



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013 at 8.00 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall**

**Present:** Chairman: Cllr. K. James  
Councillors: Cllrs. C. Seymour-Smith, K. Elliott, J. Giles, A. Johnston and J. McDougall  
In Attendance: Parish Clerk  
PCSO Mark James  
County Cllr. Barry Parsons  
Members of the Public

**1001. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs. Haydon, Medland and Abbott and PCSO Bray had sent apologies.

**1002. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

**1003. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME**

Mr. Barry Williams brought to the Council's attention the increase in dog faeces he was finding whilst cutting the grass at the playground, around the Hall, the open space at Southfields and the riverside. He pointed out the dangers to the health of residents, particularly to the eye sight of children. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Seymour-Smith would prepare warning health signs, that Councillors would try and identify the irresponsible dog owners (area and time of the offence) to enable Carl Caswell, Animal Warden TDC, to be informed and make appropriate patrols, and the PC would contact Carl Caswell, TDC, to alert him to the problem.

Mr. Williams asked the Council if there had been any progress in looking at the rubbish bin in the playground at the side of the Hall (see Item 991 of July Minutes). Cllr. James informed the Meeting that he, and Cllr. Abbott, had inspected the bin and agreed that it needed replacing. He gave historic details regarding the location of the bin and the PC confirmed it is not the responsibility of TDC to empty it. After discussion it was agreed that the PC would find out the cost of a new bin and Cllr. James (as a District Cllr.) and Cllr. Parsons (as a County Cllr.) agreed to split the cost.

**1004. POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Mark James apologised for not having a report, as he had only been told about the Council Meeting, and PCSO Bray not being able to attend, at short notice. He asked if there were any questions. He was asked if the theft of garden ornaments had stopped. PCSO James confirmed they had. Cllr. James thanked him for his presence and PCSO James left the Meeting.

**1005. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Cllr. James proposed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 be approved. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 5 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstention). Cllr. James duly signed the Minutes.

**1006. MATTERS ARISING**

Item 991 – SW Water – The PC has chased Peter Hocking, re. query, on manhole covers twice. She has yet to receive a reply, although she has received confirmation from May Gurney that work will commence at The Bridge w/c 26<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr. James informed the Meeting that he had attended a Meeting with Mr. Leigh of SW Water, which had been requested by Mr. & Mrs. Hale. He had subsequently received an e-mail which explained the work to be carried out, commencing on 27<sup>th</sup> August, and he conveyed this information to the Meeting. As a gesture of goodwill, for the disruption already caused, SW Water will be paying the Council the sum of £250 to be used for environmental enhancement.

Item 991 – Replacement Rubbish Bin and Play Equipment – Cllr. James had already covered the rubbish bin (Item 1003 above). He confirmed that he and Cllr. Abbott had inspected the play equipment, looking at items of low risk highlighted by the RoSPA Report. They both felt that it wasn't necessary to carry out any remedial work at the moment and to look again after next year's RoSPA Report.

Item 997 – Derelict Housing – The PC informed the Meeting that she had written to TDC regarding this and had received a reply from Sue Southwell, TDC Housing Renewal, who had requested a meeting in Bridgerule to inspect properties and to get some historical background. The PC had asked Cllr. James to attend this Meeting, since he had all the knowledge available, and asked if he had an update. Cllr. James said that he is meeting with Ms. Southwell on 27<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00 a.m. and will give an update at the next Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September. A general discussion took place concerning the village shop and the Post Office and Cllr. James will speak to Ms. Southwell and Mr. Daniel Marsh about both.

Item 997 – Primary School – The PC had circulated Cllr. Parsons' reply to her letter which had highlighted concerns regarding the future and leadership of the School. Cllr. James said that there is unsettlement amongst both parents and teachers. Cllr. Parsons indicated that he understood the concerns related to the Foundation and, having tried to liaise with Mr. Fitzsimmons over the past 4 years, he understood the problems with communication.. Cllr. Parsons has spoken to Mr. Fitzsimmons recently and was hoping that the lines of communication would improve. He asked that he be informed of any complaints by parents and would keep an eye on the subject.

Item 991 – Bank opposite Canal Rise – Cllr. James gave background information regarding this for Cllr. Parsons' benefit. Cllr. James confirmed that he had not been able to contact Mr. Sorenson, and Cllr. Parsons indicated that Mr. Sorenson had been away for approximately 3-4 weeks. He would remind Mr. Sorenson of the subject and Cllr. James will also try and contact him again.

