



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th July, 2012 at 8.00 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. K. James

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk (PC)

Members of the Public: Mr. & Mrs. Darwin

767. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Johnston had sent apologies. Cllr. Davey and Giles had sent apologies for possible lateness. PCSO Bray had sent apologies.

768. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

769. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

Mr. Darwin had questions regarding the Village Shop and the Chairman said that, as he would be reporting on this in his Chairman's Report (Item 14 of the Agenda) he would allow Mr. Darwin to speak then.

770. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Bray had sent her apologies and had provided the following written report, which the PC conveyed to Cllrs.:

'Andy & I visited Bridgerule School this morning to give class two a talk on a variety of subjects including safety regarding the river. When the Tamar was out a couple of weeks ago I came down to Bridgerule and children, I know, do what they do and see it as fun, but we stressed the importance of playing near the river and especially when it is flooded that it is very dangerous etc.

In September another visit is planned to introduce ourselves to the new children and so the others see us again. From September also I am hoping to start school speedwatch with the children from year 6. The school are really happy for this as it will mean that we are in and around the school more frequently.

Another volunteer is in the process of being signed up to speedwatch so we will have this running in Bridgerule within the next 5-6 weeks'.

771. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th June, 2012 had previously been circulated. Cllr. McDougall pointed out that Item 758, first paragraph, should readFull Council on 16th May The PC duly amended the Minutes. Cllr. James proposed the Minutes be approved. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. Davey arrived at 8.10 p.m.

772. MATTERS ARISING

Item 756 – Highways – The Clerk had written to Mr. Newcombe as instructed (and had also forwarded a copy of his letter to Mrs. Dymond, Acting Head, at the school and a copy of the Clerk's reply, asking for any comments Mrs. Dymond might have. Mr. Newcombe had replied (see item 13 of correspondence received; the Clerk sending a copy to Mrs. Dymond) stating that he would 'look at getting the school sign relocated as mentioned' and 'that I have noted the request for improved safety precautions although this will need to be prioritised alongside other schemes, we will continue looking at funding options for this'. A reply has not been received from Mrs. Dymond.

Item 756 – Highways – Street Lighting – The Clerk had written to Mr. Clarke as instructed. A discussion took place regarding the amount of time being spent (by many Councils/Councillors in Devon) on queries/complaints by Mr. Clarke.

Item 756 – Correspondence – Bus shelter request – The Clerk had replied to Mr. Fraser as instructed. No reply has been received.

Item 762 – Correspondence – Cllr. McDougall requested a copy of Item 8. The PC will pass a copy to him.

Although not part of Matters Arising, the Chairman allowed Cllr. Medland to enquire, of Cllr. Seymour-Smith, whether 'The Buzz' newsletter had a Committee which oversees the finances – Cllr. Medland had received several queries from residents regarding this. Cllr. Seymour-Smith said it did not, explaining that CCD (Community Council of Devon) had given permission for any residue from the Grant, for facilitating the Parish Plan, to go towards the publication of the newsletter. Cllr. Medland expressed his disquiet that there didn't appear to be an income and expenditure account available to the public and was concerned that the individuals involved in the running of the newsletter might be open to criticism, not only from members of the public but also from official bodies (i.e. the Inland Revenue). After a short discussion, Cllr. James suggested, to Cllr. Seymour-Smith, that it would be beneficial for the newsletter to have a set of accounts available.

773. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were presented for payment:

BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN JULY							
2012							
							-
COUNCIL EXPENDITURE							-
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason	
18.07.12	M. Fenner	485	£156.43	£156.43		Salary - July	
TOTAL			£156.43	£156.43	£0.00		
Bank Accounts							
<u>Current Account</u>				<u>Reserve Account</u>			
Balance at 19 May		5227.56		£5,000.35			
		£5,227.56					
25-Jun-12	Transfer to Reserve Account		£2,000.00	£2,000.00		Transfer from Current Account	
	480		£75.60				
	481		£156.43				
	482		£54.00				
		£2,286.03					
				£7,000.35		Available to Council as Reserves	
Balance at 19 May		£2,941.53				£70 being residue of Parish Plan	

Paid into Current Account re. Bridgerule Playingfield Project

Pennon Group PLC	£250
Viscount Amory's Charitable Trust	£500

Donation from District Cllr. James £750

The Clerk brought to Councillors' attention payments made into the current account regarding the Playingfield Project, which will be discussed under Item 9 of the Agenda.

