Development Order, and in particular Class R. Cllr Nicholson advised that this allows flexible use of buildings that had been in agricultural use and gave a recent example in Timberscombe which had been covered by Class R.

Cllr Nicholson advised that Steven Pugsley is now Chairman of the ENPA Planning Committee, Mike Ellicott is now Chairman of the ENPA Parish Consultative Forum and that Nick Thwaites has been appointed to the ENPA as the district council representative.

Cllr Nicholson advised that the SCC Highways plans for salt and grit had been reinstated as they were in 2017. She encouraged the BRPC to install salt bins on grounds of their effectiveness while noting that hedge trimming has caused damage to some. The meeting thanked her for her work on this matter and referred the matter of provision of salt bins in the parish to AOB.

Cllr Nicholson left the meeting at 9pm.

The meeting welcomed Cllr Thwaites appointment to the ENPA and thanked him for his actions in response to local concerns.

Cllr Thwaites updated the meeting on the procedures for the SWAT planning committee which require four letters of objection to have been received before an application is considered by the Planning Committee. He advised the meeting that the mobile (NatWest) bank parking place in Dulverton is being discussed and that permission has continued for the fishmonger to park on the roadside in Dulverton. He reinforced points made by Mrs Brown and noted the meeting's concerns regarding the SWAT website.

328 PLANNING

328.1 Application 6/3/19/110 Eastcott, Withiel Florey,

The meeting discussed the application and agreed that no comment be made.

328.2 Application 6/3/19/111 Springcleve, Hartford

The meeting discussed the application and agreed that no comment be made.

ACTION: CLERK submit the responses.

329 HIGHWAYS

The meeting welcomed actions at Venn, Naked Boy and Louisa Gate.

330 FINANCES

330.1 SALC training fee

Mr Abell proposed and Ms Luxton seconded and the meeting unanimously **APPROVED** payment of £75.

330.2 Bank signatories

The Chairman reported that personal circumstances of one of the two signatories made it prudent to appoint a third signatory. She proposed, Ms Luxton seconded, and Mr Abell agreed that he become the third signatory.

ACTION: CLERK instruct the bank accordingly.

331. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

331.1 Triathlon

The Chairman invited comments on the Immortal Sports Triathlon. Councillors advised that they had received no negative comments and disruption appeared minimal.

ACTION: CLERK thank Immortal Sports.

331.2 Dog fouling

Mr Abell reported a complaint.

331.3 Salt bins

The Chairman reported that she had researched prices.. Mr Abell's offer to assist with placing concrete slabs and stakes at the sites of new bins was welcomed.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN purchase bins, slabs and stakes and liaise with Mr Abell on installation.

332. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7th August 2019, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 21.30 pm.

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

Date:.....