



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 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 and K. Davey

In Attendance: Parish Clerk

**751. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs. Johnston and Medland, PCSO Bray and PO Moakes had sent apologies.

**752. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

**753. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

**754. POLICE REPORT**

PC Moakes had provided the Clerk with a written report as follows:

Firstly this last month has been very quiet with very low levels of crime reported. I would however ask that people remain on their guard as we are still being subjected to visits from persons looking for scrap metals and used car batteries. Please think before leaving things out in the open and within easy reach of someone who may be up to no good. We did also have an incident which resulted in an act of road rage at Red post but ended up with two residents of Bridgerule being threatened with violence. I am pleased to report that the offender was located and dealt with within twenty four hours of the act and the matter has been finalised via the criminal Justice system.

Secondly as the promise of summer approaches and perhaps some dry weather please take care with regards open doors and windows. On Monday of this week I was called to a medical concern for welfare in your village and had to gain entry to a property to assist the ambulance service. Without causing damage it took me less than 20 seconds to gain entry as the keys were in the door of the rear patio entrance.

Sadly this month has seen a very high loss of life on North Devon's roads and Beverley and I along with the rest of our team want to help improve our road safety within the area. As a result we are putting together a new teaching package which we hope to be using within the local schools and other education forums at the start of the new school term. In addition we have continued to expand our Community speed watch programme and have enlisted new members within the community. If you are interested in joining please contact us at Holsworthy police station or ring 101.

We have had a few complaints re the parking in the village and we will continue to patrol these areas but would ask that a little thought is given when parking. Ask yourself could an ambulance or fire engine get past?

May we also thank our Neighbourhood watch and Community messaging within the Parish as you really are our eyes and ears. Thank you.

Once again accept my apologies for our absence as we do try and visit as many of our local Parish Councils and do not like letting you down. Submitted with respect. PC Andy Moakes.

Cllr. McDougall referred to registration to receive crime reports. The Clerk confirmed that she had registered and should any of the reports relate to incidents in Bridgerule she will, in future, bring them to the Council's attention; if Cllrs. wished to register, individually, she had the e-mail address. Cllr. McDougall informed the Meeting that on 24<sup>th</sup> May an incident of Domestic Violence had taken place in Bridgerule.



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

The Clerk requested that £2K, being surplus at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 in the current account, be transferred to the Business Reserve Account. After discussion, Cllr. James proposed that £2K be transferred from the Current to the Business Reserve Account. Cllr. Haydon seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions). Cllrs. James and McDougall signed, as authorised signatories, a letter requesting this transfer which had been prepared by the Clerk.

**758. 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 2011/2012, PREPARED BY DAVID VAUGHAN ACCOUNTANTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER.**

The Internal Accounts had been discussed at the Meeting of the Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 and as required the Item was adjourned for one month. Cllr. James proposed the internal audited accounts for the financial year 2011/2012 be agreed. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

The Clerk explained the Annual Return and variances. After discussion Cllr. James proposed that the Audit Commission's Annual Return for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011/2012 be agreed. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. James proposed that the Annual Governance Statement detailed in the Audit Commission's Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011/2012 be agreed. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

The Chairman and Clerk (as Responsible Financial Officer) duly signed the accounts and Annual Return.

**759. PLANNING**

The following application had been received:

1//0418/2012/FUL Merrifield Holt Bridgerule	Retrospective application for rebuild of derelict warehouse and conversion to live/work unit
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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).

The following permission had been received.

1/0271/2012/FUL Highfield House Bridgerule	Equestrian Barn/Stable Building and Sand School
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**760. HIGHWAYS**

The Clerk confirmed that the 30mph sign at Jewells Cross (see Item 722 April Minutes) will be dealt with; unfortunately she has been informed that this has been added to a very long list of work to be done by DCC.

The Clerk brought to the Council's attention a questionnaire devised by DCC regarding Highways' Winter Service 2012. The Council went through the questionnaire and the Clerk will complete this online.

**761. PARISH HALL**

Cllr. Seymour-Smith informed the Meeting that, unfortunately, the Hall Committee had not been successful in its grant application. It would not be necessary therefore, at this time, to make any changes to the Lease held by the Hall Committee. Cllr. Seymour-Smith had nothing further to report.

**762. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**  
**Correspondence Received 17<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> June**

1. TDC – invitation to its meeting on 11 June
2. Audit Commission – consultation on appointment of external auditor
3. M. D'Alesio – street lighting (reply to item 4 of sent) – Highways
4. S. Phillips – cost of bus shelter/DCC do not provide
5. DCC – monthly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)
6. Rural services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)
7. J. Dymond – Acting Head B'rule Primary – 'walking bus'
8. TDC – Building Regulations Poster
9. K. Chilton – DCC and cutting road verges
10. S. Cholwill – street lighting
11. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)
12. TDC – electoral register update (**on file**)
13. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)
14. TDC – Dry recycling contract awarded to South Molton Recycle
15. Village Green – Summer edition
16. DCC Highways – lengthsman visit – not sent out – only available on internet (came out of Highways' Surgery)
17. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)
18. TDC – Localism Act in relation to Code of Conduct and Interests
19. DCC – Questionnaire re. winter service 2011/2012
20. DCC – review of waste management strategy (what to do with domestic waste)
21. Rural Services – newsletter (**circulated to Cllrs**)

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

Item 18 – The Clerk had circulated copies of the Code of Conduct which she had prepared in relation to Bridgerule Parish Council, and a Register of Interests form. Cllr. James explained that the new Localism Act required that Councillors must complete the new Register of Interests form and that this now included registering the Interests of his/her spouse or partner. The Clerk requested that Councillors complete the form and return it to her either before or at the next Meeting of the Full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**Correspondence Sent – 17<sup>th</sup> May – 19<sup>th</sup> June**

1. Playsafety – cheque
2. D.J. Vaughan – cheque
3. Cllr. Parsons – contact for bus shelter request
4. M. D'alesio – street lighting
5. M. Fraser – bus shelter request
6. DCC – reporting potholes Furze Farm
7. K. Chilton – grass verge cutting
8. K. Chilton – result of presenting e-mail to Surgery
9. S. Cholwill – re. street lighting

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

**763. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr. James reported that work on the shop was progressing and that it is expected that the sale of the affordable houses at Canal Rise will be completed shortly.

**764. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

**765. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Cllr. McDougall reported that the road from Furze Cross to Strawberry Bank had been resurfaced.

Cllr. Abbott reported that Mr. Hale would be cutting the grass and moving the fence to widen the path along the riverbank. He also reported that he had received a cheque for £500 from the Viscount Amory's Charitable Trust, as a result of letters he had sent out requesting funding to assist with the extending the playing field.

Cllr. Giles informed the Meeting that the sports day would be held at the School on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Cllr. Seymour-Smith brought the Council's attention to the two vans, loaded with 'scrap' parked in the Hall car park.

Cllr. Sharp reported that two residents of Bridgerule had informed him that the Wednesday bus had not run this week. They were disappointed that no one had informed them of this, however it transpired that the bus had actually broken down.

**766. CLOSE**

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signature ..... Date .....