

Bridgerule Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20th April 2011 at 8.30 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. K. James

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk
County Cllr. B. Parsons
Members of the Public

The Annual Parish Meeting had finished early and therefore Cllr. James, the Chairman, proposed the Parish Council Meeting commence at 8.00 p.m. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). Cllr. Giles had not arrived at this point.

496. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllrs. Linney and Abbott had sent apologies.

497. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

498. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

Mr. Hallett asked the Council if it had any plans to keep youngsters in Bridgerule with regard to housing. Cllr. James explained how both he and Cllr. Parsons, as District Councillors, were trying hard to make Officers at TDC (particularly the Planning Department) understand the needs, with regarding to housing, of rural parishes such as Bridgerule. He reported that he had been actively involved with several residents over a period of time with regards to assisting in their applications for 'infill' housing. He suggested to Mr. Hallett that he talk to Cllr. Medland (or write to TDC regarding a local needs dwelling) who had experienced, successfully, the system. Mrs. Cholwill asked exactly what was affordable. Cllr. James explained the system of affordable housing.

A lengthy discussion took place around this subject.

Mrs. Haydon asked if anything could be done with regard to the land opposite Bridge Park which, she said, is in a disgusting state. Cllr. James said he believed the land belonged to a Mr. Martin and he would give some thought as to what the Council/TDC could do to get Mr. Martin to improve the site.

499. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Harvey had sent apologies.

500. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th March, 2011 had previously been circulated. Cllr. McDougall pointed out a typographical error in Item 475 in that it should be PCSO Harvey and not Sgt. The Clerk manually amended this. Cllr. James proposed the Minutes be approved. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

501. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

502. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were presented for payment.

<u>BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID</u>						
<u>IN APRIL 2011</u>						
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>COUNCIL EXPENDITURE</u>						
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
April	DALC		£145.40	£127.01	£18.39	Subscription paid direct from precept

20.04.11	D. J. Vaughan	440	£48.00	£40.00	£8.00	by TDC Prep. Of accounts & annual return
TOTAL			£193.40	£167.01	£26.39	
Bank Accounts						
<u>Current Account</u>				<u>Reserve Account</u>		
Balance at 18th March 2011		1,531.26	£4,997.86		0.49 Interest March 10	
439		<u>370.74</u>	<u>£4,998.35</u>		At 19th Jan. 11 £570.01 P. Plan	
Balance at 31st March 2010		1,160.52	<u>£4,428.34</u>		Available to Council as Reserves	

Cllr. James proposed the payment be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Chilton and unanimously agreed. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

503. TO RECEIVE AND AGREE THE INTERNAL ACCOUNTS, THE ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN AND THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT DETAILED IN THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/2011, PREPARED BY DAVID VAUGHAN ACCOUNTANTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

A copy of the accounts had been circulated to Councillors with the Agenda. Copies of the Annual Return and Governance Statement were circulated, to Councillors, at the Meeting. The Clerk explained that the subject had to, legally, be adjourned until the next Council Meeting; to enable Councillors to fully inspect the Accounts and Return. She requested that Councillors inform her, before the next Meeting, if they have any queries regarding anything detailed in either document.

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

As Cllr. Abbott was not present, Cllr. James explained (for the benefit of the Members of the Public present) the Item. He confirmed that, at the moment, discussions are still taking place with Mr. Hale, but subject to the cost of the land the Council would proceed with the purchase; the money to be raised via grants. Mr. Hallett, member of the public, commented that no income is derived from the Council owning the Football Pitch/Playing Field.

505. 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

Cllr. James explained this Item for the benefit of the Members of the Public; Mr. Hale would retain ownership and erect a fence on the inside of the trees – the walk being extended to “what was John Moore’s house”. The Council will undertake the maintenance of the walk and enforce any dog fouling/litter byelaws. This will be at no cost to the Council.

506. TO DISCUSS QUOTATIONS FOR VARIOUS ITEMS RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING FIELD OBTAINED BY CLLR. GILES.

As Cllr. Giles had not arrived, Cllr. James proposed that this Item be carried over to the next Meeting. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 7 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

507. TO DISCUSS AND PROPOSE THAT THE CO-OPTION PROCESS BE PUT IN PLACE IN LIGHT OF THREE SEATS BECOMING AVAILABLE ON BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL AFTER AN UNCONTESTED ELECTION ON 5TH MAY, 2011

The Clerk explained that as the Election in Bridgerule is uncontested, and that three seats remain unfilled, TDC has given all Councils with unfilled seats 35 days after 5th May to co-opt Councillors. There will be no legal requirement to place Notices around the parish and Bridgerule Council will be able to co-opt three individuals at its Annual Council Meeting in May.

