

Bridgerule Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st October, 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in
Bridgerule Village Hall

Present:

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk
Cllr. B. Parsons

Members of the Public: R. Hitchings, S. Norton, J. Hallett and T. Piercey

219. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr. McDougall had sent his apologies as he would be late.

220. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

221. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

Mrs. Rose Hitchings asked to speak on behalf of Mrs. C. Houghton who could not be present. Mrs. Houghton asked if any progress had been made in alleviating the problems her property was encountering because of excess water when it rains. Cllr. James reported that two storm tanks are to be put in and pipes will also be laid which should solve the problem.

222. POLICE REPORT

A Police Report was not available. Cllr. McDougall, through his role as a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, had sent a written update of crimes in the area as follows: Criminal Damage to a car in Bailey Gardens, Bridgerule between 0340 and 0350 on 26th September, 2009 and on 4th October between 13.00 and 16.00 there was a Theft – Non-Specific. Cllr. McDougall has also informed the Police that Sue Norton had volunteered re. the speed gun team.

223. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th September 2009, had previously been circulated. Cllr. James proposed that the Minutes be approved. Cllr. Chilton seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstention).

224. MATTERS ARISING

Item 208 – Cllr. Abbott confirmed that work had started on the swings. He also confirmed that the parts ordered by the Clerk had arrived and this would enable the work to be completed. The Clerk raised the question of the Inspection and Maintenance Contract which the Council had agreed to utilise regarding the play equipment installed in October, 2008. She confirmed that the first inspection had taken place (see Accounts Due for Payment) and asked if Cllrs. thought it necessary to continue with this contract, in light of the fact that all play equipment is inspected by RoSPA each year (paid for by the Council). After a short discussion the Clerk will check exactly what the guarantee on the new equipment covers and report back to the Council at the meeting on 18th November, 2009.

Cllr. Parsons said that he would look into other parish councils to see whether it would be beneficial for such councils to get together re. inspection and maintenance of play equipment.

225. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were presented by the Clerk to the Meeting:

**BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN
OCTOBER 2009**

**COUNCIL
EXPENDITURE**

Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
21.10.09	M. Fenner	405	£616.00	£616.00		Salary
21.10.09	M. Glover	406	£140.00	£140.00		Grass cutting bus stop
21.10.09	Creative Play	407	£270.25	£235.00	£35.25	Annual check & service
21.10.09	C. Harris	408	£500.00	£500.00		Donation to Church

TOTAL	£1,026.25	£991.00	£35.25
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COUNCIL RECEIPTS

Date	Paid By	Gross	Net	Reason
02.09.09	TDC	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	2nd half precept
TOTAL		£3,500.00	£3,500.00	

Cllr. James informed the Council that he had received a letter from Mrs. Harris regarding a donation to the Church. The Clerk asked him to forward the letter to her, as it would be needed for the financial records. Cllr. James proposed that all accounts presented should be paid. Cllr. Stoneman seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

226. TO RECEIVE UPDATES, AND DISCUSS, THE SUBJECT OF MR. ORCHARD'S PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE POST OFFICE.

Cllr. James explained that Officers from TDC, and Cllr. James himself, had been in contact with Mr. Orchard to try and find the best way forward in respect of the properties in question. It had been agreed that Mr. Orchard would present a Pre-Planning Application to TDC which would set out the proposed plans for the properties. After a general discussion, in which Cllr. Barry Parsons had reported that two Officers from TDC, on separate occasions, had inspected the properties, deeming them safe. Rendering work had taken place and a doorway had been bricked up, Cllr. James said he would keep communicating with Mr. Orchard regarding the preparation and submission of the Pre-Planning Application.

At this point in the Meeting Cllr. James asked Cllr. Parsons if he would like to address the Meeting in his role as, not only a District but also a County Councillor.

Cllr. Stoneman proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Cllr. Parsons to speak. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. Parsons reported to the Meeting that Little Bridge Meadow had finally been adopted by DCC – Phase 1 on 3rd August and Phase 2 this week. 'Give Way' markings had now been painted to the entrance/exit of the road.

He informed the Meeting that John van de Llarschott, Chief Executive of TDC, would be leaving this post and taking up an appointment with Stoke City Council in the New Year. A steering committee was being set up to discuss the way forward in respect of the COE position.

Cllr. Parsons also informed the Meeting that TDC had received the Gold Award for Investors in People.

He reported that he had been informed that DCC had taken Holsworthy of their list of towns where Pay and Display parking would be implemented. Cllr. Parsons said he was very strongly opposed to the proposed parking plans and had made his views known to the Cabinet at DCC – the result of which has been the removal of Holsworthy from DCC's plans.

