

Bridgerule Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th February, 2009 at 8:00pm in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. K. James

Councillors: Cllrs G. Cooper, G. Abbot, J. Stoneman, Chilton, Giles, Davey and C. Seymour-Smith

In Attendance : Parish Clerk

PCSO Beverley Harvey

Member of the Public: Mr. J. MacDougall (Neighbourhood Watch)

68. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies

69. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose

70. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr. McDougall was present. He queried the fact that the Parochial Church Meeting would take place on 18th March, 2009 and the fact that this was the same date as the next Council Meeting. He asked whether the date of the Council Meeting should be altered. Cllr. James explained that as no Councillors were involved with the Church Meeting it would not be necessary to alter the date of the Council Meeting.

71. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Beverley Harvey reported that since January there had been one offence of Theft; a water drinking trough situated in a field. There had been reports of youths smoking and drinking in the bus shelter; the youths had not been apparent when the Police had patrolled. It would seem that if the youths are over 18 no offence had been committed anyway. PCSO Harvey also told the Meeting that a target in Bailey Gardens had been targeted on a number of occasions; paint had been thrown on it and a panel had been damaged. She said that the Police would be attending the School in March to talk to the children about road safety; a DVD would be shown. PCSO Harvey apologised, in advance, as she would be unable to attend the next Council Meeting on 18th March. She reminded Councillors that if they have any queries/concerns they can contact her on the direct line at Hols worthy Police Station.

72. ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF 21ST JANUARY, 2008

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January, 2009 were recommended for approval by the Chairman. Cllr. Abbott seconded the recommendation and this was unanimously agreed. (Vote 8. For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

73. MATTERS ARISING

Item 61 – The Clerk confirmed that the letter had been sent to Mr. Sorenson. A reply had not been received yet.

Item 63 – Cllr. James confirmed that a meeting had taken place which he had attended along with Mr. Orchard and Mrs. Maria Bailey, TDC's Community Development Officer. Mrs. Bailey was keen to see Bridgerule 'tidied up' and very supportive of the Empty Home Scheme whereby derelict buildings could be put to use for affordable housing. The Holsworthy Property Trust is very much involved. Cllr. James also informed the meeting that there is a scheme regarding flats over garages. There are several possible sites in Bridgerule which could come under this scheme, but he also commented that parking (for potential owners of such flats) could be a problem.

74. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

There were no payments to be made. However, Cllr. Abbott presented an account from Knowle Contractors Ltd. for the materials used to improve the car park outside the Village Hall. After discussion, it was agreed that this invoice should be met by the Parish Council. Cllr. James proposed that, as a temporary measure, the Council pay this invoice. The Parish Hall Committee would contribute £250 and Cllr. James would contribute, from his grant allocation as a District Councillor, £250 as soon as possible. This would leave an amount of £777.65 coming from the Council's budget. Cllr. Stoneman seconded this proposal which was unanimously carried. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). The Parish Clerk pointed out that a transfer of money from the Reserve Account to the Current Account would be necessary to meet the amount of the invoice. Cllr. James proposed the transfer of £1300.00 be made from the Reserve Account to the Current Account. Cllr. Stoneman seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

75. PLANNING

No Planning Applications had been received, although the Clerk had received notification, from TDC, of a proposed application listed. Cllr. James said he was aware of this and assumed the paperwork would be imminent. A Permission, 1/1245/2008/FUL – rebuild of existing garage – The Briars, Merrifield, had been granted.

The Clerk informed the Meeting that Mrs. Cindy Neep, representative of the Bridgerule Primary School Board of Governors, would like to speak to the Meeting. The Clerk pointed out that as this had not been on the Agenda for the Meeting, no decision could be taken at this Meeting. This would be placed on the Agenda for the Council Meeting on 18th March, 2009.

Mrs. Neep presented plans, to the Meeting, for a ramp to be built at the school. A disability study had taken place which indicated a ramp was necessary. As a Pre-School facility was envisaged the ramp would also be beneficial for pushchairs. Cllr. James suggested a Site Meeting take place on Saturday, 21st March at 11.00 a.m. He informed Mrs. Neep that a decision would take place at the next Council Meeting on 18th March, 2009.

76. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. Stoneman reported that he was concerned about the condition of the road from the Sanctuary up to Newacott Cross; it is in a dangerous condition. Cllr. Abbott said Chapel Hill could also be a potential problem. The Clerk said she would contact Mr. Dawe, DCC Highways. She would also speak to Mr. Banting/Mr. Pedrick who has yet to contact Cllr. Stoneman about a meeting to discuss all highway concerns in and around Bridgerule.

77. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received – January – February 09 (from 29.01.09 – 18.02.09)

1. TDC – Credit Crunch Forum (received after event took place!)
2. TDC – Consultation Draft Methology Stakeholder Panel 29th Jan – 11th March
3. TDC – Bridgerule no election but co-opt
4. G. Cox MP – Surgery Dates (**posted in Village Shop**)
5. Monthly update of Electoral Register
6. TTVS (Council for voluntary Service in Torridge) – January edition
7. TDC – Boundary Committee Review 15th July not 13th Feb
8. Safer North Devon – leaflets (**in Village Shop**)
9. Ruby Country – invite Art Exhibition (**e-mailed to Councillors**)
10. North Tamar Community Transport – explaining service and posters and leaflets
11. TDC – Sustainable Communities Toolkit Workshop 26th February
12. Devon Community recycling Newsletter
13. Community First – Insurance acknowledgment of change in Parish Clerk

Correspondence Sent – January – February (to 18th Feb)

1. Bus Stop Data Update
2. Mr. Sorenson DCC – Littlebridge Section 38 Adoption
3. NatWest Bank – returning signed Mandate
4. RoSPA – annual inspection – e-mail to check this is automatic process and changing details to M. Fenner – confirmed
5. Community First – Zurich Insurance – changing details to M. Fenner
6. RoSPA – Annual Inspection (April)

The Clerk went through the list, drawing particular attention to the highlighted items.

Cllr. James explained Item 2 of Received.

Item 9 – Cllr. James commented that it is imperative Ruby Country be supported in all aspects of its work.

78. PARISH PLAN

The Clerk confirmed the next meeting would take place on 6th April, 2009. Cllr. James reminded Cllrs. that if they are sitting on the Steering Group, they are not representing the Council. If matters arose in meetings of the Steering Group in which Cllrs. felt they may have conflicting interests, they must declare this to the Meeting. However, he felt that to keep the momentum of the Parish Plan alive, it was imperative that as many people as possible serve on the Steering Group and commented that, as in all communities, it is usual that the same people get involved in schemes and give of their time, whilst others take a back seat.

79. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr. James had nothing to report.

80. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as follows:

- North Tamar Community Transport had sent posters and leaflets advertising their services. These are available in the Village Shop
- NatWest had confirmed that the Bank Mandate was now all in order.
- Freedom of Information Act (FOI) – this has to be implemented by all Councils. The Clerk is preparing this specifically for Bridgerule Parish Council and will circulate a draft to all Cllrs. before the next Meeting. It will be placed on the Agenda for the Council Meeting in March
- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – because of the FOI Act she will also be reviewing the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Council.

81. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr. Chilton informed the Meeting that there is to be an Auction on 12th March for the sale of the SWW tank at the reservoir.

Cllr. Stoneman had received a revised quotation for the grass cutting, which he handed to the Clerk. She is obtaining and contacting two further contractors. She will ask them to contact Cllr. Stoneman who will give them the same specification for quoting for grass cutting.

Cllr. Cooper raised the subject of repeated dog fouling. Cllr. James suggested that a permanent gate could be erected and a price will be obtained.

Cllr. Cooper asked whether Creative Play, the company who installed the playground equipment, would also be inspecting it (papers passed to the Clerk detailing price, etc. last year). The Clerk explained that the playground and equipment will continue to have an annual inspection by RoSPA. Cllr. James commented that perhaps this should continue for 2 years, with a view to Creative Play also being considered.

Cllr. Chilton enquired as to the progress of the cycleway and whether it would reach Pyworthy.

Cllr. James explained that the completion of the cycleway from Hatherleigh to the Coles Mill Viaduct would be underway, now that funds had been allocated by TDC for this. It is hoped that the cycleway will continue to Pyworthy and Titson, but the timescale is not known.

82. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 18th March, 2008 at 8.00 p.m.

83. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

Signature

Date