#### 1007. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

<b>BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN</b>							-
<b>AUGUST 2013</b>							-
<b>COUNCIL EXPENDITURE</b>							-
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason	
21.08.13	M. Fenner	524	£156.23	£156.23		Salary - August	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£156.23</b>	<b>£156.23</b>	<b>£0.00</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>							
<u>Current Account</u>				<u>Reserve Account</u>			
Balance at 19 August		£2,618.20		£7,358.79		at 19th March 2013	
	524		£156.23		0.67	Interest March	
					0.71	Interest June	
					£7,360.17		
					£400.00	Transfer to Current/ac	
Balance at 19 September			£2,461.97		£6,960.17	Balance at 19 July	
				<u>Playing Field Project Bonus Saver Account</u>			
				Balance at 30 April		£2,011.74	
				quarterly bonus - June		£4.26	
				Balance at 31 July 2013		£2,016.00	

Cllr. James proposed the account be approved for payment. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 6 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

The PC has asked for advice from Lesley Smith at DALC regarding the Council paying invoices in respect of work carried out by Bridgerule Village Hall Ltd. The PC believes that the Council could be accused of tax avoidance in so doing. She believes that any money given to Bridgerule Village Hall Ltd, in the future, will have to be in the form of a grant. Lesley Smith has confirmed that this is correct.

The PC will suggest, when discussions regarding the Budget for 2014/2015 take place, that the Grant Budget will include an amount for the Limited Company. For the present financial year, 2013/2014, she suggested that the Company write to the Council requesting a grant. The £1K set aside in the Budget for maintenance of the Hall could then be given as a grant. Cllr. Seymour-Smith indicated that a letter requesting a grant would be sent by the Company.

#### **1008. PLANNING Applications**

1/0605/2013/FUL Hedley Wood Caravan Park Bridgerule

- 1) Retrospective change of use of land from 28 day camping and touring to all year round use (Area A)
- 2) Retrospective change of use of land from former caravan storage and agricultural land to increased area land for caravan Storage (Area B)

Interest: None

Recommendation: Cllr. James proposed the application be recommended for approval. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. (Vote 6 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1/0626/2013/FUL 1 Canal Rise Bridgerule

Amendment to Plot 1 (of planning permission 1/0346/2008/FUL) to include extension at ground floor providing raised patio over and other alternations

Interest: None

Recommendation: Cllr. James proposed the application be recommended for approval. Cllr. Giles seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. (Vote 6 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

#### **Notice of Appeal – Letter dated 26 July received Appeal Commencement 26 July – received by PC 1<sup>st</sup> August.**

1/0122/2013/LBC Borough Cottage

Extensions and alterations to dwelling together with replacement of three rotten windows

Appellants Name: Mr & Mrs C James

A discussion was not necessary.

Although not on the Agenda, Cllr. James permitted County Cllr. Parsons to give a brief report.

#### **1009. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Parsons reported as follows: DCC will have to save approximately £100m over the next 4 years. This will have to be achieved by shrinkage in staff and will have an impact on services provided by DCC. It will inevitably have an impact on the young, elderly and disadvantaged. The budget process will try and prioritise each area. An Ofsted report had taken place, which hadn't been good; particularly with reference to the service provided for children. Cllr. Parsons explained the cost of the fostering service and the need to improve the service provided for all disadvantaged children.

Cllr. Parsons informed the Meeting that work on the Agri-business project had started. He also informed the Meeting that DCC is hoping to bid for money to enable work on Coles Mill Viaduct and the extension of the Ruby Way to be started. He commented that the implications of the Government's welfare reforms were unknown as yet.

## 1010. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. James informed the Meeting that he felt the condition of the Highways had improved. Cllr. Giles commented that this might be the case on some roads, but there was still cause for concern for many others. The PC confirmed that she had reported numerous potholes, particularly along the road from Burnards House down to Chapel Cross.

## 1011. PARISH HALL

Cllr. Seymour-Smith reported that the £4K grant recently received would pay for the windows; another grant for £3K had been received, along with a donation of £1K by a resident who wished to remain anonymous; £420 had been raised via bingo events and other fund raising events are being planned.

CCD is holding a grant application 'class' in Exeter which will be attended by members of the Company; John Nettles had been approached to become Patron of the charity, but had declined due to other commitments and VAT due on work on the disabled toilet can be reclaimed. Cllr. Seymour-Smith gave an update on the planning application and it is hoped a decision re. granting this will be received in the next few days.