Cllr. McDougall proposed the payment be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Seymour-Smith and unanimously agreed. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

774. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR. ABBOTT ON FUND RAISING FOR THE PLAYINGFIELD PROJECT

Cllr. Abbott reported that three donations had been received, (total £1500) following letters he had sent out. He said that the PC had sent out a further 8 letters requesting donations. Once the separate bank account (see Item 775 below) had been set up the £1500 would be transferred from the Council's current account to the Project account. At that time, he would be requesting that the £2,000, held in the Council's reserve account, agreed by the Council for the Project, be transferred to the Project account. The PC confirmed that she would be meeting with County Cllr. Parsons to give him details to enable him to make a donation to the Project.

Cllr. Abbott brought to the Council's attention the fact that the mower (purchased by the Football Club with money donated by the Council) needs essential repairs. He offered to carry out the repairs free of charge, but requested permission to purchase the necessary parts from the playingfield maintenance budget. Cllr. James proposed that Cllr. Abbott be instructed to purchase parts to enable the repair of the mower, the money to come from the playingfield maintenance budget. Cllr Davey seconded the proposal. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

775. TO AGREE THE OPENING OF A RESERVE ACCOUNT WITH NATWEST RE. BRIDGEULE COUNCIL'S PLAYINGFIELD PROJECT AND THE AMENDMENT OF THE CURRENT BANK MANDATE IN RELATION TO THE NEW ACCOUNT

The PC explained that it would be advisable to open a separate reserve account for the Playingfield Project; keeping monies received totally separate from the current and reserve accounts already set up. She has prepared the necessary application form and mandate form. Cllr. James proposed that Bridgerule Parish Council opens, with Natwest, a Reserve Account named 'Bridgerule Playingfield Project' and that the necessary Bank Mandate be completed and signed by the authorised signatories. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). The four authorised signatories signed the mandate form and the Chairman and Parish Clerk signed the application form.

776. PLANNING

The following applications had been received:

1/0473/2012/FUL	Construction of new dwelling (re-design to approve scheme
Site at Canal Rise	1/0346/2008/FUL)
Bridgerule	

After discussion, Cllr. James proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1/0430/2012/FUL	Erection of an agricultural building to cover existing cattle gathering/
Highlands	feeding area
Bridgerule	

After discussion, Cllr. James proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

777. HIGHWAYS

The PC informed the Meeting that she had reported, via DCC's website, dangerous potholes (near Bridge Park, at the 30mph sign at Southfields to Borough Cross and near Holladon Farm). She agreed to report further pothole problems from Newacott Cross towards Merrifield and also the condition of the road surface from Jewells Cross to Littlebridge Meadows.

778. PARISH HALL

Cllr. Seymour-Smith reported that there is not much activity at the moment. He hopes to attend, with Mr. Chris Hutchings, a meeting in Okehampton regarding grants.

779. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received 20th June - 17th July

1. M. Newcombe – Road safety and school
2. DALC – Code of Conduct
3. Connecting Devon/Somerset Broadband – newsletter (**all cllrs. circulated**)
4. Torridge Connect – Summer edition
5. **K. Miles – Register of Interests**
6. S. May – Planning Officer TDC – confirmation that application can wait until 18 July
7. Rural Services – weekly newsletter – (**circulated to Cllrs**)
8. Cllr. Parsons – re. sharing information from Parish Clerk with County Solicitor
9. **A. Heathwood – circular to all Chairs re complaint withdrawal of roads from primary gritting network 2011 (circulated to Cllr. James)**
10. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)
11. Cllr. Parsons – Maurizio D’alesio’s comments on street lighting letters.
12. Rural Services – opportunities bulletin (**circulated to Cllrs**)
13. **M. Newcombe – reply to item 1 of sent re. school road safety**
14. TDC – Electoral Register update (in file)
15. Cllr. Parsons – response to item 14 of sent re. resident and street lighting
16. Rural Services - weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)
17. K. Miles – Register of interest forms (**circulated to Cllrs**)
18. TDC – Holsworthy Advisory Group Agenda – 16th July (**circulated to Cllrs**)

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors’ attention.

