

# Bridgerule Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

**Present:**

Chairman: Cllr. K. James

Councillors: Cllrs. K. Chilton, K. Davey, G. Abbott, J. Medland, C. Seymour-Smith, J. Giles, J. McDougall and S. Sharp

In Attendance: Parish Clerk  
PCSO Harvey and Sgt. Channing  
County Cllr. B. Parsons

**472. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllr. Linney

**473. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

**474. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

**475. POLICE REPORT**

Sgt. Pennie Channing introduced herself. She reported that the crime rate for Bridgerule was very low; in the past 6 months there had been 8 reported crimes, involving 5 victims. PCSO Harvey said she was very pleased with the response to the activities programme planned for the village, and an initial programme of activities would commence on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. Cllr. Chilton enquired as to whether the speed watch project has progressed. PCSO Harvey explained that it had come to a halt but it was hoped to commence again in April. She also confirmed that no one had been arrested re. the recent stealing of heating oil. Cllr. James thanked the Officers for attending.

Sgt. Channing and PCSO Harvey left the meeting.

**476. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 had previously been circulated. Cllr. James proposed the Minutes be approved. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**477. MATTERS ARISING**

Item 459 – Cllr. James confirmed that Mrs. Orchard's property will be on the Agenda for the next Holsworthy Property Trust Meeting. He also confirmed that the contract with the Eastcotts had been signed and that no S106 money would come from that site.

Although a County Councillor's Report was not on the Agenda Cllr. James asked Cllr. Parsons if he had anything to report.

Cllr. James proposed suspending Standing Orders. This was seconded by Cllr. Davey and unanimously agreed. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. Parsons reported as follows:

DCC Highways are under tremendous pressure. However, he would urge anyone who, has suffered damage to a vehicle because of potholes, etc. to write to DCC for compensation. He gave figures regarding the amount Devon Highways received from Central Government in comparison to Cornwall and stated that in 2009 40,000 potholes had been dealt with and in 2010 this figure rose to 200,000. He also stated that it was imperative to keep ditches cleared. He asked Cllrs. not to blame the Officers dealing with situations.

Cllr. Parsons explained that as far as salt/gritting during bad weather was concerned, it was difficult to make this part of the 'Big Society', since it left anyone involved open to litigation. However, he felt Parish Councils should do their part and would hope that local parish councils will support his purchase of 6 salt/gritters; he felt that if they didn't the public would not be happy if this opportunity was turned down.

He reported that it is hoped that North Devon+ will be successful in staging the 'International Atlantic Watersports Championships'. This would bring a huge amount of money into the area.

Cllr. James thanked Cllr. Parsons for his report. Cllr. Parsons left the Meeting.

**478. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were presented for payment.

<b>BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN MARCH 2011</b>						
						-
<b>COUNCIL EXPENDITURE</b>						-
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
16.03.11	M. Fenner	438	£586.30	£586.30		Salary Jan - March 2011
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£586.30</b>	<b>£586.30</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>						
<u>Current Account</u>			<u>Reserve Account</u>			
Balance at 18 February 2011		2,135.14		£4,932.92		of which £832.98 is Parish Plan grant
				0.5		Interest March 10
				0.5		Interest June 10
				0.5		Interest September 10
				0.5		Interest December 10
				325.91		Transfer from C/A re. vat reclaim
	437		17.58	262.97		P. Plan transfer to C/A
Balance at 19th March 2011			£2,117.56	<b>£4,997.86</b>		At 19th Jan. 11 £570.01 P. Plan Available to Council as Reserves
				<b>£4,427.85</b>		

Cllr. McDougall proposed the payment be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Chilton and unanimously agreed. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**479. TO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PAYE SCHEME IN LIGHT OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS**

The Clerk explained HM Revenue & Customs directive, which stated that Parish Clerks could no longer be self-employed and that parish councils must register for PAYE. She will be attending a course in Exeter run by HMRC and has registered Bridgerule Parish Council for PAYE. The Clerk explained that certain expenses, such as stationery, will now have to come out of the Council's Budget; a figure for such things had not been allowed for in the Budget for 2011/2012 since HMRC had not informed DALC (Devon Association of Local Councils) until February of this year.