The Agri-business is coming on well and a consultation will take place on 4th November in the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy. The proposals have generated a lot of interest from businesses. He explained that he is a member of the Torridge County Committee which has 4 other County Councillors and 2 District Councillors sitting on it. It aims to take up any subject. A suggestion has been made that people submit any question approximately 10 days before the Committee sits. This will enable members to be able to fully investigate and therefore be fully informed to enable them to answer the said question.

Cllr. Parsons reported that there is a £200 Million backlog of work in Highways; the money not being available and DCC are working on this at the moment.

Finally, Cllr. Parsons informed the Meeting that as a County Councillor he has £10K available to him to put towards good causes within his area; along with the £2K he has as a District Councillor. He asked that people contact him if they wish to put forward the names of such good causes.

Cllr. James thanked Cllr. Parsons for attending the Meeting and Cllr. Parsons left at 9.00 p.m.

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

Cllr. McDougall arrived at 9.10 p.m.

227. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE NUMBER OF GRASS CUTS REQUIRED FOR THE PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL PITCH, VILLAGE HALL/RECREATION AREA, AND RIVERSIDE/SOUTHFIELDS OPEN SPACE FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

After discussion, Cllr. Stoneman proposed that the following grass cuts should be budgeted for in 2010/2011: 12 cuts on the Playing Field/Football Pitch; 12 cuts on the Village Hall/Recreation Area and 10 cuts on the Riverside/Southfields sites. Cllr. Linney seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 for. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

228. TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF GRASS CUTTING MACHINERY.

Cllr. James declared a personal interest. The Clerk informed the Meeting that she had just been handed a letter from the Football Club, which Cllr. James read out. This explained that the Club would like to purchase a mower to enable them to cut the field at the times they deemed it necessary, over and above the cuts financed by the Council. They have a grant in place, for a third of the cost of a mower up to a maximum of £1K. To qualify for the grant, the Club has to raise £500. The mower they are looking at is £2,300. The Club therefore is asking the Council for help with the funding. The Clerk explained that any funding would come out of the budget for 2010/2011 and therefore could not be paid to the Club until after April 2010. Cllr. Giles said the Club would understand this. After a lengthy discussion Cllr. Stoneman proposed that Bridgerule Parish Council make a donation of £300, in the financial year 2010/2011, to Bridgerule Football Club; the donation specifically to go towards the purchase of a grass cutting machine. Cllr. Abbott seconded the proposal. (Vote 8 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstention).

229. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLRS. JAMES AND STONEMAN ON THE PROBLEM THE RESIDENTS OF 'THE STEPS' BUNGALOW ARE UNDERGOING REGARDING FLOODING.

This matter had been covered in Item 221 above.

230. TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

Copies of the Budget had previously been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk explained the Budget as presented. A lengthy discussion took place. The Clerk explained that this Item would be adjourned, as dictated by legal requirements, until the next Meeting of the full Council on 18th November, 2009.

231. PLANNING

The following application was discussed:

1/0960/2009/FUL Agricultural shed
Kents View
Borough Cross, Bridgerule

No Interest was declared and the recommendation was for approval.

The following withdrawal had been received:

1/0830/2006/FUL 3 no. low cost affordable homes
Plot 26, Littlebridge
Holsworthy

232. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. Abbott reported that the culvert on Mill Road needed attention. The Clerk informed the Meeting that the Lengthsman would be attending Bridgerule during the week commencing 9th November and she would report the condition of the culvert to DCC. Cllr. Stoneman asked the Clerk to also report pot holes needing attention at various locations; between the bridge and school, the village shop and Green areas. He also asked her to bring the Highways' Dept.'s attention to a request for as 'give way' marking at the junction outside the shop and the fact that the road from the bridge towards Derril, passed the school, needs resurfacing. She agreed to do this. Cllr. Stoneman also raised the question of a 'street light' being needed near the garage complex off the Green. He believed this had been brought to TDC's attention some time ago and they had agreed to do this. The Clerk will investigate with TDC. Cllr. Abbott reported that there is still a vermin problem at the Playing Field/Football Club/School. The Clerk will report this to the Pest Control Officer at TDC.

The Clerk had e-mailed Cllrs. with a request from Steve Dawe, Highways, asking if anyone knew the name of the owner of the fields requiring hedge cutting. She had not had a response to the e-mail, but having raised it at the Meeting Cllr. James believed the owner was Mr. S. Dinner. The Clerk would let Mr. Dawe aware of this.

The Clerk was asked by Cllr. James to write a letter to Mrs. C. Neep regarding the need to cut the hedge owned by her, which is now overhanging Mill Road.

233. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received – 17th Sept. – 21st Oct

1. Cllr. James – open space Little Bridge Meadow – AMc's offer
2. P. Hunter – TDC – posters re. cllr. vacancy
3. Torridge Voluntary Services Annual Report 2008-2009
4. Cllrs. KJ, AL, KD, CS-S accepting open space
5. TDC – Precept Form for 2010/2011 and remittance advice re. 2nd instalment 2009/2010 precept (**placed in appropriate files**)
6. TDC – Hls Area Advisory Group Agenda 5th October – e-mailed to Cllrs.
7. E-mail M. Balsdon – re. success of school visit
8. Senior Council for Devon newsletter issue 4
9. DAPC – Main points of AGM – 2% increase in membership fee
10. Cllr. Chilton – re election and associated expenses
11. S. Dawe Highways – requesting names of landowners to get hedges cut etc. (**e-mailed to cllrs**)
12. Cllr. Stoneman – re. owner (not known) and getting farmer to do hedge (**see reply in sent**)
13. DCC – Highways surgery Holsworthy 28th October
14. DCC – Love food hate waste campaign
15. Hls Town Council re. proposed Pay & Display parking
16. Cllr. Chilton – allotments
17. Creative Play – contract
18. The Playing Field – Autumn issue
19. TTVS – September edition

Correspondence Sent – 17th Sept. – 21st October

1. All Cllrs. re. open space asking for their opinion.
2. C. Preece TDC – accepting adoption of open space Little Bridge Meadows
3. Wicksteed – swing parts – confirming vat, order in writing?
4. R. Hitchings – thanking for letter re. AO properties and updating
5. C. Charles – TDC – AO property concerns still re. danger to pedestrians/KJ liaising
6. Clls. KD, CS-S and GA – re. liaising with Cllr. JS re. swings
7. Primary School – no preferred date, but p.m. Tue, Wed or Thurs.
8. Primary School – replying to success of visit. **(e-mailed to Cllrs)**
9. Cllr. Chilton – election and associated expenses
10. Cllrs. re. highways and hedges
11. Cllr. Chilton – allotments
12. Paul Richards Wicksteed – order for swing parts
13. Wicksteed – order acknowledgement – due date 16.10.09 **(in playground equipment file)**
14. TDC – Flood protection – aqua sacs still available for purchase
15. TDC – P. Hunter – no requests for election – go to co-option **(e-mail sent to CS-S to put poster on website and posters given to JS for board and shop)**
16. Creative Play – cost for 2010/2011

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

234. PARISH PLAN

Cllr. Seymour-Smith informed the Meeting that the response to the questionnaire had been approximately 68% and could be more. 269 questionnaires had been circulated and there had only been three blank refusals. The next Meeting of the Parish Plan Group will take place on 24th November at 7.30 p.m.

235. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr. James reported on affordable housing in Bridgerule; explaining the shared equity scheme and reiterating that this scheme should be hugely beneficial to local younger people. He asked that, if anyone knew of people who would be interested/benefit, and would like more information, they contact him.

236. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as follows:

- Cllr. Chilton had enquired about the four yearly elections, the next in 2011. She had put together copies of the various forms Cllrs. would be required to complete and gave one to Cllr. Chilton; informing Cllrs. to let her know if they would like one. The Clerk confirmed that the four yearly elections are funded by TDC; that any election outside this time taking place within Bridgerule has to be funded by Bridgerule Parish Council.
- The Clerk reported that the bolt on the gate at the Southfields open space had been broken and that protective 'fencing' around the actual fencing at the open space had now come down and was not repairable. This could be a health and safety hazard to a child climbing on the fence. Cllr. Stoneman agreed to liaise with Cllr. Giles as to obtaining materials to repair the safety element of the fence.
- She informed the Meeting that Mr. Peter Beer, Estates Manager with TDC, had asked if she could find out from Cllrs. what they would like the road on the Little Bridge Farm development to be. He had received two requests from members of the public that it be called 'Canal Rise'. Cllr. James proposed that this road be named 'Canal Rise'. Cllr. Linney seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).
- The Clerk informed the Meeting, that having done some investigation into the Council's Fixed Assets, the Land Registry document showed that the freehold land filed at the Registry was valued at £200K as at 4th December, 2008. Cllrs. James and Abbott confirmed that all insurance relating to this is dealt with by the Bridgerule Parish Hall Committee.

237. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

Cllr. Linney informed the Meeting that Bridgerule School had been informed by Ofsted that the Special Measures had been removed.

238. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 10. 10p.m.

Signature

Date