Item 13 – had been dealt with under matters arising, but Cllr. James informed the Meeting that the reduction of speed limits on country roads, in general, is being looked at.

Correspondence Sent – 20th June – 17th July

1. Natwest – transfer of money see June Minutes (**in bank file**)
2. J. Dymond – School – copy letters M.Newcombe and reply
3. M. Newcombe – school road safety
4. M. Fraser – bus shelter
5. R, Clarke – street lighting
6. **K. Miles – register of interests – to Monitoring Officer**
7. All Cllrs – register of interests
8. Cllr. S-Smith – possible funding for updating Hall
9. **Cllr. Parsons – concerns re. harassment to P. Clerk/Cllrs.**
10. **Cllr. James – re playing field project and donation etc.**
11. **Cllr. Parsons – re playing field project and donation**
12. Cllr. Parsons – re. street lighting
13. Ms. Mills – Pennon Group – donation re. Playingfield (sent to Cllr. Abbott)
14. **Cllr. Parsons – street lighting (final communication as far as PC concerned)**
15. Mrs. Dymond – School – forwarding M. Newcombe’s e-mail and letter

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors’ attention.

780. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Cllr. James reported on discussions/e-mails he has had with Mr. Marsh regarding the proposed plans for the cottages and shop. Cllr. James understood plans have been submitted to TDC, but he has not had sight of them, and he gave a brief description of what, he believed, the plans were. Mr. Darwin explained that the tenants of the shop, Mr. & Mrs. Pearce had spoken to him about the proposed layout of the shop and concerns they have. Cllr. James stressed the importance of keeping both the shop and Post Office open. However, he also stressed that structural repairs are essential and to undertake these, the shop will have to be closed for a short period. Cllr. James confirmed that he would be having further discussions with Mr. Marsh and would also be chasing TDC’s Planning Department.

As he had previously reported (June Minutes Item 763), Cllr. James confirmed that two of the houses at Canal Rise had been sold and the other two are in the process of sales being completed.

781. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk confirmed that all Register of Interest forms she had received would be forwarded to Mr. Ken Miles at TDC. These would be placed on TDC's website and also the Bridgerule website. Any Councillor who has not completed a form (which has to be with TDC by 28th July) will be contacted by Mr. Miles. She confirmed that the only forms she had not received were from Cllrs. James, Giles and Sharp.

At this point Cllr. Sharp explained, with deep regret, that due to other commitments he would be resigning as a Councillor. However, he offered to help the Council in any way he could, and would like to continue as Snow Warden and to assist with Emergency Planning. Cllr. James expressed his regret that Cllr. Sharp would not be continuing as a Councillor and thanked him for his excellent work on the Emergency Planning and said the Council would be delighted if he continued as the Snow Warden. He reminded Cllr. Sharp that his resignation must be received in writing as soon as possible. The PC explained that once she had received Cllr. Sharp's written resignation, she would forward it to the Electoral Officer at TDC, who would put in motion the election process, which may lead to the Council having to go to co-option.

Cllr. Giles arrived at 9.00 p.m.

She had received a request from Mr. R. Glover, who cuts the grass at the bus stop, to cut back the bramble hedge at that location. She explained the budget in relationship to this item. After discussion, the PC was instructed to write to Mr. Glover explaining that the Council did not believe it was necessary to cut the hedge, and pointing out that, should his invoice for grass/hedge cutting exceed £175 for the year 2012/2013, the Council would not be paying the excess.

782. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr. McDougall informed the Meeting that ex-Cllr. Ken Chilton had asked if the Council could do anything about the bad weather.

Cllr. Seymour-Smith had received a complaint from a resident that children playing on the playingfield/football pitch had been asked to leave. He enquired if children are allowed to play at the location. Cllr. Giles informed him that they are, but there had been incidents where football equipment (i.e. posts) had been damaged. Cllr. James suggested that Cllr. Seymour-Smith inform the resident that children are allowed to play on the playingfield/football pitch, but would be asked to leave if damage was being caused.

Cllr. Giles asked if the Football Club would be allowed to place some sort of lock up storage near the changing rooms. After discussion, Cllr. James suggested that the Club looks at what it may want and he undertook to find out from TDC whether any planning permission (dependent on the sort of storage unit the Club required) would be necessary.

783. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signature Date