



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20th March 2013 at 8.00 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. K. James

Councillors: Cllrs. J. McDougall, C. Seymour-Smith, J. Medland, G. Abbott, K. Elliot, P. Haydon, J. Giles and A. Johnston

In Attendance: Parish Clerk (PC)
County Cllr. Barry Parsons

908. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Davey had sent apologies.

909. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

910. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present

911. POLICE REPORT

PCSP Bray was not in attendance and a report had not been received.

912. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cllr. James proposed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th February 2013 be approved. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). Cllr. James duly signed the Minutes

913. MATTERS ARISING

Item 895 – Road Safety Lessons – The PC read out a letter received from Mrs. Dymond, Head teacher, who confirmed that road safety is part of on-going learning at the School.

Item 898 (previously 882) – Cllr. Parsons' Grant for Bus Shelter – The PC reported that in a conversation with Cllr. Parsons he had indicated that money was running out and it was unlikely that this particular grant would be forthcoming. She expressed her concern that she had heard nothing regarding the Playing Field Project Grant, although signed and submitted by him in October 2012, he said he would chase this up. The PC has sent several e-mails (see correspondence received), and Cllr. Parsons indicated, in a further 'phone call, that it was unlikely that Bridgerule would receive either grant. The PC expressed her disquiet about this, particularly in relation to the Playing Field Project Grant.

Item 898 (previously 885) – Highways – DCC Salt for Gritter – The PC informed the Meeting that having e-mailed Simon Phillips to order the salt, he had asked for confirmation of the number of bags, saying that an order of '4 bags x 25kgs' would mean 160 bags. The PC had a discussion with Cllr. Abbott, who stores the salt, and agreed that this amount wasn't necessary and would be in no condition to use next winter. Having e-mailed Simon Phillips to cancel the order, he confirmed that as far as he is aware the Snow Warden Scheme would continue next year, meaning salt should still be free.

Item 900 –Highways – The PC confirmed she had reported the pothole and had also reported the condition of road surfaces from Burnards House to Holladon Farm and also Chapel Cross to the Church. No reply re. entire resurfacing, but certain potholes down the length of both locations have been filled.

Item 903 – Correspondence Received – Item 15 – Draft Local Plan – The PC informed the Meeting that Cllr. James had prepared, consulting with herself, a brief response on behalf of Bridgerule Parish Council. This had been submitted to TDC and copies are available to Cllrs. Cllr. James informed the Meeting that paperwork should be received by the PC, within the next day or two, relating to the Local

Plan in relation to Bridgerule. The Council will be entitled to respond and the PC will liaise with Cllr. James once the deadline for a response is known.

Item 904 – TAP Fund – Cllr. James informed the Meeting that he was trying to speak to Malcolm Harris, TDC, and hopes to take this forward with him next week.

914. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were presented for payment:

BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN MARCH 2013						
-						
COUNCIL EXPENDITURE						
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
20.03.13	B. Williams	510	£650.00	£650.00		Grass Cutting
20.03.13	M. Fenner	511	£156.23	£156.23		Salary
20.3.13	HM Revenue & Customs	512	£117.40	£117.40		PAYE
	Total		<u>£923.63</u>	<u>£923.63</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	
Bank Accounts						
<u>Current Account</u>			<u>Reserve Account</u>			
Balance at 19th January		£2,012.22		£7,001.57		Balance at 19 Oct.
	506		£156.23	£0.72		Interest - Sept
				£0.72		Interest - Dec
			<u>£156.23</u>	<u>£7,003.01</u>		available to Council as Reserves £2000 earmarked for Playing field Project £70 being residue of Parish Plan
Balance at 19th February		£1,855.99				
-			<u>Playing Field Project Bonus Saver Account</u>			
				Balance at 19th October		£2,000.00
				quarterly bonus	£	0.10
				quarterly interest	£	4.19
				quarterly bonus	£	3.43
				Balance at 31 October		<u>£2,007.72</u>

Cllr. James proposed the accounts be approved for payment. Cllr. Abbott seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstentions).

The PC confirmed that a VAT reclaim had been received into the Reserve Account amounting to £426.50. Her calculations show that at 31st March, 2013 the balance in the Current Account would amount to £205. The first instalment of the precept amounting to £3947.50 (less the subscription to DALC) would be received into the Current Account in April.

Cllr. James referred to the unsuccessful application for a Grant regarding the purchase of materials to build the Bus Shelter (See Item 913 above). After discussion, Cllr. James proposed that an amount of

£400 be transferred from the Reserve Account to the Current Account to enable the construction of the bus shelter to go ahead in the coming financial year. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). The PC will prepare a letter authorising the transfer, to be signed at the Meeting of the Full Council in April.

