



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th January 2014 at 8.00 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present: Chairman: Cllr. K. James
Councillors: Cllrs. C. Seymour-Smith, K. Elliott, G. Abbott, J. McDougall, P. Haydon, A. Johnston, S. Cholwill and J. Medland

In Attendance: Parish Clerk
Mr. Daniel Marsh
Members of the Public

1089. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Giles, District Cllr. Parsons and PCSO Bray had sent apologies

1090. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

1091. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

Cllr. James welcomed Mr. Marsh and Members of the Public. He explained that he was aware there were various questions the public might like answered regarding the closure of the village shop, and Mr. Marsh has been given the opportunity to explain the situation. Cllr. James reminded everyone that questions/comments must go through him as Chairman.

Mr. Marsh informed the Meeting that he had probably been one of the last people to learn that the tenants were leaving and that the shop had ceased to trade. He commented that he is mindful that the village wants a shop and he will do his utmost to make this happen. However, if he can't find tenants in a reasonable space of time he will have to dispose of the property. He felt that, from a commercial basis, it would be difficult to make it viable. Mr. Marsh asked for questions. The question of the Post Office was raised. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. James would approach the Post Office and District Councillor Parsons for advice as to how a Post Office could remain in Bridgerule.

Various options were discussed, including a portakabin and a community run shop, volunteers/finance to run such an enterprise. Cllr. James suggested that articles in The Buzz and the local press would assist in getting information regarding the closure out to all the public. The PC will contact the Holsworthy Post and Cllr. Cholwill will arrange to get an article into The Buzz.

Mr. Marsh indicated that, at the moment, he would not be pursuing a change of use to the shop, and pointed out that any form of retail could use the premises. A general discussion took place.

Cllr. James thanked Mr. Marsh for his attendance and Mr. Marsh left the Meeting. Cllr. James explained an option called 'the right to bid', saying that this could be a 'last resort' option, although it had to be community driven.

1092. POLICE REPORT

A Police Report was not available.

1093. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The amended Minutes re. the Council Meeting held on 20th November, were signed by Cllr. James. Cllr. James proposed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 18th December, 2013 be approved. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1094. MATTERS ARISING

Item 1076 – Lease re. River Walk – The PC asked Cllr. James if the copies of the lease, as presented, had been signed. Cllr. James confirmed this and will bring the copies to the next Meeting for retention by the PC.

Item 1077 – Moles at Primary School – The PC had received a response to her letter re. a possible mole problem at the School, from Mrs. Luff Primary Lead. This was circulated to Councillors. Mrs. Luff believes the mole problem is actually a project the children had undertaken to plant daffodil bulbs, thus causing piles of soil which could be mistaken for mole hills.

Item 1078 – Location of Bike Rack – The PC asked if Cllr. James had an update on his meeting with Ms. Shadrick. Cllr. James confirmed that a safe location for the bike rack had been agreed.

Item 1086 – Archiving – The PC confirmed that all Minutes held from 1894-2006 would be passed to the Devon Heritage Centre. Hard copies of Minutes from 2007 are located, with all other files, with the Parish Clerk.

1095. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN JANUARY 2014							
							-
COUNCIL EXPENDITURE							-
Date	Pay To M.	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason	
15.01.14	Fenner	542	£156.23	£156.23		Salary - January	
TOTAL			£156.23	£156.23	£0.00		
Bank Accounts							
<u>Current Account</u>				<u>Reserve Account</u>			
Balance at 19 December		£3,130.15		£7,360.90		Balance at 19th November	
SW Water Compensation		£250.00				Transferred to Bonus Saver a/c	
			£3,380.15			£2,000.00	
	539		£156.43			£0.66	Interest - Dec 2013
	540		£117.20				
	541		£347.27				
Balance at 19th January 2014			£2,759.25			Balance at 19th January 2014	
						£5,361.56	
				<u>Playing Field Project Bonus Saver Account</u>			
		Balance at 12th September					£3,016.00
				quarterly bonus - September			£4.55
				Interest			£0
							£
		Transferred from Reserve a/c Nov					2,000.00
		Balance at 19th December					£5,020.77

Cllr. James proposed the account be approved for payment. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

The PC informed the Meeting that the self-build bus shelter had been added to the Council's insurance (as detailed in the Item 866 of December 2012 Minutes). The Insurance Company has added the shelter to the remainder of the current year's policy at no extra charge. It is insured for £482, the cost of materials to the Council.