508. PLANNING

There were no applications.

509. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. McDougall commented on the recent resurfacing of Dux Lane and Hopworthy, wondering why different surfaces were used. Cllr. James asked the Clerk to report a large dangerous pothole at the railway bridge near Merrifield. The Clerk said she would also report, again, the breaking up of the road just passed the village shop towards Borough Cross.

Cllr. Giles arrived at 8.30 p.m.

510. PARISH HALL

Cllr. Seymour-Smith reported that a combined management/pre-demolition survey will have to take place on the Hall before any demolition can take place, and asked if the Council would authorise the cost of carrying out the surveys, funds to come from the budget set aside for the Project for a new parish hall. Cllrs. McDougall, Chilton, Seymour-Smith and Davey declared personal interests. Cllr. James proposed that Cllr. Seymour-Smith be authorised to obtain quotations for such surveys. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

511. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received 17th March – 20th April 2011

1. J. Jarroudi – list of activities planned
2. Ruby Country – 9th April event and update
3. DALC – smoking alliance event (**Cllrs. e-mailed**)
4. TDC – Notice of election
5. S. Cholwill – re. mugs and order for Royal Wedding
6. DALC – breakdown of membership fee (**in accounts file 2011/2012**)
7. TDC – Notice of Polls
8. D. Vaughan – accounts and invoice (**in file**)
9. Audit Commission – appointment of auditor
10. Audit Commission – Return 2010/2011 for completion by 30th June 2010 (**in File**)
11. DCC – newsletter (**e-mailed to Cllrs**)
12. Cllr. Parsons – Broadband
13. DCC – Devon Tithe Map Project (**volunteer required**)
14. DALC – article for Village Green magazine re. Wedding (**e-mailed to S. Cholwill**)
15. C. Neep – using school o.k. if required.
16. TDC – notice re. first meeting after election and co-option within 35 days.
17. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**e-mailed to Cllrs**)
18. Holsworthy Family Workshop – request for a grant
19. MCTi – minutes of 8th March meeting

The highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention

Item 12 – Cllr. Parsons explained this.

Item 13 – The Clerk explained this and will find out if any maps relate to Bridgerule and if a volunteer is still required for this.

Item 18 – The Clerk explained that she had written to the Family Workshop asking for a copy of its accounts, explaining that the Council could not consider a grant until this information is received.

Correspondence Sent 17th March – 20th April

1. D. Hale – playing field and riverbank interest
2. Invites to Annual Parish Meeting
3. DALC – returning membership form duly completed
4. Impact china – cheque for mugs re. Royal Wedding

- 5. S. Cholwill – re. mugs
- 6. Hls. Family Workshop – requesting accounts

The highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention

512. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr. James had nothing to report and asked County Cllr. Barry Parsons if he would like to update the Meeting on anything.

Cllr. James proposed that Standing Orders be suspended. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was unanimously carried. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. Parsons gave a brief report as follows: DCC has saved millions of pounds by reducing second tier management; but the financial situation for the Council will be extremely difficult in light of the money it is receiving from Central Government. He is working hard on the community transport issue. Cllr. Parsons thanked Cllr. Sam Sharp for taking up the work on emergency planning (volunteers for snow conditions, gritting, etc.).

Cllr. James proposed that the Meeting return to Standing Orders. Cllr. McDougall seconded the proposal which was unanimously carried. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

513. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as follows:

- She had attended a course run by the Inland Revenue on PAYE in light of the Council now having to set up and run (as with all Parish Councils) a PAYE Scheme to pay her salary. She explained that she would have to be paid monthly as the PAYE Scheme does not allow for quarterly payments; a further cheque (quarterly) would be drawn to pay the PAYE element.
- The Meeting in May is scheduled for 19th, however, in light of the uncontested election she asked if Councillors were happy to hold the Meeting as usual on the third Wednesday of the month i.e. 18th May. All were in agreement.
- She asked those Councillors who would be sitting on the new Council if they could pass their Declarations of Office, received from TDC, to her for signing. Any Councillor who had not brought this Declaration with him must produce it for signing before the beginning the Meeting on the 18th May, 2011.
- The Clerk circulated Register of Interest forms for completion, explaining that this was a legal requirement and each Councillor must complete and pass a form to her before the commencement of the next Council Meeting in May.

514. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

Cllr. Medland brought to the attention of Councillors stipulations in insurance for tractors regarding their use for such things as gritting, etc.

515. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signature Date