## 1012. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

### Correspondence Received 24 July – 20 August

1. St. Bridget's PCC – request for grant

The above was discussed at the July Council Meeting

2. DCC community news roundup – **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
3. MCTI - working group to be set up re. rural transport
4. M. Bryant – Dragon Infrastructure Solutions – road closures Furze Cross to Pyworthy Substation – dates to be confirmed
5. TDC – Electoral Register update **(in file)**
6. Rural Services on Line – Spotlight on heart of village **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
7. Rural Services weekly newsletter **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
8. Cllr. Parsons – reply to PC's letter re. Primary School (Item 2 of correspondence sent)
9. P. Hocking – reply to request from PC (via Cllr. McDougall) to simplify item 1 of his explanation re. sewage capacity.
10. DALC – newsletter – August **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
11. Rural Services weekly newsletter **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
12. TDC – green infrastructure study – open space, sport and recreation
13. S. Southwell – TDC – response re. Derelict Housing.
14. L. Bowman, Hls. Council – invite to joining Hls/Hls Hamlets/Pyworthy joint Council meetings.
15. TDC – Licensing Policy Review
16. Mi-Grid Ltd – requesting invite to Council Mtg. to discuss possible application for wind turbine at Tatson Farm
17. Rural Services weekly newsletter **(circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)**
18. DCC – Highways' Conference – 14 September, Tiverton, p.m.

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

Item 14 – Cllr. James gave details of this and on the MCTI group. He emphasised the good work that MCTI has achieved, particularly in having meetings with the Clinical Care Commissioning Group, particularly in discussions regarding the way forward for Holsworthy Hospital. Cllr. Parsons was also supportive of the MCTI group. Cllr. James went on to say that he felt that with this group in place, together with the Holsworthy Area Advisory Meetings (which all Councillors in the area may attend), it is unnecessary to have further meetings with other Councils. The PC pointed out that Bridgerule already works with Pancrasweek Parish Council in relation to the TAP Fund. After discussion, it was agreed that the PC would decline the invitation on behalf of the Council.

Item 16 – The PC was instructed to invite a representative of Mi-Grid Ltd. to the next Meeting of the Council.

### Correspondence Sent – 24 July – 20 August

1. St. Bridget's PCC – grant £500

2. Cllr. Parsons – concerns re. School
3. L. Steele – Derelict buildings
4. P. Hunter TDC – informing of two applicants for co-option
5. P. Hocking – request from Cllr. McDougall to simplify explanation of item 1 in his reply re. sewage capacity
6. Mi-Grid – acknowledgment of letter received (see item 16 of received)
7. Healthwatch newsletter (**placed in foyer of Hall**)

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

**1013. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr. James suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Hale in relation to SW Water's offer of £250 compensation (see Item 1006 above). The PC thought it might be prudent to wait until the money has been received. It was agreed to do this. Cllr. James brought to the Council's attention the overflowing rubbish bin at the School and it was agreed that the PC will write to the School, asking that it arrange for the rubbish to be removed.

**1014. CLERK'S REPORT**

The PC had nothing to report.

**1015. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Cllr. McDougall informed the Meeting that he believes Mr. Hilliard will not be going ahead with CCTV near his property, and that Mr. Hilliard had met with Mr. Bryant of Dragon Infrastructure Solutions. He also informed the Meeting that Holsworthy Hospital is now holding audiology clinics.

Cllr. Giles reported that the mole is back on the playing field. This subject will be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

Cllr. James proposed that, In view of the special or confidential nature of the following business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they will be instructed to withdraw. Cllr. Giles seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 6 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

**1016. TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS REGARDING THE VACANT SEAT ON THE COUNCIL, TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION**

Copies of the applications received had been circulated with the Agenda. After discussion, Cllr. McDougall proposed that Mrs. Sheila Cholwill be co-opted as a Councillor to Bridgerule Parish Council. Cllr. Johnston seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. (Vote 6 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

**1017. CLOSE**

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

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

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Committee on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013 at 8.00 p.m. in  
Bridgerule Village Hall**

**Present:** Chairman: Cllr. K. James  
Councillors: Cllrs. C. Seymour-Smith, K. Elliott, J. Giles, A. Johnston and J. McDougall.

In Attendance: Parish Clerk

**1016. TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS REGARDING THE VACANT SEAT ON THE COUNCIL, TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION**

Copies of the applications received had been circulated with the Agenda. Cllr. Elliott asked exactly where Mrs. Cholwill lived. The PC explained that anyone living within a 3 mile radius of Bridgerule can apply to sit on the Council.

After discussion, Cllr. McDougall proposed that Mrs. Sheila Cholwill be co-opted as a Councillor to Bridgerule Parish Council. Cllr. Johnston seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. (Vote 6 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Signature ..... Dated .....