1096. TO RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM TDC REGARDING THE PRECEPT AND TO RATIFY ANY CHANGE TO THE BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2014/2015 IN LIGHT OF THIS INFORMATION

The PC explained the information received from TDC. After a short discussion, Cllr. Abbott proposed that there be no change to the Budget and Precept, as ratified at the Full Council Meeting on 20th November, 2013. Cllr. Elliott seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

- 1097. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE ALLOCATION OF COMPENSATION RECEIVED FROM SW WATER**
Cllr. James informed the Meeting of the various grants, (TAP Fund and his own District Councillor's Grant), and the proposed allocation of such grants. Finance from the TAP Fund would be used to reimburse the Council for the cost of fencing the extended walk by the river, half of the cost of the litter bin in the play area (Cllr. Parsons having given a grant for the other half) and to purchase a picnic bench. It was agreed that an Item be placed on the Agenda for the Council Meeting in February to discuss further funding from the TAP Fund. In light of the information provided by Cllr. James, and after discussion, Cllr. James proposed that the compensation received from SW Water, being £250, should be spent on the play area alongside the Village Hall. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

It was further agreed that Cllr. Cholwill would transfer £500, which had historically been earmarked for the play area and had been held in a separate bank account held by the Village Hall Committee, to the Council's Reserve Account. The total amount of £750 being used specifically for equipment in the play area. The PC will inform Mr. Timms of the decision regarding the compensation.

- 1098. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE EXTENDING THE CAR PARK LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE HALL**
After discussion, Cllr. James proposed that the car park located at the front of the Village Hall be extended. Cllr. Elliott seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).
- 1099. TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF A LARGER MOWER TO CUT THE PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL PITCH AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES**
After a short discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Abbott would carry out further investigations regarding the purchase of a larger mower.

- 1100. TO ADOPT THE AMENDED CODE OF CONDUCT (2014) AS PRESENTED BY TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND TO AGREE THE WORDING OF POINT 21**
Copies of the Amended Code, as relevant to Bridgerule Parish Council, had been circulated with the Agenda. The PC explained this subject and after a short discussion Cllr. James proposed that the amended Code of Conduct be adopted. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. James further proposed that the alternative wording regarding Point 21, as prescribed by TDC, be used. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

- 1101. PLANNING**
Application
1/1048/2013/FUL Retrospective change of use to all year round campsite and increased caravan storage area
Hedley Wood
Caravan Park
Bridgerule Request for extension by Bridgerule Council to get comments to Planning Officer – granted.

After discussion, Cllr. Medland proposed the application be recommended for approval. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

- 1102. HIGHWAYS**
The PC confirmed that she and Cllr. James would be meeting with Mr. Phillips, DCC Highways, on 20th January, 2014. She already had a list of locations to be discussed and would add to this the road from Dux Cross to Derrill, the road up to Borough Cross and the road from Littlebridge Meadows to Jewells Cross.

- 1103. PARISH HALL**
Cllr. Seymour-Smith informed the Meeting that a grant of £2K had been received from the Co-op and a further donation of £600 had also been received; the Hall had suffered a lightning strike; a meeting is scheduled for next week and an application for a grant is being made to CCD. Cllr. Seymour-Smith

asked if the Council would write a letter supporting the application and this was agreed. The PC agreed to contact Cllr. Parsons, requesting a grant and a letter of support.

1104. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received 20th December 2013 – 14th January 2014

1. TDC – Code of Conduct 2014
2. Bridgerule Early Years – how grant allocated by Bridgerule Council was spent
3. DCC – Lengthsman visit – 18th February
4. DCC – news roundup – **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
5. Rural Services weekly newsletter **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
6. DCC – Accommodation Strategy for Older People events
7. TDC – Parish Precept 2014/2015 (accompanying documents in file)
8. Rural Services weekly newsletter **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
9. Hls. Area Advisory Mtg – Agenda 13th January – Market Hall Holsworthy
10. DCC – changes to mobile library service **(does not affect Bridgerule)**
11. Community First – confirmation of bus shelter being added to insurance
12. Clerks & Councils direct – January issue
13. TDC – TAP Fund 2013/2014
14. Mrs. Luff – Primary School – re. moles
15. DCC – delay in Lengthsman’s visit due to severe weather

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors’ attention.

Correspondence Sent 19th December 2013 – 14th January 2014

1. M. Shadrick – confirming Cllr. James will be in touch regarding meeting re. bike rack
2. Community First – insurance re. bus shelter
3. DCC – locality grant feedback form re. bus shelter grant
4. Primary School - moles

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors’ attention.

1105. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Cllr. James reported that there seems to have been a break down/lack of communication with the Clinical Commissioning Group, who had been liaising with a working group set up by MCTi. The issue of possibly closing beds at Holsworthy Hospital has arisen and how health care is being run in Holsworthy. Cllr. James will keep the Council updated.

1106. CLERK’S REPORT

The PC apologised for not having explained, at the last Meeting, questionnaires (supplied by TDC) she had circulated to Cllrs. After explanation, it was agreed that the PC would write to TDC explaining that Bridgerule Parish Council felt it inappropriate that Councillors should complete the questionnaire and giving full support to the continuance of TDC’s office in Manor Offices, Holsworthy.

1107. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr. Johnson informed the Meeting of a problem with dog owners not picking up dog faeces in the open space at Southfields. The PC will contact the Environmental Protection Officer at TDC. She explained the lengthy process of banning dogs from any area.

1108. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signature Date