Cllr. Parsons arrived at 8.25 p.m.

The PC informed the Meeting that just before the Meeting she had received an e-mail from TDC explaining that Council Tax bills recently received by residents in several parishes are incorrect. A press release is being issued, by TDC, explaining that the annual bills are between £2 and £5 more than they should be and correct bills will be issued as soon as possible. She asked Cllr. Parsons if he wished to make any comment. He said it would appear there are several possible reasons why the errors have occurred and a full internal investigation is taking place.

Although not an Agenda Item, Cllr. James asked Cllr. Parsons if he would like to address the Council.

Cllr. Parsons informed the Meeting that he could not apologise enough regarding the proposed Grants not being available. He had investigated and although he had personally delivered the applications they seemed to have 'disappeared' in DCC's offices. Cllr. James informed him that it had been decided to use Reserves to enable the Bus Shelter to go ahead. The PC asked if a new application (financial year 2013/2014) regarding the Playing Field Project could be submitted. Cllr. Parsons said that this could happen, and that if he is re-elected at the County Council Elections in May, the PC should re-issue the application for his signature.

Cllr. Parsons then informed the Meeting that he was "thrilled to bits" that the Agri-business project in Holsworthy is officially going ahead; many businesses, including Bicton College, are showing an interest in locating/using the agri-business centre. He believes that a combination of new businesses and Tesco's coming to Holsworthy will mean more people will gravitate to the centre of the town which will assist local retailers.

Cllr. Parsons then gave an update on DCC Highways; there is a £600M backlog in maintenance and there will be several "painful" years in relation to Highways Maintenance. However, there will be an increase in the number of lengthsman, monitoring of SW Highways will be undertaken and more work will be done on clearing ditches and gullies. Cllr. James asked what the correlation between compensation for damage to vehicles and the cost of repairing roads is. Cllr. Parsons said he believed it took less money to pay compensation than to repair the roads.

Cllr. Parsons went on to say that DCC would have to make "massive" savings; it has to find another £30M. He went on to say that it would be very quiet over the next few weeks, since the County Council Elections would be taking place on 2nd May.

Cllr. James thanked Cllr. Parsons for his report.

**915. PLANNING
Applications**

1/0121/2013/FUL Extensions & alterations to dwelling together with replacement of three rotten
Borough Cottage, windows
Bridgerule

Interest Declared: None

Recommendation: Cllr. James recommended the application be approved. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 for. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

1/0122/2013/LBC Extensions & alterations to dwelling together with replacement of three rotten
Borough Cottage, windows
Bridgerule

Interest Declared: None

Recommendation: Cllr. James recommended the application be approved. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 for. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

1/0123/2013/FUL
Borough Cottage,
Bridgerule

Erection of building to be used for overspill/ancillary accommodation

Interest Declared: None

Recommendation: Cllr. Johnston recommended the application be approved. Cllr. Abbott seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 for. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

1/0124/2013/LBC
Borough Cottage,
Bridgerule

Erection of building to be used for overspill/ancillary accommodation

Interest Declared: None

Recommendation: Cllr. Johnston recommended the application be approved. Cllr. Abbott seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 for. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

1/0533/2012/FUL
Site at Canal Rise,
Bridgerule

Erection of a dwelling –**Amended Plans**

Interest Declared: None

Recommendation: Cllr. James proposed that the application be approved, once clarification is received that the barn will be knocked down. Cllr. Giles seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions)

The following came in after distribution of the Agenda:

1/0153/2013/FUL
Serendipity
Bridgerule

Loft conversion to provide additional accommodation

Interest Declared: Cllr. Haydon

Recommendation: Cllr. McDougall recommended the application be approved. Cllr. Johnston seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions)

1/01899/2013/FUL
Uplands
Bridgerule

Enlargement of existing rear bathroom and habitable space

Interest Declared: Cllr. McDougall

Recommendation: Cllr. Seymour-Smith recommended the application be approved. Cllr. Johnston seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstention)

Permissions

1/1056/2012/FUL
Borough Farm
Bridgerule

Roof covering existing open yard

916. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. McDougall asked what the criteria is for restricting the width of traffic on a highway. The PC will contact DCC Highways for clarification