**480. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR. ABBOTT RE. THE POSSIBILITY OF BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL PURCHASING LAND TO EXTEND THE PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL PITCH**

After a short discussion, Cllr. James proposed that the Parish Clerk be instructed to write to Mr. Hale, Lodgeworthy, indicating that Bridgerule Parish Council would like to improve the playing facilities by extending the playing field and that Cllrs. Abbott and Giles will act as the Council's representatives in any discussion which might take place and will report back to the Council accordingly. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**481. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR. JAMES ON THE EXTENSION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RIVER BANK WALK ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE RIVER**

After a short discussion, Cllr. James proposed that the Parish Clerk be instructed to write to Mr. Hale, Lodgeworthy, indicating that Bridgerule Parish Council would like to extend and maintain the land along

the riverbank (left hand side of the river) and to enter into a Lease Agreement with Mr. Hale. Cllrs. Abbott and Giles will act as the Council's representatives in any discussion which might take place and will report back to the Council accordingly. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**482. TO DISCUSS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING FIELD**

This item was requested by Cllr. Giles). Cllr. Giles explained what he felt what work was required. Cllr. James proposed that Cllr. Giles be instructed to obtain quotations for fencing; for digger and pipe for water; for sand and spiking the playing field. Cllr. Abbott seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**483. PLANNING**

There were no applications.

**484. HIGHWAYS**

Various locations regarding potholes were identified including the road to Newacott Cross and Southlands to Glebe House. The Clerk will report these to DCC Highways.

**485. PARISH HALL**

Cllr. Seymour-Smith gave a brief report; a meeting had been held in February and various ideas regarding the location of a new hall on the old site were discussed. Members of the Committee will be going to various villages including Ashwater and Bradford to look at their halls. He reiterated that it is important to decide what is wanted before any concrete plans can be made. Cllr. James reiterated that the Parish Plan was aimed at collecting the views of residents and was not a basis for making decisions.

**486. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence Received 16<sup>th</sup> February – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

1. DCC – February newsletter
2. DALC – community right to buy – localism bill possibilities
3. DALC – community right to challenge - councils taking over local services
4. C. Neep – School and meeting place
5. Cllr. S-Smith – poster re. activities
6. DALC – HM Revenue & Customs employment status of Clerks
7. Ruby country newsletter – Feb
8. DALC – newsletter March/april
9. Audit Commission – appointment of Auditor
10. DCC Minerals Core Strategy – consultation paper
11. CCD – village green newsletter **copy available if required**
12. Clerks & Councils Direct – newsletter
13. DALC – PAYE training – Exeter – 14<sup>th</sup> April
14. DCC – Local bus and fare car services – **(forwarded to all Cllrs.)**
15. MCTi – Minutes of 16 November Meeting **(KJ)**
16. C. Peacock – Solar energy – accepting invite to speak to Council
17. TDC – Revised Local List public consultation – **planning code of practice**
18. HM Revenue & Customs – employer pack **(in file)**
19. TDC – PAYE – offer to do payroll for a fee.
20. G. Keen – Dept. Transport re. signs for local pavement parking ban
21. A. Chubb Holsworthy Post – article on village **(see sent)**
22. DCC – monthly newsletter
23. Holsworthy Area Advisory Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.30

The highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention

Item 15 – the Clerk will provide Cllr. Abbott with contact details of Mr. Martin Prentice of Hesco.

Item 21 – Cllr. Seymour-Smith would provide Ms. Chubb with a photo and other information.

**Correspondence Sent 16<sup>th</sup> February – 16<sup>th</sup> March**

1. C. Neep – asking for confirmation re. holding meetings in School
2. Article for The Post

3. S. Cholwill- details for Buckingham Palace nomination
4. Poster/list for shop and pub re. active villages
5. L. Andrews – Planning Officer – re Solar Application
6. Wessex Solar Energy – re planning application
7. Cllr. James – re Inland Revenue and Clerks' Status/PAYE
8. Cllr. S-Smith re. activities poster
9. B. Pedrick – Highways – potholes
10. J. Jarroudi – activities
11. S. Cholwill, chaser re. nomination (on computer)
12. C. Casswell – Animal Warden TDC – dog fouling Southfields/Bus Stop area.
13. A. Johnstone – neighbourhood watch co-ordinator – dog fouling/election
14. C. Peacock – confirming her attendance at meeting – various
15. Derek Hilleard – invite to Meeting re. solar
16. G. Keen – reply to e-mail re. signs to indicate parking ban
17. A. Chubb – Post - article

The highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention

**487. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr. James confirmed that work is to commence on the 4 affordable homes; 2 two bed and 2 three bed for shared equity.

**488. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported as follows:

- She circulated nomination forms re. the election to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May.
- The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> April preceding the normal Council Meeting.
- She informed Cllrs. that she had received a letter from a local company asking the Council to support it by putting up posters enclosed with the letter. She explained that a Council cannot endorse individual companies and will write to this company to explain this.
- She informed Cllrs. that Cllr. McDougall had taken and passed a First Aid Course and had received his certificate.

**489. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.**

There was no exchange of information.

**490. CLOSE**

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

Signature ..... Date .....