

Bridgerule Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th August, 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in
Bridgerule Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. K. Davey
Councillors: Cllrs G. Cooper, K. Chilton, J. Giles, J. McDougall. G. Abbott and C. Seymour-Smith

In Attendance : Parish Clerk

180. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. James, Stoneman and Linney

181. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose

182. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

183. POLICE REPORT

A representative of the Police was not present at this point in the Meeting. Cllr. McDougall reported that some of the village hall windows had been broken. The Police had been highly visible in Bridgerule, making enquiries into this. It is thought to be children. He reported that a resident of Bridgerule had volunteered to take part in using the speed gun and the Police would be making the necessary CRB check; Cllr. McDougall will be endeavouring to find more volunteers.

184. ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF 15th July, 2009

Cllr. McDougall pointed out the misspelling of his name in the Minutes and this will be amended. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July, 2009 were recommended for approval by the Chairman. Cllr. Cooper seconded the recommendation and this was unanimously agreed. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

185. MATTERS ARISING

Item 169 – The Parish Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to PCSO Harvey regarding the trailer parking in the village hall car park. PCSO Harvey was making enquiries about this.

Item 171 – Cllr. McDougall asked the Clerk to confirm that ‘1 x 3 affordable and 1 x 4 bed’ meant one three bedroom house and one 4 bedroom house. The Clerk confirmed this.

186. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN AUGUST 2009

| <u>COUNCIL EXPENDITURE</u> | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|------------------|------------------|---------------|--|
| Date | Pay To | Voucher | Gross | Net | VAT | Reason |
| 19.08.09 | Audit Comm. | 402 | £155.25 | £135.00 | £20.25 | 2009 Audit Fee |
| 19.08.09 | G. Cooper | 403 | £21.95 | £19.09 | £2.86 | (Bude DIY) Materials for gate at Southfields |
| 19.08.09 | B. Williams | 404 | £910.00 | £910.00 | | Grass cutting - f'ball pitch/village hall/ riverside/paddock |
| TOTAL | | | £1,087.20 | £1,064.09 | £23.11 | |
| <u>COUNCIL RECEIPTS</u> | | | | | | |
| Date | Paid By | | Gross | Net | | Reason |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |

Bank Accounts

Current Account

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Balance at 15th July 09 | 2,661.29 | |
| <u>Payments</u> | | |
| 399 | | £25.72 |
| 400 | | £14.80 |
| - | 401 | £83.18 |
| - | | <u>£123.70</u> |
| - | | |
| - | | |
| <u>Receipts</u> | | |
| Balance at 15th July 09 | £2,537.59 | |

Reserve Account

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| £5,072.63 | Parish Plan: £2,241.57 |
| 0.5 | Interest - June |
| <u>Receipts</u> | |
| £5,073.13 | Parish Plan: £2,241.57 |

The Parish Clerk presented the accounts. Cllr. Davey proposed that all accounts presented should be paid. Cllr. Abbott seconded the proposal, which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstention).

187. TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF A MACHINE WITH REGARD TO GRASS CUTTING

The Clerk explained that Mr. Williams had presented his invoice for grass cutting carried out to date (see Item 186). She explained that, in accordance with the Council's letter to Mr. Williams dated 20th March 2009, this would leave 1 cut of the Football Field, 5 cuts re. the Village Hall grounds and 3 cuts re. the Riverside and Paddock to be carried out in this financial year. If further cuts were deemed necessary this would mean an overspend on the budget for grass cutting.

PCSO Harvey arrived at 7.25 p.m.

Cllr. Giles declared a personal interest. Cllr. Giles explained that he had been pursuing funding, by the Football Club, for the purchase of a machine to cut the grass. He explained that if the Football Club could raise money via a contribution from Cllr. James (in his capacity as a District Councillor) and a contribution from the Parish Council, it was likely a grant of £1,000 would be awarded to the Football Club. To this end, the Football Club would be writing to both Cllr. James and the Parish Council asking for a contribution of £350 each. The Club would still be £250 short. The Clerk asked Cllr. Giles if one further cut of the Football Field would be adequate. He said it would not. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the possibility of the Football Club (if successful in purchasing a machine) aiding the Council with grass cutting in the year 2010/2011. The Clerk suggested that a request to the School could be made, requesting a contribution to the cost of cutting the field, which the School uses periodically. The Clerk explained that to prepare an accurate Council Budget for 2010/2011 she required the number of cuts of the Football Field, Village Hall and Riverside/Paddock envisaged for that year, and asked if Cllrs. would let her know their thoughts on this. The involvement of the Football Club was an issue that would be placed on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting, as this could have a bearing on the grass cutting costs.

After further discussion, Cllr. Abbott proposed that the Clerk be instructed to write to Mr. Williams asking him to cut the Football Field a further 4 times (making a total of 5 cuts at £50 per cut) in this financial year. Cllr. Chilton seconded the Proposal which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. Davey (Chairman) explained to PCSO Harvey that Cllr. McDougall had given a brief report on Police activity. PCSO Harvey confirmed that she and a colleague had made enquiries about the broken windows which, although there was no evidence, had probably been done by children. She said she felt that the very visible presence of the Police would have the desired effect and hoped incidents like this would not occur again. She reiterated Cllr. McDougall's report on the speed gun; and also confirmed that she had spoken to the owner of the trailer (parking in the car park), explaining to him possible action the Council could take. This again appears to have had the desired effect and the trailer has not been in the car park since. The Council expressed its thanks to PCSO Harvey for the work she had undertaken.

188. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR. JAMES ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF MR. ORCHARD'S PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE POST OFFICE.

Although Cllr. James was not present, he had conveyed to Cllr. Davey that at the moment he did not have an update.

189. TO DISCUSS THE RECENT DAMAGE TO WINDOWS AT THE PARISH HALL AND DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION

It was agreed that this subject had been covered by PCSO Harvey.

**190. PLANNING
Applications**

None received

Permissions

1/0610/2009/FUL Proposed Straw barn & general purpose agricultural building
Nortons
Bridgerule

1/0502/2009/FUL Change of use of land to rear from agricultural use to garden area
Roseville Cottage
Bridgerule

DCC

EN/DCC/2842/2009 Erection of canopy on north elevation classrooms to provide covered
Bridgerule Primary area for the use of early years children
School
EX22 7EN

TDC

Reply to query re affordable house last month :

1/0573/2009/FUL 1 x 3 affordable and 1 x 4 bed open market and play area
Plot 26
Littlebridge Meadows
Bridgerule

The Clerk read out a letter received from TDC regarding this, confirming that the affordable house is the 3 bedroom one on plot 1. The letter confirmed that should the Council (TDC) grant planning permission the provision for the affordable house would be controlled through a Section 106 Planning Obligation, that would require the affordable house to be completed ready for occupation before the completion of the open market house. In reality, the Office concerned felt that both houses would likely be completed more or less at the same time as they are a pair of semi-detached dwellings. The Planning Obligation would also secure the affordable house into perpetuity.

1/0346/2008/FUL Erection of 8 dwellings at little Bridge Farm comprising 4 open market
Little Bridge Farm houses comprising 4 open market houses and 4 affordable houses for
Bridgerule shared ownership (meeting held on 23rd July).

As Cllr. James was not in attendance at the Council Meeting, no feedback from the meeting of the 23rd July was available.

191. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. McDougall informed the Meeting that he had telephone Highways on 5th August, regarding potholes previously reported; on 7th August two potholes had been repaired. However, there are still a number of pot holes requiring attention. Cllr. Seymour-Smith asked if the kerb at the Post Office had been repaired. It had not. He also reported damage to the kerb by the bridge. Cllr. McDougall said this was on the Chapel side of the bridge and upstream of the Chapel end. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform DCC Highways' Department, stating that both these sites are very dangerous. Cllr. Seymour-Smith would provide the Clerk with photos to accompany her request for action to be taken.

192. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received – 16th July – 19th August 2009

1. NHS Devon Partnership – Mental Health/becoming a Member of Trust
2. DCC – 20mph zones and limits
3. TDC – Plot 26 Littlebridge Meadows open space/play area (e-mailed Cllr. James)
4. TDC – agenda Holsworthy Area Advisory Group 27th July
5. C. Neep – reply re ramp and rats. (e-mailed to Cllrs)
6. TDC – Empty Houses in Torridge Parishes – form to complete
7. Torridge View Community Mag.
8. Police – Safer North Devon – poster ‘rat on rat’
9. DCC – road closure (carnival)
10. TDC – register of electors update
11. Devon NHS – Swine flu
12. TTVS – AGM 3rd September

The Clerk brought the highlighted items to the attention of the Meeting.

Item 3 – This will be placed on the Agenda for the September Council Meeting.

Item 5 – A letter to the School re. Licence to Use will be prepared and sent in September

Item 6 – The Clerk will contact Mr. Bull explaining that Mrs. Maria Bailey has full details of empty houses in Bridgerule and perhaps he could liaise with her.

Correspondence Sent – 16th July – 19th August

1. C. Neep – School ramp and rats
2. B. Williams – extra grass cutting & invoice

193. PARISH PLAN

Cllr. Seymour-Smith reported that a meeting had taken place on 6th August. He had just received a copy of the questionnaire which will be circulated. Circulation is planned to commence on 14th September; volunteers will speak to householders, offering any help needed to complete the form. Completed questionnaires will be entirely anonymous.

194. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A report was not available.

195. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as follows:

- The Audit Commission had ‘signed off’ the Annual Return; suggesting that all Fixed Assets be included in future years. The Clerk will be investigating the Council’s Fixed Assets and Cllr. Abbott proposed that the Clerk should obtain all Deeds held at Peter Peter and Wright to ascertain whether or not land held by the Council should be valued. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).
- As the Clerk has recently moved, a change of address form is required to be signed by both the Clerk and a Council signatory to enable the Bank to send correspondence to the new address. Cllr. Abbott signed the form.
- The Clerk summarised an e-mail she had received from Cllr. Chilton regarding the preparation of the Budget for 2010/2011; the Precept and queries he had. A lengthy discussion took place regarding aspects of the Budget (current and future).
- Geoffrey Cox MP will be holding a ‘surgery’ in the village hall car park on Tuesday 8th September 4-5 p.m.

196. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

There was no exchange of information

197. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Meeting will held on Wednesday, 16th September 2009 at 8.00 p.m.

198. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Signature

Date