917. PARISH HALL

Cllr. Seymour-Smith circulated a new refurbishment plan for the Hall (**Appendix 1**). He reported that various types of work will be commencing shortly, including new windows and insulation. The work will take approximately 4 weeks, commencement date planned for the 5th May. He went on to say that it is possible planning permission will have to be applied for in relation to some of the proposed work. Cllr. Seymour-Smith said that it is possible a survey of the roof will take place to see if it could support solar panels. With the permission of the Chairman, Cllr. Parsons asked various questions; how much use does the Hall get, funding, the possibility of the Post Office being located in the refurbished Hall. Cllr. James updated Cllr. Parsons on the village shop/post office. Cllr. Seymour-Smith gave brief details of funding applied for; an 'interest free loan' in as much as the contractor, in relation to insulation work, has agreed to 50% payment this year and 50% payment next year and the help that CCD has given in relation to funding, etc.

Cllr. Parsons left the Meeting at 9.20 p.m.

918. TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT DEED IN RELATION TO BRIDGERULE VILLAGE HALL LIMITED, PREPARED BY MR. CLIVE SMALE

The draft Deed supplied by Mr. Smale had been circulated to Cllrs. on the 19th March to enable them to bring any questions they had to the Meeting. After discussion, Cllr. James proposed that the PC be instructed to forward the draft Deed to Mr. Ken Miles, Solicitor TDC, asking for his comments/advice on the contents of the Deed. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

919. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received 20th February – 19th March

1. Rural Services weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs. with internet access**)
2. TDC – Change of date re. Holsworthy Area Advisory Group from 22 April to 29 April
3. TDC – changes to cardboard recycling collection
4. HM Revenue & Customs – request for evidence of bank account re. VAT reclaim (copy of statement sent)
5. HM Revenue & Customs – RTI (Real Time Info) – changes to sending PAYE to HMRC/payment of such
6. Rural Services weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs. with internet access**)
7. TDC – Local Plan summary leaflet
8. S. Phillips – salt order (see item 9 of sent)
9. North Devon Council – Local Plan Rural areas
10. DALC – S137 limit for 2013/2014 now £6.98 per elector
11. DALC – membership renewal/3% increase etc.
12. Rural Services weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs. with internet access**)
13. Rural Services weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs. with internet access**)
14. J. Dymond – Headteacher – reply re. road safety lessons
15. C. Smale – answer to chaser and approx. fees
16. TDC – Notice of County Elections

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

Correspondence Sent – 20th February – 19th March

1. NatWest – authorising transfer from reserve to current account
2. HM Revenue & Customs – evidence of bank account (copy statement)
3. B. Williams – request for invoice
4. C. Smale – request for draft deed re. Hall/land
5. Mrs. Dymond – primary school re. road safety lessons
6. DCC – reporting road surfaces requiring attention – Burnards House to Holladon Farm
7. DCC – reporting road surfaces requiring attention – Holladon Farm to Chapel Cross
8. S. Phillips – requesting bags of salt
9. S. Phillips – cancelling order after liaising with Cllr. Abbott
10. Cllr. Parsons – re. grant applications (received inc)
11. D. Burgess/I Rowland TDC – response to draft local plan
12. Invitations to Annual Parish Meeting 17th April
13. C. Smale – chaser re. draft deed

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

920. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr. James gave details of School Sponsorship; that is it vital to promote the school; the amount of money that could be received if the school has over 40 pupils which could assist with physical training. He reiterated his views that he feels a sports hall is vital for Bridgerule. He also asked the PC to write to DCC asking that the street light at the entrance to Littlebridge Meadows is reinstated to all night lighting. Mr. Clarke has continued to be vociferous about this, and it was agreed to stop his continual complaining to Cllrs. this was the only course of action.

921. CLERK'S REPORT

The PC reminded Cllrs. that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 7.30 p.m. before the usual Council Meeting, on 17th April. She reported that Cllr. Seymour-Smith was waiting for confirmation that the Council could use the School for its May Meeting, when the Hall is scheduled to be closed.

922. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr. McDougall gave details of a meeting at Bounds Cross, he believed between Mr. & Mrs. Piercey and DCC Highways Officers. He believed the meeting was to discuss the damage caused by vehicles attending work at Bradford Manor Farm (not in Bridgerule Parish).

Cllr. McDougall said he believed Mr. Derek Hilleard would be standing as a County Councillor in the forthcoming County Election.

Cllr. McDougall reported that he believed there had been no problems when the recent Vintage Motor Rally had taken place.

Cllr. Giles brought to Cllrs' attention the work being carried out on the bank/grass near the bus stop at Littlebridge Meadows. The PC confirmed that this work had been authorised by the Council.

923. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signature Date